

A R E A   A G E N C Y   O N  
**Aging & Disabilities**  
O F   S O U T H W E S T   W A S H I N G T O N

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2025**

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

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

**Roll Call:** Shelley Baxter, Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Sue Cameron, Gavin Carmichael, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar, Apryl Schneider

**Excused:** Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Diane Craft, Susan Petrie

**Absent:** Joe Bosch

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

**Guest:** Justin Ross (Clark County Commission on Aging), Rick Seekins (Vista Del Rio Park home owner & Association of Manufactured Home Owners of Washington), Rosemary Hoyt

**February 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda:** Apryl Schneider moved to approve the agenda. Greg Flakus seconded. Motion passed.

**January 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Mary Repar moved to approve the minutes. Greg Flakus seconded. Motion passed.

**Announcements/Community Outlook:**

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
  - Klickitat still evaluating what will come regarding future cuts.
  - Transportation is good until at least June 2025.
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
  - Senior Hero Awards coming up in March 2025 (awaiting confirmation of a specific date).
    - Covers both Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties.
    - The Senior Hero Awards recognize local individuals or organizations who have been real heroes to the seniors in the community.
    - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Wahkiakum is holding The Senior Hero Awards.
  - Kathy is continuing to build up numbers in the weekly senior friendship group that is every Wednesday.
  - Kathy is also continuing her efforts in trying to recruit people for the vacant Wahkiakum County Advisory Council Member position.
- Sue Cameron (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat): Nothing new to report.
- Diane Craft – Shared by Christina Marneris on Diane's behalf (Cowlitz):
  - Diane wanted to remind anyone associated with Cowlitz County that the Kelso Senior Center is transitioning into more of a community center inviting general public to utilize space or rent, depending on the purpose. Senior activities are still present but are not the entire focus.

- Longview has the Victory Diabetes and Primary Clinic staffed with Dr. Sebastian. His patient panel is adults, no pediatrics. He has been in clinic for several months and is accepting new patients.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
  - Attended several FISH of Vancouver (Community Food Bank in Clark County) meetings and they are reporting that numbers utilizing the service have gone up but there are also increases in food supplies (not eggs though) and volunteers.
    - Greg offered to help in providing a tour of the FISH facility if anyone is interested.
  - Greg also shared several articles of interest that he has recently read.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
  - Skamania County Senior Services still doesn't have a director.
  - Full-time cook at Skamania County Senior Services is working out well.
  - Mary expressed that community members are concerned about Social Security and personal data.
- Apryl Schneider (Clark): Nothing new to report.

## **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 (HSHCA):
  - Mike thanked Kathy Briggs for her assistance in making a connection with Kyle at Wahkiakum High School to discuss the HSHCA Program.
  - Mike met with Kyle from Wahkiakum High School and sent information about the HSHCA Program to both Kyle and Stephanie (SW Rural Co-Op).
  - Mike is working to set up a meeting with Kyle and Vikei Hrdina. Dates have been proposed over the next two weeks.
- Federal Administration:
  - Federal Funding Concerns:
    - Medicaid – Washington State Congressional Rep. Dan Newhouse (District 4) is viewed as a key vote/player in stopping cuts to Medicaid. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.
      - Mike joined the Central WA Efforts Against Medicaid Cuts Coalition weekly meeting.
      - Lori Brown (SE AAA) + AC Members are meeting with Rep. Newhouse today.
    - Current Continuing Resolution ends 3/14/25
  - USAging and others are working to have OAA reauthorized.
- Legislative Advocacy:
  - State
    - Following SB5222/HB1217 – Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act by limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associate services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement.

## **Executive Committee:**

- The Executive Committee met on 02/10/2025 and drafted the agenda for the meeting today.

## **Membership/Planning and Allocations:**

- Area Plan Grants Discussion:



Area Plan Grants  
presentation.pdf

## **Transportation in Skamania County – Mary Repar:**

Mary shared:

- a personal experience with a friend and weekend hospital discharge transportation issues in Skamania County.
- Mary shared Skyline Hospital CEO plans to convene a stakeholder meeting to look into the lack of medical transportation on the weekend.
- Klickitat County Senior Services and Skamania County Senior Services do not have weekend transportation due to staffing concerns.

## **Presentations:**

- Prep for February Legislative Visits – Christina Marneris and Patti Atkins:
  - Patti provided a legislative preparation presentation for the upcoming legislative visits.

## **State Council on Aging (SCOA):**

- Guest Presenters:
  - Suone Cother (SCOA)
  - Michele Blythe (SCOA)
  - Dennis Wheeler (SCOA)
  - Cameron Akita (ALTSA)
- SCOA presenters shared a prepared presentation about the upcoming legislative visits.
- Resources provided by SCOA:
  - 2025 WSCOA Leg Priorities.pdf
  - Washington State Council on Aging (SCOA) | DSHS – Main webpage
  - Washington State Council on Aging (SCOA) - State Council Member Repository | DSHS – resource documents

## **Public Comment:**

- Rick Seekins provided an update about Vista Del Rio Manufactured Home community in Vancouver being placed up for sale and the concerns surrounding it for the residents.
  - The park residents did work through the process of trying to purchase the park however it didn't work out for a variety of reasons (including the price on the park was too high).
  - All signs are pointing to the current owners not selling the park at this time.
  - The park residents received a lot of community support and endorsements from surrounding HOA's.
  - The park residents are actively involved in trying to get some zoning changes that will help protect manufactured home parks.
  - Several of the park residents are forming a non-profit organization strictly for residents to help protect their interests, specifically protecting those who are being priced out of their homes to constant rent increases.

- Rick shared he is a board member of the Salvation Army and shared information about some of the services they offer such as the foodbank, case management services and rental assistance. Rick offered to help facilitate tours of the facility for those interested.

*Meeting adjourned at **1:35PM.***

Signature



Date

*19 Mar 2028*