



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, November 15, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Attendees

Members Present: Dave Denomie, Kathy Gauger, Beth Esser, Bob Best

Members Not Present: Doris Bakker, Denise Sweet, Dave Lowe

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

Call to Order: 10:09 a.m.

Dave Denomie, Chair

Review and Approval of November 15, 2024 Agenda

No action possible; meeting did not have a quorum.

Review and Approval of October 18, 2024 draft meeting minutes

No action possible; meeting did not have a quorum.

Public Comment:

None



Comments from Chair

Dave Denomie, Chair

- I attended the GWAAR Aging Plan public hearing and felt it was very well done, and useful in my continued understanding of the details of the plan.

Director's Report

John Schnabl, Executive Director

- The Aging Network is transitioning from WellSky to PeerPlace reporting software. This is a huge undertaking after being with WellSky for so many years.
- The final board meeting of 2024 will take place virtually on December 13th. The main focus of this meeting will be the approval of the GWAAR Aging Plan and the 2025 agency budget.
- We've created a work group around the implementation of the new regulations coming from the Community Living Administration, our federal oversight agency, and how to implement those directives at the state level, to avoid state corrective action plans

Advocacy Update

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

- Our next state legislature for 2025-2026, the Republican Party will hold 55% of the seats and the Democrats will hold 45% and that holds true for both the Senate and the Assembly, and the reason that's important is because it helps us understand how many people will be on each of the committees, who will chair the committees, and what committees there will even be. In your update I have provided you a list of the leadership that has already been appointed, mostly on the Republican side. I do have listed Senate Democrat leadership. We're still waiting on assembly Democrat leadership to be elected. I also include a little synopsis of who we are going to be meeting with in this new year. We know that there are four new faces in the state Senate. And in addition to those four, there are four more who will be joining the Senate, either from the Assembly or will be serving a new district there, which

means eight Senate districts will be headed by somebody new and so your legislator may have changed. We certainly have some new legislators to educate about our issues prior to the budget time and prior to the introduction of legislation in the next legislative session. In the Assembly we saw even much greater change. So, while the control of each house hasn't changed, ten additional seats in the Assembly are now represented by Democratic representatives. What that means is that cooperation will hopefully be a little improved. It's often difficult to get an entire party to sign on to legislation as there's differences within the party. I really remain hopeful that there will need to be more communication between legislators on both sides of the aisle in order to advance some legislation. It also means that we have many new faces to find our new or next champion in the Assembly. Twenty-nine of the ninety-nine Assembly Representatives are brand new, coupled with 33 Representatives who will be serving in a new district came from the Senate, which is unusual. It's common for people to go from the Assembly to the Senate, but not the other way around. So combined, that's almost 2/3 of the Assembly Representatives are new in some way to that position. We have a lot of work to do and a lot of introductions to make. People aren't going to necessarily know yet who GWAAR and WAAN, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, even are. It really tells us what we need to be doing both in district and in the capital as we start the next legislative session.

- Just a reminder, Aging Advocacy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th. We will be in the thick of the budget at that point. By that point, the Joint Finance Committee has held their public hearings, is busy putting together their budget to reveal to the larger public as well as to the other legislators. This is our opportunity to do that last minute push across the aisle kind of thing. We have also identified several pretty significant issues that need to be addressed during the rest of the legislative process, some of which we would like to see come out very early on in the session and that are those that are supports to sustain our volunteer network, in particular our volunteer driver network, but also changes in things like the state statute language to resolve issues that have developed related to our ability to use our Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support program as match for our National Family Caregiver Support Program .
- For more details and information please see Janet's written Advocacy Update Report.



GWAAR AC New Member Resume – Valerie Freres *(ACTION)*

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- Nick presented Valerie’s application and resume. Rob Wilkinson of the GWAAR board recommended she apply.
- She has an extensive background in senior living facilities, and in her current position she travels all over the state of Wisconsin advocating for senior adults.
- Advisory Council members were impressed with her experience in senior services and said they intend to vote her in as a member at the next quorum.

No action possible; meeting did not have a quorum.

GWAAR AC New Member Sub-Committee

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- Nick discussed creating an Advisory Council New Member Sub-Committee, that would include Nick and two other members, to help out in reviewing new member applications and the interview process. If the applicant is still interested after the interview with the sub-committee, the application would then be presented to the Advisory Council for a vote of approval.

GWAAR 2025-2027 Aging Plan State BADR Feedback

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- At last Friday’s BADR meeting, the state did provide some feedback on GWAAR’s draft Plan.
- Nick went over the state feedback, how GWAAR responded, and how it may have slightly fine tuned the plan.



GWAAR 2025-2027 Aging Plan Public Hearing

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- GWAAR’s virtual public hearing took place on November 6th at 1:00 p.m. and was very successful. It was an opportunity for the public to give their feedback and thoughts on GWAAR’s aging plan goals. Lots of good information was collected to evaluate and see how it could be added or addressed in the goals.
- Nick explained that due to the focus area directives of the federal government and the state, GWAAR cannot submit a goal for every issue brought to light, or include every issue as the aging plan would be excessively long and hard to manage. But be assured, that even though an issue does not show up as a goal on the GWAAR Aging Plan, that does not mean it’s not something that is being worked on. GWAAR does so much more than what shows up on the aging plan.
- Beth raised her concern that issues the ADRC’s brought up during the Advisory Council interview process didn’t make it to the aging plan, and what kind of message this might send to them. She felt there should be some way of acknowledging and keeping track of progress on issues raised that don’t make it to the plan. Dave Denomie said it would be nice if a specific list of those issues that did not make it to the aging plan could be created and documented, so they could be acknowledged and worked on outside the aging plan. Nick mentioned that would be a good idea, as it would also serve as a list of topics to be discussed at future Advisory Council meetings. Perhaps experts on various topics could be brought into the Advisory Council meeting to create a discussion.
- John Schnabl also wanted to respond to this concern as well, and mentioned that GWAAR did hear all the concerns that were outside the framework of the aging plan and mentioned during an ADPAW and ACE meeting that GWAAR is working hard at getting those concerns addressed and investigated, so strategies can be created and issues corrected.



GWAAR 2025-2027 Aging Plan Approval *(ACTION)*

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- There was not a quorum so action could not be taken. A special meeting will be held to make sure there is a quorum to have a formal approval of the aging plan so it can then be forwarded to the board for approval as well.

No action possible; meeting did not have a quorum.

Member Sharing

All

- Dave Denomie thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Adjournment: 11:52 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: *December 5, 2024*

Future 2025 Meeting Dates:

February 21, 2025

May 13, 2025 - Aging Advocacy Day

July 18, 2025

September 19, 2025 -In-person

November 14, 2025

Recorder: *Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator*