

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 11:30 AM Remote meeting  
Call: 1-866-899-4679  
Access code: 123-971-981

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

#### D. Presentations

None.

#### E. Reports to Committee

1. 2020 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN: QTRS 1 & 2

[2020 RPT-268](#) 2020 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN: QTRS 1 & 2  
[Attachments: 2020 Nutrition-Wellness Comm Work Plan Qrt 1 & 2](#)

Velasquez provided an update on progress toward 2020 goals. Several areas are on hold due to COVID-19.

2. 2021 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman provided an overview of the three AAA budget priorities the Legislative/Advocacy Committee will be advocating to the County Executive and/or Board of Supervisors to include in the 2021 budget. They include an increase in funding for Case Management, Nutrition Site Management, and Cultural Diversity programs.

### 3. MEAL SITES DURING COVID

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.

### 4. HEALTHY AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Healthy Aging Program Coordinator Alyce Miller reported twenty (20) in-person high-level evidence based health promotion workshops were postponed/cancelled due to COVID-19. AAA is currently focusing on other ways to promote healthy aging such as nutrition counseling over the phone, outdoor fall fitness classes, and providing resources to older adults that assist with feelings of loneliness and isolation. A Social Isolation Resource Guide has been created and is located on the AAA website that contains a plethora of resources organized by category (<https://aaa.dcdhs.com/pdf/Social%20Isolation%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>). GWAAR and AAA Focal Points have contributed greatly to the wonderful resources listed and it is updated regularly.

Stoughton Hospital is leading AAA's first online "Healthy Living with Diabetes Workshop" in Dane County beginning October 13. An online version of "Stepping On" is also being piloted in Dane County. The goal is to offer "Stepping On" virtually by the end of 2020.

### 5. CHAIR & STAFF UPDATES

Velasquez announced AAA of Dane County's Nutrition Program will be receiving two national awards next week at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging conference. The Aging Innovation Award and enGAGED Best Practice Award for the "My Meal- My Way" restaurant model will be presented in recognition of AAA's work in this area.

## F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2020, 11:30 A.M. VIRTUALLY

## G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

#### **H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

Barman-Paulson and several Committee members stated their appreciation for the work done by AAA staff, POS agency staff, and others during the pandemic. Committee member Rhonda Adams was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Committee as she will be stepping down due to increased responsibilities at The River Food Pantry. Velasquez introduced Helen Osborn-Senatus who is being recommended for appointment to the Committee at the next AAA Board meeting in early October.

#### **I. Adjournment**

A motion was made by CLAUSIUS, seconded by VANDER WYST, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

This meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Angela Velasquez, Aging Program Specialist*