



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, September 23, 2020

9:00 AM

Remote meeting

Call: 1 877-309-2073

Access code: 547-553-189

A. Call To Order

*Staff & Guests present: Cheryl Batterman, Jim Krueger, Carrie Springer,
Howard Thomas, and Angela Velasquez*

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Present 7 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN, ANNA LEZOTTE,
JILL MCHONE, ESTHER OLSON, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent 1 - FAISAL KAUD

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-184](#)

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 26, 2020

Attachments: [2020_0826_AAA_Leg-Adv_Committee_Mtg](#)

A motion was made by KRETSCHMAN, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KRETSCHMAN, LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON and
SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent: 1 - KAUD

C. Action Items

1. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL, STATE & COUNTY PROGRAMS

No action taken.

Kaud joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Present 8 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN,
ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, ESTHER OLSON, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2020 U.S. CENSUS

Bunck, who served on Complete Count Committees at the city, county, and state levels, reported that both Dane County and the State of Wisconsin had a response rate of more than 90 percent. The large increase in home-delivered meals during the COVID-19 pandemic provided a direct way to remind older adults that census numbers will directly affect federal funding of senior-related programs for the next 10 years. AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman thanked Bunck for his tireless work on the initiative and lauded Focal Points for their efforts to provide hard-to-count populations with the tools needed to participate.

2. COMMITTEE DIVERSITY

Olson reported she has invited a person of color to fill the Committee's open position. Olson encouraged Committee Members to notify her if they know of a person of color who would have interest in serving.

3. COVID-19 UPDATE

Batterman reported Focal Points continue to struggle with the dual priorities of keeping older adults safe and reducing social isolation during the pandemic. Some Focal Points have resumed in-person services but have found many older adults aren't returning after making an initial visit. McHone suggested Focal Point Directors be invited to the October meeting to share a synopsis of how their agency is operating at this point in the pandemic.

AAA Aging Program Specialist Angela Velasquez updated the Committee on the number of meals provided during COVID-19 as compared to the same period last year: an increase of 131%. In program year 2019, a total of 244,000 meals were provided to older adults; this number is estimated to reach 285,000 in the 2020 program year. This is an increase of over 17%. Additional carry-out meal sites have been opened to meet the ongoing need for safe options for obtaining meals. A total of \$990,000 in emergency funding -- \$780,000 via the CARES Act and \$210,000 via Families First Coronavirus Response Act -- has been exhausted. Due to funding limitations, the AAA Nutrition/Wellness Committee recently instituted a policy "to prioritize assessment and reassessment of older adults receiving 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." Case managers will conduct the assessments and make the determination if a consumer should continue receiving home-delivered meals.

4. 2021 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

[2020
RPT-310](#)

2021 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES DRAFT 3

Attachments: [2021 AAA Budget Priorities Draft 3](#)

Olson reported the AAA Board approved the Committee's recommended budget priorities: 1) Case Management; 2) Nutrition Site Management; and 3) Cultural Diversity. Batterman stated that despite the County Executive's mandate to reduce AAA's GPR budget by 5 percent in 2021, the agency's budget proposal does not reduce funding to any programs due to new revenue streams within the Department of Human Services.

5. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

Olson reported the Wisconsin Development Disabilities Coalition provided a presentation at the meeting on 14 September 2020. The Board's recent focus has been on promoting participation in the U.S. Census, removing barriers to voting, and monitoring service delivery during the pandemic.

6. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dane County Legislative Liaison Carrie Springer reported there is still hope Congress will pass another round of COVID-19 relief funding that will aid local governments struggling due to the pandemic, and that it appears legislation to fund the federal government through December will pass soon. The Wisconsin Legislature is not expected to be in session prior to the election on 3 November 2020, but is likely to return in December to conclude business interrupted when the spring session was cut short due to the pandemic.

7. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

Olson reported WAAN has been focused on the U.S. Census and removing barriers to voting. The AAA Board recently endorsed the concept of WAAN's Voting White Paper. Combating racism was a primary focus of the most recent meeting and will remain so in future sessions. WAAN Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator Janet Zander is coordinating advocacy training sessions across the state. Bunck, Olson, and Schmidtkofer, who have participated in this Committee's Senior Advocacy Training activities, have volunteered to conduct WAAN trainings. WAAN is monitoring several Governor's Taskforces, including Caregiving, Retirement Security, Prescription Drug Costs, and Broadband Access.

8. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Olson reported the State Aging Office has requested a change in timing for delivery of its three-year aging plans to the Administration for Community Living. Delivering the plan later in the year would allow for the inclusion of more information from the three-year plans submitted by County and Tribal Aging Offices. Developments in 2020 are likely to lead to new categories in the aging plans, including emergency planning and combating racism and social isolation.

9. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman reported an offer has been accepted by an internal County candidate to fill AAA's Clerk III vacancy beginning on 12 October 2020.

Batterman received multiple calls recently from technology companies conducting national surveys regarding the use of tech by older adults, a positive sign that companies are paying more attention to the technology needs of seniors.

Velasquez announced Dane County's "My Meal-My Way" restaurant model dining concept received two national awards, including a third-place showing in the Aging Innovation category presented by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. "My Meal-My Way" also received the enGAGED Best Practice Award.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2020, 9 A.M. VIA GOTOMEETING

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by SCHMIDLKOFER, seconded by KRETSCHMAN, to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, KRETSCHMAN, LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON and SCHMIDLKOFER

This meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, Administrative Assistant, DCDHS Office of the Director