



POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 22, 2024, 5:30 pm

The Policy Board of CareWell Services SW met on Monday, April 22, 2024, in the Burnham Brook Conference Room of the Kool Family Community Center, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Board members Present: Jim Baldwin, Lyn Briel, Allen Byam, Barbara Frederick, Mary Frisby, Corally O’Dell, Jose Orozco, Jr., Sherii Sherban, Deana Spencer, Shirley Tuggle, Thomas Unger, Linda Whitfield

Board Members Absent: Mark Doster, Steve Marzolf

Staff Present: Valerie Barnaby, Karen Courtney, 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

Vice Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. Introductions were made. Quorum met.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Consent Agenda for April 22, 2024, and Approval of Policy Board Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2024, meeting.

Motion for approval of the Consent Agenda for April 22, 2024, and Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2024, made by Sherban, supported by Orozco, Jr. Motion CARRIED.

III. Public Comment/Open Meeting

ACLS Field Representative Julie Courtright, noted that all of the Area Agencies on Aging are currently extremely busy. There are many deadlines from several state departments placed upon the AAAs.

IV. Executive Team Reports/Updates

A. CEO Report-Attached

Wines noted there has been significant improvement in the culture at CWS. She complimented the management staff for making sure a positive culture is implemented in their own work so the staff can see that example.

Barry county Community Mental Health Authority will be conducting Mental Health First Aid for Seniors training for all staff. It is an all-day training. We have confirmed three dates and will add another one in June if necessary.

Wines also advised she is part of a workgroup to bring senior programming back into the Kool Family Community Center. This is the first step in looking at the bigger picture of offering a senior center in Battle Creek. An event will be held to gauge the interest of the community in what they would like in a senior center in Battle Creek.

Wines noted she has been upfront in sharing that CWS is not in a position to financially support a senior center in Battle Creek due to their large investment at Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center.

Frederick would like to see something in place that will work for all Seniors. Whitfield suggested that we look back at history and see what worked when the Kool Center was the Senior Center. Frederick also wondered if there will be participation from the Y-Center. Orozco Jr., noted that if we as advocates for seniors do not push for a Senior Center, who will? Wines confirmed they are invited to all meetings. Wines advised that baby steps are being taken to move forward as there are a lot of pieces to consider. Auton reassured that many entities are taking this seriously.

V. Policy Board Committee Reports

A. Executive/Personnel Membership Committee

1. Baldwin advised no summer retreat for 2024 due to hectic schedules. We will strive for a fall retreat between September-October. Barnaby to send out a survey to find out what Saturdays are NOT available for scheduling. He also advised that the Executive Committee reviewed goals with Wines.

B. Finance/Audit Committee

Winsor reported that we have made great strides with our Certificates of Deposit, earning excellent interest. The Finance Committee will be paying close attention to rates.

Motion for approval of the Financial Statements for month ending March 2024, made by Spencer, supported by Unger. Motion CARRIED.

C. Compliance, Quality, Waiver

1. Winsor reviewed the Provider Screening Collection Information requested by the State of Michigan for background checks. We need social security and driver's license numbers as well as the authorization sheets signed. This information is required to be on the Policy Board of CareWell Services. If the information is not provided, then board members will need to move to the Advisory Council. Winsor will provide a secure email address if members wish to send the information directly to the state. If not, the information should be sent to Christy Talaski to securely submit.
2. Wines suggested that a procedure be written and put into place moving forward regarding the collection of this information. Also, once a quarter, issues should be reviewed regarding compliance.

D. Waiver

1. De Jonge reported that the Waiver program is still being worked on to get stabilized. We have double digit enrollment, but also double-digit closures. Wait time is still running five to six months.

E. Advocacy and Outreach Updates

1. Whitfield reminded everyone that Older Michiganian's Day is May 1, 2024. We NEED as much participation as possible. There is a letter campaign explaining four platforms that are being worked on: Long-Term Care Ombudsman, support for family and caregivers, expand access to MI Choice, and access to home and community-based services. Porter advised that CWS has the letter available. Whitfield also requested a speaker from CWS attend her book club to spread the word about AAAs. Wines will discuss it with her further and look at staffing. Wines advised we have folders with CWS information available for board members.
2. Courtney advised that we have a great deal of outreach happening in our community. Two items are the Elder Abuse Coalition, now known as Coalition Empowering Against Senior Exploitation, is back up and running. Project Fresh is also currently getting underway, and coupons will be available in June.

VI. Policy Board Member Time/General Discussion

1. Chair Baldwin advised of the Veteran's Fair happening Saturday, June 8, 2024, at the American Legion in South Haven.
Spencer advised that the PRIDE dates were not correct on flyers. The festival date is Saturday, July 20, 2024, but PRIDE week starts on July 18, 2024.
Orozco, Jr., invited all to the Cinco de Mayo festivities, Saturday May 5, 2024, at Festival Market Square from 3 pm–8 pm.
Tuggle reminded everyone that we need as many letters signed as possible to turn into the governor's office for an increase in pay for our caregivers.
Frederick asked if a new meeting site is still being considered. Wines advised that she has investigated this but is afraid that attendance would suffer.

VII. Adjournment

Motion for Policy Board to adjourn by Tuggle; supported by Sherman. Motion CARRIED. With no additional items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie J. Barnaby, Administrative Assistant