



POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 26, 2024, 5:30 pm

The Policy Board of CareWell Services SW met on Monday, August 26, 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, Steve Marzolf, Corally O'Dell, Jose Orozco, Jr. (via zoom), Sherii Sherban, Thomas Unger, Linda Whitfield

Board Members Absent: Mark Doster, Deana Spencer, Shirley Tuggle

Staff Present: Valerie Barnaby, Karen Courtney, Jodi De Jonge, John Gelletich, Brenda Holmgren, Amber Logsdon, Paulette Porter, Stacy Wines, Glin Winsor

Guest Present: Julie Cortright, ACLS Field Representative

I. Call to Order

Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Introductions were made. Quorum met.

II. Action Items

- A. Approval of Consent Agenda for August 26, 2024, and approval of Policy Board Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2024, meeting.

Motion for approval of the Consent Agenda for August 26, 2024, and Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2024, made by Sherban, supported by Marzolf. Motion CARRIED.

III. Public Comment/Open Meeting

ACLS Field Representative Julie Courtright noted that the Annual Assessment was performed in June, and everything went really well. There were no findings. Julie along with members of the Executive Team will be presenting the Annual Implementation Plan to the Commission on September 20, 2024.

IV. **Executive Team Reports/Updates**

A. CEO Report

Wines advised that in the area of staffing, we are still in need of Nurses and Social Workers. We did have a glitch with our electronic system in receiving applications for approximately six months. Wines is having this investigated as to why this happened. Since getting the glitch fixed, Logsdon reported we have received eight or nine applications in two weeks.

Wines noted that CareWell completed two DEI trainings in one day. The information and scenarios were very eye opening. Cortright commented that CWS has done an excellent job providing staff training and that we stood out in this area. Wines advised this training will be offered to our providers as well as the Advisory Council and Policy Board. Per Winsor, this training will be offered after the first of the year.

We are still working on the accreditation with The National Committee on Quality Assurance, and everything is on track. We need this accreditation to move forward with our statewide contracting initiative when the state switches over to Dual Special Needs Plans (D-SNP) from the MI Health Link program.

MDHHS had a meeting on Friday to discuss Waiver. DeJonge reported that the rate settings did not take into consideration the cost for the agents, nor the cost of the minimum wage increases. This means that for our nonsignificant support participants, the change being proposed for 2025 is a 3.9% increase. For the significant support participants, a 10% increase is being proposed. The Direct Care Worker rate increase is going to 380 for the fiscal year and nothing else changes.

The work on D-SNPs is moving forward. Even though a great deal has been accomplished so far, the majority of the work lies ahead. Wines advised she has been elected President of Phase II of the statewide initiative contract, which has been registered as an LLC under the name Michigan Community Care Collaboration (M3C). The subcommittees have been formed and will begin meeting. The Requests for Proposal have been submitted by the insurance companies, which the M3C was written into many of those to provide services. We expect to hear which insurance companies received the bids in late fall. Two more regions have joined M3C, Regions VII (10 counties in the thumb region) and 3A (Kalamazoo).

The Senior Centers are doing very well. Heritage Commons is growing very quickly. Due to the membership growth, we will be sending three staff members over to assist with day-to-day tasks. This will also benefit the current manager to have backup.

The senior programming exploration and planning at Kool Family Community Center continues. Courtney represents CWS on this planning committee. It has been made clear that CWS can't make a financial investment in the project as we did at Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center.

V. **Policy Board Committee Reports**

A. Executive/Personnel Membership Committee

Baldwin advised that there is not a lot to discuss other than there will be an upcoming evaluation for Wines proposed annual bonus. She will do a self-evaluation and send it to the Executive Committee, then they will review and propose a recommendation for the bonus.

Chair Baldwin raised the question regarding a potential board retreat. He would like input on timing from everyone. Sherban suggested Spring. Due to new board members coming on, it was agreed that we will look at Spring dates for a retreat.

B. Finance/Audit Committee

Winsor reviewed the income report attached in the packet. We are currently showing a negative balance. Some of this is due to Waiver, which is now moving in an upward trend. We are in a better position than last year. Our interest income is significant because the Finance Committee rolled funds over to new Certificate's of Deposit that are paying at a higher rate. We are currently working on the negative balance with MI Health Link to recoup funds from termed out participants. We are showing some negative balances due to our commitment to Heritage Commons as well as our MMAP program deficit.

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

C. Compliance, Quality, Waiver

1. De Jonge reported the proposed rates for FY 2025 did not include Administrative fees for the WA Agencies or the minimum wage increase for CY 2025. The proposed rate increase for the Non-Significant Supports Participants is 3.9% and a 10% increase for Significant Supports Participants. The Direct Care Worker rate will increase from \$3.60 to \$3.80 for FY 2025. Waiver numbers have increased in all counties but one. We are still in double digits for enrollments; however, closure numbers are also in the

double digits. The waitlist is now 16 weeks, which is getting closer to our 12-week benchmark. All departments have been diligently working in all aspects of this program. Logsdon complemented the efforts of CWS to make this improvement.

D. Advocacy and Outreach Updates

1. Whitfield reported that the Ombudsman work/funding was going a lot smoother with House and the Senate approval. The House wants to approve the full \$3 Million budget, and the Senate only wants to do half at a time. The other hot topic is the guardianship proposal. The lower court judges are giving pushback on items. If this proposal is not settled by the end of December, the process must start over and we will be back to square one.
2. Regarding outreach, Courtney reported that outreach efforts are in the packet. We are pacing ahead on the MMAP program from last year. We are exceeding expectations with outreach as well. Programming is moving along well.
3. Wines reported that she did a class on “Thank You” notes to a 4-H group at Hickory Bible Church. While this appears to not line up with our mission, she offered to do this to make connections with the adults and share information on our services. She ended up networking with parents and grandparents regarding our services and programming.

VI. Policy Board Member Time/General Discussion

1. Baldwin requested the October Policy Board meeting be moved to the same day as the Advisory Council meeting due to Sr. Leadership attending a conference on October 28. Membership agreed. The October meeting will be held on the 21st at 5:00p.m., immediately following the Advisory Council meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Motion for Policy Board to adjourn by Marzolf; supported by Sherban.

Motion CARRIED. With no additional items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie J. Barnaby, Administrative Assistant