



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, October 28, 2020

9:00 AM

via GoToMeeting

Phone Number: 1-877-309-2073

Access Code: 747-264-493

This Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting is being held remotely. The public can access the meeting by calling the number above. Once prompted, enter in the access code and you will be connected to the meeting.

Note: You will be placed on hold until the Host joins.

If you would like to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item, please fill out a registration form by clicking on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RYTSBZ7>

Registrations will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Staff will call you into the meeting when the item is before the committee.

A. Call To Order

Staff & Guests present: Cheryl Batterman, Barb Cooper, Cindy Matulle, Carrie Springer, Cindy Mosiman, Natalie Raemisch, Angela Velasquez, and Mai Zong Vue

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Present 5 - JODIE CASTANEDA, CAROLE L. KRETSCHMAN, JILL MCHONE, ESTHER OLSON, and JIM SCHMIDLKOFER

Absent 3 - TED BUNCK, FAISAL KAUD, and ANNA LEZOTTE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-240](#)

Minutes from September 23, 2020

Attachments: [2020_0923_AAA Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

Kaud noted item #2 Committee Diversity should include "diversity is a priority of the Committee in filling committee membership vacancies."

A motion was made by OLSON, seconded by KRETSCHMAN, that the Minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - LEZOTTE

C. Action Items

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

Absent 1 - ANNA LEZOTTE

1. Advocacy Supporting Federal & State Programs

No action taken

D. Presentations

1. The Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults: Barb Cooper (DeForest Area Community & Senior Center) and Cindy Mosiman (Waunakee Senior Center)

DeForest Area Community & Senior Center Director Barb Cooper and Case Manager Natalie Raemisch discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their services for older adults. As COVID-19 came on quickly, there was an immediate need for reacting and adapting for services. Staff and volunteers offered food drives as public food pantries were closed. Books, magazines, and crosswords were included with home-delivered meals. Many older adults do not have access to a computer or WIFI; those with technology are faring far better than those without this access. EPIC donated 10 laptops to the Center to loan to older adults for computer access and the ability to have virtual calls with family. During warmer summer weather, meetings were held outside with social distancing in place. The Center experienced a huge loss of fundraising opportunities and donations. Staff asked community members to sew masks with materials provided by the Center, which were then provided to older adults. Unfortunately, many older adults believe because staff are working remotely that they are not available for services. Staff are calling clients and participants to keep in contact and let them know staff is around and available to help. Staff are also using volunteer personal shoppers for older adults who cannot get out to get groceries or other essential items. A pen pal program was started to address social isolation challenges. There is a locked box outside of the Center for older adults to drop off confidential materials for their Case Manager. A letter was read from an older adult thanking the staff for keeping in touch with them as it has been helping with being isolated knowing someone is out there checking on them.

Waunakee Senior Center Director Cindy Mosiman shared how difficult it has been with the increased number of home-delivered meals and needing to add an additional delivery route (from 4 to 5 routes)—requiring more staff and volunteer time. Staff are reminded to keep face-to-face interactions to a minimum. The high school kitchen caters meals and other Village staff are delivering meals in the afternoon or early evening. Staff made arrangements for special deliveries of bakery items. Case Managers continue to be concerned that older adults are receiving their medically required meds and that other needs are being met during this time. The Center resumed offering a foot care clinic in June. Every Friday night is movie night at the Center where up to 10 older adults watch a movie—following social distancing and wearing masks. The Center used to be a gathering place where older adults came to drink coffee or just stopped it; this has all ended. The Center is planning more drive up picnics. Caregivers and staff are worn out but continue to provide older adults the best service they can.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2010 US Census

Bunck, who served on Complete Count Committees at the city, county, and state levels, reported the Federal Government stated a high number of Wisconsin assisted living centers were not reporting Census numbers. Following up on this information, Bunck determined there were only around 40 facilities in the State that were not fully cooperating in obtaining Census counts. Many facilities indicated they had security concerns of personal information getting out. Census takers going door to door are possibly missing the elderly so the facilities have been setting up tables for people to record. There is a new scam involving calling the elderly and reporting a relative is in a mental health crisis due to COVID-19 and needs money.

2. 2021 AAA Budget Priorities

Olson reported speaking to the County Board Chair in support of additional money for Case Management and Nutrition Site Management. Additional funding for the Cultural Diversity program was included in the County Executive's proposed budget.

AAA Aging Program Specialist Angela Velasquez stated meals are up 59% since COVID-19 started and Nutrition Site Management was already struggling with the amount of meals before the pandemic started. Additional funding is needed with or without COVID-19. Supervisor Downing reached out to Velasquez for information in supporting the proposed amendment for additional money for Nutrition Site Management. Personal & Finance Committee is meeting tonight and taking any comments on amendments to the County Budget. Olson reported she planned to attend the meeting and continue to ask for additional Nutrition Site Management funding.

Kaud thanked Olson for her continued efforts in advocating for additional money to help older adults.

3. ADRC Governing Board

Olson reported the ADRC Board is starting to plan for listening sessions. AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman will contact the ADRC Manager to determine if the AAA Board can collaborate on these sessions.

4. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

Dane County Legislative Liaison Carrie Springer reported the State and Federal government have not taken any recent action.

5. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

Olson reported WAAN is concerned about social isolation and service delivery for older adults during the pandemic. It is also following internet broadband challenges not only in the northern parts of the state but also in the rural areas of Dane County.

6. State's Aging Advisory Council

Olson reported the Council will meet in two weeks. As the Chair, she plans to include social isolation, broadband issues, and caregiver challenges on the agenda.

7. Chair & Staff Reports

Olson stated she is trying to find People of Color to join the Committee. Kaud requested that diversity be discussed at all Committee meetings. He will recommend forming an Ad Hoc Committee to create more structure on discussions and delivery at the next Committee meeting.

Batterman reported Focal Points continue to meet the needs of older adults using a variety of noncontact ways. She hosts biweekly virtual meetings with the directors to discuss COVID-19 challenges, to include social isolation. Batterman and Velasquez have been working on contracts for next year. If budget adjustments are made, contracts will need to be redone. AAA Board and Committee meetings will use Zoom Webinar as Dane County is switching to this virtual platform. This will make it more accessible to the public in real-life time vs after the fact recording. Velasquez has been busy entering SAMS data and running error reports to balance out year-end books.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Next meeting: Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 9 am via Zoom

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

Ayes: 8 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, KRETSCHMAN, LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON and SCHMIDLKOFER

This meeting adjourned at 10:53am. Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Matulle, AAA Clerk III, matulle.cindy@countyofdane.com, 608-261-9930