



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.

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 24, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Attendees

Members Present: Nancy Gagnon, Cynthia Welch, Beth Esser, Dave Denomie, Dave Lowe, Kathy Gauger-left meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Members Not Present: Judith Atkinson

Others Present: John Schnabl, Executive Director; Nick Musson, OAA Consultant-Transportation Specialist; Bryn Ceman, OAA Consultant- Caregiver Specialist; Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator; Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator

Call to Order: 10:05 a.m.

Review and Approval of February 24, 2023 Agenda

Motion by Nancy Gagnon, seconded by Dave Lowe, to approve February 24, 2023 agenda. Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of November 4, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cynthia Welch, seconded by Kathy Gauger, to approve November 4, 2022 draft meeting minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment:

None



Comments from Chair

Dave Denomie:

- I'm looking forward to today's meeting as we have some good things to discuss for the start of 2023, including the consideration of two new members.

GWAAR Director's Report

John Schnabl reported:

- GWAAR is applying for second round of a Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Grant. Each grant is a 5-year grant and concentrates on educating older Americans on Medicare Fraud.
- There will be an in-person ACE Meeting with Aging Unit Directors on July 12th this year in Wausau. This will be the first time we have an in-person meeting in three years.
- There will be a statewide Aging & Disability & Independent Living Center Conference for Aging Professionals. This is the first time having such a conference since 2019. It's being organized by the State of Wisconsin, DHS and the Bureau. GWAAR will be acting as the fiscal agent for this conference, and we'll be dealing with contracts and payments and then those payments will be reimbursed by the state.
- We are in the beginning stages of doing a compensation and salary study using QTI, who is technically is our employer because we use them for payroll and human resources. They are going to be conducting a study of compensation to see if our salaries are on target with the rest of the industry.



GWAAR Aging Plan 2022-2024 Update

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- GWAAR staff meets bimonthly to talk about the aging plan, the status of goals and to work on those goals as a group. We've been working to improve the communications goal and making that particular goal more relevant now that we have a new Communications Director, Kristen Westphal. She's now been included in that process, refining that goal, and as soon as we get that goal finalized, we will be bringing it to the Advisory Council for review. We also will put together an annual update for 2022 and provide that to the Advisory Council as well. We are continuing to meet and talk about these goals and refine them as we go, make changes as we go, because it's a living document. This document will eventually go to the state and you as the Advisory Council as well.
- In an effort to educate the Advisory Council on the GWAAR's different program and specialty areas, we have invited different OAA Consultants to Advisory Council meetings, to talk about the goals of their program and the technical assistance that they provide. Today we have Bryn Ceman here to talk about her program, caregiver support. She is the Caregiver Support Specialist with GWAAR, and she's going to go through a presentation about her particular program and her goals that are in the aging plan.
- Bryn Ceman gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of Caregiver Programs and goals. The presentation touched on the definition of caregiver, the role of the consultant, description of OAA Title III, description of both NFCSP and AFCSP programs and their eligibility requirements and GWAAR caregiver support program goals and strategies.

Advisory Council Draft Bylaws

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- Nick Musson presented draft Advisory Council by-laws and received lots of great input and suggested modifications, however, due to time constraints, did not get through all of them. It was discussed and determined that they would continue to go through the rest at the next meeting, and then be presented for vote.



Advocacy GWAAR Advisory Council Member Applications

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- Applications were presented and discussed by Advisory Council Members.
- Mark Weisensel's application for Advisory Council membership acceptance was discussed and was presented for vote.

Motion by Dave Lowe, seconded by Cynthia Welch, to approve Mark Weisensel's appointment to the Advisory Council. Motion unanimously carried.

- Doris Bakker's application for Advisory Council membership acceptance was discussed and was presented for vote.

Motion by Dave Lowe, seconded by Cynthia Welch, to approve Doris Bakker's appointment to the Advisory Council. Motion unanimously carried.

Advocacy Update

Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

- Earlier this week, you received a lengthy document from me outlining what the governor has put in his state budget for the next biennium. It's really important for us to understand what's in there. The legislature is talking about starting back from a base budget, we now have some proposals that have some dollar amounts attached to them and some detail. We are now in the process of comparing that list to the priorities of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. What mirrors what we have? What's a little different than what we have? And most importantly, what's missing. For example, one of the things that's not mentioned anywhere in the governor's budget is the funding for our home delivered meal program, the state funding and that's a really important ask for our county and tribal aging units at the local level. So that's one of the things that will be focused on as well as well as lifting up the things that aren't in the Governor's budget, but also the things that were in the budget that we want to stay in. Our proposal looks a little different than the governors, so this gives us an opportunity to have a conversation with legislators who want to make it their own and have some ownership over those issues. I am finishing up a document that looks at our priorities in comparison to the governors. I will get that out to everyone as well. The other thing that's taking a lot of time right now, that's

really important, is making sure that all of those folks within our network who have advocacy roles, which is everybody -- is to help them understand what can they do, what can't they do and how might they want to go about doing things to help raise awareness of some of these really important issues that I've highlighted in the governor's budget, but also in those issue briefs that have been created.

- I'm doing trainings with our Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin. These are our aging and disability resource center directors and managers and aging unit directors and managers, as well as some of their staff. They've created what are called regions. They've divided themselves into nine regions which don't mirror any of the other regions in the state right now. They've done that so that they can develop some relationships with the other aging unit and aging and disability resource center staff in their areas. Virtual training will take place on the 3rd, which is the nitty gritty of advocacy. It will be the nuts and bolts of who can do what? How can they do it? What do they have to be careful of and what does that look like in their work? More regional meetings will also take place throughout the month. I will attempt to go in person as much as possible. We'll do virtual if we need to.
- John and I and Jean Lynch, our Older Americans, Act Manager as well as a board member are going to Capitol Hill in April. We're scheduling our legislative visits with our ten members of Congress, our two senators and our eight congressional districts, so that we, after completing our training with USA Aging and getting an understanding what their priorities are moving forward, can go lift those up to our members in Congress. We have a lot going on at both the state and federal level.
- Lastly, Aging Advocacy Day is taking place in-person, in downtown Madison on May 9th. I will be working with our Communications Director later this afternoon to hopefully complete the registration form that I've got started. Our intent is to open registration today and we will be closing it on April 26th.

Adjournment: 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: *July 14, 2023*



Future 2023 Meeting Dates:

Friday, February 24, 2023

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Friday, July 14, 2023

Friday, September 22, 2023

Friday, November 3, 2023

Recorder: *Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator*