

AAA Committee Recommendation Report

Report to the AAA Board

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Date: 6 March 2017

From: ☐ Access Committee ☒ Legislative/Advocacy Committee ☐ Nutrition/Wellness Committee

History/Related Actions

At the 3/22/17 Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting, advocacy supporting federal and state programs was discussed and resulted in two recommendations:

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by DAVIS, to recommend the AAA Board submit a letter to Senators Baldwin and Johnson and Representative Pocan identifying the impact the President's FY 2018 Budget Blueprint will have on RSVP programs in Dane County. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes	7	JOSEPHSON, KAUD, OLSON, PIKE, DAVIS, SCHMIDLKOFER, and BUNCK
Absent	4	FRAZIER, GUNDERMANN, MCHONE, and STOCKER

A motion was made by SCHMIDLKOFER, seconded by KAUD, to recommend the AAA Board submit a letter to the Dane County Legislators maintaining current funding for the Dane County Dementia Care Specialist Program. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes	7	JOSEPHSON, KAUD, OLSON, DAVIS, SCHMIDLKOFER, and BUNCK
Absent	4	FRAZIER, GUNDERMANN, MCHONE, and STOCKER
Abstain	1	PIKE

Both letters were drafted and attached for your consideration/approval.

Financial/Budget/Other Resource Implications (if any)

Unknown

Recommendation

To approve the attached draft letters concerning RSVP and Dementia Care Specialist Programs.

Attachments

Dementia Care Specialist DRAFT Letter

RSVP DRAFT Letter

Proposed Dementia Care Specialist Letter

The Dane County Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors has serious concerns regarding eliminating the funding for Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) in the proposed 2018 State budget. Dane County has employed a Dementia Care Specialist since 2014. This position has been an asset to our County and one that needs to be continued.

Over 7,000 people live with dementia in Dane County and there are 67,000 caregivers age 65 and older. In 2016, the Dane County Dementia Care Specialist had 445 contacts and made 681 referrals for services to such agencies as the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin. This also includes working in partnership with Dane County's Elder Abuse and Adult Protective Services to help empower families and keep them out of the court system--benefiting both the families and the County. In addition, Dane's DCS had 277 outreach events that over 4,779 people attended. The DCS worked with 16 communities and helped 232 businesses and organizations become Dementia Friendly certified. Dane County has seen the benefit of Stoughton Hospital being the first Dementia Friendly Hospital. The DCS also introduced a "shop in their shoes" experience for Walgreens which the company is considering to expand nation-wide.

The impact of this one position on our County is vast and is vital to caregivers and those living with dementia everyday. Please return Dementia Care Specialist funding in the 2018 State budget to continue providing these valuable services to some of our most vulnerable senior adults.

Sincerely,

Bill Clausius, Chair

Proposed RSVP Letter

The Dane County Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors has serious concerns regarding potential results of eliminating the currently-effective and necessary Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Closing CNCS would mean the loss of Senior Corps: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and the Senior Companion Program (SCP). Although there are many problems with the elimination of this program, focus was placed on those having negative impact on the community.

1. One of the primary arguments to not eliminate CNCS is easily seen in the numbers. Nationwide, 245,000 Senior Corps older adult volunteers serve 74.6 million hours. This equalizes out to helping 840,000 frail elderly and veterans with independent living services, tutoring and mentoring 267,000 children, as well as assisting families and individuals in need. Americans will lose assistance they can depend on. In addition, older adults will not receive the support they need through these important programs to help them remain active and healthier through their volunteer service. The question that must be answered is: "Will communities nationwide be able to replace the countless hours of service provided by volunteers in the CNCS program?"
2. In Dane County, RSVP and FGP are the cornerstone of providing services for the community. It is impossible to calculate the total impact of this loss of service, if it were to be eliminated. Annually, over 1,600 RSVP and FGP volunteers give 180,000 hours of their time. These influential volunteers have tutored and mentored children in over 200 classrooms. They have provided 8,500 rides and delivered over 84,000 meals for seniors and veterans. They have made 10,000 handmade items (mittens, hats, scarves, etc.) for children and families. They have educated more than 700 older adults on crime prevention and safety through Triad. Finally, they have helped 70 nonprofit/public agencies extend their services to the far corners of Dane County.

By providing rides and delivering meals, RSVP helps 2,000 seniors and veterans stay independent and in their own homes. Assuming that RSVP volunteers help at least 20 (1%) of these seniors and veterans to delay nursing home care for one year (average cost in Wisconsin is \$93,804), the value of this service is almost 2 million dollars annually. Appreciation for this program can be felt through the voices of those who utilize CNCS. Here are two RSVP passengers from Dane County:

"I could not afford taxi service to Madison where my primary doctor and specialists that I see have their offices. If not for RSVP, I would have to move to a facility in Madison."

"I am no longer able to drive my car and I am able to see my doctors with this arrangement. Thank you, thank you!"

On behalf of the more than 82,000 older Dane County adults, the Board of Directors asks for extra caution when voting for President Trump's FY 2018 Budget Blueprint and your consideration of the potential for serious consequences to the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Bill Clausius, Chair