



Advisory Council Board Meeting Minutes Monday, April 15, 2024, 3:30 pm

The Advisory Council of CareWell Services Southwest met on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Burnham Brook conference room of the Kool Family Community Center, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Advisory Council Members Present: Jennifer Bouchard, Lois Bowers, Lyn Briel, Monique French, Corally O'Dell, Mark Doster, Taliah Huerta, Shirley Tuggle, Mary Frisby

Members Absent: Sherii Sherban, Jan Lydy, Lynnette Rich

Staff Present: Valerie Barnaby, John Gelletich, Paulette Porter, Karen Courtney, Stacy Wines, Glin Winsor, Cassandra Lucas-Moore

Guests Present: David LaLumia, Executive Director, 4 AM, Jim Haadsma, Michigan State Representative

I. Call to Order/Public Comment

Chair Briel called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm. Round table introductions were made.

II. Action Items

- A. Motion by Bouchard, supported by French, to approve the April 15, 2024, Consent Agenda which included the Advisory Council meeting minutes for March 18, 2024. Motion CARRIED.**

III. Learning Session Presentation – David LaLumia, Executive Director, 4 AM

- A. Mr. LaLumia discussed his current position with 4 AM as well as what he had done professionally for the past 30 years. He reminded us that in 1974, amendments were made to the Older American's Act to encompass Area Agencies on Aging. Michigan was the first to initiate T-A's. He expressed the three items currently being focused on: Ombudsman-expanding long term care, Caregivers- requesting assistance to pay and get permanent funding in place for T-A's and MI Choice- helping to keep people in their own homes for care. He also pointed out that 4 AM is working for re-authorization of the OAA which expires 9/30/2024 and will be set in place for a five-year period. He recognized Tuggle, O'Dell and Whitfield for their outstanding MSAC work as well as their advocacy.

IV. Discussion Items - James Haadsma, Michigan State Representative

- A. Representative Haadsma thanked CWS for helping when he needs it. He shared that he is familiar with many in the room. He advised on the shuffling of people and terms in Lansing. Term limits are now different, used to be 14 years and now are 12 years with mixed terms. He stated it is hard to collaborate, but now that elections are finished, they should be able to move forward with issues at hand. Advised that it is ALL about the budget, ALL of the time and there is less funding to work with due to Covid in 2023.
- B. Porter discussed Older Michigianians Day and extended an invite to Representative Haadsma. Lucas-Moore also reported on Older Michigianians Day which is May 1, 2024. Planning on meeting with legislators. This event will also be live streamed. Prepared letters for legislators to take to Lansing.

V. Reports

- A. No CEO report.
- B. Financials not available to report on at this time.

VI. Council Member Time

Tuggle expressed appreciation for everyone and requested that everyone keep pushing and fighting for our seniors. Whitfield also advised that MSAC sent letters out regarding at home care.

VII. Adjournment

Motion for Advisory Council meeting to adjourn moved to approve by Sherban; supported by Tuggle. Motion CARRIED.

With no additional items to discuss, meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie J. Barnaby, Administrative Assistant