

Advocacy & Operations Committee Meeting
6:00 PM – Thursday, August 21, 2025
ADVOCAP Fond du Lac Office – Meeting Room 219
19 W 1st Street | Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Present:

Connie Anderson, Danielle Viau, Gary Will, Michael Will, Raina Lyman

Absent/Excused:

Tonya Hitz, Deb Neet, Amy Kovalske

Staff:

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

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Gary Will. A quorum of 5/7 was present.

Review and Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Danielle Viau, with a second by Raina Lyman, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of June 26, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Michael Will, with a second by Raina Lyman, to approve June 26, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Applications for Fund for Existing Programs and Services:

a) Agency-wide: 2026 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

- i. Tony Beregszazi presented to the committee on 2026 Community Services Block Grant. This is our core funding that is used to fill holes in grant funding and pilot new projects. ADVOCAP is requesting approval to apply for \$350K from this program.
- ii. *A motion was made by Michael Will, with a second by Gary Will, to approve ADVOCAP's submission for up to \$350K in funding. Motion carried.*

b) Head Start: Office of Head Start Base Grant

- i. April Mullins-Datko presented to the committee that we are seeking approval to apply for refunding this grant. All 5 years of the grant will be awarded at once and then divided up between years. ADVOCAP is requesting approval to apply for \$3,224,206 from this program. The Head Start Director also requested approval

to apply for a partial waiver of non-federal share (in-kind). She is requesting to waive to 14%.

- ii. A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Danielle Viau, to approve ADVOCAP's submission for up to \$3,224,206 in funding with the non-federal share waiver request to lower amount to 14%. Motion carried.*

c) Homeless Prevention: Housing Assistance Program Grant

- i. Tony Beregszazi presented to the committee that we're seeking approval for refunding this grant. This program would assist those at risk of being homeless and allows us to mediate with landlords and offer rental assistance. ADVOCAP is requesting approval to apply for \$75K from this program.
- ii. A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Michael Will, to approve ADVOCAP's submission for up to \$75K in funding. Motion carried.*

d) Volunteer Services: AmeriCorps Retired Senior Volunteer Program Grant

- i. Lisa Severson presented to the committee that we're in our final year of a 3-year cycle for funding from this grant, and that we're seeking approval to reapply. This program assists with organizing volunteers to support local community needs. ADVOCAP is requesting approval to apply for \$187K/yr from this program.
- ii. A motion was made by Gary Will, with a second by Raina Lyman, to approve ADVOCAP's submission for up to \$187K/yr in funding. Motion carried.*

e) Business and Workforce Development: Opportunity Center

- i. Kathy Doyle and Tanya Marcoe presented to the committee that ADVOCAP is looking to shift the Opportunity Center from its Homeless Prevention division to its Business and Workforce Development division. This move is to further develop skills and employment opportunities for our clients—and overall help clients build life skills needed to remain self-sufficient. ADVOCAP is seeking committee approval to make this organizational change.
- ii. A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Danielle Viau, to approve ADVOCAP's request to move the Opportunity Center under its Business and Workforce Development Division.*

f) Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program

- i. Kathy Doyle presented to the committee that we're looking to change our funding on vehicle loans and vehicle repair loans due to the rising costs of vehicles and repairs. We're asking for approval to change vehicle loans from a maximum of \$7K to a maximum of \$8K and to change repair loans from a maximum of \$1K to a maximum of \$2K. We're also asking for approval to change the term of a

vehicle loan from 3yrs to 4yrs and the term of repair loans from 12 months to 24 months.

- ii. *A motion was made by Connie Anderson, with a second by Raina Lyman, to approve ADVOCAP's changes to vehicle and repair loans. Motion carried.*

Other Business/Announcements/Reports:

- a) Board and Executive Committee Meeting, September 25, 2025, at J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh, WI
- b) Committee Meeting, October 23rd, 2025, at Berlin ADVOCAP office, 237 Broadway
- c) Board and Executive Committee Meeting, November 20, 2025, at the ADVOCAP Fond du Lac office, 19 W. 1st Street

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Raina Lyman, with a second by Michael Will, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm. Motion carried.