



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Area Agency on Aging - Legislative / Advocacy Committee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

9:00 AM

AAA/ADRC, 2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 108
Madison, WI 53704

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A. Call To Order

*Staff & Guests present: Cheryl Batterman, Shari Gray-Dorn, Amy Scarr,
and Howard Thomas*

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

Present 6 - ESTHER OLSON, JILL MCHONE, KARI DAVIS, TED BUNCK, ANNA LEZOTTE,
and THOMAS FRAZIER

Absent 2 - FAISAL KAUD, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2018](#) MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2018
[MIN-424](#)

Attachments: [2018_1212_AAA Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

**A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by MCHONE, that these minutes be
approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Ayes: 6 - OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, BUNCK, LEZOTTE and FRAZIER

Absent: 2 - KAUD and SCHMIDLKOFER

C. Action Items

1. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

[2018](#)
[ACT-364](#)

EACCR COMMITTEE LETTER TO AG KAUL

Attachments: [EACCR Committee Letter to AG Kaul](#)

Amy Scarr of the Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Elder Victim Support Project distributed a draft letter to Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul urging his support of the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Task Force, a body of more than 60 stakeholders that was created by former AG Brad Schimel in 2017. Scarr stated stakeholders believe the letter is necessary because elder abuse was not among the initial priorities Kaul outlined after taking office in January. Scarr plans to send the letter on behalf of the Dane County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Committee, and asked that the committee consider recommending that the AAA Board also write requesting Kaul's support of the task force. McHone will email Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) members calling for action in support of the task force.

A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by LEZOTTE, that staff draft a letter for AAA Board consideration stressing the importance of the Attorney General Office's continued support of the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Task Force's efforts in combating elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, BUNCK, LEZOTTE and FRAZIER

Absent: 2 - KAUD and SCHMIDLKOFER

[2018](#)
[ACT-365](#)

N4A POLICY BRIEF: WHAT 116TH CONGRESS NEEDS TO KNOW

Attachments: [n4a PolicyBrief WhatThe116thCongressNeedsToKnow Mar2019 FinalWeb](#)

[2018](#)
[ACT-366](#)

N4A POLICY BRIEF: OAA REAUTHORIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Attachments: [n4a PolicyBrief OAA Reauth 2019 FinalWeb](#)

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman distributed two recent National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) policy briefs highlighting the issues most important to seniors and suggested the committee may find it appropriate to recommend that the AAA Board send a letter to lawmakers urging their support in reauthorizing the Older Americans Act.

A motion was made by MCHONE, seconded by DAVIS, to direct staff to draft a letter for AAA Board consideration to Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, Representative Mark Pocan, and Dane County lawmakers that stresses the importance of points outlined in the two N4A policy briefs. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, BUNCK, LEZOTTE and FRAZIER

Absent: 2 - KAUD and SCHMIDLKOFER

2. COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

[2018](#)
[ACT-341](#)

LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

Attachments: [Legislative & Advocacy Committee Description 2019 DRAFT](#)

Batterman suggested no changes to the committee description, which AAA Bylaws stipulate must be reviewed once per year, and asked if committee members wished to make changes.

A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by DAVIS, to approve the Committee Description as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, BUNCK, LEZOTTE and FRAZIER

Absent: 2 - KAUD and SCHMIDLKOFER

3. 2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

[2018](#)
[ACT-367](#)

2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES DRAFT 022719

Attachments: [2020 AAA Budget Priorities DRAFT 022719](#)

Batterman distributed an early draft of 2020 AAA Budget Priorities with background provided by DCDHS staff and POS agency personnel, provided an overview of the document, and answered committee members' questions. Information will continue to be added as it becomes available.

This Action Item was not acted on

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2019 AGING ADVOCACY DAY

Batterman reported the event is scheduled for 14 May. Participants will meet at the Park Hotel for updates and training, then walk across the street to meet with policy-makers at the State Capitol. Online registration began this week. McHone reported the Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) has appropriated \$1,800 for lodging and mileage in hopes that more participants from northern Wisconsin can attend. Batterman reported a 2019 goal of the 2019-2021 Dane County Aging Plan charges this committee to continue to financially support and promote, as a core member of WAAN, State Aging Advocacy Day and encourage a minimum of 30 seniors from throughout Dane County to participate. Batterman will forward the registration link to committee members.

2. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

Frazier reported efforts are underway to conduct three public hearings in May 2019 to solicit feedback from Dane County residents about how they've been affected by their transition to Family Care. ADRC Manager Jennifer Fischer and Cheryl Batterman will explore the feasibility of conducting joint listening sessions with AAA's Access Committee, which hopes to conduct two listening sessions – one in an urban setting and one at a rural venue – to solicit feedback about aging services from residents.

3. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No report.

4. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

Olson reported the organization's Medicare issue paper was recently completed and draft versions of issue papers on Elder Benefits and Direct Community Services are in the works.

Olson reported State Senators Patrick Testin and Bob Wirth, and State Representatives Ken Skowronski and Deb Kolste held a news conference on 19 February announcing the reintroduction of the Credit for Caring Act – a bill that would create a nonrefundable individual income tax credit for people caring for a family member.

Olson reported that she and fellow WAAN members Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator at Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR), and Helen Marks Dicks, State Issues Advocacy Director for AARP Wisconsin, have met with lawmakers and members of Governor Tony Evers' staff to share the organization's seven priorities. McHone and Frazier have met with recently appointed Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation Craig Thompson regarding the need for increased funding for specialized and public transportation for seniors.

5. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Olson reported the council's quarterly meeting is scheduled for 28 February following the weather-related cancellation of the January meeting. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) Demographer Eric Grosso and AARP Wisconsin President Donna McDowell will present. Olson stated the organization hopes to begin making policy recommendations to WDHS.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Batterman introduced new committee member Anna Lezotte. Lezotte, owner of Right at Home, stated life events motivated her to transition from an initial career in science to running an in-home care and assistance business that helps seniors remain in their homes.

7. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman reported Public Consulting Group (PCG) has been hired to conduct a Mental Health Feasibility Study for DCDHS that reviews mental health services of all ages. PCG will conduct research and facilitate stakeholder input for a comprehensive review of the existing mental health and substance use services systems in Dane County. Batterman is collecting names of Focal Point staff and AAA Board and committee members who are interested in providing input on mental health issues affecting seniors. McHone will organize a meeting of the volunteers to create a focused, consistent message from stakeholders to be presented to PCG. Davis suggested that Jodie Castaneda, a Lead Case Manager with NewBridge Madison who has extensive experience working with consumers affected by mental health issues and dementia, join McHone in leading the effort. Committee members asked that DCDHS Adult Community Services Division Administrator Todd Campbell be invited to the March meeting to provide more information about the Mental Health Feasibility Study.

Olson asked that Shawn Tessmann, who begins her tenure as DCDHS Director on 1 March, be invited to an upcoming committee meeting.

Batterman reminded committee members the importance of providing an RSVP before each meeting.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2019, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Frazier shared that he and Lynn Breedlove, his fellow Co-Chair of The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition, meet with recently appointed Wisconsin Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson to share WAAN's desire to see additional funding for transit and specialized transportation, policies incentivizing coordination of services and the removal of barriers for volunteer driving programs for seniors. Frazier stated the coalition is narrowing its focus to two areas: 1. The long-term care workforce crisis; 2. A measure passed by the lame duck state legislature that makes it harder for Wisconsin's Medicaid program to adapt to conditions as the implementation of waivers plays out. Of immediate concern is the renewal of the Family Care Waiver due in late 2019.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by FRAZIER, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, BUNCK, LEZOTTE and FRAZIER

Absent: 2 - KAUD and SCHMIDLKOFER

This meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk III.