



COG Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2024

Members present: Commissioner Mahar

Members present by phone/Zoom: Commissioner Mortensen, Commissioner Zoller, Commissioner Cothren

Members absent:

Members Excused: Councilor Marshall

Alternates present:

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Claire Steiner, Karen Wolfe, Lois Chauncey

Advisory Council member present: none

Visitors present: Staff members Jennifer Allinger, Maggie Ridenour, Carrie Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Commissioner Mahar.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Agenda Review: Mike requested that the Executive Session be stricken from the agenda. Information will be shared during the ED's report. **Commissioner Cothren moved and Commissioner Zoller Lori seconded to remove the Executive Session from today's agenda. Motion passed.**

2. Review of Minutes: **Commissioner Mortensen moved to approve the May 31, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Cothren seconded the motion. Karen noted she made one grammar edit to the minutes prior to today's meeting. Motion carried.**

3. Public Comment (3-minute limit): none

4. Anniversary Recognition. Mike recognized Carrie Johnson, Medicaid Case Management Supervisor for her five-year anniversary. Carrie reported she was previously a Medicaid Case Manager and has been a supervisor for five months. She is very appreciative of the opportunities the Agency provides. Mike thanked Carrie for her service.

Mike recognized the five-year anniversary of Nicole Laliberte, Community Services Case Manager, who could not attend today.

Mike recognized the ten-year anniversary of Jennifer Allinger, Medicaid Case Manager in Skamania County. Jennifer thanked the COG for the recognition. She appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to another ten years.

Mike recognized the ten-year anniversary of Rhonda Jones, Medicaid Case Manager, who was not able to attend today's meeting. She emailed remarks to Karen included herein: "Please let the COG

know how much I appreciate this recognition. I enjoy working at AAADSW and plan on retiring from here in a few years.”

Mike recognized the ten-year anniversary of Ruth Taylor, Senior Medicaid Case Management Supervisor, who could not attend today’s meeting.

Mike recognized Maggie Ridenour, Community Services Program Aide for her ten-year anniversary. Maggie thanked the COG for the recognition and feels she has found a home at AAADSW.

5. Director’s report:

W4a is working on legislative priorities for the 2025 session. Priority is funding for Senior Nutrition services.

Mike updated the COG on the Remote Caregiving Pilot for Medicaid clients – we have decided to join the pilot, and will be one of 5 or 6 AAAs in the pilot. We are ready to accept clients for the pilot.

Auditing is in full swing. State Auditor’s office is working on our 2023 Audit. The entrance interview is at 11 a.m. on Monday July 29th. ALTSA audit of TXIX and MAC/TSOA programs was also recently conducted. The Medicaid program had 2 small items to remediate, while the MAC/TSOA had no items to remediate. Mike states the programs are doing a great job following the rules and implementing the programs as intended.

Preliminary union contract negotiations are underway with case managers and ADR specialists. Salary and telework are their priority issues. We continue to hear from employees wishing to telecommute 3 days per week. Mike did a salary comparison with the HCS SSS3s effective July 1. Previously we were very close in salary, but our employee contribution to benefits was lower. With recent pay rises at the State we are now \$400-\$525 /month behind on salaries. Mike notes the review with Lois will also take into account the compression of passing salary increases to other staff.

Longview office – the architect has renderings and we are meeting with him and the real estate agent next Monday July 29th. We hope to then begin lease negotiations.

Mike updated the COG on the WSU/Vancouver Clinic research project on Social Determinants of Health Screening for Medicare beneficiaries.

Mike updated the COG on other recent AAADSW events and business.

Commissioner Mortensen asked about the remote caregiving pilot. He is concerned that seniors have difficulty getting to doctor appointments and our transportation service is lacking. Cowlitz County relies on the Cowlitz Tribe for transportation services but they are unable meet the demand. Public transportation is very expensive for the taxpayers to support and doesn’t pick up riders at their doors. He would like to see us provide more assistance in this area of need. Christina Marnaris noted our Cowlitz transportation is contracted with CAP; she will take the concerns about public transportation to explore more options by way of pilot programs. Commissioner Mortensen mentioned that means testing may not be that efficient. Commissioner Zoller will reach out to Commissioner Mortensen to share relevant details of the Klickitat County transportation program.

Contracts – new one-year revenue contract around WACares to develop & expand the provider network.

Communications – Patti Atkins contributed an article about the benefits of volunteering and also highlighting the work of past AAADSW Advisory Council chair Arnie Dyer.

Mike welcomed and introduced Lois Chauncey, AAADSW's new Human Resources Manager. Lois introduced herself. She has over 25 years in HR in a leadership role. She considers herself a Functional Generalist rather than specializing in one particular area. She previously conducted Talent acquisition at one organization. Industries she has worked in include Communications, Health Care, Telecom, Tech, Public Utilities and Construction. Her mother has dementia and Lois was looking for resources for her mom and family caregivers, so finding this opportunity strikes close to home. Working with staff with disabilities is close to her heart as well. Lois is originally from Florida and relocated to Oregon about 5 years ago to be close to her granddaughter.

6. Advisory Council: Christina reported on the June Advisory Council meeting. The agenda included a presentation from WACares from the program staff. Followed up on advocacy issue around mobile home parks.

7. Review of Financials. Claire reviewed the May and June 2024 expenditures of \$2,400,377 and \$2,906,393 respectively. Mike noted that June was quite a bit higher than May, about \$500k due to operating expenses related to wages and vacation payout due to turnover. Also related to two PERS payments in June.

Commissioner Mortensen moved to approve the May and June 2024 expenditures of \$2,400,377 and \$2,906,393 respectively. Commissioners Cothren and Zoller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claire reviewed the April 2024 financial statement and balance sheet. Strong balance sheet position; more cash available than total liabilities. Target budget is on track. Smaller than normal net surplus for April due to the Older Americans Act (OAA) contract; budget was operating on 80% for April and May so we used more Fund Balance than previously. Expects to see our net income increase with July State budget cycle. \$302K of Fund Balance was used, about \$228k more than in 2023.

Claire reviewed the May 2024 financial statement and balance sheet. Net deficit for May relates to exceeding the 80% budget for the OAA contract; by the end of May we had exceeded those budget line items and used \$386K in Fund Balance, about \$250K more than in 2023. Expects the June numbers to improve with the new state budget year.

Claire reviewed the May 2024 dashboard. Net income excess over expenditures: deficit in May as previously reported. Commissioner Mahar asked if July expenditures already show the improvement. Claire affirmed that the picture looks better in July. Commissioner Mahar asked if this chart could add a YTD column. Claire will add that to the next dashboard. Caseloads by type: Care Coordination is pretty flat. Medicaid and Community Services have grown. Christina attributes the growth in Community Services to increased outreach. YTD expenditures by type: 2/3 of our expenditures are attributed to wages and related expenses. 12 month rolling cash payments – again showing the large portion related to wages and related expenses.

8. Resolution # 2024-3, Bank Account updates. Claire explained the updates to the bank accounts to add Lois Chauncey as a check signer on the US Bank accounts.

Commissioners Cothren and Mortensen moved to approve Resolution # 2024-3, Bank Account updates to add Lois Chauncey as a check signer. Commissioner Zoller seconded. Motion carried.

9. Good of the order. None

10. Adjourn. There being no further business, **Commissioner Cothren moved, and Commissioner Zoller seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:59p.m.