



*Our mission is to deliver innovative support to lead aging agencies as we work together to promote, protect, and enhance the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.*

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

*Friday, August 12, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

Microsoft Teams Conference Call **and**  
ADRC of Portage County In-Person Meeting

**Members present:** *Miki Bix, Erv Teichmiller, Beth Esser; Dave Hoberg, Mary Wolf, Dave Ostness*

**Members excused:** *Bob Borremans*

**Others Present:** *John Schnabl, Executive Director; Patrick Metz, Fiscal Manager; Jean Lynch, OAA Consultant Manager; Sky Van Rossum, Special Projects Manager; Kate Schilling, Legal Services Manager; Janet Zanter, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator; Neal Minogue, Older Americans Act Program Supervisor, State Office on Aging (BADR); Sarah Fisher, CPA -Signing Director Assurance, CLA; Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator*

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Miki Bix, Chairwoman

### **Review and Approval of August 12, 2022 Agenda**

*Motion by Beth Esser, seconded by Erv Teichmiller, to approve August 12, 2022, Agenda. Motion unanimously carried.*

### **Review and Approval of June 10, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes**

*Motion by Erv Teichmiller, seconded by Mary Wolf, to approve June 10, 2022, Draft Meeting Minutes. Motion unanimously carried.*

**Public Comment**      **None**

### **Comments from Chair**

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- This is my last meeting and I'd just like to say I appreciate all the efforts the board members made during the hiring process and transitioning of John Schnabl to the new executive director of GWAAR.
- Also, a big thank you to all the employees for all their hard work. We appreciate getting their board reports and learning about all they do for the organization. Keep up the good work!
- I'm very pleased with John taking over the reigns and I think the restructuring of the organization is going well.

### **Directors Report**

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John Schnabl reported:

- I'm going to keep mine short and let the managers inform you of what things are going on their areas.
- A very big thank you to Miki and Erv for your many years of service and oversight on this Board – especially with the pandemic the last two years and having to do everything virtually.
- Thank you also, to Miki and Erv for their help and availability during my transition to Executive Director
- I think the restructuring of GWAAR is going well and a big thank you to Jean who now oversees the OAA Consultants and Sky who now oversees all special projects. I appreciate their hard work and willingness to learn and go through a bit of a learning curve, but all is going well.



## **Finance Committee Report**

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### **Erv Teichmiller reported:**

- Thank you for allowing me to serve as Finance Committee Chair and on the board of such a great organization, first led by Bob Kellerman, and now John Schnabl. The board is pleased to hand the reigns over to John.

### **Patrick Metz reported:**

- Patrick shared income and balance sheet statements thru June. GWAAR has a healthy reserve. Answered a variety of questions.
- Audit is complete and only a few corrective accounting entries need to be made.
- State claims are up to date.
- Sarah, the auditor from CLA, gave a brief overview of audit, findings, and corrective action plan. Questions were taken.
- Erv suggested that in the near future the Finance Committee should create an outline and timeline for corrective action plan audit findings.

*Motion by Dave Ostness, seconded by Dave Hoberg to place GWAAR's current fiscal report on file. Motion unanimously carried.*

*Motion by Dave Hoberg, seconded by Erv Teichmiller to accept Draft Preliminary Audit as final Audit. Motion unanimously carried.*

*Motion by Erv Teichmiller, seconded by Dave Ostness to accept and place on file corrective action plan ending 12/31/2021 and forward to Finance Committee. Motion unanimously carried.*

## **Executive Committee Report**

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- Due to time constraints, GWAAR's Executive Committee voted to adopt the state rate for mileage reimbursement. \*\*\**This will become an action item at the next board meeting*\*\*\*

- The Executive Committee took on the responsibility of the recruitment and interviewing of potential new board members. There were four applicants, and the board voted to approve the following applicants to the board:
  - Cooke Lough
  - Wes Martin
  - Rob Wilkinson
  - John Helling
- Erv would like the future board to keep in mind that it would be nice to have equal geographic representation as well as ethnic representation on the board. Keep making the effort to reach out to try to accomplish that.
- Miki also said it will be important for the new board to continue to recruit new members.

*Motion by Beth Esser, seconded by Dave Hoberg to accept the Executive Committee's four board recommendations with the caveat to continue to recruit for minorities. Motion unanimously carried.*

### **Manager's Reports**

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- Jean Lynch discussed:
  - Congregate meal sites slowly are opening up post pandemic. There are many challenges due to challenges in staffing and volunteers. Temp agencies are now being looked at as an alternative possibility.
  - In response to the above challenges, the Nutrition Team has come up with a new "Enhanced Determined Model" to help prioritize meal participants. Jean would love to discuss this model with the board in the near future, when given a bit more time.
  - There will be a cooks training at UW-Stout. Justin Johnson of Sustainable Kitchens will lead the training.
  - 4 of 5 Nutrition Director Training Sessions were held virtually. Prioritization of meals, staffing and volunteer recruitment challenges were discussed as well.



- GWAAR OAA Consultants have been conducting an annual review of county/tribal aging unit plans. They hope to have them done by the end of August.
- Nick Musson and Carrie Kroetz are working on placing all county/tribal aging unit plans on SharePoint.
- The next Caregiver Support Community Statewide call is being held September 7<sup>TH</sup>. Please feel free to contact Bryn Cyman if you wish to participate in the call.
- Angie Sullivan is the Co-Chair of a social isolation and loneliness work group that is part of a pilot from the University of California – Los Angeles.
- Angie also continues to work with Sky Van Rossum on the onboarding of GWAAR's new Community Health Workers across the State.
- Please refer to staff reports for a more details of all projects being worked on.
- Kate Schilling discussed:
  - Heidi Eisner is our new Senior Medicare Patrol Outreach & Education Coordinator. This is a newly created position that is 100% remote. She is a former Elder Benefit Specialist for Taylor County. She will help out the Elder Law Center as well with administrative tasks.
  - The Senior Medicare Patrol Help Line is very busy, and the program has become very successful. Due to the volume of phone calls coming in, our highly educated volunteers are being trained to field some of the calls. They have been wanting to help out more and are excited to take this additional task.
  - Senior Medicare Patrol has placed radio ads in northern Wisconsin during the month of June for Fraud Prevention week.
  - Please don't hesitate to contact SMP if you'd like a speaker for meetings or conferences.
  - Elder Benefits Specialists and supervising attorneys continue to have frustrations with Social Security. There are lots of mistakes with dates of birth, name changes, Medicare start dates and incorrect overpayment notices. These

mistakes are taking years to correct and is unacceptable. Quarterly meeting with DHS and Social Security have been put in place to address these issues.

- Open enrollment for Medicare starts Oct. 15 – Dec. 7. We anticipate being very busy.
  - We are hiring for a Medicare Outreach Coordinator as Debbie Bisswurm has resigned.
  - Guardian Support Center Line has become very well known in the state and is extremely busy. Educational training requirements will start in January for family members and volunteers. They will have to do a few hours of virtual training before taking on the role of a Guardian.
  - For more information and details regarding the Elder Law Center, please see provided staff reports.
- Sky Van Rossum discussed:
    - GWAAR's goal is to have 5 Community Health Workers in its program, ideally housed in ADRC's. The most recent hires will be located in Lafayette, Green and Wood Counties. Funding is expected for about 2.5 years with hopes of continuing and expanding the program beyond that.
    - With GWAAR business development unallocated funds, Dunn and Jackson Counties were able to receive care intervention training to the tune of roughly \$4,400 per person. This is a perfect example of how business development unallocated funds can be reinvested back into the system.
    - GWAAR has received an additional \$93,000 worth of grant funds for the Elder Abuse Hotline Program from the Department of Justice
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    - Sonya Lindquist is working hard redeveloping the Waukesha WISE (Older Worker) program.
    - I attended the US Aging conference in Austin, Texas and an ADRC in Boise Idaho was very interested in learning more about our Caregiver Program, so much so, that they are visiting ADRC's in Brown and Door Counties.

## **Advocacy and Public Policy**

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Janet discussed:

- Election voting is the number one state issue. GWAAR and the Disability Rights of Wisconsin, sent a letter to the Wisconsin Elections Commission regarding a release of information having to do with those people who lost their right to vote under guardianship. It included the names by county, of those under guardianship, their guardians, along with addresses. This is unacceptable as this information is protected by state statute and should not have been released. The Wisconsin Voter Alliance group apparently requested information on illegible voters and that included those under guardianship. GWAAR is very concerned about this and has consulted with attorneys and has sent a letter to the Wisconsin Elections Commission requesting an explanation from them, in hopes that this never happens again.
- Lawsuits have also been filed by individuals with disabilities that did not get the assistance they needed to get their absentee ballots returned. Some clerks did not honor the Federal Law under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which supersedes the Wisconsin State Supreme Court ruling.
- There is concern over the privatization over our long-term services managed care organizations. Larger insurance companies are buying up long term care organizations. Molina has just now bought My Choice Wisconsin. Humana has bought out Inlusa. It is concerning that money will now have to be syphoned off to pay shareholders and how that will affect services and quality.
- The Federal Inflation Reduction Act has been taken up in the house today and will probably pass and be on its way to the president's desk. There is a lot of good in there for older adults.
- Please see Janet's written report many more details on these and other topics.
- Erv Teichmiller thank Janet for her exceptional contribution and energy she brings to GWAAR.

## **Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources**

Neal spoke on:

- There is a focus on volunteerism, and to that end, we have hired Samantha Margelofsky, as the new Volunteer Coordinator for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
- The state is also focusing on the issue of volunteer drivers whose insurance companies will no longer insure them when doing volunteer driving/work. It may take state legislation to change this unfortunately.
- Monica Vick has been hired as our new Budget and Policy Analyst.
- Dane and Milwaukee AAA's have new directors - Dan Idzikowski, Director of the Department on Aging for Milwaukee County and Sridevi Mohan, AAA/Aging Unit Director for Dane County. The state has monthly meetings with GWAAR and the state plans to meet with all three AAA's on a quarterly basis.
- Neal spoke on the importance of the Elder Nutrition Program to the older residents of Wisconsin and the challenges the pandemic has had and continue to have on it. The Elder Nutrition Program has had to adapt and continues to evolve.

## **Annual Election of Officers**

- Miki Bix made the following nomination:
  - Chair: Dave Ostness
  - Beth Esser: Vice Chair
  - Dave Hoberg: Treasurer
- Miki asked for more nominations three times; no others were made.

*Motion by Miki Bix, seconded by Erv, that Dave Ostness will be appointed Chair; Beth Esser, appointed Vice-Chair; and Dave Hoberg Treasurer. Motion unanimously carried.*





**Adjournment: 1:45 p.m.**

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**Next Meeting Date: October 14, 2022.**

**Meeting Dates for 2022:**

**October 14 2022**

**December 9, 2022**

*Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator; Recorder*