

POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 27, 2023

The Policy Board of CareWell Services SW met on Monday, November 27, 2023, in the Burnham Brook Conference Room of the Kool Family Community Center, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Board Members Present: Lyn Briel, Allen Byam, Mark Doster, Mary Frisby, Corally O'Dell, Jose Orozco, Jr., Sherii Sherban, Deana Spencer, Shirley Tuggle, Thomas Unger, Linda Whitfield

Board Members Absent: Jim Baldwin, Barbara Frederick, Steve Marzolf

Staff Present: Valerie Barnaby, Jodi De Jonge, John Gelletich, Paulette Porter, Stacy Wines, Glin Winsor

Guest Present: Julie Cortright, ACLS Field Representative, Rod Auton, Manager Calhoun County Sr. Services

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair, Allen Byam, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Introductions were made. Quorum was present.

Action Item: Motion by Unger, supported by Sherban, to approve the November 27, 2023, Consent Agenda, which included the Policy Board meeting minutes for the October 23, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

Doster noted that the minutes from October 23, 2023, had a mistake in section IV, letter B. The information provided stated that the interest rate on the funds moved to Comerica for the six-month certificate of deposit, earning a rate of ¾% could not be accurate.

Winsor agreed and stated it should read 4 ¾% rate. Motion by Doster to correct the minutes, supported by Unger. Motion carried. Amendment to the October 23, 2023, minutes attached.

II. Public Comments and Open Meeting – Wines introduced Rod Auton. Mr. Auton stated he is four days in his new position and looking forward to working with CareWell Services. Field Representative Cortright reported on ACLS & legislative updates.

III. CEO Report – CQAR (Clinical Quality Assurance Review) Audit: the audit starts on November 27, 2023. Should have the findings by the January meeting.

Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition: this important body of work will be brought back and will have quarterly meetings.

COLA for staff: COLA will be 2% effective January 1, 2024. Performance Reviews will also be taking place with a maximum of 3.5% earning potential for the FY 2023-24. Longevity bonuses were awarded last week.

Advisory Council: Refashioning has had positive feedback. Guest speakers who are contracted with us for services have been brought in for the past two meetings. We will continue having speakers going forward.

Senior Centers: Heritage Commons has 424 members and Forks Senior Center has 400 members currently for the month of October.

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan 4am conference was held in Lansing on November 7 and 8. Seven staff members were in attendance. There were great experts in the aging network. We had the opportunity to learn from members of the federal and state government. It was a valuable experience for attendees to network.

Statewide Contracting with Health Plans is being researched heavily. This will allow CWS to diversify funding and stay current and prominent in the health care field. Wines noted CWS is not accredited with the NCQA (National Committee on Quality Assurance). She advised that the accreditation process will need to be started immediately. She will be working to help move the 4am network and CWS forward.

IV. Policy Board Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel Membership Committee: Nothing to report at this time.
- B. Finance/Audit Committee – Winsor reviewed the financial statement that was included in the board packet. It was noted that funding has run out for some of the programs that CWS offers. Funding will be replenished in 2024.
Winsor requested resolution for Employer Matching Contribution to remain at 3%.
Motion for Approval of Resolution of Employer Matching Contribution made by Briel, supported by Sherban. Motion carried and signed by Policy Board Secretary, Deana Spencer.
- C. Waiver Report – De Jonge reported our waiting list has been reduced to 180. She also stated we are adding approximately 30 new clients every month.
- D. Advocacy and Outreach – Whitfield provided that Ombudsman funding is still an issue and there will continue to be advocacy on this topic. She also advised there was a miscommunication regarding no fault insurance and it will not be part of AAA advocacy. O’Dell stated the guardianship issues still need to be addressed and she would like to have a speaker regarding this topic. CWS will look into getting a speaker. Porter reported for Courtney and covered again that funding had run out for some programs offered by CWS and that funding should be restored in January 2024. Porter also presented personalized letters for members to sign, if they so choose, to the Governor’s office regarding funding advocacy. CWS will mail some and others will be mailed by the members.
- E. Grants Review – Winsor advised the Innovation in Action grant with Kingdom Builders is moving along. Finalization is in progress to finish the elevator project and he has been working closely with Otis. Porter reported approval for the following grants submitted last month: Benefits Counseling, Hearing, PERS, Vision and Nutrition.

- V. Motion to Adjourn – **Motion made by Sherban and supported by O’Dell.** Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie J. Barnaby, Administrative Assistant