



Dane County

Minutes - Final-revised

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 26, 2018

9:00 AM

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

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A. Call To Order

Staff & Guests present: Betsy Abramson, Cheryl Batterman, Marcia Hendrickson, Howard Thomas, Angela Velasquez, and Danielle Williams

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Present 8 - MYRA JOSEPHSON, FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, JILL MCHONE, KARI DAVIS, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, TED BUNCK, and PEG MARTIN

Absent 1 - THOMAS FRAZIER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2018](#) MINUTES FROM AUGUST 22, 2018
[MIN-207](#)

Attachments: [2018_0822_AAA Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - JOSEPHSON, KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, SCHMIDLKOFER, BUNCK and MARTIN

Absent: 1 - FRAZIER

C. Action Items

1. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman stated staff are managing the increase in 2018 Older Americans Act funding that was received in August. Indications are OAA funding at the same level will be included in the 2019 federal budget. Olson suggested committee members contact their legislators to encourage continued support of robust funding for senior programs.

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Executive Director Betsy Abramson stated the organization strongly supports the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's plan to ask the State Legislature for a permanent appropriation of \$600,000 to support programs and activities that promote healthy aging – an area that historically has been underfunded nationally and in Wisconsin. If chosen as the administrator of the initiative, WIHA would provide standardized instructor recruitment materials, instructor training, technical assistance and support, and the collection and analysis of program data. All local leaders would work under WIHA's program licenses and supervision. Abramson stated the \$600,000 would be split evenly each year between WIHA's administration of the healthy aging programs and mini-grants to local entities that deliver healthy aging education. WIHA, a private non-profit, does not receive yearly funding from the Wisconsin Bureau of Disability Resources. Schmidtkofer stated current efforts to help seniors age in place are focused on addressing health problems when they occur and stated it would be more cost-effective to focus on prevention and improvement of quality of life long before health problems arise.

A motion was made by SCHMIDLKOFER, seconded by KAUD, to recommend that the AAA Board support the WAAN position to seek permanent funding and establish a statewide center of expertise related to health promotion and preventative activities for older people in Wisconsin. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - JOSEPHSON, KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, SCHMIDLKOFER, BUNCK and MARTIN

Absent: 1 - FRAZIER

2. REVISIT & AMEND 2019 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES (AS NEEDED)

[2018](#)
[RPT-232](#)

2019 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES FINAL UPDATED

Attachments: [2019 AAA Budget Priorities FINAL Updated](#)

Batterman provided an overview of the updated priorities after funding was tentatively secured to fulfill all but one budget area. The priority areas proposed to be funded are: increasing the Dementia Capable Crisis Worker position to full-time status; purchasing the Oliver Tray Meal Sealing System; and increasing funding for catered meals 5 percent to meet anticipated growth in the Senior Nutrition Program. The remaining outstanding area is the need to increase Case Management funding by \$75,376 in each of the next three years to address the demand of the growing senior adult population in Dane County. Batterman stated staff expects to learn soon if DCDHS is awarded the Administration for Community Living's \$1 million "Alzheimer's Disease Programs to States and Communities" grant. The grant would fully fund the Dementia Capable Crisis Worker position, which could necessitate changes to the priorities document.

Olson met with Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and his Executive Assistant Jeff Kostelic, and with Dane County Board of Supervisors members Sharon Corrigan (Board Chair), Patrick Miles (Personnel and Finance Committee Chair) and Jamie Kuhn (Health and Human Needs Committee Chair) to advocate for two things: Increasing Case Management funding and including Focal Point Directors and Case Managers in the review of the Request for Proposals for hiring a mental health consulting company to evaluate the County's mental health services to consumers of all ages.

Schmidlkofer thanked Olson and McHone for testifying about the increased need of funding for senior programs at the DCDHS public budget hearing earlier this month.

This was not acted on

D. Presentations

1. MILWAUKEE COMMUNICATION PLAN

Olson stated she believes the Committee should formulate a communication plan similar to the one used by the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging's Advocacy Committee. The plan would outline the general activities of the committee, from its yearly advocacy work regarding the AAA budget to its advocacy on behalf of state and national issues, and would serve as an addendum to the Committee Description. Olson will work on a draft document prior to placing the communication plan on the agenda as an action item. Batterman will distribute a copy of the Milwaukee Communication Plan to members.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2018 SAT EVALUATIONS

[2018](#)
[RPT-231](#)

SAT EVALUATION 2018 SUMMARY

Attachments: [SAT Evaluation 2018 Summary](#)

Batterman provided an overview of the Senior Advocacy Training evaluations and the Committee discussed the best way to approach future training sessions. Olson reported two participants attended the DCDHS budget hearing this month. Olson attributed the sparse attendance to the fact the hearing was held at the City County Building rather than at a more easily accessible venue such as the Alliant Energy Center, where it had been held in recent years. Olson reported one of the participants wrote an extremely effective advocacy letter to State Representative Mark Pocan which she will share with the Committee. Batterman thanked Olson and Schmidtkofer for facilitating the training sessions.

2. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

The ADRC Board did not meet in September due to lack of quorum and has met only three times in 2018. Multiple Committee members voiced concern about the ADRC Board's continued struggle to reach quorum and suggested it is vital for the ADRC's oversight committee to meet on a regular basis. Committee members directed Batterman to speak to ADRC Manager Jennifer Fischer and DCDHS Adult Community Services Division Administrator Todd Campbell about what can be done to ensure the ADRC Board meets regularly.

3. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dane County Lobbyist Danielle Williams reported the Wisconsin Department of Health Services submitted its 2019 budget proposal on 17 September, and stated the proposal could change drastically depending on the outcome of the Governor's race in November.

Schmidtkofer reported there's a movement afoot in Congress to make permanent the federal tax cuts to individuals that were implemented by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and would expire in 2025. The reduced revenue stream will likely require funding cuts to federal programs, with Social Security and Medicare being obvious potential targets.

Olson reported she and Bunck presented on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to an overflow crowd at this month's Wisconsin Aging and Disability Network Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

4. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

No report.

5. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Olson reported the Council will meet in November. In August, the body adopted bylaws and elected officers, including Olson as Chair. Olson is writing amendments to bylaws, which the group believes will allow it to take part in advocacy activities. The focus of the November meeting will be identifying issues on which the group will focus. Olson will distribute minutes to this committee and to the AAA Board.

6. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman reported the Advisory Council on 21 September 2018 approved edits made to the 2019-2021 Dane County Aging Plan's draft goals after the Bureau of Disability Resources (BADR) provided feedback. The revised goals will be posted on the AAA website and via an online survey seeking comment, and two public listening sessions will be held in October to solicit feedback from seniors. The final plan must be submitted to BADR by 31 December 2018.

Batterman reported AAA staff continues work on 2019 contracts, a process that has been complicated by the impending merger of the four Madison Coalitions.

In response to the committee's wish to honor former Dane County Lobbyist Mickey Beil via a resolution upon her retirement, Batterman was informed by the Board of Supervisors office the County Board does not execute resolutions for county employees.

Batterman attended the 2018 Aging and Disability Network Conference in Wisconsin Dells on 13 and 14 September and took part of two excellent breakout sessions – one on hoarding and the other on “Learning, Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver” presented by former Governor Martin Schreiber and Cathy Breitenbucher. Batterman reported Colonial Club Senior Activity Center received an award at the conference for service to the Sun Prairie community following the natural gas explosion that leveled a portion of downtown on 10 July 2018. Three staff members reported to the center immediately after the explosion occurred and helped to evacuate seniors; staff provided case management services in the weeks afterward for people displaced or otherwise affected by the disaster. Also honored at the conference were the five restaurants that are a part of Dane County's My Meal--My Way senior nutrition program (Cranberry Creek Cafe, DeForest Family Restaurant, Fink's Café, Festival Foods, and Ziggy's BBQ Smoke House & Ice Cream Parlor). AAA Aging Programs Specialist Angela Velasquez nominated the restaurants for the Special Service Award, which recognizes an individual, group, or organization with long-term, exceptional commitment to serving customers through a wide spectrum of contributions. Christine Beatty, longtime Executive Director of the Madison Senior Center who has announced her retirement, also was recognized.

Batterman reported that staff from Northwest Dane Senior Services, West Madison Senior Coalition, and South Madison Coalition of the Elderly Executive Director Marcia Hendrickson provided exemplary services to seniors during the recent flooding in Dane County. Batterman lauded Edgewood College for quickly responding to a AAA request for emergency lodging for residents displaced by the flooding. The college made six dorm rooms available and housed one resident. DCDHS will invite community stakeholders to its review session of its response to flooding complications with the goal of being better prepared for future disasters.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

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 BUNCK, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - JOSEPHSON, KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, DAVIS, SCHMIDLKOFER, BUNCK and MARTIN

Absent: 1 - FRAZIER

This meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk III.