



# 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?*

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Wednesday, December 11, 2019

9:00 AM

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

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2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 108  
Madison WI 53704

#### A. Call To Order

*Staff present: Cheryl Batterman and Howard Thomas*

**Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.**

**Present** 7 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN,  
ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, and ESTHER OLSON

**Absent** 1 - JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#) MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2019  
[MIN-271](#)

**Attachments:** [2019 0925 AAA-Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - SCHMIDLKOFER

#### C. Action Items

## 1. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

*Olson announced she will include an action item on the January meeting agenda to request the AAA Board advocate for the State to fund the Wisconsin Institute of Healthy Aging (WIHA)'s efforts in providing evidence-based health promotion and education classes.*

*WIHA, which operated in 2019 with the help of a \$200,000 grant that was not renewed, requested \$800,000 for 2020 and did not receive funding in the State budget. AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman stated evidence-based health promotion is part of the Wisconsin Office on Aging's three-year strategic plan. Olson stated the topic will also likely appear on the State Aging Advisory Council's February agenda.*

**This item was not acted on.**

## D. Presentations

### 1. 2019 COMMITTEE SUCCESSES

[2019  
PRES-110](#)

2020 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES FINAL SUMMARY

**Attachments:** [2020 AAA Budget Priorities Final Summary 111819](#)

[2019  
PRES-112](#)

AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES FUNDING SUMMARY 2016-PRESENT

**Attachments:** [AAA Budget Priorities Funding Summary 2016-present](#)

*Batterman plans to distribute two documents at this week's Focal Point Directors meeting. The first details how all five of AAA's 2020 budget priorities – Case Management, Mental Health Services, Nutrition Catered Meals, Nutrition Site Management and RSVP Driver Services Program – will be fully funded. The second document provides a breakdown of funding increases AAA has secured via advocacy efforts since 2016. (Both of these documents were emailed to Committee members last week.) Batterman thanked Committee Members for the vital role they played in securing increased funding for programs benefitting older adults.*

*Batterman wrote the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the \$200,000 Mental Health Services for Older Adults budget priority, which will provide two full-time mental health professionals (nurse practitioner and/or geriatric mental health specialist) for a one-year preventative pilot program for non-Medicaid eligible senior adults. Two Committee members who served on the ad-hoc committee that crafted the proposed budget item, Fitchburg Senior Center Director Jill McHone and NewBridge Madison Team Lead Case Manager Jodie Castaneda, will be invited to serve on the RFP review panel.*

## E. Reports to Committee

### 1. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

*Olson reported the merger of two Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – Care Wisconsin and My Choice Family Care – was a topic of discussion at the Board meeting on 9 December 2019. Several Committee members expressed concern about the decreasing number of options for consumers. Batterman interjected the State is sensitive to the lack of choice and will consider adding another MCO option. Olson stated the topic will be an action item on the agenda for the State Aging Advisory Council's February meeting. Batterman will reach out to Case Managers to learn if seniors are reporting problems and/or frustrations with the MCOs.*

*Olson reported the ADRC Governing Board is interested in partnering with AAA in 2020 to conduct public hearings seeking feedback on services and unmet needs.*

### 2. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Committee members discussed the Trump Administration's decision to relax enforcement of rules governing skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, Governor Tony Evers' veto of legislation that would reduce the number of required training hours for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), State Legislature bills regarding Alzheimer's and dementia, and the difference in levels of care provided by assisted living communities' resident care assistants versus CNAs in skilled nursing facilities.*

### 3. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

*Olson reported efforts continue to stress the importance that the Wisconsin Office on Aging issue a statement that it's acceptable for aging services professionals to advocate for improvements in programs for older adults. WAAN hopes to distribute a paper by former Legislative/Advocacy Committee Member Tom Frazier that details how to establish advocacy groups, and perhaps a second document about how to start and structure an advocacy training program like the one provided annually by AAA. Many aging professionals' current job descriptions state that advocacy is not permitted. McHone has encouraged Wisconsin Association of Senior Center members to amend job descriptions at their agencies to make advocacy an expectation.*

*Olson reported WAAN is closely monitoring State legislation regarding advance directives and power of attorney as well as the U.S. Senate's desire to build cost-sharing measures into the Older Americans Act reauthorization – a practice that is currently forbidden.*

*Due to a large amount of information distributed at each WAAN meeting, Committee members directed Batterman to forward only materials that could impact Dane County residents.*

### 4. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Olson reported the Council wrote a letter to Attorney General Josh Kaul requesting the Elder Abuse Taskforce implemented by former AG Brad Schimel be reconvened and is awaiting a response. The Council wrote to Governor Evers asking him to veto legislation that would have reduced the required number of training hours for CNAs. Evers vetoed the measure on 20 November 2019.*

## 5. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

### [2019](#) FOCAL POINT TOWNS FUNDING [RPT-473](#)

**Attachments:** [Focal Point Towns Funding](#)

### [2019](#) UNITED WAY FUNDING CUTS 2020 [RPT-474](#)

**Attachments:** [United Way Funding Cuts 2020](#)

*Olson suggested the Committee conduct an off-site strategic planning meeting in Spring 2020.*

*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 for the first time in 22 years. Fact sheets for each county, which include data and anecdotal evidence of the program's impact, are being produced. The Wisconsin Counties Association's December 2019 issue includes articles about the EBS Program and several other issues impacting older adults. The goal is to convince Governor Evers to add increased EBS funding to his next budget proposal. Increasing EBS Program funding will be one of the priority issues at the annual Aging Advocacy Day at the Capitol in May 2020.*

*Batterman reported Colonial Club Executive Director Bob Power used his space in the organization's November newsletter to thank Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, the Dane County Department of Human Services, and the Legislative/Advocacy Committee for their efforts in securing funding in the 2020 Dane County budget for priorities identified by Focal Point Directors.*

*Batterman distributed two handouts detailing funding shortfalls for several Senior Focal Points. One lists municipalities that provide no funding or less funding than requested by Focal Points. The second details a vast reduction in funding of Focal Point programming by United Way of Dane County, which recently notified two Focal Points of drastic cuts for 2020. Batterman provided an overview of how the decreased United Way funding will impact services.*

*Batterman reported a community member has expressed interest in joining the AAA Board, but the appointment won't be considered until January at the earliest. It's possible the new appointee will be interested in filling the opening on this Committee.*

## F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: 22 JANUARY 2020, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

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

*None.*

## H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

*None.*

*Kretschman departed at 10:46 a.m.*

**Present** 6 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, and ESTHER OLSON

**Absent** 2 - CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

## I. Adjournment

**A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by MCHONE, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 6 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, LEZOTTE, MCHONE and OLSON

**Absent:** 2 - KRETSCHMAN and SCHMIDLKOFER

*This meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk III.*