



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 27, 2025

9:00 AM

This is a Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at 2865 N Sherman Ave, Conference Room 109; Attend virtually via Zoom.

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public testimony.

The Wednesday August 27, 2025 AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

Members of the public can either attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

The public can attend in person at the ADRC building, 2865 N Sherman Ave Room 109, Madison.

The public can access the meeting virtually with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CfbZD0HaTmqoXgDeELg5HA

This link will be active until the end of the meeting.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 957 6548 2002

PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

IN PERSON: Any members of the public wishing to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item can register in person at the meeting using paper registration forms. **IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER VIA THE ZOOM LINK ABOVE EVEN IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING IN PERSON.**

In person registrations to provide public comment will be accepted throughout the meeting.

VIRTUAL: Any members of the public wishing to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item **MUST REGISTER USING THE LINK ABOVE** (even if you plan to attend using your phone). Virtual registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.

In order to testify (provide public comment) virtually, you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak to the body.

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board members, please send them to: Cindy Matulle, Matulle.Cindy@danecounty.gov.

Staff and Guests: Lacy Fox, Shannon Gabriel, Cindy Matulle, Lynn Riley, Diane Turner, and Angela Velasquez.

A. Call To Order

Chair LEZOTTE called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Introduction of members for new member Amy Wurf.

Present 6 - TED BUNCK, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, NATALIE RAEMISCH, ANNA LEZOTTE, JODIE CASTANEDA, and AMY WURF

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#) AAA Leg/Adv Committee Minutes June 25, 2025
[MIN-162](#)

Attachments: [2025_0625_AAA_Leg-Adv_Committee_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by RAEMISCH, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

a. Advocacy Supporting Federal & State Programs

Angela Velasquez, DAS Administrator, shared Health Watch on YouTube has very good videos on explaining changes with Medicare and other health concerns.

FOX shared changes with Medicaid could affect younger ages. Will still need a disability to qualify for Medicaid. Those of working age may have work requirements applied to them. Waivers exist for older adults.

Discussion by members about reduced funding as 2020 census showed lower number of older adults in Wisconsin. LTC funding was discussed as people think it is just for the poor when it is not. Need to have a lot of education about Medicaid and qualifications. LTC is going to keep having costs go up with no assisted funding but there will be reduction of services without additional funding.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

a. ADRC Governing Board

[2025](#) ADRC Governing Board
[RPT-292](#)

Attachments: [ADRC Minutes 7.21.25](#)
[ADRC Agenda 8.11.25](#)

Nothing related to aging discussed.

b. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

1. SB 152

[2025](#)
[RPT-293](#)

Wisconsin SB 152 Act 21

Attachments: [SB 152.Act 21](#)

FOX summarized ACT 21 for members. Shared VP Vance was going to be in Wisconsin to advocate for the Big Beautiful Bill. State budget was signed in mid-July. State budget included a \$2 million increase to the Caregiver Program.

VELASQUEZ shared that there is no longer an income requirement for AFCSP grant money. Those with Dementia/Alzheimer's will have more opportunity for grant money now. Dane County has never had an issue using this grant money as Dane County has a waitlist. Other Counties don't use much of the money they receive.

c. State's Aging Advisory Council

BUNCK reported is has reached his term limit on the council so he isn't as involved as he has been. Would like someone from committee to join SAAC. VELASQUEZ stated that her and RILEY meet regularly with state staff and will bring this request to them to help with assigning someone.

d. US Aging Legislative Update

[2025](#)
[RPT-294](#)

US Aging Legislative Updates

Attachments: [USAgging Advocacy Alert_Urge Your Representatives to Increase and Protect Aging Funding!](#)
[AAA Template Letter for FY 2026 Approps Requests August 25](#)
[FY 2026 Senate Appropriations Chart July 31](#)

RILEY stated she would be sending out more on GWAAR and USAging newsletters and documents. RILEY joined the Leadership team on WAAN.

e. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

1. GWAAR Board Advocacy Update

[2025](#)
[RPT-295](#)

GWAAR Board Advocacy

Attachments: [GWAAR Newsletter 08-12-2025](#)

RILEY summarized the newsletter.

f. Chair & Staff Reports

RILEY shared there will be no Advocacy Day in 2026. State is looking at doing the statewide event every other year. Recommending more in district meetings with elected delegates.

Present 5 - JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, NATALIE RAEMISCH, ANNA LEZOTTE, JODIE CASTANEDA, and AMY WURF

Absent 1 - TED BUNCK

1. AAA is Recruiting Board Members

Still in need of two members to join.

2. Public Hearing on the Department Budget: September 11, 2025, 5:30 PM at the Alliant Energy Center.

RILEY shared that management met with all focal points and service providers of a 4% reduction across the board for all as instructed by County Executive Agard. Other cuts were based on data and performance.

VELASQUEZ stated that 40% of funding for AAA is levy. Money is used as a match to get State and Federal money.

Discussion by committee members about advocacy members can do for supporting programming that is needed.

GABRIEL shared how the nutrition budget was determined and changed for 2026.

F. Report out Items to AAA Board

Budget items.

G. Future Meeting items and Dates

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 9 AM via Hybrid

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

J. Adjournment

A motion was made by SCHMIDLKOFER, seconded by CASTANEDA, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 am. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Matulle