

**Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of SW Washington
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

September 20, 2023

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office and Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arnie Dyer at 12:03pm.

Roll Call: Colleen Bennett, Pearl Blackburn, Marianne Burkholder, Sue Cameron, Gavin Carmichael, Arnie Dyer, Greg Flakus, Jodi Oliver

Excused: Pat Cano, Diane Craft, Kathy Briggs

Absent: N/A

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnaris, Karen Wolfe, Maggie Ridenour

Guests: Margaret Westervelt – AAADSW, Joe Bosch, Justin Ross (COA Representative)

Agenda: Gavin moved to approve the agenda for today’s meeting; Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes: Gavin moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2023, meeting. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Pearl Blackburn
 - Attended the Cathlamet 60+ Group potluck as well as a “winter potting class”. This group has people who have moved to the area in the last few years and they aren’t connected with the community but who want to get out, meet people and make connections within the community. An attempt is being made for more events to be set up (possibly evening events) in the future.
 - Pearl met with Kelly Patterson who retired from Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services last week. Kelly did connect Pearl to the two people who have replaced her.
 - Kelly reminded Pearl that the Senior Farmers Market vouchers end at the end of the month. However, they have a provider in the county who accepts the vouchers for honey, even when the Farmers Markets end.
- Marianne Burkholder
 - Marianne has been letting the local seniors know about the 60+ Group that is gathering at a local church in Wahkiakum County. Seniors meet to play cards, socialize, have a potluck or do things they can’t really do when they live alone.
- Sue Cameron
 - Nothing to report.

- Gavin Carmichael
 - Gavin reports that things in Klickitat County have been quiet lately.
 - He reports they are still working with their local team that is working to put an assisted living center in Klickitat County. The project is still on hold and losing traction but they are trying to regroup on how to get the funding for the project. They are in fear they will lose their Department of Agriculture funding and others because they didn't get the money from the State. He says the project is still in a holding pattern but people aren't giving up yet.
- Arnie Dyer
 - Discussed the upcoming Habitat for Humanity Raising the Roof Benefit Breakfast on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Sign up on the Habitat for Humanity website.
- Greg Flakus
 - Discussed the upcoming St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk/fundraiser on Sunday, September 24, 2023.
 - FISH of Vancouver is continuing to expand their prepackaged Friday food box delivery to senior centers. They are up to about 5 centers that they are delivering to. The program is thanks to a private donor who donated the van.
- Jodi Oliver
 - Nothing to report.

Guests:

- Joe Bosch
 - Nothing to report.
- Justin Ross, Clark Commission on Aging
 - Nothing to report.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike welcomed everyone and thanked our guests for joining us.

- High School Home Care Aide Program Updates
 - Mike reported being in touch with the superintendents of Wahkiakum, Skamania and Klickitat counties as well as the Director of Career and Technical Education in Kelso, Longview and Cascadia Tech in Clark County about the possibility of having a Home Care Aide training programs.
 - Progress is being made in Wahkiakum County and a follow up meeting is scheduled.
 - Klickitat and Skamania Counties had meetings scheduled with Mike but had to be canceled and they are working to reschedule.
 - Mike has had some challenges with getting a meeting scheduled in Longview.
 - Kelso School District has a really good program that trains students to be Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) as opposed to Home Care Aides and Mike is working on meeting with the person who runs that program as well as the contact at the State to see if there is some alignment to possibly get something going in Kelso.
 - Mike is still trying to reach out to contacts in Castle Rock and Toutle Lake.
 - Mike asked the State to consider allowing virtual classes for smaller communities that can't afford to implement a program like this. This is being considered.
 - Mike is reassured by the movement in this even though it is slow.
- W4A
 - Mike discussed the 2024 Legislative Priorities (more to come in October)
 - Short session (60 days); revenue forecast remains optimistic.
 - Funding for Senior Hunger Nutrition

- Working with senior nutrition and anti-hunger coalitions/providers (NW Harvest, WASNAP and other coalitions) across the state to gather data and determine amount (Fall Conference).
 - W4A is asking the legislature for \$3.2 million to help lower the caseload size for individual's without caregivers (The goal is to get caseloads to 1 caseworker to 55 clients).
 - Personal Needs Allowance impact on MAC/TSOA programs
 - MAC/TSOA was launched in 2017 as a demonstration project.
 - There was a decline in MAC/TSOA in the last year.
 - What is believed to have partially caused the decrease in the MAC/TSOA programs is that the Personal Needs Allowance has been about doubled for those on Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports. We believe we are seeing this change now as some of the people in the MAC/TSOA programs are now eligible for more robust services under Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports.
- Other
- Government shutdown possible
 - The Government shutdown would impact federal funding coming into the agency.
 - AAADSW will continue to serve our clients and honor our financial commitments to our contractors.
 - AAADSW will continue to maintain staffing, no layoffs or furloughs expected.
 - The last Government shutdown was in 2018 and lasted for 34 days.
 - W4A has been working with the State on recommendations for updates for the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization in 2024. Some of the recommendations are:
 - Greater spending and program flexibilities in nutrition services.
 - Title III C1 congregate meals funding to be used for limited "shelf-stable, pick-up, carry-Out, drive-through and other similar meals."
 - Added language gives states and AAA's flexibility to create additional factors for greatest economic need.
 - Greatest economic need, as used in this part, means the need resulting from an income level at or below the Federal Poverty line. The suggestion is to add "and as further defined by State and area plans based on local and individual factors, including geography and expenses."
 - Expanded language regarding State Plans: state plan to include "evidence that the State plan is informed by and based on area plans."
 - Setting minimum allocation percentages for access services

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on September 5, 2023, and drafted the agenda for today.

Planning and Allocations: Recessed - meeting quarterly only.

Advocacy and Outreach: Recessed until - meeting quarterly only.

Membership Committee: Met on Wednesday, September 20, 2023

- Discussed Advisory Council vacancies. Talked about having no representation in Skamania County and low representation for Klickitat and Cowlitz Counties.
- The committee would like to know if it is possible to meet with larger service organizations in each county to make a presentation in hopes of getting more Advisory Council applicants.
 - Gavin said that he would be willing to help lead a presentation in Klickitat County.
 - Mike and Christina said that it is possible. Christina had suggestions for a couple contacts for some of the counties.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): No updates from Gavin for SCOA.

Presentations:

- Getting to Know You: Margaret Westervelt, Clark County Community Services Case Management Supervisor
 - The goal of the Community Services Case Management team is to help people stay in their homes whether they have an informal caregiver or they are an individual with no informal supports.
 - Margaret gave a general overview of the program and examples of the case management services offered.
 - Some of the examples of services that may be offered are:
 - Nutritional supports
 - Personal care supplies
 - Respite
 - Counseling
 - In-home care
 - Support groups
 - Family Caregiver Education
 - Greg Flakus asked Margaret approximately how many contacts the team has monthly. Margaret estimated 50 – 75 new contacts per month for case management.
 - Arnie Dyer asked Margaret about how long it takes for a person to get a caregiver once they have been approved. Margaret stated that there are 3-4 caregiving agencies in Clark County that are reporting no wait times in the urban areas. However, the wait time is still 6 – 12 months for rural areas due to lack of staffing in that area.

- Presenting Area Plan Draft: Christina Manneris
 - The Area Plan draft will be posted to the agency website (www.helpingelders.org) by the end of business on Friday, September 20, 2023.

 - In addition to feedback from the Advisory Council, public, and community partners, AAADSW staff also reviews a wide range of reports and data to include:
 - AARP Caregiving in the US
 - Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act Initial Report to Congress
 - Clark County Community Needs Assessment
 - Clark County Commission on Aging Readiness Plan and 2022 Annual Report
 - PeaceHealth, Kaiser Permanente and Providence Community Health Needs Assessment
 - Age Friendly Public Health Systems
 - Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative

 - There were a total of 299 client surveys completed.

 - Responses were received from all 5 counties. The majority of survey respondents lived in Clark or Cowlitz Counties (73%).

 - County breakdowns of responses:
 - Clark – 37% (112)
 - Cowlitz – 36% (110)
 - Wahkiakum – 8% (25)
 - Klickitat – 10% (30)
 - Skamania – 9% (26)

 - Issue Areas included in the Area Plan
 - Healthy Aging
 - Programs designed to improve the health and well-being and reduce disease and injury in older adults. Evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion

programs reduce the need for more costly medical interventions. Include efforts to develop dementia-friendly communities as appropriate. Services include:

- Dementia supports and dementia friendly communities
 - Evidence-based health promotion programs
 - Nutrition
 - Transportation
 - Advocacy
 - Equity, diversity, inclusion
- Expanding and strengthening services and supports that prevent or delay entry into Medicaid funded long-term services and supports (LTSS).
 - Supports that prevent or delay entry into Medicaid funded LTSS are tailored to community strengths and promote an interdependence of natural supports and paid services. AAADSW will address family caregiver support and person-centered counseling that empowers people to make informed choices about their care. Include efforts to support hospital to home care transitions as appropriate. Aging and Disability Resource Centers
 - Information and Assistance
 - Family and Kinship Caregiver Support Programs
 - Evidence-based caregiver programs
 - Medicaid Alternative Care
 - Tailored Supports for Older Adults
 - Advanced planning, guardianship, protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation
 - Advocacy
 - Person-centered home and community-based services
 - Person-centered home and community-based systems are designed to allocate resources and provide the necessary supports and coordination to be responsible to the person-centered needs and choices of older adults and people with disabilities in ways that maximize their independence and ability to engage in self-direction of their services and achieve a more consistent and coordinated approach to the administration of policies and procedures across public programs.
 - Case Management (Medicaid and Community Services)
 - Health homes
 - Person-centered counseling/Options counseling
 - Personal in-home care services
 - 7.01 Planning with Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations
 - AAADSW partners with Tribes to develop a formal plan that outlines its coordination with individual tribes within our PSA.
 - COVID-19 Response Services and Supports
 - Washing State was the United States epicenter of the pandemic in January 2020 and on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a trusted local community resource, AAADSW and its network of care anticipated needs in the community and responded by pivoting crucial services to maintain compliance with the Major Disaster Declaration orders while engaging the local community with new services and supports to meet needs such as food scarcity and social isolation.
- Mike discussed the proposed budget for the 2024 Area Plan.
 - The proposed budget is broken down into 4 funding categories.
 - Federal Contracts (Older Americans Act-OAA primarily funding)

- State/Federal Contracts (Title XIX/Case Management Program/American Rescue Plan Funding)
- State Contracts
- Other Sources: Non-Governmental
 - Multi-Services Center – Ombudsman
 - University of Washington – GWEC
 - Health Home – Care Coordination
 - Office of Insurance Commissioner – SHIBA/MIPPA
 - Donations/Program Income/Interest
 - Internal Funds

- Appoint Nomination Committee: Arnie Dyer discussed the committee stating that per the bylaws the chair has the responsibility to appoint people to the committee or open it up for volunteers.
 - Arnie asked for 3 volunteers to be on the nominating committee to move forward the candidates for the Executive Committee for 2024.
 - Greg Flakus volunteered
 - Arnie said he would call and speak to the other Advisory Council members.
 - Christina explained that the nominating committee contacts members of the Advisory Council to inquire about their interest in being an Advisory Council officer next year.
 - The officer positions are:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
 - The work for the Nomination Committee will primarily be done in October for the candidates to be brought forward at the November meeting.
- Update on Virtual Statewide Advisory Council Meeting and Senior Citizen’s Fall Conference: Christina Marnieris
 - Fall Senior Conference hosted by Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, will be held virtually from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.
 - Advisory Council members may attend in person at the Vancouver office in the Columbia Conference Room (lunch will be provided) or virtually from their home/office.
 - Please let Maggie Ridenour know if you will be attending.
 - Fall Senior Conference hosted by the Washington State Senior Citizens Foundation on Thursday, October 19, 2023, will be held virtually from 9:00AM – 4:00PM.
 - Advisory Council members may attend virtually from their home/office.
 - *Registration is required. Please register with Maggie Ridenour no later than Thursday, October 12, 2023.*
 - An email will be sent with more details as we get them.

Good of the order:

- Nothing to add.

Public Comment:

- No public comments

Membership Vote:

- Vote on current AC Clark County vacancy.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37pm.

Signature  Date December 13, 2023

REMINDER: No October 2023 Advisory Council Meeting due to the Senior Citizen's Fall Conference. The Fall Conference can be viewed at AAADSW's Vancouver office and via Zoom.

