



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, July 14, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Attendees

Members Present: Nancy Gagnon, Beth Esser, Dave Denomie, Dave Lowe, Kathy Gauger, Mark Weisensel

Members Not Present: Judith Atkinson, Cynthia Welch, Doris Bakker

Others Present: Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist; Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator; Rosanna Mazzara, Operations Coordinator

Call to Order: 10:06 a.m.

Review and Approval of July 14, 2023 Agenda

- *Change to agenda: Janet will speak after new member introduction.*

Review and Approval of February 24, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dave Lowe, seconded by Beth Esser, to approve February 24, 2023 draft meeting minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment:

None



Comments from Chair

Dave Denomie:

- I recently have moved to Shawano and have given Rosanna my new contact information. I hope to stay here for some years to come.
- I attended the ACE Meeting in Wausau. It was an excellent opportunity to meet a lot of GWAAR folks and aging unit directors face to face. I really enjoyed it and I encourage the rest of the members to try to attend a meeting that's in your area. I found it very encouraging and motivating for me to do my little part to help in serving the aging population in Wisconsin.

New Member Introduction

- Nick gave a PowerPoint presentation introducing new members:

Mark Weisensel: Mark lives in Winnebago County. He has a degree in psychology and a masters in counseling psychology. He worked for Winnebago County Human Services as the program supervisor for 36 years. He is also on the Winnebago County Human Services Board Directors. Mark is very passionate about services for elderly and disabled individuals. Mark and his wife live in Oshkosh and have two grown sons.

Doris Bakker: Doris was not able to be with us today, but she has been a registered nurse for over 50 years and currently is in Clark County. She serves on the Board of Health, Transportation, Law Enforcement and the ADRC. She's been serving for over some 10 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge.

Advocacy Update

Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

- As many of you know, last week the governor signed the 2023-2025 state budget.
- I'm really delighted that we were able to get something passed. If you look at that budget comparison document, I am delighted to see that while we certainly didn't accomplish all of our goals in this budget, but we were able to make some significant improvements to our base funding for our aging and disability

resource centers to our 8522 program, which funds capital equipment and mobility managers. A small investment to our home delivered meals program.

- There was also a variety of things we were able to accomplish around our long-term care programs. And so we've done better than we've done in most years. I think there's two things to contribute to that. I spent a lot of time in the capital meeting with Joint Finance Committee members, but also members of key committees, transportation and judiciary and health on both the Assembly and Senate side, but also, we engaged a lot of our grassroots folks, the ADRC's headed campaign around their funding, our home delivered meal folks. I spent some time crafting some messaging they could use to reach out directly to their legislators. And again, while we didn't get millions of dollars, any investment at this point is greatly appreciated, as we're in a point where many counties are looking at a waiting list for home delivered meals and that just to me is an incredibly sad state of affairs and one that we need to work actively to improve.
- Things that didn't get funded in the budget, were the additional funding for our guardianship support center, some of the family caregivers, supports our healthy aging grants for our new Wisconsin Falls Free Center operated by the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging. Some transportation, especially for those rural, older adults and people with disabilities who don't have mass transit options, we did not see any increase there. Nick and I are also working on some legislation that would alter the statutory language around volunteer drivers, and so we've got a lot of work cut out for us in a lot of different areas. And so my message to folks now is, what didn't get funded in the budget doesn't mean it can't be funded outside the budget project or process. Especially smaller programs. Our guardianship support center needs \$100,000. Joint Finance Committee keeps an appropriate supplemental fund that they can fund some of those smaller pieces of legislation that have a fiscal note attached to them, and so we're going to continue to work on those, but we also have a whole set of non-budgetary policy kinds of things that we need to be advancing. We are looking to the fall session, which will start up in September to continue. I'm hoping to at least connect with some offices to find some champions around some of these issues, but the fall session will really kick off after the summer and then get some legislation introduced that we maybe could get across the line before they leave next spring for campaigning again. We have a window of time here to continue to advance those things as standalone legislation.
- The next thing I wanted to mention, which may be of interest to Nancy, is our Family Care and Family Care Partnership Waiver renewal. Wisconsin is one of

only a few programs in the country that has integrated aging and disability long term care programs, offering services for low income people with functional needs in their homes. They don't have to go to a nursing home if that's not the care that they want or need. That program happens because we get a waiver from the federal government for how we use our Medicaid funds, and that waiver has to be submitted every five years for our family care and family care partnership. Family care is the managed care organizations that help people put together care plans and contract with services to meet their needs and family care partnership incorporates healthcare into that care. Those waiver renewals are due in 2024. The state now is beginning to look at what they need to change in the waiver language to make it better fit people's needs. This is an opportunity for us to provide some input into that process and they have created a online survey link. They have created two listening sessions by Zoom and I've sent Nick and Rosanna a document. Rosanna will send you the document that you can look at and receive the links for these items after the meeting. You can register to hear a little bit more about the waiver programs and what kinds of things they're looking for. There's also an email address that people can submit their comments to as well. What they're really trying to figure out is what's working well for people who are in these programs right now. It's really an opportunity for people to ask the state to consider modifying that waiver to add something additional or change some things in the waiver program.

- We have tentatively scheduled Aging Advocacy Day 2024 for May 14th. We usually shoot for the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The GWAAR Advisory Committee has often been intricately involved, especially when those are in person. I would love to work with this group to help make that day happen. What we're doing is a little bit of a hybrid. We're going to meet in person on that day in Madison like we did this year. We'll meet at the Premier Park Hotel, which is right across from the Capitol. We'll hold a training session. We'll go do our lobbying or lobbying activities with our legislators, keeping in mind that we're more likely to be meeting with staff because many of our legislators by May will be back in district campaigning. So I want people to know that going in, but that doesn't mean that those messages aren't heard and aren't conveyed. But then I want to take the materials that we developed for that day and encourage people to hold in district sessions after. I'd like Advisory Council members to think about how you might want to join me in carrying out that activity that day, but also in what might be happening in your local communities where we can invite legislators in to hear from folks who have some really important things to say to them.

- Lastly, on the federal front, similar to what we're doing with the Family Care Waiver Program, we now have an opportunity on the federal front with the Administration for Community Living to provide input into proposed regulations for the Older Americans Act. Last year, the Administration for Community living reached out and held a number of public listening sessions they heard from people about what changes need to be made in a in regulations that haven't been changed since 1988. Many of you know that we've had new programs added to the Older Americans Act programs since that time, like the Family Caregiver Support program. That program isn't even reflected in the regulation since it came on in 2000. So there's lots of work to do. They took all that feedback and now have some proposed regulations that they want people to look at. Did we hit the mark before we pass these into a final rule? Are we on the right track, but also things that they learned from how people reacted to some of the flexibilities they received during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, our nutrition program moved to a lot of grab and go and drive through meals at a time when they couldn't have people congregating. Well, what they learned is there's a subset of the population that really needs those meals at all times. A population that isn't quite homebound, but also for a variety of different reasons, aren't comfortable or able to be in a congregate setting. So now we're looking at ways that we could continue to provide those meals and not just fund them under the very restricted home delivered meal funding, but under the more generous congregate funding. As long as we're not thinking about closing those dining sites, they serve a very real purpose in terms of the social and educational needs of folks. There are also proposals that would allow for us to continue funding those meals under both congregate and home delivered meal prep funding, and that's going to be really important to this network. Rosanna is sending out my document with all the links if you are interested in leaving comments. They are due by August 15th.

GWAAR Director's Report

[Nick Musson on behalf of John Schnabl, reported:](#)

- In June, the Senior Medicare patrol program received another five-year grant to continue doing education and outreach around Medicare fraud.
- We have added an additional attorney to support the Elder Benefit Specialist which allows the attorneys to have a more manageable workload. This is the

highest number of attorneys we have ever had to support the EBS in our service area.

- We are continuing to work with our accounting firm, CLA on the 2022 audit.
- The Fiscal Department is looking for two full time bookkeeping positions, so if you know of someone that might be interested, please pass that along to Patrick Metz.
- The Veterans Self-Directed Service Program recently promoted an agency intern to be an additional Care Consultant to work with our expanding program care consultants.
- We are in the process of creating a document that outlines our Aging Unit Progressive Improvement Plan. We will use this step-by-step document when we run into unresolved aging unit compliance issues.
- We are creating a training curriculum for all new Aging Directors and Supervisors. The curriculum will outline the GWAAR trainings we believe are needed as a new Aging Director or Supervisor comes on board.

Advisory Council Draft Bylaws (Continue to Review)

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- There was a quick review of the previous amendments made to the draft by-laws at the last meeting and there was further discussion of fine tuning the remaining ones at the next Advisory Council meeting.
- Feedback was given regarding remaining by-laws and Nick will present an updated final version by-laws at the next meeting



GWAAR Aging Plan Overview

Nick Musson, OAA Consultant- Transportation Specialist

- With new Advisory Council members on board, we thought this would be a good opportunity to revisit the purpose of the Council, their responsibility and role in creating GWAAR's 3-year Aging Plan.
- After some discussion it was determined that Advisory Council members would like to receive the "working" aging plan document, which shows revisions to goals, so they can see how goals are re-evaluated and revised.
- OAA Consultants will continue to attend and present goals at Advisory Council meetings, so that members can more in-depth knowledge of each of GWAAR's program areas and their respective goals.

Adjournment: 11:36 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: *September 22, 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*