

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 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, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Greg Flakus, Susan Petrie, Mary Repar, Apryl Schneider

Excused: Sue Cameron and Kathy Briggs

Absent: Joe Bosch

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

Guest: Rick Seekins (Vista Del Rio Park homeowner & Association of Manufactured Homeowners of Washington),

March 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda: Kevin Callahan moved to approve the agenda. Apryl Schneider seconded. Motion passed.

January 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Kevin Callahan moved to approve the minutes. Apryl Schneider seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
 - Shelley relayed Rep. Water advised that the issue surrounding funding for an assisted living facility in White Salmon (Klickitat County) is a county responsibility.
 - The mayor is hopeful that they will be able to obtain federal funding to make repairs to the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
 - Senior Friendship Group had a good turnout for card games and potlucks.
 - The mayor has said he enjoys the annual senior proma and will help get the word out about this year's prom.
 - Wahkiakum County had the Senior Heroes gathering. Marianne shared how nice it was to be able to give the honor to the recipients.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
 - Kevin attended The Columbian talk on local housing issues. He was impressed about how all of the organizations were working together to address housing issues.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat): Nothing new to report.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Koelsch has brought back the Memory Café. It will be held at the Kelso Elks.
 - Caregivers and care receivers are welcome to listen to music, have lunch and work on a craft.
 - They have found that it is very helpful for caregivers to learn how to direct and redirect the care receivers with dementia while working on a little project together.
 - Being at the Elks in a semi-private room allows the caregivers and care receivers to be in a public setting that is still private enough not to be overwhelming.
 - Koelsch is partnering with OHSU to bring back a Parkinson's Support Group.
 - Diane will be meeting with OHSU on 4/3/25 to work on putting together a curriculum.

- Koelsch is looking at setting up a 2nd memory support group.
- There are conversations in Kelso about affordable housing and there is going to be groundbreaking soon for a new complex. There will be another complex being built in West Longview on donated land also.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
 - Greg has recently had some issues surrounding patient advocacy at the hospital. He plans on dedicating himself to legislation to correct the issues.
- Susan Petrie (Klickitat): Nothing new to report.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Still working to find additional people to help represent Skamania County on the AAADSW Advisory Council.
 - Mary shared the local library is helping to share resources for the county.
- 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 shared that he has a meeting scheduled with contacts at Wahkiakum High School and staff from the Rural Co-op about the HSHCA program on 3/26/25.
- Federal Administration:
 - Recently passed Continuing Resolution to fund the government through 9/30/25
 - OAA, SHIBA, and MIPPA funding sustained at 2024 levels
 - The final Continuing Resolution is not a "clean" Continuing Resolutions where every spending item remains frozen at the prior year's level. The bill increases some programs and cuts others and leaves out the directive language that further spells out congressional intent for a portion of the spending.
- Legislative Advocacy:
 - State
 - Advocacy continues for Nutrition funding
 - Health Home/Care Coordination program may be eliminated
 - AAADSW is advocating to have this program continue
 - Mike, Christina and Patti are meeting with Sen. Annette Cleveland on Friday, 3/21/25 to advocate for this program.
 - Sen. Cleveland is the Senate Health & LTC, Committee Chair; Ways & Means, Committee Member
 - Budget forecast shows \$420M less than the November budget forecast (3/18/24), Senate and House budgets due out week of 3/24/25
 - State legislature has less money to work with than they originally thought
 - Federal
 - N4A advocacy days in Washington, DC are 3/31/25 and 4/1/25. Mike and Christina will attend.
 - Advocating for no cuts to Medicaid
 - Also advocating for re-authorization of the Older Americans Act
 - Meeting with Senators Murray's and Cantwell's Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez's (3rd Congressional District) and Rep. Newhouse's (4th Congressional District) staff

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee met on 03/05/2025 and drafted the agenda for the meeting today.

Membership/Planning and Allocations:

- Did not meet in February or March.

Advocacy and Outreach:

- Did not meet as a group in February or March.
- Christina has recently been working on advocacy and outreach in the community, specifically our rural communities.
 - Aiming to meet with community partners to share information about AAADSW and learn more about their work to explore collaboration opportunities.
 - Meeting with our own partners to see about enriching our partnerships with them.
 - Christina is interested in learning about the needs and gaps in our communities as it relates to our scope of work.
 - Christina is also working on recruiting for vacant Advisory Council positions.

State Council on Aging (SCOA):

- SCOA has a Parkinson's wellness presentation on 3/25/25.
 - Being held on the SCOA website
 - Gavin will provide information to Christina to distribute.

Presentations:

- Clark County Housing Needs – Kevin Callahan:
 - Discussion around Clark County Senior Housing Needs handout.
 - Kevin expressed that he feels that advocacy around senior housing needs in Vancouver is in pretty good standing right now and he has proposed expanding into Clark County more and surrounding cities.
- 2024 Final Rule to update OAA Regulations – Christina Marnieris:
 - New OAA regulations will require an update to the Advisory Council bylaws but may also allow for some streamlining of Advisory Council practices.
 - Right now we are required to have the committees we currently have
 - Advocacy and Outreach
 - Membership/Planning and Allocations
 - Bylaws committee will need to be convened to make needed revisions.

Membership Vote:

- Rick Seekins application for Advisory Council membership was received. The Advisory Council voted to approve Rick Seekins as a member of the Advisory Council, representing Clark County.

Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at **1:08PM.**

Signature Marcin Buckhal Date May 21, 2025