



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, August 28, 2019

9:00 AM

AAA/ADRC, 2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 108
Madison WI 53704

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A. Call To Order

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

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

Present 5 - FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, JILL MCHONE, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and TED
BUNCK

Absent 2 - ANNA LEZOTTE, and CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#) MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2019
[MIN-169](#)

Attachments: [2019 AAA Legislative-Advocacy Committee Mtg](#)

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

Ayes: 5 - KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, SCHMIDLKOFER and BUNCK

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and KRETSCHMAN

C. Action Items

1. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Olson stated that during Senior Advocacy Training this month, she and Erin Fabrizius, a member of NewBridge Madison's Board of Directors, spoke about forming a group to raise the profile of individuals providing advocacy efforts on behalf of Dane County seniors. The group, which Olson and Fabrizius suggest be called "The G-Force," would wear gray T-shirts when appearing at meetings and hearings in an advocacy role. Olson volunteered to write a letter to Focal Point Directors and the county aging network seeking volunteers to join the effort.

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by BUNCK, that a letter be sent to Focal Point Directors and the county aging network inviting individuals to join "The G-Force" advocacy group. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, SCHMIDLKOFER and BUNCK

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and KRETSCHMAN

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by MCHONE, that a workgroup be formed to establish a framework for how "The G-Force" will work with other stakeholders in Dane County. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - KAUD, OLSON, MCHONE, SCHMIDLKOFER and BUNCK

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and KRETSCHMAN

McHone, Schmidlkofer and Olson volunteered to serve on the workgroup.

D. Presentations

None.

Lezotte arrived at 10:03 a.m.

Present 6 - FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, JILL MCHONE, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, TED BUNCK, and ANNA LEZOTTE

Absent 1 - CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2019 SAT RECAP

[2019](#)
[RPT-205](#)

SAT EVALUATIONS 2019 RESULTS FINAL

Attachments: [SAT Evaluation 2019 Results FINAL](#)

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman provided an overview of the Senior Advocacy Training evaluations and shared several examples of advocacy efforts that have appeared in Focal Point newsletters since the training session on 8 August 2019.

2. 2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

Batterman reported the Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) budget is scheduled to be released Friday. She will notify committee members when it is posted. AAA staff members are unable to discuss the budget until after its public release. Batterman will ask Focal Point Directors to rank the previously identified budget priorities should advocacy efforts be required. The DCDHS budget hearing is scheduled for 11 September 2019 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

3. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

The Board did not meet in August.

4. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dane County Legislative Liaison Carrie Springer announced the Dane County 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda has been approved; she will provide copies via email.

5. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Olson reported the Council recently undertook two advocacy efforts – one involving personal care workers oversight and the other aimed at getting more Wisconsin counties to use biodegradable products for their nutrition programs. The meeting on 1 August 2019 was held in Green Bay and included a tour of the Oneida Nation's Elder Services Building.

6. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

No report.

7. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman reported she met recently with a U.S. Census Bureau Field Representative, who shared that seniors fall into seven of the 10 groups of people the Census Bureau has identified as the most difficult to count. Batterman is working with a Dane County Census Committee and plans to encourage 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.

Batterman has participated in two national conference calls 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 preparations continue for an event at the State Capitol with the intent of educating state lawmakers about the impact of the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) Program and securing increased state funding. Daniel Idzikowski, Program & Policy Coordinator at Milwaukee County Department on Aging, WAAN Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator Janet Zander, Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists Legislative Committee Co-Chair Tiffany Scully, and Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) Legal Services Manager Kate Schilling are working with Batterman to stage the event, which is tentatively scheduled for February. A form has been distributed to each county to collect data and anecdotal evidence of the program's impact. 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 WAAN Issue Brief calling for increasing State funding to ensure continued access to legal advocacy services for Wisconsin's fastest-growing population. The State hasn't increased its funding of the EBS program in the past 22 years.

McHone departed at 10:50 a.m.

Present 5 - FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, TED BUNCK, and ANNA LEZOTTE

Absent 2 - JILL MCHONE, and CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Lezotte suggested the Committee may wish to monitor activities of the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving regarding the potential creation of a caregiver registry.

I. Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk III.