

# **2016 Senior Advocacy Training Evaluations Report**

1. **Role of the Dane County Board of Supervisors: Sharon Corrigan (Dane County Board of Supervisors Chair) and Role of Dane County Committees: Jeremy Levin (Health & Human Needs Committee Chair)**

Excellent: 12    Good: 3    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Very personable. Good info given.
- Good info to have regarding county structure.

2. **Programs and Services for the Elderly in Dane County: Joe Parisi (County Executive)**

Excellent: 7    Good: 6    Fair: 2    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Very accommodating. Good advice. Did not have time for questions.
- Liked that he gave specific ideas on how to advocate.
- Did not address services available to elderly as stated in the program.

3. **State Issues: Dianne Hesselbein (Wisconsin State Representative – 79<sup>th</sup> District)**

Excellent: 12    Good: 3    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Wonderful conversation. Encouraged group to be involved.
- Liked her a lot. Would feel comfortable contacting her.

4. **Older American Act Structure and Programs : Jim Schmidtkofer (State of Wisconsin, Retired)**

Excellent: 9    Good: 4    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Enjoyed the discussion and candor.
- It would be helpful to have Jim talking about the history of the Older Americans Act so we could share this others. Maybe even a WPT documentary.
- Good info.
- It is important to understand the info he presented in order to advocate.
- Keep using this guy.

**5. Federal Issues: Sarah Benedict Anstaett (Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin – 2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

Excellent: 8    Good: 5    Fair: 2    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Would be nice if Tammy Baldwin could attend.
- Well prepared. The info helped me in comparing state and federal responses to issues.

**6. Advocacy Panel: How to be an Effective Advocate: Mickey Beil (Dane County Lobbyist) & Janet Zander (GWAAR Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator)**

Excellent: 14    Good: 1    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Could've listened to them longer!
- Loved the collaborative case work project.

**7. Dane County Budget Process: Esther Olson**

Excellent: 13    Good: 3    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Thank you! So helpful.
- Helpful to give the play-by-play timeline.
- Didn't realize such involvement and the long process involved.
- Put it all together for me!
- Esther is always great to hear!!
- The dedication/insight is very impressive.

**8. Advocacy Exercise: Esther Olson & Janet Zander**

Excellent: 7    Good: 8    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

Comments:

- Liked the group discussion and work.
- Exercise was good. Instructions were somewhat confusing.

### **What did you like best about the training?**

- The variety of speakers, discussion and encouragement.
- Hearing from the people who do the work of county and state government and them telling us how best to work with them.
- Nice to have several knowledgeable folks on each issue. Meeting actual officials.
- The advocacy exercise in preparation for the County Board budget process.
- The ending collaboration with top three senior issues and coming up with an advocacy plan. Jim gave really good information on the Older Americans Act – I was not aware of all the details and history of it.
- It was a very well-constructed presentation! Thank you.
- Speakers.
- Speakers talking about the agencies and how to get involved.
- The contact information.
- As a beginner, everything was excellent.
- Great overview.
- Team collaboration exercise, continued email communication, updates, etc.
- Not a native of Wisconsin, so learned a lot about Wisconsin and local operations and policies.
- Opportunity to question professionals.
- Learning about the Dane County case management services.

### **What was the least valuable to you?**

- Needed a little more time for Q&A with legislators.
- The part about how to use the websites. I think this could be an exercise that could be done as homework and then we could talk in class about how the homework or activity in the website went and answer questions.
- All good.
- Advocacy exercise could be instructive but think our group was not as on target as could have been.
- Nothing was a waste of time.
- I found all aspects to have been of value.

**What suggestions do you have to improve future trainings? What would you change? What would you add.**

- Location was great. Maybe 1 or 1½ long days instead of three – it was hard to devote time. A little bummed that not as many signed up.
- Give link to website (state/county) worksheet. Identify your county rep, state legislator, state senator. Identify districts. Show how to find meeting minutes and agendas. Are there hearings coming up? What are the issues?
- Though there was time for Q&A at each session, having more exercises would have brought the issues home.
- Publicize more to racially expand participant pool.
- All speakers were really great so it's hard to separate them out. I like the specifics on how to advocate and the specific names and how to contact individuals. Supportive comments by speakers that various reps and legislators do want to hear from the public, and then, of course, how to do this.
- Would rather have an all-day event rather than three separate trainings.
- More time devoted to exercises since it provided more opportunity for interaction. May have to extend the training.

**What is your overall rating for the training?**

Excellent: 13    Good: 3    Fair: 0    Poor: 0

**Any additional comments you would like to share?**

- Thank you for letting me know about this excellent training!
- Great job! Thank you.
- I attended to learn, so felt it was worth my time.
- Recommend to others. Perhaps a refresher or follow-up session to update us to new developments.
- I appreciated hearing reframed many times to "get involved ... run for an office." This empowers me to certainly become more involved locally and regionally, possibly statewide.