



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, February 19, 2020

9:00 AM

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

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A. Call To Order

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

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Present 7 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN,
ANNA LEZOTTE, ESTHER OLSON, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent 1 - JILL MCHONE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#) MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2019
[MIN-402](#)

Attachments: [2019 1211 AAA Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - MCHONE

C. Action Items

1. COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

[2019](#)
[ACT-351](#)

LEGISLATIVE/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION DRAFT

Attachments: [Legislative Advocacy Committee Description DRAFT](#)

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman stated she is not recommending changes to the Committee Description.

A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by KAUD, to recommend that the AAA Board approve the Legislative/Advocacy Committee Description as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - MCHONE

2. 2020 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

[2019](#)
[ACT-350](#)

2020 LEG-ADV COMMITTEE WORK PLAN DRAFT

Attachments: [2020 Leg-Adv Comm Work Plan DRAFT](#)

Batterman provided an overview of the Work Plan and answered Committee Members' questions.

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by KRETSCHMAN, to approve the benchmarks in the 2020 AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee Work Plan draft. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - MCHONE

3. ADVOCACY SUPPORTING FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

[2019](#)
[ACT-371](#)

PROJECT 100,000 INFO SHEET

Attachments: [Project 100,000](#)

[2019](#)
[ACT-372](#)

CENSUS INFO SHEET

Attachments: [Census](#)

Schmidlkofer asked Committee members to consider what action might be appropriate in response to the Trump Administration plans to deport Laotian and Hmong immigrants who are not U.S. citizens and have standing deportation orders. He requested that Batterman invite a representative from The Hmong Institute in Madison to attend the March meeting to educate Committee members about how the threat impacts Dane County seniors and share appropriate ways to advocate for them. Dane County Lobbyist Carrie Springer reported the Dane County Board of Supervisors is proposing a response also.

Bunck distributed information about Project 100,000, a 1960s U.S. Department of Defense initiative to recruit soldiers who previously had been below military mental or medical standards as a way to escalate manpower during the Vietnam War. Bunck is continuing to research if Project 100,000 veterans are receiving the care and benefits to which they are entitled, and will report his findings at a future meeting. Batterman will share the document with Focal Point Case Managers, who may be interacting with veterans who were part of the initiative.

Bunck distributed a U.S. Census info sheet on Hard-to-Count/Hard-to-Reach Populations and stated older adults are in all but one of the categories listed (children). Bunck provided an overview of the work he's doing to stress the importance of the census to seniors and reiterated the impact the count will have on future federal funding for senior-related programs. In addition to serving on the Dane County Complete Count Committee (CCC), he was recently appointed to serve on the State CCC to represent older adults living in Wisconsin.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2019 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN: QTR4

[2019](#)
[RPT-594](#)

2019 LEG-ADV COMMITTEE WORK PLAN QTRS 3&4

Attachments: [2019 Leg-Adv Comm Work Plan QTRs 3 & 4](#)

Batterman provided an overview of the Work Plan and answered Committee members' questions.

2. 2020 AGING ADVOCACY DAY

Batterman encouraged Committee members to participate in the fifth annual Aging Advocacy Day on 12 May 2020 at the State Capitol. Multiple Committee members remarked the event, which allows advocates to discuss important issues facing Wisconsin's older adults and caregivers with lawmakers and legislative staff, has been a very uplifting experience in past years. Batterman will distribute registration information when available.

3. 2021 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

Batterman reported transportation, supportive home care, loneliness, AODA, and housing are among the issues Focal Point Directors are evaluating for possible budgetary priorities. The Directors' proposals are expected to be drafted soon. The final year of a three-year Case Management funding proposal will be included among the priorities, as will the final year of a two-year proposal to increase Nutrition Site Management funding.

AAA Aging Program Specialist Angela Velasquez reported meals utilization in January 2020 increased 8 percent over the previous January and indicated increased funding for catered meals will also be among the 2021 budget priorities.

Batterman will invite a United Way of Dane County representative to a future meeting to discuss the organization's recent decision to make major funding cuts to older adult programs.

4. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

Olson reported the winter issue of the ADRC's newsletter "Resource Wise" was recently distributed. The Board is scheduling three public listening sessions for the purpose of receiving feedback about services provided and service gaps. The ADRC Board has agreed to partner with the AAA Board in conducting the sessions in 2020.

5. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[2019](#) CNA PAY ACT
[RPT-617](#)

Attachments: [CNA Pay Act](#)

Springer, Olson, and other Committee members provided updates on several pieces of legislation. Bunck distributed an overview handout on the CNA Pay Act, a proposed three-bill package that addresses concerns about staff shortages in caregiving professions.

6. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

Batterman recently distributed the GWAAR/WAAN State Legislation Tracking Sheet to Committee members.

7. STATE'S AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Olson reported the Council requested the Wisconsin Office on Aging to produce a document that definitively states agencies that receive Older Americans Act funds are mandated to provide advocacy for older adults. The Council made the request in hopes of educating those agencies who believe they should not be involved in advocacy efforts.

Olson reported the Council is submitting a letter to Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, Representative Mark Pocan, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to express the Council's dismay with the Trump Administration's introduction of Medicaid Block Grants, which cap the amount of federal dollars distributed to cover adults under the age of 65 who are not disabled and offer new authorities to cut coverage and benefits.

Olson reported the Council did not receive a response from Attorney General Josh Kaul's office regarding its letter recommending that he reinstitute the Attorney General's Task Force on Elder Abuse convened by his predecessor. The Council is considering alternate methods to encourage the Attorney General's Office to make combating elder abuse a higher priority.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Batterman reported the open position will remain so until the opening on the AAA Board is filled so the new Board member can be offered an opportunity to serve on this Committee.

Kretschman departed at 10:55 a.m.

Present 6 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, ANNA LEZOTTE, ESTHER OLSON, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent 2 - CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN, and JILL MCHONE

9. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Olson stated she would like to forgo the traditional meeting in May and instead host a strategic planning session at her home. One of the primary topics would be laying the groundwork for the creation of a group to raise the profile of individuals providing advocacy efforts on behalf of Dane County older adults.

Batterman reported she completed writing the Request for Proposals (RFP) in December for two new full-time mental health professionals to work with non-Medicaid eligible older adults. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi awarded \$200,000 in permanent funding for the initiative, which was initially proposed as a one-year pilot project. Dane County Purchasing has not posted the RFP to date.

Batterman and Elder Benefits Specialist (EBS) Tiffany Scully continue preparations for an educational forum at the State Capitol with the intent of educating lawmakers about the impact of the EBS Program and securing increased State funding for the first time in 23 years. Fact sheets that include data and anecdotal evidence of the program's impact have been produced for 59 of the State's 72 counties. Increasing EBS Program State funding will be one of the priority issues during Aging Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

Batterman reported AAA staff recently received final State funding levels for 2020. The agency was awarded \$90,536 in new and one-time carryover funding (from 2018 and 2019), most of which is earmarked for National Family Caregiver Support Program grants.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2020, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Kaud requested a report from NewBridge Madison detailing improvements, efficiencies, and challenges since the city's four aging coalitions merged into one organization on 1 January 2019.

I. Adjournment

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

Ayes: 6 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, LEZOTTE, OLSON and SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent: 2 - KRETSCHMAN and MCHONE

This meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, AAA Clerk III.