

Advocacy & Operations Committee Meeting

6:00 PM – Thursday, October 23, 2025

ADVOCAP Berlin Office

237 Broadway St | Berlin, WI 54923

Present:

Connie Anderson, Gary Will, Michael Will, Tonya Hitz

Absent/Excused:

Danielle Viau, Raina Lyman, Deb Neet, Seth Therrian

Staff:

Tanya Marcoe, Tony Beregszazi, Deb Shepro, Kathy Doyle, Becky Heldt, Lisa Severson, April Mullins-Datko, CJ Bruden, Joe Lougher

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chair Gary Will. A quorum of 4/7 was present.

Review and Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Tonya Hitz, with a second by Connie Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2025 Committee Meeting:

A motion was made by Michael Will, with a second by Connie Anderson, to approve the meeting minutes for August 21, 2025 committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Acknowledgment of the ADVOCAP Committee Manual:

Tanya presented. ADVOCAP sent out a hard copy and attached it to the committee packet. This is being presented to each committee, so committee members know their roles and responsibilities.

Review and Approval of Grants in Support of Existing Programs and Services:

a) Homeless Prevention: State Shelter Subsidy Grant

- i. Becky Heldt presented that ADVOCAP is seeking \$25K in funding if awarded. This is for a motel voucher program in Green Lake County that is used to help offset the absence of shelters in the county

A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Tonya Hitz to approve ADVOCAP's application of the State Shelter Subsidy Grant for \$25K in funding. Motion carried.

b) Volunteer Services: Renewal of State Grants for Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program

- i. Lisa Severson presented that ADVOCAP is seeking permission to apply for the state portion of funding for Foster Grandparent Program and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. ADVOCAP is asking for \$49K for FGP and \$26K for RSVP if awarded. *Motion carried.*

A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Michael Will to approve ADVOCAP's renewal of State Grants for Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program for \$26K and \$49K in funding respectively. Motion carried.

c) National Exchange Bank Foundation:

- i. Tanya presented and explained how ADVOCAP applies every year and illustrated how National Exchange Bank has been a great partner to ADVOCAP. ADVOCAP is asking \$150K, which is slightly higher than previous years since we're seeking funding for the Opportunity Center, Head Start, and Volunteer Services. This funding is expected to help fill holes left from previous federal funding that has ended or is expected to end.

A motion was made by Michael Will, with a second by Gary Will to approve ADVOCAP's application to the National Exchange Bank Foundation for \$150K in funding. Motion carried.

d) Business and Workforce Development: M3 Foundation request for Opportunity Center

- i. Tanya and Tony presented that ADVOCAP is seeking approval to apply for \$10K in funding from the M3 Foundation. Tanya has been working with Maeghan Michaels from M3 on potential donations, and this funding would be for the Opportunity Center. This would greatly help since the Opportunity Center is exclusively funded through donations.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Tonya Hitz to approve ADVOCAP's application to the M3 Foundation for \$10K. Motion carried.

Review of 2026 Planned Service Goals and Outcomes (CSBG Plan):

- a) Tony Beregszazi introduced this topic by stating this committee approved the CSBG block grant, which is critical funding for ADVOCAP, and as part of that funding, we put together a plan that explains how ADVOCAP plans to utilize this funding.
- b) Deb presented. ADVOCAP added a needs statement with statistics added from our needs assessment and the services following are all added to meet those needs. ADVOCAP also added a measurement tool to show how we measure success as well as details to help people understand why ADVOCAP does what we do, how it ties into our mission, and how we hold ourselves accountable.

Review draft 2026 Board and Committee Calendar:

Tanya presented a draft calendar 2026 meetings. The 2026 meeting calendar is very similar to the 2025 meeting calendar and will be reviewed and approved during the November board meeting.

Board Engagement in ADVOCAP's 60th Anniversary Events

Tanya presented on how we at ADVOCAP would like to do a fundraising event celebrating 60 years of ADVOCAP in each county we represent, and we're seeking board member engagement to support and run these events. Sub-Committees will be formed for each to manage each county's event, and events will be staggered between months. Furthermore, we've sent out a 60th anniversary logo that will be voted on electronically and revealed during the all-staff meeting on November 7th.

Other Business/Announcements/Reports:

Tanya reminded committee members about the following upcoming events.

- c) Board and Executive Committee Meeting, November 20, 2025, at the ADVOCAP Fond du Lac office, 19 W. 1st Street
- d) Holiday Party, December 4, 2025, 6:00pm at the Radisson Hotel, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- e) Committee Meeting, December 18, 2025, at the ADVOCAP Oshkosh Office, 2929 Harrison St, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Tonya Hitz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. Motion carried.