

Board Meeting
Board on Aging and Long Term Care
DoubleTree Madison East
Two Lakes Ballroom
4402 E Washington Ave
Madison, WI
May 4, 2023

Chair James Surprise called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. It was noted that this meeting was properly noticed under the Open Meetings Notice law.

Members Present: James Surprise Dr. Dale Taylor
Abigail Lowery Dr. Khyana Pumphrey
Tanya Meyer Dr. Valerie Palarski

Staff Present: Jessica Trudell Kellie Miller Vicki Buchholz
Kristen Johnson Vicki Tiedeman Kathi Miller
Rachel Selking Kelly Gochenaur Kim Verstegen
Kim Marheine Nick Lutes Brooke Brandmeier
Kim Tassoul

Guests Present: Kathleen Lowry

Agenda: Approval of agenda as submitted M/S/C (Palarski/Lowery)

Minutes: Minutes of the February 8, 2023, board meeting were approved as presented. M/S/C (Meyer/Taylor)

Presentation: Public Health Unwinding and Electronic Visit Verification Kelly Gochenaur, Managed Care lead, Kathi Miller, IRIS Lead, Vicki Buchholz, Medigap Supervisor Medigap Supervisor

Ms. Gochenaur, Ms. Miller and Ms. Buchholz provided an overview of the process underway to re-establish Medicaid enrollment and services assessments with the ending of the public health emergency (PHE). There will be a 14-month process to ensure that all members will receive a thorough review of eligibility, and CMS has developed a Special Enrollment Period for those who delayed enrolling into Medicare due to Medicaid but now will need to transition into Medicare.

Ms. Miller briefly reviewed the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). EVV is an electronic system that uses technology to verify that authorized services were provided to HCBS enrollees.

Ms. Miller also noted her participation in the IRIS Advisory Committee review of all IRIS Policies in new plain language format with examples. The BOALTC receives an opportunity to review, comment and suggest changes before the publishing of the policies.

Presentation: Jennifer Fischer, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Manager

Ms. Fischer provided a comprehensive overview of both the ADRC program that she manages in Dane County, as well as the overall role of ADRCs in long-term care services statewide. Some highlights included an overview of the many services that ADRCs provide to emphasize healthy aging and community engagement, services to evaluate and enable participation in long-term care supports and services, and efforts to support current needs and issues such as the PHE Unwinding and the current workforce crisis and its impacts.

Volunteer Ombudsman Program Update: Kellie Miller, Volunteer Services Supervisor

Ms. Miller notes that Mary Larson of Grant County is the recipient of the 2023 Louise Abrahams Yaffe Volunteer Ombudsman Program award. Ms. Miller provided information on large group virtual training sessions held so far in 2023. Ms. Miller provide an update on the current VOP roster as well as volunteer recruitment and outreach efforts.

Legislative Updates: Kristen Johnson, Counsel to the Board

Ms. Johnson provided an update on the State budget process and indicated the Joint Finance Committee will hold executive sessions before referring the budget bill to the legislature. The deadline for budget approval is July 1, 2023. Ms. Johnson indicated Ms. Trudell is currently attending a JFC meeting because BOALTC is on the agenda for budget action. Ms. Johnson then provided an update on state and federal legislation related to the agency and the clients we serve. Some discussion was had related to the proposed next of kin legislation.

Medigap Helpline Update: Vicki Buchholz, Medigap Helpline Services Supervisor

Ms. Buchholz indicated counselors have handled 1701 calls (1884 assessments) from January to March 2023. Counselors have participated in 6 outreach events so far in 2023 and the intention is to continue outreach efforts in counties the program has not been to in several years. Ms. Buchholz noted the federal government has announced the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency will end on May 11 and notices have been sent to beneficiaries regarding the unwinding process. To date in 2023, 18 complaints have been filed with CMS and 11 of those have been successful. Ms. Buchholz also provided an update on organization mergers.

Ombudsman Program Update: Kim Marheine, Ombudsman Services Supervisor and Rachel Selking, Assistant Ombudsman Services Supervisor

Ms. Marheine and Ms. Selking discussed aspects of issue advocacy currently being monitored and managed by Ombudsman Program staff, noting work to continue at a high level for closures and relocations, facility monitoring, and participation in several statewide initiatives. Twenty-four Immediate Jeopardy cites were noted since the prior meeting.

Ms. Marheine provided a presentation detailing the federally- required data reporting process for the Ombudsman and Volunteer Ombudsman programs, and noted the agency's annual data had been verified complete as submitted.

Comments from the Public: No comments from the public were received.

Administrative Report: Jessica Trudell, Executive Director/State Ombudsman

Ms. Trudell provided agency-wide updates, including an update on the budget process and agency requests. Ms. Trudell attended the Joint Finance Committee meeting earlier that day and informed the Board that the JFC voted to include a separate State Ombudsman position within the agency. The agency had requested three new positions and the JFC voted to include one position in the budget. Ms. Trudell also provided an update on the status of program funding. Ms. Trudell informed the Board that agency staff had submitted input to the US Senate Special Committee on Aging and to CMS on issues of importance. Ms. Trudell has been appointed to serve on the DHS Long Term Care Advisory Council through December 2025. Ms. Trudell also recently presented agency and advocacy updates at the Aging & Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW). Ms. Trudell indicated there is currently one Board vacancy.

New Business: No new business.

Future meeting dates are:

August 2, 2023

November 1, 2023

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at pm; M/S/C (Lowery/Surprise)

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Tiedeman, Recorder