



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

GWAAR BOARD MEETING

Stevens Point, Wisconsin | December 7, 2018 | 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Members present were Miki Bix, Lane Delaney, Herb Hanson, Larry Jepsen, Herschel Ryales, Erv Teichmiller, Va Thao

Members Excused: Wes Martin, Mary Pierce

Others Present: Bob Kellerman, Executive Director; Jane Mahoney, OAA Consultant; Christine Huberty, Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney; Sky Van Rossum, Business Development Coordinator; Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator; Sara Koenig, Elder Nutrition Program Manager, BADR; Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator; Dave Ostness, Vice Chair of St. Croix County

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by Larry Jepsen, Chairperson

Review and Approval of Agenda:

There will be two adjustments to the agenda. The final approval of the GWAAR Three-Year Area Plan will be less than 60 minutes and we will postpone #13 for the February meeting.

Motion by Herschel, second by Miki, to approve the December 7, 2018 agenda with said adjustments. Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of the October 12, 2018, Minutes:

Motion by Larry, second by Miki, to approve the October 12, 2018 minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment:

- ❖ Dave Ostness, Vice Chair of St. Croix County, who has interest in being a member of the board, will be sitting in on our meeting.

GWAAR Updates

Director's Report:

- ❖ Bob reported that Jennifer Speckien will be leaving her position as the Director of the Eau Claire ADRC and will begin a contract position with GWAAR effective January 1, 2019 to implement a GWAAR Care Transitions Program. The goal of this program is to reduce hospital readmissions. Ideally, for a smooth care transition process, patients need to be contacted before discharged from the hospital. Jennifer has a great deal of experience in running a highly successful evidenced based Care Transitions Model out of Colorado while being the ADRC Director of Eau Claire County. GWAAR is extremely pleased to be working with her to operationalize and build up GWAAR's own Care Transitions Program into a state-wide service.
- ❖ The State Bureau on Aging has provided another 3-year waiver (2021) allowing the Legal Services Program to continue to operate under GWAAR. GWAAR is very pleased to receive the waiver once again as the Legal Services has flourished and grown while operating within the organization. GWAAR will begin planning on how to obtain another 3-year waiver, however there should also be a contingency plan if, yet another waiver is not received next time around.
- ❖ GWAAR is looking at getting away from large two-day conferences and exploring different types of conference options for the future. They are looking at perhaps putting on one or two smaller one day high focused topic/subject specific conferences. Conference trends seem to be moving in

that direction. The hope is conference attendees would leave with more in-depth knowledge and training to take back to their organizations and help implement positive changes to issues facing the elderly community.

Review of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employment Plan

- ❖ Christine Huberty was appointed GWAAR's new Affirmative Action Officer effective January 1, 2018. She reported that she is making sure we are in compliance with all state and federal regulations. Requirements for compliance require that the board review GWAAR's Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Plan and employee policies and practices. Christine also spoke to GWAAR's Three-Year Area Plan goals as they relate to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity policies. She has been collecting data to prove and document what GWAAR has been doing to keep in compliance, in case any issue should arise. All Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Policies must, and will, be available to employees and the public. The GWAAR Handbook containing all this information is also being updated.

Final Approval of the GWAAR Three -Year Area Plan:

- ❖ Jane Mahoney presented and discussed GWAAR's Three-Year Area Plan which was recently presented to the Advisory Council. A few changes were made at after their feedback. The Advisory Council did a great job consulting with our customer base, the county and tribal aging units, to find ways GWAAR can better serve them and the growing elderly population. A big thank you goes out to Jane for all the hard work that went into putting it together and coordinating a well thought out and concise GWAAR 3-Year Area Plan.

Motion by Erv, second Va, to approve The GWAAR Three-Year Plan. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Development:

- ❖ Sky discussed recent business development projects. In July GWAAR engaged with a national managed care organization, called PCHP, to perform transition care assessments in the state of Wisconsin. Since then, business opportunities have been expanding. GWAAR is contracting with Managed Care Organizations, Insurers, and Health Care Partners to support communities with specialized Transitional Care Product Services. Products offer non-emergency transportation, assessment, and nutritional support solutions, while expanding Aging Network outreach and access to targeted populations and those at risk. Sky additionally reported that GWAAR is in the process of developing its own care transitions business which is the reason for contracting with Jennifer Speckien. She will play the key role in operationalizing this business. Currently, GWAAR has three Transitional Care Products they plan on operationalizing in 2019: 1) 10 Day Post-Discharge Transportation and Nutritional Care; 2) 30 Day Transitional Care Assessment and Coordination; 3) Specialized Transitional Care.

Advisory Committee Report:

- ❖ Lane reported that GWAAR's mission statement on its area plan will be reviewed and possibly updated in the future.
- ❖ A contract with Jennifer Speckien has been signed and she will begin January 1, 2019. She will help operationalize GWAAR's care transition business.
- ❖ GWAAR has received a three-year waiver for the Legal Services Program to continue to operate under GWAAR.
- ❖ The Advisory Council ate lunch at the ADRC of Portage County's new kitchen facility. They are participating in Justin Johnson's Sustainable Kitchens Program and now cook lunches on site.
- ❖ Lane is the first volunteer for the Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

Finance Committee Report:

- ❖ A financial report was distributed and Erv gave an overview of GWAAR's financial statements from 1/1/18 – 9/30/18 and 1/1/17 – 9/30/17.
Motion to approve by Erv, seconded by Va to approve. Motion unanimously carried.

- ❖ The 2019 GWAAR Draft Budget was distributed and discussed.
Motion to approve by Larry, seconded by Erv to approve. Motion unanimously carried.

Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources:

- ❖ Sara shared a copy of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources' (BADR's) strategic map for 2019. With the November election comes a change in DHS administration, namely the Secretary (Linda Seemeyer) and our Division of Public Health Administrator (Karen McKeown), so they are unsure whether a new administration will bring any changes to the currently drafted 2019 strategic map.

- ❖ Sara reported that there were two recent retirements in the Office on Aging:
 - Anne Hvizdak, Health Promotion Coordinator, retired in early November. Her position is not posted yet, but it is anticipated that it will be posted in early 2019. The position will be changing slightly to a health promotion coordinator with experience in measuring outcomes and effectiveness and programs and experience in the role of health promotion to chronic disease.

 - Monica Snittler, Senior Community Services Coordinator, retired in early December. Neal Minogue is filling in as the SCSEP coordinator until a replacement can be hired for this position. It is anticipated that this position will also change slightly and take on a more general Employment and Volunteer Coordinator-type role.

Advocacy Update:

- ❖ Janet Zander supplied and spoke in more detail regarding two handouts – a Joint Finance Committee Member listing and a WAN (Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network) 2019–2020 Budget and Policy Priorities position sheet.
- ❖ The recent election has kept GWAAR Advocacy busy. WAN has had to look at their list of priorities to see if any changes must be made based on the election and prior to budgets being put together. They will be revisiting new members of the administration soon.
- ❖ There is discussion about making a list of Joint Finance Committee Members' phone numbers available along with the counties they represent for use in advocacy efforts. It will be very useful to have a list of constituent contacts and thought and planning will go into how best to use such a list for advocacy efforts.
- ❖ WAN has many budget and policy priorities for 2019. A WAN Position Sheet was distributed detailing those priorities and positions. A few of the priorities are: Direct Care Workforce Support; Elder Benefit Specialist Support; Family Caregiver Support; Healthy Aging Grants; Long Term Care Investment Savings Plan; Social Isolation & Loneliness Study and Transportation Support.

2019 Meeting Dates: A document was distributed with 2019 Board meeting dates.

Next Meeting Date: February 8, 2019; Portage County ADRC

Adjournment

Rosanna Mazzara, Recorder