



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, April 12, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

In-person meeting at ADRC of Portage County and
Microsoft Teams Video Conference Call

Members present: *Dave Ostness, Beth Esser, Bob Borremans, Rob Wilkinson, John Helling, Wes Martin, Rowena Nelson, Cookie Lough, Dave Hoberg*

Members excused:

Others Present: *John Schnabl, Executive Director; Patrick Metz, Fiscal Manager; Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator; Nick Musson, OAA Consultant - Transportation Specialist; Bryn Ceman, OAA Consultant- Caregiver Specialist; Pam VanKampen, OAA Consultant- Nutrition Specialist, Senior Center Representative; Jean Lynch, OAA Consultant Manager; Sky Van Rossum, Special Projects Manager; Kate Schilling, Legal Services Manager; Neal Minogue, Older Americans Act Program Supervisor, State Office on Aging, (BADR); Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Dave Ostness, Chair.

Review and Approval of April 12, 2024 Agenda

Motion by Rob Wilkinson, seconded by Wes Martin, to approve April 12, 2024 agenda. Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of February 9, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion by Wes Martin, seconded by Rob Wilkinson, to approve February 9, 2024 draft meeting minutes with amendment in the Fiscal paragraph regarding honorariums.



Correction to state Finance Committee brought forth recommendation to Board of Directors to not pay honorariums to board members at this time. Motion carried.

Public Comment **None**

Comments from Chair

[Dave Ostness](#)

- Dave Ostness introduced new board member Rowena Nelson and gave her an opportunity to tell everyone a bit about herself.

Directors Report

[John Schnabl](#)

- John Schnabl, Janet Zander, Mark Weisensel, and Cookie Lowe attended USAging's 2024 Aging Policy Briefing & Capitol Hill Day Conference. Some big issues at hand were discussions around the Older Americans Act funding and reauthorizations.
- GWAAR's ACE Meeting will take place on May 8th in Stevens Point. This meeting is for aging unit directors and supervisors and this year's in-person meeting will focus 3-year Aging Plans that the aging units will have to put together this year. Nick Musson, our transportation specialist, is taking on the huge role of coordinating the creation of the aging plans for the network. If you'd like to attend, please contact Rosanna.
- Our Veterans Self-Directed Services Program is expanding yet again. We are hiring for two additional consultant roles to keep up with the growth. **Lisa Druin, our VA Programs Manager, would be happy to attend a future board meeting to discuss the program in more detail and answer questions.**
- Aging Advocacy Day will take place on May 14, 2024. The registration is now open. We hope that as many of you can be there as possible; it's a really great day at the Capitol discussing and learning about important topics that affect the Aging Network. Please contact Janet Zander if you have any questions about this event.



- The Aging, Disability and Independent Living Network statewide conference is taking place April 23-25 in La Crosse.

Finance Committee Report

[Patrick Metz](#)

[Dave Hoberg](#)

[Trualta Program Funding:](#)

- The Finance Committee met this past Monday to discuss the Trualta on-line caregiver program. The state notified us that they didn't have funding to cover the contract for the next year and inquired if the AAA's could pay for the service for the contract period starting May 1st. After much discussion, the Finance Committee decided to recommend to the board that GWAAR will not provide funding to pay for its anticipated portion of the Trualta contract.
- Bryn Ceman, OAA Consultant -Caregiver Specialist, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Trualta program, to refresh and educate the board on what the program is, and does.

Motion by Dave Hoberg, seconded by John Helling, to not use GWAAR funds to pay for the Trualta Program. Motion unanimously carried.

[Financial Statements:](#)

- Financial statements and budgets were discussed. Patrick is working with formatting and content to make it easier to read and comprehend.

Motion by Wes Martin, seconded by Cookie Lough, to place financial statements on file as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

[2022 Corrective Action Plan:](#)

- The Finance Committee had discussions with Patrick regarding the audit issue of segregation of duties. Patrick has implemented journal entry tracking on a monthly basis to help with that issue. He also has a tracking method now to

reconcile all of the balance sheet accounts so that we continue to know which accounts are reconciled and that the balance sheet that is being published is indeed correct. Fiscal is always trying to improve and make efficiencies. Being a small nonprofit, GWAAR does not have the ability to hire additional staff to help with segregation of duties, but is always trying to improve, make efficiencies, to help with this.

- The Finance Committee still needs to see a more in-depth detailed action plan, which Patrick said he is working on. We unfortunately can't wait for the Policy and Procedure Manual to be finished and published, to resolve the audit issues.

2023 Audit Update:

- The 2023 audit will begin in the first or second week of May and will be face to face at the Madison office. It should go much quicker face to face.

Executive Committee Update

Dave Ostness, Chairman

Community Care Hub Grant

- Sky submitted a grant application, the Community Care Hub Grant, totaling some \$465,000 over a period of two years.
- GWAAR would be working in partnership with the Wisconsin United Way. The grant money is focused on developing a community care hub, so we are calling this the Wisconsin Community Care Hub. It would be led by GWAAR, and the technology, platform and training would be the through the Wisconsin United Way. The grant funds would be used to fund a hotline, similar to our Elder Abuse Hotline. This new hotline, managed by the United Way, would offer one stop access, for anyone calling in for the state to be referred to services through an ADRC or the United Way. The pilot area will consist of the western portion of the state, such as Dunn, Green, Lafayette and La Crosse County.
- The United Way also has a platform for collecting data. This platform works with healthcare technology systems within the state. It's called the Wisconsin Information Referral Exchange or WIRE. GWAAR would be getting access and licensing for partners, so that they would be able to collect data and interface

with healthcare. This puts us into a position where we can go to healthcare and announce that we have the Wisconsin Community Care Hub, and ask if they would like to partner with us. Down the road there may be an opportunity to staff someone for 32 hours a week, via grant funds.

Motion by Dave Ostness, seconded by Dave Hoberg to approve application of Community Care Hub Grant. Motion unanimously carried.

EBS Supervising Attorneys

- Kate Schilling, Legal Services Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation to both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, illustrating how GWAAR EBS Supervising Attorney salaries have not kept up with private interest equivalent or direct competitor attorney salaries, which will minimize the success of our EBS Supervising Attorney Program, as current staff attorneys may leave GWAAR for better paying positions.
- This issue is being brought to the Board of Directors for help and direction in devising a plan to change this, that is, how to bring attorney base salaries up to the marketplace level it needs to be at, to keep attorneys at GWAAR and have continued success of the EBS program. There is seriousness and urgency in this situation as some of our attorneys are actively looking for better paying jobs and more than one leaving at a time, combined with the complexity of the job, will create havoc in the program. We don't want to lose the collective experience and great reputation it's earned by our loyal employees. GWAAR hasn't had an attorney leave since 2018.
- Kate did request more funding from DHS EBS supervising attorney salaries and GWAAR did receive over \$160,000 in additional funds for 2024. That amount will assist with attorney costs when ARPA funds run out.
- After much discussion by the board a motion to approve a letter signed by the Executive Committee outlining the need for more funds.

Motion by Rob Wilkinson, seconded by Wes Martin to allow the Executive Committee to send a letter to BADR requesting more funds for the EBS Supervising Attorneys. Motion unanimously carried.



Meal Prioritization Tool

Jean Lynch, OAA Consultant Manager

Pam VanKampen, OAA Consultant- Nutrition Specialist

- Please see PowerPoint for complete details of the Meal Prioritization Tool.
- Jean and Pam gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Meal Prioritization Tool Pilot developed by GWAAR to be used by county/tribal aging units to help prioritize those in their community that need meals or are on wait lists for meals. The reason for the development of this tool is due to stagnant funding, growing aging population, prevalence of malnutrition, longer lifespan of older adults, increased expenses, and shortage of volunteers.
- The objective of this tool pilot is to develop and implement a streamlined approach for prioritizing meals that aligns with the intent of the OAA. GWAAR will test the reliability and validity of the tool and interventions, collect and analyze data, adjust the tool and process as needed, and communicate results to demonstrate impact and need.
- Thus far we have collected 25 assessments from the 18 counties that are part of this pilot. The assessments, completed in person by screeners, are person centered, and are one or two pages of weighted questions.
- Once the pilot is completed, the Nutrition Team will be back to give a report to the board about the findings and results.

Advisory Council Update

Nick Musson:

- The Advisory Council met on Friday, February 16th and we started the community engagement process for GWAAR's 2025-2027 Aging plan. In March, the Advisory Council members began conducting county/tribal aging unit director interviews. The Advisory Council is going to be interviewing 35 aging units of the 70 counties and 11 tribes which is a huge effort on their part, and we very much appreciate it. The interactions have been positive, and we've been compiling all the interview information and down the road we will be able to share that information with you. The county/tribes not personally interviewed will receive a survey to complete. The goal of the partner survey, is to better understand the trends partner agencies are experiencing with older



adults, so we can perhaps incorporate those into our aging plan. Once we compile all the community engagement results, we will use that data to help develop our goals for the plan. On July 19th, Advisory Council will meet here in Stevens Point, to review the community engagement results and start talking about goal development and begin to develop GWAAR's draft plan. I will keep the board up to date on the progress being made at every meeting.

Advocacy and Public Policy

[Janet Zander: Please see written Advocacy Update report for all details](#)

Topics Discussed:

- Transportation, funding, healthcare closings impact, finding drivers, car insurance issues.
- This year our priority is family caregiving funding.
- Lack of home delivered meal funding and wait lists. We will have as much data and stories as we could possibly have this year because it's now the reality.
- We have 20 or 30 new faces in the capital. The projection right now is that we're going to have about 44 new legislators out of 132. That's a lot of new faces.
- Now is the time to encourage people to vote. Get out to know those campaigns and make sure they understand what your priorities are.
- Information was given out about trainings that are coming up. Map changes will be discussed. If you cannot go, I encourage you to register anyway, because you will be able to get a recording of the training if you've registered.
- We've also had a couple of bill signings recently for things we were supporting, so very happy about that.
- We've been tracking bills in the state legislature for this session, with the assembly wrapping up at the end of February and the Senate wrapping up in mid-March. We pretty much know where our bills are at.

- I encourage you to attend the Aging, Disability and Independent Living Network Conference, April 23–25, 2024, in La Crosse, WI.
- We are working on the 2025 budget that starts October 1st of this year.
- Aging Advocacy Day is May 14, 2024. The deadline for registration is April 29th. We had 300 attend before the pandemic. We had 200 last year, so we need and are looking for a lot of voices. If you are able, please sign up for this important event. Legislators will be back in their district campaigning, so going to the capital is meant to be that show of force. It's meant to educate the legislators, but it's also meant to educate their staff, who, by the way, are going to be moving around in that building. We are following that up with in-district meetings. This time I would like to see one in-district meeting in every senate district in the state, which means the three assembly reps that are associated with it. We've been working with the aging unit directors and ADRC directors and the senior centers to try to identify the face in each of those regions, so that when you get back from Madison, you're following up bringing in constituents to say, now let's talk about our community and in greater depth. It's about sitting down and getting face to face with those policymakers who now have to look at you, as you can say, I can't get a home delivered meal or whatever challenges you are facing.
- National Healthcare Decision making day is April 16th and we are encouraging people to complete paperwork to ensure your wishes are followed. We're placing focus on advanced care planning and getting your documents in a row. Laws are not necessarily written in the best interest of those unable to make decisions for themselves due to age or illness.

Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources

Neal Minoque:

- Thank you to GWAAR and staff for partnering and their support in helping us plan the Aging and Disability Independent Living Network Conference that will be happening in La Crosse this month. More than 300 people have enrolled. We think there may be a few more still that will attend.
- We are implementing a new reporting database system. We are going from Well Sky to Peer Place. It's something that has been in the works for a decade and is coming to fruition. We are quite pleased with it.



- There's a new APS database that was implemented this past week. It's called the Wisconsin Reporting System for Adult Protective Services or WRAPS. It offers real time reporting along with the adaptability to change forms when needed.
- Lots of thanks to Nick Musson for his continued support of the 3-year aging plan process. We're doing a training with him on April 18th, and we will be in Stevens Point on May 8th. We've released the focus areas for the upcoming 2025-2027 aging plan, and we will continue to work on that with Nick. We really appreciate Nick's work to put together a focus group that has provided some really essential feedback to us about the content that we're sharing.
- The Administration on Community Living has declared May as Older Americans month. This year's theme is powered by connection, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on the health and wellbeing of us all, but especially older adults. There will be a proclamation from the governor's office that will be coming out the end of this month. We encourage aging units and our AAA's to celebrate this declared Older Americans month. The Administration on Community Living puts together some fantastic poster material and news releases about this.

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: June 14, 2024- Madison Office

Meeting Dates for 2024

February 9, 2024

April 12, 2024

June 14, 2023

August 9, 2024

October 11, 2024

December 6, 2024

Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator; Recorder