

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2024**

**Location:** Longview AAADSW Office – Coweeman Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Secretary Marianne Burkholder at 12:12pm (late start due to technical difficulties).*

**Roll Call:** Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Pat Cano, Greg Flakus, Norma Pickett, Mary Repar

**Excused:** Shelley Baxter, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Jodi Oliver

**Absent:** Sue Cameron

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

**Guests:** Ali Lafontaine (WA CARES), Andrea Meewes Sanchez (WA CARES), Justin Ross (Clark County Commission on Aging), Rosalinde Wilson

**June 26, 2024, Meeting Agenda:** Greg Flakus moved to approve the agenda. Kathy Briggs seconded. Motion passed.

**May 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Kathy Briggs moved to approve the minutes. Kevin Callahan seconded. Motion passed.

**Announcements/Community Outlook:**

- Joe Bosch (Clark):
  - Went to a meeting recently in Woodland with a group of seniors who are looking to start a senior services group in Woodland. He provided information about AAADSW.
  - The Art Fair in LaCenter was a success and generated interest from about 35 seniors looking to get together and start a seniors group there.
  
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
  - Senior Prom is going to be held August 24, 2024 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm at the Hope Center in Cathlamet.
    - Money is not readily available at this time so they will be doing fund raising and possibly charging a \$5.00 fee at the door. More to come on the money side of things.
    - Mary Repar suggested that they request a donation from the Lions Club if there is one in Wahkiakum County.
  - Julia Johnson from Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services is working on a grant for transportation for the local seniors and people with disabilities to travel within the county to get to things like shopping.
  - Wahkiakum County School Superintendent has retired. A temporary Superintendent is being put in place until a permanent one can be voted in (about 1 year).
    - Kathy will follow up with Mike to provide the name of the temporary superintendent.

- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum): No additional information to add.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
  - Kevin was invited to attend a meeting around housing issues with Terri Niles who is running to represent Legislative District 17 (East Clark County and Skamania County). Kevin found it interesting that there was a lot of discussion around manufactured home parks and rent increases as well as how do residents know if their concerns are being addressed or not when they are reported to management. Kevin was pleased to see that there is interest in the issues surrounding manufactured home parks.
- Pat Cano (Clark):
  - Pat has been volunteering to help some of her friends who are low income, minority seniors with filling out forms to get assistance from public agencies like HUD. She is assisting with translating the forms as English is not their primary language and the forms are difficult to understand.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
  - PeaceHealth in Vancouver is holding an Open House for the new Emergency Services Building 4:00pm – 8:00pm Friday, June 28,2024.
  - Greg is working with Representative Sharon Wylie on legislation to tighten up the notifications that hospitals have to give to patients &/or caregivers in regarding the discharge rights of patients.
    - Medicare has a “patient hold right” that can be signed by the caregiver saying they don’t want the patient discharged from the hospital yet. However, this is not clearly posted at hospitals nor is the information provided on a regular basis so many caregivers aren’t aware of it and patients get discharged to soon.
- Norma Pickett (Skamania): Nothing new to report.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
  - Skamania County is still seeking funds for a cook at the senior center.
    - County Commissioners have asked that Skamania County Senior Services put the need in a request for the budget for consideration.
  - Mary states that she is hearing a need in the community surrounding education on what AAADSW can help with.
    - Christina will follow up with Mary offline to discuss AAADSW’s relationship with Skamania County Senior Services and what the process is for people to be sure they get the right directions to get the education they need. AAADSW wants to be sure we are clear on what the questions are to be sure that the audience is getting the information they need.

## **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 advocacy and the commitment to seniors and the disabled in your communities.

- AAA Staff Development Workshop in Leavenworth WA:
  - What are AAA’s doing on the front of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
  - Several AAADSW staff member served as subject matter experts/panelists on a variety of topics.
  - Mike shared that he is very proud of AAADSW staff for being leaders in their respective areas of expertise.
- High School Home Care Aide Program:
  - Mike will follow up with Cascadia Tech (Clark County) to see if they are able to work towards adding a program for High School Home Care Aide Program.
  - Spring 2025 is still being considered by the Rural Co-op through ESD 112 for launch date.

- State of WA Aging and Long Term Services Administration (ALTSA):
  - ALTSA is piloting a Remote Caregiving program.
    - AAADSW will be participating in the 6-month pilot with 5 other AAA's.
      - Start date TBD
    - Helps to mitigate the lack of in home care workers and may help to keep some of the older or more experienced in home care workers in the field a bit longer.
    - Only one homecare agency will be involved in the pilot (Catholic Community Services)
    - Similar to telehealth.
    - Remote caregiving is defined as “the delivery of personal care services using remote caregiving assistance for a direct care worker that don’t require hands-on assistance, stand-by assistance, and/or physical set up.”
    - Instead of a home care agency sending a caregiver into the home to do a particular task, the pilot program will have a device in the care receivers’ home to connect to a caregiver at the agency to help with care tasks such as
      - reminders and queuing for things like:
        - Taking medications
        - Getting up and moving
        - Using the restroom
        - Eating
- AAADSW was nominated for a Clark County Senior Heroes Michael R. Wilson Caring Heart award.
  - Recognition event is July 18, 2024.
  - AAADSW was nominated because of our work of supporting local organizations through our Area Plan Grants project.
- 2024 Gerontological Society of American Conference
  - AAADSW was part of a collaboration with Vancouver Clinic and Washington State University. This project will be presented at the 2024 Gerontological Society of American conference in Seattle later this year.
  - Breanne Swanson led this effort on behalf of AAADSW and will take part in the presentation.

**Executive Committee:**

- Executive Committee met on 6/4/24 and drafted the agenda for today.

**Membership/Planning and Allocations:** Did not meet in June.

**Advocacy and Outreach:** Did not meet in June.

**State Council on Aging (SCOA):** No report.

**Presentations:**

- WA Cares Overview (Andrea Meewes Sanchez and Ali Lafontaine):
  - Presentation about WA Cares Fund Program – Please see attached Slide Deck and Talking Points about the WA Cares Fund.
  - Greg asked: Is this program employee funded only or does the employer also contribute?
    - Andrea replied: This program is employee funded only.
  - Greg asked: Is there a maximum cap for the contribution amount or does everyone pay in at the same rate no matter how much they make?
    - Andrea replied: There is not a cap for the contribution amount. All employees pay in at the same rate.
  - Kathy asked: Can a retiree “opt in” to this program and start making premium payments?
    - Andrea replied: WA Cares currently doesn’t have authority in the statute to allow retirees to “opt in” and make payments. It is an area that can be considered by the commission in the future if it is an area that people want to explore.

- Greg asked: Are there other states that have voted to have this as a required benefit as an “opt in” or is WA the only state?
  - Andrea replied: Washington is the first state in the nation to implement and make this a law that puts this as a public insurance benefit. There are other countries who have something similar.
- Kevin asked: Has there been any polling to get an idea about how people feel about WA Cares and if people are supportive of it?
  - Andrea replied: WA Cares as a state agency can’t get into the political aspect of the initiative. There have been reports that the stake holders have been polling and at this point things are about 50/50.
- Mike asked: What was the thought process behind the \$36,500 benefit payout total?
  - Andrea replied: Her understanding is that it came from the actuarial analysis of what would be considered a premium to keep this affordable.
- Greg asked: When this goes into effect in 2026 will the private caregiving agencies or family caregivers have to apply through another agency to get approval to collect payments through this fund?
  - Andrea replied: WA Cares law created a new requirement that caregivers be registered with WA Cares. Homecare agencies will have to come through WA Cares, who is partnering with the AAA (Area Agencies on Aging), to meet minimum requirements before being able to be contracted to be paid through WA Cares. As of right now the commission is in the middle of working on what the minimum qualifications should be. They are leaning towards more than just a license or certificate but also possibly experience too. They will also have a way for family members to become caregivers.
- Mike asked: Is it anticipated that the threshold for requirements to be a caregiver to be lower than the current threshold through homecare agencies?
  - Andrea replied: Yes, but they are still working on requirements.

➤ Update on Mobile Home Park Initiative (Kevin Callahan and Christina Marnieris):

- The Advisory Council Executive Committee asked that a step back be taken to look at the perspectives and concerns of all parties involved when we are talking about manufactured home parks and what happens when they come up for sale or will potentially come up for sale.
  - Currently AAADSW is involved in advocacy for residents.
  - Executive Committee would also like us to learn more about the perspective of park owners.
  - One approach taken to expand our knowledge had been to review Senate Bill 5198.
    - Came into effect at the end of 2023.
    - Senate Bill 5198 had proposals that provided protection for the residents.
      - Christina has pulled together highlights of the testimony portion of the Senate Bill into more of a one-page document that she will email to the full Advisory Council.
- Kevin and Christina met with a representative from the Northwest Cooperative Development Center
  - Northwest Cooperative Development Center is a non-profit that assists manufactured home park residents in becoming park owners through a cooperative process.
  - It was indicated that manufactured home park residents are more successful in getting park owners to listen and work with them when they have one representative or point of contact as opposed to having all the residents approach them.
  - Three things were identified that local communities could do that could help with offering them protections:
    - Put in place zoning regulations that identify the properties as manufactured home parks.
    - Work with local governments to find a way to indicate that this is a way of preventing future homelessness.
    - Education process for property owners and residents understanding what a successful transition would look like.

**General Topics Discussed:**

- No additional topics.

**Membership Vote:**

- No new members to vote on at this meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- No additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.

Signature

Date 21  
on  
21 Aug 24

