

# Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

## Senior Advocacy Training (SAT)

8 August 2019 @ AAA/ADRC

### Evaluation Results

23 attended; 19 completed surveys; 83% return rate

All 12 Focal Point directors/representatives attended. Board members missing the training included Middleton, Oregon, Stoughton & Waunakee.

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

Excellent 13   Good 5   Fair 0   Poor 0   Did not answer 1

Comments:

- *Gave us a different view.*
- *Joe is a great leader!*
- *Great tips.*
- *Appreciate him coming.*
- *He is so relatable and he communicated the process from his perspective. Seems approachable.*

#### 2. Role of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and Committees: Patrick Miles (Personnel & Finance Committee Chair)

Excellent 4   Good 7   Fair 8   Poor 0

Comments:

- *Too quiet to hear. Needed a mic.*
- *He talked to Esther directly rather than audience so hard to hear. Appreciated his showing how to interact with budget items online.*
- *A little hard to hear but informative presentation.*
- *Hard to understand, but informational.*
- *Hard to hear. Good handouts.*

#### 3. State Issues: Sindy Pope (Wisconsin State Representative—80<sup>th</sup> District)

Excellent 14   Good 4   Fair 1   Poor 0

Comments:

- *Solid practical guidance.*
- *Excellent info!*
- *Good points.*

- *Very real—direct. Open to feedback @ issues.*
- *Appreciate her honesty.*

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

Excellent 15    Good 4    Fair 0    Poor 0

##### Comments:

- *Down to Earth discussion.*
- *Good handouts and ideas of what to do.*
- *Jim was great!*
- *He is a great speaker. A little humor plus ideas.*
- *Powerful.*
- *He's so knowledgeable and wise.*

#### 5. Advocacy 101: Janet Zander (GWAAR Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator)

Excellent 14    Good 4    Fair 0    Poor 0    Did not answer 1

##### Comments:

- *Overwhelming.*
- *Articles on some of policy issues would be helpful for senior centers to post in their newsletter. FB pages, websites, etc., to educate and increase advocacy among seniors.*
- *Love her enthusiasm.*
- *Passionate, loud, clear.*
- *Information was a bit overwhelming.*

#### 6. Open Discussion: Marcia Hendrickson, Erin Fabrizius, Amy Devine & Esther Olson

Excellent 12    Good 4    Fair 0    Poor 0    Did not answer 3

##### Comments:

- *Good example of what could be! Love the vision.*
- *Interesting backgrounds.*
- *Nice overview of the day.*

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

- *The How to Contact your Reps. Understanding the impact of OAA.*
- *Reminder to stay patient and persistent; continue to keep trying.*
- *A variety of perspectives from people in political realm and vacations working with elder issues. Lunch was great, too!*
- *Room setup and interactive way all the walks were conducted.*
- *Good background.*
- *Tips, tricks, confidence to get involved! Lunch was wonderful.*
- *Schmidtkofer – straightforward.*

- *Speakers were great. Jim and Janet were especially energizing. Their messages would be helpful to the general public to hear. Senior center talks or YouTube topic videos?*
- *Stressing advocacy.*
- *New ideas.*
- *The panel discussion.*
- *Jim S. – he speaks the truth. Janet is an effective speaker.*
- *Networking. Great overview and reminder about the importance of advocacy and that it doesn't need to take a lot of your time.*
- *Knowing the importance of advocacy.*
- *Good take aways. I learned a lot and will engage Board, participants, staff, and volunteer more than in the past. Good variety of speakers.*

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

- *Budget presentation was confusing.*
- *Patrick Miles spoke too quietly. Didn't get into the mechanics enough.*
- *It was all good!*
- *All very informative.*
- *Patrick. The thrust of his presentation was ineffective – a repeat of the handouts. 2) Sony.*
- *I don't love politics but understand the importance.*
- *All was valuable.*

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

- *Great job!*
- *Coming to more!*
- *Another break. Better environment.*
- *Don't have speakers that just regurgitate their slides. This was somewhat challenging having been familiar with the info and have half the crowd not knowing the info. I can't say I really learned anything.*
- *Template of letters/talking points available when it's appropriate to advocate for our clients and staff.*

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

Excellent 12    Good 5    Fair 0    Poor 0    Did not answer 2

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

- *Very informative. Interesting ideas given to use in advocacy for older adults.*
- *Jim hit it on the head. I didn't know a lot about a lot of the agencies, laws, etc. Lots of good ideas to take back to my site. Having our own advocacy committee like NewBridge would help.*
- *Very informative. Planning to add contact info to newsletters for our residents.*
- *Well run. Thank you.*
- *Great job! Lunch and breakfast were good. Thank you!*
- *It's what I needed to push me into more advocacy and show up behind Esther!*