

AAA Committee Recommendation Report

Report to the AAA Board

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Date: 5 October 2020

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

History/Related Actions

At the 9/15/20 Nutrition/Wellness Committee meeting, the minutes reflect the following concerning the home-delivered meal eligibility and continuation:

AAA Aging Program Specialist Angela Velasquez reported utilization of home-delivered meals has increased 131% over the same period in 2019 due to a relaxation in the rules associated with eligibility during a federal emergency (COVID-19 pandemic). Prior to the emergency being declared, persons must be homebound due to frailty and otherwise unable to obtain or prepare/heat a meal in order to qualify to receive a home-delivered meal. When the COVID emergency declaration was made in March 2020, the rules were suspended so that older adults could be provided a home-delivered meal without venturing out at the onset of the virus because there were no other food options seniors could access safely. Additional federal funding was received to cover the cost of the increase in home-delivered meals that occurred as a result. These funds have now been exhausted. There are currently many options available for older adults to obtain meals safely: carry-out sites, grocery and food pantry delivery systems, and separate shopping hours for vulnerable populations coordinated by volunteer agencies, local businesses, and the DCDHS transportation department.

Velasquez expressed a need to reserve the remaining budgeted funding for those who meet the regular criteria for receiving a home-delivered meal – frail, homebound due to disability or illness and unable to obtain/prepare a meal by other means. Focal Point case managers should prioritize assessing/reassessing older adults who were placed onto home-delivered meals primarily as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and counsel them on the variety of safe food options now available. Unless older adults are eligible due to their frailty and homebound status, they should be given a two week notice the home-delivered meal will be discontinued.

There was much discussion by Committee members with respect to this issue. All agreed that with new food options available and a lack of additional COVID-19 funding, existing resources needed to be directed to those most in need that meet federal eligibility for these meals.

A motion was made by ADAMS, seconded by CLAUSIUS, to prioritize assessment and reassessment of older adults beginning home-delivered meals since the start of the pandemic, and in doing so provide them with safe options for obtaining food while issuing a two week notice the home-delivered meals will be discontinued unless they are found to be frail, homebound, and unable to prepare a meal at the time of assessment/reassessment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes	6 -	ADAMS, BARMAN-PAULSON, BRICKNER, CLAUSIUS, EHRLICH, and VANDER WYST
Absent	2 -	LEIGH and TRIMBORN

Financial/Budget/Other Resource Implications (if any)

Approval will result in aligning this program with current funding.

Recommendations

To approve/affirm the action as presented above.

Attachments

None