



POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 21, 2024, 5:00 pm

The Policy Board of CareWell Services SW met on Monday, October 21, 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, Corally O’Dell, Sherii Sherban, Clare Tanner, Shirley Tuggle, Linda Whitfield

Board Members Absent: Mary Frisby, Jose Orozco, Jr., Deana Spencer

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

Guests Present: Julie Cortright - ACLS Field Representative, Meg Fairchild - Social Services Director, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Linda Maupin – Retired from Family Support Center of Barry County

I. Call to Order

Chair, Baldwin called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm. Quorum met.

A. Introductions: Introductions made.

B. **Action Item: Approval of Consent Agenda for October 21, 2024, and approval of Policy Board Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2024, meeting.**

Motion for approval of the Consent Agenda for October 21, 2024, and approval of the September 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Vice Chair Byam, supported by Sherban. Motion CARRIED.

II. Public Comment/Open Meeting

None

III. CEO Report:

Wines gave a verbal report. She reported information that has been handed down from the state level regarding the Options Counseling and the MMAP/Options Counseling request for proposals. The goal has been set for these programs to be a

“one stop” for all Medicaid based programs and local long-term supports and services. The state is trying to create an inclusive system that is broader than the aging network providing services. CWS will be bidding. to offer more than one program that is being offered. The state - wide MMAP line will be used for all option counseling needs answered by specially trained staff at 211 who will then schedule in-person appointments at a local level. The request for proposal (RFP) applications will be scored in the following categories: Current Infrastructure, Knowledge of Resources, Partnerships and Collaboration, and Existing Counseling Experience. The state of Michigan has been reviewing how the state of Nebraska has implemented the Medicaid Administration claiming program and are modeling their process after it.

Regarding Waiver, it is changing constantly. There are many concerns regarding the catastrophic cost to this program. Currently what is being addressed are the barriers between MDHHS and the actuaries. The State is looking at reducing administrative barriers on Waiver and distribution of high-cost cases across Waiver agencies.

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan continues to work on uniting as a single entity regarding the Dual Specialty Needs Plans (DSNP). Per MDHHS, forming a single entity and developing standardization among the 16 Area Agencies on Aging is something that we must continue to implement.

Wines will be recruiting mentors for our new board members that have joined and will send an invite out to create partnerships.

Porter provided an update on the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) program in Calhoun County. We have prepared supplemental requests for additional funding for the program as we are currently at capacity. Porter and Wines were asked to attend the Sr. Millage meeting and were advised that the request had been denied. The cost of providing the service has gone up quite substantially. This information was not allowed to be addressed at the meeting. Porter also has looked at other providers but is not able to find anything that would ease the cost. CWS is the only provider that offers this service at this time.

IV. Policy Board Committee Reports

A. Executive/Personnel Membership Committee

1. Approval of the recommendation from the Advisory Council for the appointment of Meg Fairchild to the Advisory Council. Also, approval to appoint Meg Fairchild to the Policy Board.

Motion to approve: 1) The Advisory Council’s recommendation of Meg Fairchild to the Council, and 2) Approval of Meg Fairchild’s appointment to the Policy Board. Motion made by Tuggle, supported by Sherban to appoint Meg Fairchild to serve on the Advisory Council and the Policy Board. Motion CARRIED.

2. Approval of the appointment of Linda Maupin to the Policy Board. Linda Maupin was invited to present her credentials as a candidate to join the Policy Board.

Motion to approve the appointment of Linda Maupin to the Policy Board made by Sherban, supported by O'Dell. Motion CARRIED.

3. Action Item to go into closed session moved to the end of the current meeting.
4. Hand out and request the signatures of the following documents from the Policy Board Members: Conflict of Interest and Release Authorization form. Both are due back by November 15, 2024.

B. Finance/Audit Committee:

1. Review of estimated Financial Statements

Winsor advised that due to the Policy Board meeting being moved up a week, final numbers were not available. We are currently showing a negative balance in some areas partially due to the high costs of acuity with the Waiver program. Some of the negative cash flow is also due to the MMAP program as well as the support given to Heritage Commons. The highlight is our interest income continues to grow. Currently we are significantly in a better financial state than at this time last year.

Per Chair Baldwin we will not entertain a motion to approve financials as they are estimated numbers and adjustments will be made to reflect end-of-year information.

C. MI Choice Waiver:

1. De Jonge reported on our year end numbers. At the end of the FY, we reduced our wait list by 50% and we had double digits for enrollments except for December and February. Overall, 2024 was a good year for our Waiver Program. The wait list is currently four months. She clarified that the MI Choice Waiver Program helps individuals that are 65+ or disabled to stay in their home setting with services provided. An RN or a Social Worker then becomes their Support Coordinator.

D. Care Management

Logsdon reported on employee turnover and new hires. Currently we are staffed with ten nurses and ten social workers. We are striving to hit the benchmark of thirteen in both areas.

E. Advocacy and Outreach

Tuggle reiterated that there are currently many changes happening at the state level. She reminded us that November is National Caregiver Month. We also need to look at all the cuts that have been made to the 2025 budget concerning our seniors. Letters need to be sent to our government officials. She also revisited the changes in the MMAP program and that it was not foreseen. We need to advocate to the individuals in power at the State level regarding these changes. She advised that the treasurer, Cindy Masterson, is retiring from MDHHS which will be a big loss. There are many changes on the horizon.

Porter reported on outreach. She advised the Board that now is the time the outreach efforts will slow down. The outreach staff has had a very busy summer season, numbers can be reviewed in the report provided.

V. Policy Board Member Time/General Discussion:

1. No comments or general discussion from any Board members.
2. Chair Baldwin requested a motion for a roll call vote to go into closed session for the Annual Evaluation of the CEO.

Motion for roll call vote to move into closed session at 6:10 pm made by Byam, supported by Sherban. Roll call vote was unanimously approved. Motion CARRIED.

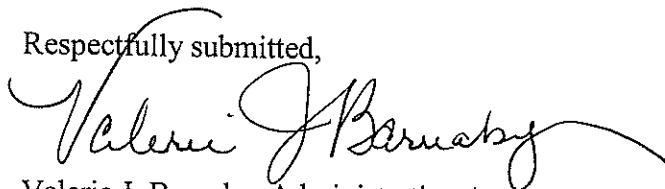
Motion by Maupin, supported by Tuggle to come out of closed session and Accept items as discussed at 6:20 pm. Roll call vote was unanimously approved. Motion CARRIED.

VI. Adjournment:

With no additional items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Motion for Policy Board to adjourn made by O'Dell, supported by Tanner. Motion CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie J. Barnaby, Administrative Assistant