



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – September 6, 2017**

**Wisconsin State Capitol, Room 328 NW
Madison, Wisconsin**

Mary Jo Baas, Chair

Board Members Present: Mary Jo Baas, Brianna Buch (by phone), Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Katie Mnuk (by phone), Jessie Nicholson, Kim Nickel, Senator Janis Ringhand, and Carrie Richard. Not able to attend: Cindy Block (excused), Jessica Ward. A quorum was present.

Also present: Lynn Gall, WI Department of Health Services; Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; James Macken, Office of Senator Ringhand; Representative Beth Meyers; and Lisa Pugh, The Arc Wisconsin.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.
2. **Board Business**

Approval of the Minutes of March 1, 2017. Text correction provided by Karen Katz. Moved with correction: Karen Katz. Second: Mary Jo Baas. Approved.

Approval of the Minutes of June 7, 2017. Text correction by Karen Katz, noted that Katie Mnuk and Senator Janis Ringhand to be added as present. Moved, with corrections: Karen Katz. Second: Mary Jo Baas. Approved.

It was noted that Michelle Mettner would not be continuing the Women's Council Board due to work and family commitments. Ms. Mettner had noted that she remains a friend and resource for the Council. Ms. Lidbury thanked Michelle Mettner for more than five years of Board service. She highlighted her valuable work in moving forward the Council's agenda and the respect she garnered from fellow Board members. Board members agreed she will be missed and directed Christine to draft correspondence to Ms. Mettner on behalf of the Board.

Christine noted that the Board now had four vacancies, including two Assembly Member seats, one Senate Member seat, and the Governor's Designee (formerly Ms. Mettner). Being down to 11 members, instead of 15, added to the challenges of ensuring a quorum (eight members) for meetings to permit voting on Council work and plans. She thanked Council members for today's excellent turnout and asked members to keep this in mind for future

meetings. Christine indicated she was also working with the office of the Appointing Authorities to fill vacancies.

Christine informed the Women's Council Board and went on the record to extend a "thank you" to the Department of Administration's, Bureau of Financial Management, for the high-quality support and generous access to professional staff in carrying out the agency's financial operations, including accounts payable and budget management. As a one-person office, this assistance is essential to efficient Council operations and ensuring Christine's time and skills are available for program work without being overwhelmed by essential financial management work needed, even for a small agency, as well as the specialized skills needed for the State's STAR system.

The number of followers for the Women's Council Facebook Page grown by one-third in the past year - from 300 to 400 "Likes."

3. Proposed Programs and Activities

a. Caregiver Education and Outreach.

Christine welcomed guest speakers Lynn Gall and Lisa Pugh.

Lynn Gall provided demographic maps of the aging population through 2040. Key points:

- Family caregiving is an emerging public health issue.
- DHS has moved the caregiving bureau into the Department of Public Health
- DHS themes (see speaker's slides)

Issues driving need for caregiving:

- Lack of options for respite care. Very hard to admit someone to a skilled nursing care facility for a short time, especially for dementia care, as there is a lot of paperwork involved and not cost effective for facilities.
- Often do not access public programs because they may not think they are eligible or they must prove poverty. Not true – eligible if age 60 or older, and not means tested.
- Incontinence is often the tipping point to move someone needing care from living at home into nursing home care.
- Some caregivers find them selves in the "club sandwich" position caring for an aging parent or I/DD sibling and their own minor children.
- There is a significant issue around better pre-planning for older parents caring for an adult I/DD child – what happens if the parent dies or has crisis, placement

options are expensive, and family may wish for the individuals to remain in the community rather than institutional placement.

Person-centered planning, have everyone in the same room, has become the best practice and trainings are being organized. There is a day-long future planning training coming up in Stevens Point on November 16th, through The Arc and UIUC. The Arc will continue to look for opportunities to expand training around the state.

Council members asked how the Council might be involved in this work. Lynn Gall suggested the Council would be a good partner for the upcoming caregiver public education and outreach initiative. Lisa Pugh highlighted that they have found community forums are among the best programs for raising discussion, promoting the value of education and training, and raising awareness.

Council members asked what you would get out of a community event such as this?

Share solutions, offer one-stop for information and resources, make face-to-face local connects with other caregiver and support programs already in place. Cross-pollinating by bringing together local employers, community providers, legislators and policy-makers, and families. Have a conversation: “we want to be a community that is more successful in dealing with ...”

The caregiver community is also interested in encouraging the Governor to declare “the year of the caregiver” has a state theme (as he does with an issue annually). They suggested the Council might be influential in promoting this issue with the Governor.

Members asked if the issue is that we need programs or this a public education issues. Do we have programs but there is no money to support the volume of services or things such as respite?

Gall and Pugh suggested that there are programs and even small amounts of money. There is an issue around education and DHS and community partners are planning on a public education program on caregiver supports and services. Also, to educate people taking substantial care of family members that they ARE caregivers – most think of themselves as just doing what is needed for their families and may not like the label of caregiver – as if it is a separate job. If they can think of themselves as both serving their loved one and caregivers they can start to identify how caregiver support programs and resources – most local and most free of charge – are for them.

A Wingspread Conference was held earlier in the year, hosted by The Arc with 30 leading experts, including Wisconsin Department of Health Services, GWAAR and aging and disability communities. Funded by a grant from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with a main goal of creating a statewide caregiver support coalition.

WWC Fall Program of Work

Christine and Lynn reported on the Beloit Caregiver Community Dialogue held July 11, 2017, event materials were circulated (also available on website). The event was hosted by the local senior center, Grinnell House, and had about 25 attendees. There was a lively discussion with the audience and panelists that could have continued beyond the time allotted. A resource table was also very popular.

Prior to the event, the Council sponsored bus ads on caregiving, using the GWAAR/DHS public relations materials and images. In addition to direct outreach to organizations and lists such as the ADRC caregiver support group, Christine worked with a Beloit Daily News reporter to run a story on caregiving and promote the event, and was interviewed on a popular Janesville talk radio program.

Following the panel, Lynn Gall led a listening session asking questions about what types of programs they were accessing and what they would like to have available. More respite care options was the most common remark. ADRC staff noted that the difficulty was not funding, so much as recruiting certifiable respite care providers.

The Beloit program created a successful template, highlighted the value of working with local partners, and provided ideas for improving future programs. Christine suggested working with Lynn Gall to identify DHS priorities for outreach and education, based on the "aging population" map shown earlier.

Christine proposed that the Council partner with DHS on a series of four to six public awareness and listening sessions around the state on caregiver support needs and programs.

So moved, by Karen Katz, with the addition that Christine report back to the Council in December for review and feedback. Karen also noted the success of the Council's Trailblazer partnership to host community meetings and work with local partners around the state, providing valuable outreach for the Council into communities outside of Madison. Second: Katie Mnuk. Approved.

4. Governor's Trailblazer Awards.

The Council hosted the first Trailblazer Alumni "Summer Get-Together" on June 27, 2017 at the County Springs Conference Center in Brookfield, WI. The event had 34 attendees, including 18 Trailblazers and four Council Members (Brianna Buch, Cindy Block, Patty Cadorin, Jessie Nicholson) and former Council Chair Kris Martinsek. In line with the Council's interest in women and caregiving, Katherine Reynolds Lewis, an award-winning independent journalist from Washington, D.C, spoke on: "Getting to win-win: supporting employee caregiving needs without hurting the bottom line. Best Practices from Leading U.S. Companies."

Christine is also planning to survey Trailblazer Alumni on interest and frequency of possible future alumni events. Results will be shared with the Trailblazer Advisory Committee. Council members that wish to see the results should contact Christine.

b. 2018 Awards Schedule

The Governor's Trailblazer Awards for Women in Business are offered every other year and were last offered in 2016. For the 2018 Award program, nominations open in October and run through December 31st. Typically, the program receives 14-18 eligible award nominations. In January and February 2018, nominees will be vetted by the Council and state agencies to ensure they meet the award criteria. They will then be reviewed by the Trailblazer Advisory Committee, which will draft a final list of recommended candidates to submit to the Women's Council for the March 2018 Board meeting. The Council is then asked to discuss and vote on the final list of award recipients.

Christine asked for a motion to proceed with the 2018 Trailblazer Awards and include this activity in the 2017-2018 program of work. So moved: Patty Cadorn; Second: Kim Nickel. Approved.

5. Partnership Activities and events

Christine highlighted the two upcoming events listed on the agenda and invited Council members to attend these events. Contact Christine for additional information.

6. 2017 Budget Recap

The Department of Administration had not completed budget reconciliation for the past fiscal year and the Council had not received the final budget report. For lack of needed information, the discussion was postponed to the next Council meeting.

There were no announcements or public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM. Moved: Kim Nickel; Second: Karen Katz. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury