

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2024**

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Conference Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Gavin Carmichael at **12:03PM**.*

Roll Call: Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar

Excused: Shelley Baxter, Joe Bosch, Sue Cameron and Apryl Schneider

Absent: N/A

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnieris and Patti Atkins

Guest: Susan Petries

December 18, 2024, Meeting Agenda: Greg Flakus moved to approve the agenda. Kevin Callahan seconded. Motion passed.

November 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Kevin Callahan moved to approve the minutes. Diane Craft seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum): Nothing new to report.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
 - Marianne reported that she continues to recruit for the Wahkiakum County Advisory Council opening. She will meet with another prospective applicant after the New Year to share information about Advisory Council membership.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
 - Kevin shared an NPR report about United Healthcare using artificial intelligence (AI) to help determine how long people need to remain under care.
 - The report mentions that even though recommendations are reviewed by outside medical professionals, case managers are told they can only deviate from the AI generated recommendation by 1% to keep their financial incentives.
 - The report suggests that because healthcare organizations are profit oriented, their method of analysis tends to look more towards “how can we save money” rather than what is in the best interests of patients.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat):
 - Gavin offered positive feedback about the AAADSW All Staff Meeting he attended and spoke at on behalf of the Advisory Council.
 - Gavin, Greg and Kevin are taking a site tour of a new waterfront assisted living facility in Vancouver.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Chasity from AAADSW helped lead a Dementia Friends presentation at Koelsch in Longview.
 - Diane was grateful for the presentation said it provided good information.

- She will be reaching out to Chasity to see if there is a way to tailor it more towards the business community. For example, if it is presented to a bank, how could a teller better interact with someone who has dementia.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
 - Greg shared that he is getting ready for the January 2025 legislative session.
 - Greg's interest is in limiting the increased involvement private equity buying medical facilities and pharmaceutical companies and keeping things as affordable as possible.
 - Greg also reported that he was able to help with "Santa's Posse" through the Clark County Sheriff's Office.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Mary expressed that she is in agreement with Greg about the need to change the for-profit healthcare model.
 - Mary reported Skamania County Senior Services is losing their director as she will be moving out of state.
 - Mary is interested in seeing if the directors of senior service agencies in AAADSW's region (such as Skamania County Senior Services) would be able to be invited to provide a quarterly or semi-annual report to the Advisory Council on happenings within their community. This may give AAADSW a better idea of what is going on in the communities and what may be lacking.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike thanked everyone for sharing what is going on in their local communities. He expressed appreciation of members' advocacy and commitment for older adults and individuals with disabilities in their communities.

- High School Home Care Aide Program:
 - Picking up momentum in the larger urban areas when it is a single high school.
 - Vickei Hrdina with SW WA Rural CTE Cooperative updated Mike:
 - Due to low enrollment in the medical assistant and other Cooperative programs the courses with a target start date of January 2025 have been pushed back.
 - Vickei advised the focus will be on advertising the programs at the local school level and developing CTE graduation pathways.
 - A different approach is being taken for the 2025 – 2026 school year and will expand the CTE Healthcare courses into a graduation pathway with the Home Care Aide program as part of that pathway into the larger medical assistant program.
 - Mike has reached out to Wahkiakum County contacts multiple times, but has not heard back from them yet.
 - Kathy shared she will reach out to her Wahkiakum County contact and encourage him to contact Mike.
- Washington State Operations Budget:
 - Reminder from November meeting: \$10B - \$12B deficit over the next 4 years.
 - Mike, Christina and Patti have attended two legislative update forums in Clark and Cowlitz counties.
 - Mike expressed that he is pleased to see the Governor's budget that came out on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
 - Last year around \$13M was provided for senior nutrition across the state.
 - The Governor's new budget has around \$27.9M of one-time funding for senior nutrition.
 - The Governor's new budget also includes funding to build out the infrastructure around WA Cares.
 - Nursing home to community support there is \$20.1M in rental subsidies to help people move from nursing facilities to the community.
 - Rate increases for nursing homes, adult family homes, homecare agencies, etc. are also included in the Governor's proposed budget.
- Other:

- AAADSW COG Board will be experiencing some changes in 2025.
 - Potentially we will have 3 out of 5 new COG members. We will likely know who the new board members are in January.
 - Commissioner Richard Mahar's (Chair) term ends on 12/31/24.
 - New commissioner from Skamania County will be on the board.
 - New commissioner from Cowlitz County will be on the board.
 - Commissioner Sue Marshall (Clark County) may not serve on our COG board in 2025 due to other commitments, so we may have a new Commissioner for Clark County also.
 - Other COG changes:
 - Commissioner Lori Zoller (Klickitat County) will be the new Chair.
 - Commissioner Daniel Cothren (Wahkiakum County) will be the new Vice Chair.

Executive Committee:

- Executive Committee met on 12/3/24 and drafted the agenda for the meeting today.

Membership/Planning and Allocations:

- Didn't meet in November or December.

Advocacy and Outreach:

- Did not meet in November or December.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): Nothing to report.

Presentations:

- Update on Manufactured Homes Advocacy – Kevin Callahan:
 - Vista Del Rio Resident advised that the ownership of the property may be transferred from an individual to a family trust. The family is undetermined as to if the property will be sold or not. The residents are hopeful that things will be more stable for them without a radical change.
 - Kevin's contact with the City of Vancouver advised that he doesn't know when they will go to council again. He advised that the next steps are finalizing the parameters and staff recommendations to adopt the Manufactured Homes zone (similar to Bellingham's) and also an enhanced notice for rent increases (similar to Aberdeen). An informal meeting with park owners and residents needs to happen.
 - Senior Housing project in Kalama is underway.
- Prep for January Legislative Visits – Christina Marneris:
 - Karen Wolfe (AAADSW) will be communicating legislative appointments in January 2025.
 - Patti, Christina and Mike will be crafting the message for advocacy for the legislative appointments.

General Topics Discussed:

- Site visit to waterfront assisted living in Vancouver.
- Kevin has asked if a change of day for the Advisory Council meeting can be considered. Time would remain the same, only a day change.
 - Christina advised this is at the discretion of the Advisory Council.
 - A survey will be developed with meeting and presenter option and sent out to the Advisory Council members for their feedback.

Membership Vote:

- No new membership votes this meeting.

Public Comment:

- Kevin inquired if there is a program that works with Tribal Elders to provide assistance to those in need. Christina will provide Kevin with points of contact.

Meeting adjourned at **1:13PM.**

Signature Mauii Bunkhala Date 1-24-2025