

**Members Present:** Tony Bair, Curtis Gale, Bob Harvey, Brent Leininger, Cynthia Richardson, Debbie Shepard (Jackson, Michigan via Zoom), Keith Williams, Chris Wittenbach, Ken Wyatt

**Members Excused:** Aimrie Ream-Taylor

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff:** Nichole Baker, Bill DeSmet, Tracy James, Kara Lorenz-Goings, Greg Schira, Claire Warner, Julie Wetherby, Jeff Willet

**Guests:** Ward Wilson

1. Call to Order, Opening Ceremony, and Roll Call of Members

Chairperson Brent Leininger called a regular meeting of the WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors to order at 2:01 p.m. on October 24, 2024. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Brent read the WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging Mission Statement, and the executive assistant called the roll.

2. Approval of Agenda

Bob Harvey moved to approve the agenda as modified to include Advisory Council Application under New Business, Tony Bair seconded. Motion carried with no one opposed.

3. Guests

The WellWise staff members, and guest, introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Minutes

Bob Harvey moved to adopt the minutes of the September 19, 2024 Board Meeting as corrected to include a “no” vote for Keith Williams in the first item of the Finance Committee Report, Tony Bair seconded. Motion carried with no one opposed.

5. Public Comment: None

6. Presentation: Tracy James, WellWise Services Community Outreach/Marketing Coordinator, presented a report on activities for FY 2024.

7. Reports

a. Bureau of Aging, Community Living and Supports (ACLS): No report

b. Agency Chief Executive Officer

The Board Members reviewed a report from Julie Wetherby and WellWise Services managers on activities for the past month. Julie added the following items:

- The Detroit Free Press has named WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging a top workplace. This will be officially announced on November 17, 2024.
- The State will centralize Options Counseling for all home and community based services, and the Michigan Medicare Assistance Program.
- Slot award number for FY 2025 is lower than the number of slots filled in FY 2024.

Julie addressed the following items brought forward by Board Members:

- FY 2025 Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board.

- The number of transportation referrals per month is not completely accurate since WellWise Services I&R software does not capture data for individuals who call with multiple requests.
- The direct care worker premium pay, as adjusted in the State budget, still does not cover providers' costs and taxes.
- The Community Transition Services process is often very challenging, but one of the most important programs offered at WellWise Services.

c. Advisory Council

The Board Members reviewed a report from the October 22, 2024 Advisory Council meeting. Ward Wilson, Advisory Council Chair, reported the following

- Advisory Council (AC) members discussed ways to promote WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging.
- Rosemary Abramovich has retired from the Michigan Seniors Advocate Council. AC member Dillon Donaghy has volunteered to represent WellWise Services on the MSAC.
- Bob Harvey and Keith Williams attended the AC meeting and reported on the Board's position on the transportation proposal. The AC will continue to review the proposal and then resubmit it to the Board.
- The AC will hold a silent auction during the November meeting to benefit Holidays at Home.

Bob Harvey offered to help the AC craft proposals to the Board.

8. Committee Business

a. Personnel Committee: Keith Williams reported that the Personnel Committee met on October 21, 2024 with Curtis Gale, Cynthia Richardson, Keith Williams, Chris Wittenbach, and Ken Wyatt attending in person, and Brent Leininger attending virtually, and

1. The Committee members reviewed a recommendation to reappoint three members of the WellWise Services Advisory Council whose terms ended on September 30, 2024 and recommended approval.

Keith Williams moved to reappoint Rosemary Abramovich (representing Lenawee County), Annette Magda (representing Hillsdale County), and Ward Wilson (representing Jackson County) to the Advisory Council, Curtis Gale supported. Motion carried with no one opposed.

2. The Committee members reviewed a proposal to give WellWise Services staff Monday, December 23, 2024, and Monday, December 30, 2024 off and recommended approval.

Keith Williams moved that WellWise Services staff receive Monday, December 23, 2024, and Monday, December 30, 2024 as paid days off, Bob Harvey supported. Discussion. Motion failed after a role call vote: Bob Harvey-no, Brent Leininger-no, Cynthia Richardson-no, Keith Williams-yes, Chris Wittenbach-no, Ken Wyatt-no, Tony Bair-no, Curtis Gale-no.

Bob Harvey requested that the number of calls to the agency be tracked on December 23 and 30.

- b. Finance Committee: Tony Bair reported that the Finance Committee met on October 22, 2024 with Tony Bair, Bob Harvey, Brent Leininger, Debbie Shepard, and Chris Wittenbach attending in person, and
1. The Committee members reviewed Statements of Contract Award for the Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, the Jackson County Department on Aging, the Lenawee County Department on Aging, Catholic Charities, and Michigan Advocacy Program Legal Services of South Central Michigan and recommended approval.  
Tony Bair move to approve the Statement of Contract Award for October 1 – November 30, 2024 for the Hillsdale County Senior Services Center in the amount of \$61,929, the Jackson County Department on Aging in the amount of \$179,788, the Lenawee County Department on Aging in the amount of \$133, 898, Catholic Charities in the amount of \$6,033, and Michigan Advocacy Program Legal Services of South Central Michigan in the amount of \$25,595, Bob Harvey supported. Motion carried with no one opposed.
  2. The Committee members reviewed the financial reports for the month ended August 31, 2024 and recommended approval.  
Tony Bair moved to approve the Statement of Financial Position, the Income Statement, the Income Statement by Program, and the Grant Spend Down Analysis dated August 31, 2024, and Julie Wetherby’s credit card statement for the month ended August 31, 2024, Ken Wyatt supported. Motion carried with no one opposed.
- c. Compliance Committee: Curtis Gale reported that the Compliance Committee met for a scheduled meeting at 12:30 p.m. today, and the members continued unfinished business, and proposed that the next meeting take place on January 23, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.  
Curtis Gale moved that the January 23, 2025 meeting be at 12:30 p.m., Ken Wyatt supported. Motion carried with no one opposed.
- d. Executive Committee: Brent Leininger reported that Executive Committee met on October 22, 2024 with Tony Bair, Curtis Gale, Brent Leininger, and Keith Williams attending in person.  
The Committee members reviewed Julie Wetherby’s contract for the period October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027, and recommended approval.  
Brent Leininger moved to approve the CEO contract for the period October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027, Tony Bair supported. Discussion. Motion carried after a roll call vote: Brent Leininger-yes, Cynthia Richardson-yes, Keith Williams-yes, Chris Wittenbach-yes, Ken Wyatt-yes, Tony Bair-yes, Curtis Gale-yes, Bob Harvey-yes.
9. Unfinished Business: None
10. New Business  
Advisory Council Application: The Board Members reviewed an application for membership on the Advisory Council submitted by Juan Rodriguez, and

Curtis Gale moved to approve Juan Rodriquez of Jackson County for membership on the Advisory Council, Cynthia Richardson supported. Motion carried with no one opposed.

11. Board Member Comments and Questions

Tony Bair noted that Board Members may request to have messages sent to multiple e-mail addresses.

Keith Williams congratulated Ward on his reelection as chair of the Advisory Council, and Julie Wetherby on the approval of a new three-year contract with WellWise Services.

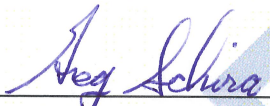
Cynthia Richardson reminded all present to vote, and noted that early voting begins on October 26, 2024, and those who have voted absentee may request to have their ballot spoiled if they want to change their vote.

Bob Harvey suggested establishing a Board subcommittee to review non-federal and/or state supported programs proposed by WellWise Services, and to also include donor fund activity, and add to the Board Meeting agenda for next month.

Brent Leininger shared that he recently read an article about a former police officer who ended his and his wife's life. The wife had suffered from Alzheimer's and the police officer had been her caregiver. Brent noted that the mission of WellWise Services includes helping caregivers live safely and independently, and the national suicide prevention hotline is now 988.

12. Adjournment: The Board Members adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m. after a motion by Tony Bair and support by Bob Harvey, with no one opposed.

**Next Board Meeting: November 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

  
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Greg Schira, Executive Assistant

  
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Julie Wetherby, Board Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_