

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024

**Location:** Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Gavin Carmichael at 12:01pm.*

**Roll Call:** Shelley Baxter, Colleen Bennett, Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar

**Excused:** Jodi Oliver

**Absent:** N/A

**Staff present:** Mike Reardon, Christina Marneris, Patti Atkins, Maggie Ridenour

**Guests:** Norma Pickett

**April 17, 2024, Meeting Agenda:** Greg Flakus moved to approve the agenda. Pat Cano seconded. Motion passed.

**March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Greg Flakus moved to approve the minutes. Kathy Biggs seconded. Motion passed.

### **Announcements/Community Outlook:**

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
  - Klickitat County legislative district has been redistricted.
    - Part of Klickitat County is in the same district as Skamania County.
    - This is the first time the county has been split legislatively.
    - This now creates 2 groups of legislators to advocate for in Klickitat County.
  - Shelley shared information about the Pathfinder 2 study for early cancer detection.
    - <https://www.onecommunityhealth.org/news/2023-join-the-pathfinder-2-study>
    - <https://www.ohsu.edu/knight-cancer-institute/join-pathfinder-2-study-find-cancer-early>
  - Shelley also shared that Goldendale is having a Home and Garden Show May 3, 2024 – May 5, 2024 and thought that it might be a good place to share information and resources about AAADSW.
    - More about the Home and Garden Show can be found here:  
<https://members.goldendalechamber.org/chamber-calendar/Details/2024-goldendale-home-garden-show-937531?sourceTypeld=Website>
    - Norma with KCSS did share that they will not have a booth at the Home and Garden Show this year.
  
- Colleen Bennett (Cowlitz): Nothing new to report.

- Joe Bosch (Clark):
  - Will have a table at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Art Fair in La Center. Joe inquired about providing resources for AAADSW as well as having give away items to hand out (Christina will follow up with Joe to provide him with items).
    - More information about the La Center Art Fair can be found here: <https://allevents.in/la%20center/la-center-arts-fair/200026161477211>
    - Or, you can visit the Facebook page for the La Center Art Fair here: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1616959552472988/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/1616959552472988/?active_tab=discussion)
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
  - Kathy is continuing to help work on getting an additional Wahkiakum County Advisory Council member.
    - Kathy reports that she does have someone who may be interested in joining and she will let us know more when she knows more.
  - Kathy and Marianne will be attending the Cowlitz County Senior Prom to get an idea of how they do things in the hopes that they can help get some ideas for the Wahkiakum County Senior Prom that will be held this summer.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
  - Weekly Senior's Friendship Group continues to meet every Wednesday at the church in Cathlamet. Marianne reports that this group is not only going strong, but it is growing.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
  - Has been in contact with the City of Vancouver and Clark County planning staff on the housing elements in their comprehensive plans.
    - Kevin was able to impress upon them the importance of including mobile home parks in their comprehensive plans and what can be done to preserve the existence of the parks and the affordability.
    - June 2024 the City of Vancouver will be having hearings about their comprehensive plan and Kevin has requested that the Advisory Council members and AAADSW staff be provided information about the issues ahead of time.
    - Kevin said he had a good response from Clark County and the City of Vancouver and there is a willingness to continue to work on the issues surrounding mobile home parks.
    - Kevin will bring information back to the May 2024 Advisory Council meeting discussing how the Advisory Council members can get involved and help with this issue.
- Sue Cameron (Clark):
  - Sue shared a couple good personal and family updates.
- Pat Cano (Clark):
  - Pat shared the Washougal Senior Center has a gardening center with a community garden again this year. They have garden boxes available that are free as well as a community garden manual.
    - For more information about the gardening center you can call 360-835-8113.
  - Washougal is also still working on securing finances for the library.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat): Nothing new to report
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz): Nothing new to report.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
  - Greg shared an issue he is passionate about is hunger issues. He reports that food pantries are seeing a large increase in seniors receiving food boxes.
    - He reports one of the reasons for the increase in the food box requests from seniors is that SNAP benefits have been reduced.

- Greg reports that at some of the larger food pantries in Clark County they are trying to work on ways to provide two boxes for the seniors as opposed to one box.
  - Greg shared many staples (meat, cheese, eggs, etc.) for the food boxes are tightly regulated by the state regarding how much can be provided to each person receiving a box.
  - Greg advise currently the supply level for food boxes is okay with the exception of the staples that everyone really wants.
  - Greg said one reason for the decrease in supply for things like meats is that markets are reducing prices to try and sell the products at a lower price to at least get something for them as opposed to donating them to shelters.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
- Mary is trying to help find more seniors in Skamania County who can represent the county on the AAADSW Advisory Council. She currently has at least one person who is interested.
  - Mary reports that she is still advocating for funding to support Skamania County Senior Services funding their cook full time instead of 32 hours a week.
  - Mary voiced concerns about Skamania County no longer being designated a “very rural” county based on census data. This has caused a loss of available resources for Skamania County.
  - The Columbia Gorge News (<https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/>) is seeking stories from older adults living in the Columbia River Gorge for their “Through the Eyes of An Elder” column.

### **Guests:**

- Norma Pickett (Skamania): Introduced herself and voiced her interest in joining the Advisory Council.

### **Reports:**

**Executive Director’s Report:** Mike thanked everyone for sharing what is going on in their local communities and sharing ideas with each other on possible solutions. He appreciates the collaboration.

➤ High School Home Care Aide Program:

- Meeting with Vickei Hrdina, Executive Director Career Connect SW WA – Career Readiness & STEM Initiatives, Rural Cooperative
  - <https://www.careerconnectsw.org/>
- Educational Service District hires the instructor.
- Hybrid model (virtual and in-person) classes are being considered.
- High schools with less than 50 students in communities as far away as Naselle, Grays River, Wahkiakum, Toutle, all the way to Klickitat and Skamania would be eligible.
- Submit budget in the fall (\$57K - \$60K) to offer class in Spring 2025. The budget would be for instructors, books, transportation, etc. that will be needed to run the classes.
  - Students who complete the course would come out with a High School Home Care Aide certificate that could help them get jobs as caregivers with home care agencies.
- Vickei has been invited to the May 2024 Advisory Council meeting to speak more about the program.

➤ W4A:

- ALTSA’s initial Decision Packages
  - Senior Nutrition
    - \$15M for general senior nutrition
    - Increase rate for Medicaid HDM
  - Funding to lower caseloads down to 1 case manager to 65 clients.

➤ Other:

- Klickitat County – changes to Legislative District 15 boundaries and surrounding Legislative Districts.
  - No current state elected official resides in Legislative District 14.

- Transitional Care Program
  - This program is a contract AAADSW has with Clark Cowlitz Fire and Rescue to help individuals who are transitioning out of the hospital to have a successful transition home and not re-enter the hospital.
  - Clark Cowlitz Fire and Rescue reported that in 2023 they had 85 unduplicated clients who were served through this contract and 82% of those clients served did not readmit to the hospital within 30 days.
    - 30 days is the traditional benchmark that is looked at.

**Executive Committee:**

- Gavin reported that the Executive Committee met on 4/2/24 and drafted the agenda for today.

**Planning and Allocations:** did not meet in April.

**Advocacy and Outreach:** did not meet in April.

**Membership Committee:**

- The application for Norma Pickett has been accepted and we will be voting on the application today.
- Membership vacancies:
  - 1 vacancy in Cowlitz County
  - 1 vacancy in Klickitat County
  - 2 vacancies in Skamania County
    - If Norma is voted onto the Advisory Council Skamania County will have only 1 vacancy remaining.
  - 1 vacancy in Wahkiakum County
  - No vacancies in Clark County

**State Council on Aging (SCOA):** Gavin forwarded Christina reports shared at the most recent SCOA meeting to forward to the Advisory Council members.

**Presentations:**

- In the interest of time, Christina tabled her presentation on Comprehensive Plans until the May 2024 meeting.

**General Topics Discussed:**

- Committee Chair Updates:
  - Advocacy & Outreach: Kathy Briggs
  - Membership: Pat Cano
  - Planning & Allocations: Gavin Carmichael
- Potential bylaws change:
  - Executive Committee has suggested that some of our committees should be combined. Due to some of the overlapping of topics covered in the committees it may be more effective to combine 2 of them.
    - Mike and Christina will review policy and procedures to determine if there is capacity to amend the bylaws to combine committees and inform the Advisory Council.

- Guest Speakers:
  - Advisory Council members requested a presentation from WA Cares staff.
  - Council members may continue to suggest speakers at meetings.

**Membership Vote:**

- Vote on current Advisory Council Skamania County applicant.
- Ballots were sent and Christina will follow up with final tallies.

**Public Comment:**

- No additional public comments.

*Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm.*

Signature



Date

5/15/24