



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Area Agency on Aging - Access Committee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Monday, September 9, 2019

2:30 PM

AAA/ADRC, 2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 109
Madison, WI 53704

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A. Call To Order

*Staff & Guests Present: Cheryl Batterman, Katie Brietzman, Marcia Hendrickson,
Tenzin Lhawang, and Howard Thomas*

Chair Hochkammer called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Present 6 - JON HOCHKAMMER, GERRY DERR, FRAN BARMAN-PAULSON, SRIDEVI
MOHAN, BARBARA BOUSTEAD, and JENNIFER BROWN
Absent 3 - ELAINE DESMIDT, PAMELA FLAD, and CAROL LORENZ

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#) MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019
[MIN-189](#)

Attachments: [2019_0805_AAA Access Committee Mtg](#)

**A motion was made by DERR, seconded by BOUSTEAD, to approve the minutes.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Ayes: 6 - HOCHKAMMER, DERR, BARMAN-PAULSON, MOHAN, BOUSTEAD and BROWN

Absent: 3 - DESMIDT, FLAD and LORENZ

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

1. VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP/REP PAYEE PROGRAMS UPDATE

Katie Brietzman, NewBridge Madison's Community Outreach & Support Specialist, explained the two programs are funded by the City of Madison and Dane County. The Volunteer Guardianship Program, which began in 2001, is currently serving 62 individuals. The Rep Payee Program, which began in 2006, is currently serving 37 individuals. In the first eight months of 2019, volunteer guardians provided 2,049 hours of service while rep payee volunteers provided 932 hours. In the past five years, there has been a 40 percent increase in the number of volunteer guardians and a 28 percent increase in the number of individuals served. The number of rep payee volunteers has increased 38 percent over the past five years and they are serving 27 percent more people. Brietzman estimates the two volunteer programs save Dane County \$15,000 monthly and \$180,000 yearly. Over the lifetime of the two programs, the total estimated savings is \$1.5 million. Brietzman shared anecdotal evidence of the great dedication and strong advocacy efforts made by volunteers and answered committee members' questions.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES: UPDATE

[2019
RPT-240](#)

2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES DRAFT 083019

Attachments: [2020 AAA Budget Priorities DRAFT 083019](#)

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman stated the updated budget priorities reflect the order of importance as determined by Focal Point Directors after it was learned there would be no new funding for 2020. Catered meals is the lone budget priority of the five for which funding has been appropriated. AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee members will meet with County Executive Joe Parisi and, if needed, the County Board to seek funding for the remaining priorities. AAA staff have shared projected budget numbers with POS agencies, with the understanding the totals could increase due to advocacy efforts.

Lorenz arrived at 3:11 p.m.

Present 7 - JON HOCHKAMMER, GERRY DERR, FRAN BARMAN-PAULSON, SRIDEVI MOHAN, BARBARA BOUSTEAD, CAROL LORENZ, and JENNIFER BROWN
Absent 2 - ELAINE DESMIDT, and PAMELA FLAD

2. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman reported planning continues for an event in February at the State Capitol with the intent of educating state lawmakers about the impact of the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) Program. The effort was spawned by Batterman's realization during Aging Advocacy Day in May that state lawmakers and staff appeared to possess little knowledge about the EBS Program when participants shared the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's issue brief calling for the doubling of state funding to ensure continued access to legal advocacy services for Wisconsin's fastest-growing population. The state hasn't increased funding for the program in 22 years. An EBS Program fact sheet is being created for all 72 counties to share with legislators and their staff. Wisconsin Counties Association is working with Batterman to feature the EBS Program in their monthly magazine.

Batterman reported she met recently with a U.S. Census Bureau Field Representative, who shared that seniors fall into 12 of the 16 groups of people the Census Bureau has identified as the most difficult to count. Batterman is working with the Dane County Census Committee and is encouraging Focal Points to educate seniors about the importance of participating in the census, which is used to determine federal and state funding levels. AAA uses census and American Community Survey data as part of funding formulas for the Case Management Program and Senior Nutrition Site Management. Residents will receive a letter encouraging them to complete the census form online and Batterman will encourage Focal Points to provide internet access for older adults without it, as well as offer help in completing the process.

Batterman has participated in two national conference calls as part of the Medicare Mental Health Workforce regarding the Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2019 (Senate 286, HR 945), which seeks to expand coverage of mental health services under Part B of Medicare. Specifically, the bill would amend the Social Security Act to increase access to mental health services by permitting Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists to be reimbursed by Medicare. Batterman will ask the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) to support the legislation, which would be especially beneficial to underserved residents in rural areas.

Batterman reported the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has revamped its Medicare Plan Finder, which created potential obstacles for case managers ahead of the open enrollment period that begins on 15 October 2019. A CMS representative will provide an educational presentation about the new Plan Finder for case managers on 13 September 2019.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2019, 2:30 PM @ AAA/ADRC

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Batterman introduced Tenzin Lhawang, who began his duties as AAA student intern this month. Lhawang is enrolled in the University of Wisconsin's one-year social work master's degree program.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by BOUSTEAD, seconded by BARMAN-PAULSON, to adjourn.

Ayes: 7 - HOCHKAMMER, DERR, BARMAN-PAULSON, MOHAN, BOUSTEAD, LORENZ and BROWN

Absent: 2 - DESMIDT and FLAD

This meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk.