

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025

Location: Longview AAADSW Office – Coweeman Conference Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kathy Briggs at **12:01 PM**.*

Roll Call: Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Diane Craft, Greg Flakus, Susan Petrie, Mary Repar, Rick Seekins

Excused: Shelley Baxter, Kevin Callahan, Sue Cameron, Apryl Schneider

Absent:

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

Guests: Cass Freedland (Clark County Commission on Aging), Dave Rorden

May 21, 2025, Meeting Agenda: Rick Seekins moved to approve the agenda. Mary Repar seconded. Motion passed.

April 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Greg Flakus moved to approve the agenda. Rick Seekins seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Joe Bosch (Clark):
 - Woodland Senior group has started.
 - Joe is going to attend an upcoming meeting and is going to work on recruiting a senior for an open Cowlitz Advisory Council spot.
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
 - Wahkiakum Senior Prom is in the planning process.
 - Date is to be determined.
- Marianne Burkholder
 - Provided information about the Washington Talking Book and Braille library shared from her local library.
 - Marianne will be interviewed for the Wahkiakum County Eagle (local newspaper) and will be sharing information about AAADSW and what we do.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Margaret (AAADSW) will be doing a presentation for the Longview - Early Edition rotary to heighten awareness through business professionals about AAADSW.
 - Making progress with Dementia Friends.
 - Found that an hour is too long for what people were able to do in a professional, business setting.
 - Presentation is being worked on to bring it down to 30 – 40 minutes to better allow community professionals (such as grocery store employees, bank employees, etc. to attend during the workday.
 - Memory Cafés have been started again in Cowlitz county.

- Memory Café's are aimed at bringing those with dementia together in a public setting without judgement.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
 - Greg reported that FISH of Vancouver Food Pantry is receiving less food assistance from the Federal government due to the current political climate.
 - Attended a hearing on the Clark County budget. Greg reports that a number of programs are being cut in regard to senior issues and housing/temporary housing issues.
- Susan Petrie (Klickitat):
 - Sharon with Klickitat County Senior Services will be traveling to Trout Lake for outreach on two different dates in July.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Mary reported that the community meeting room in Skamania County is getting an update.
 - Expressed interest in advocating nationwide for senior centers to have fresh fruit/vegetables, more nutritious and not processed meals.
- Rick Seekins (Clark):
 - Reported that the sale of the Vista Del Rio Manufactured Home Park has been stopped.
 - City of Vancouver has agreed to have a zoning overlay that specifically designates manufactured home communities to protect them from being changed.
 - Rent control bill has been signed by the governor.

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.

- Legislative Advocacy:
 - State:
 - Long-Term Care/Long-Term Services and Supports (LTC/LTSS) fared relatively well.
 - Rate increases for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Adult Family Homes (AFHs).
 - Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) must become certified to care for people with dementia if they take dementia patients in as residents.
 - AAADSW/AAAs
 - One-time nutrition funding
 - Funding to continue Care Transitions program
 - Funding to continue Health Home program through 12/31/2026
- Key Issues:
 - WA CARES
 - Funding for outreach, provider network capacity building and beneficiary services
 - Benefits available 7/1/2026
 - Medicaid
 - 2025 Reconciliation Bill does not appear to impact AAADSW's core programs
 - SNAP
 - Following closely the proposed changes at the federal level
 - Administration for Community Living dismantled and impacted OAA programs.

- *Splitting up OAA programs into two different federal agencies undermines the fact that the different titles and subtitles programs are all part of one delivery system established by Congress in the Act.* If the split happens, the ability to transfer funding between OAA Titles/Programs will be negatively impacted.
- Here is a snapshot of what the administration has proposed for the HHS budget next year:
 - Title IIIC Programs
 - Congregate, HDM, and Nutrition Services Incentive Program moved to Administration for Children and Families with level funding.
 - Title IIIB Programs
 - Supportive Services (Transportation, ADRC, Case Management, Personal Care) moved to CMS with level funding.
 - Title IIIE
 - Family Caregiver Support Program moved to CMS with level funding.

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee met on 05/07/2025 and drafted the agenda for the meeting today.
- Discussed taking the Advisory Council meeting to other counties in upcoming months.
 - June meeting will be in Skamania County.
 - July we are recessed with no meeting.
 - August meeting will be in Klickitat County.
 - Christina is working to schedule a meeting Wahkiakum County
 -

Advocacy and Outreach Update:

- State Budget Outcomes
 1. Statewide one-time funding for Senior Nutrition of \$27.9 million through June 30, 2027.
 2. One-time funding through the end of calendar year 2026 for Health Homes.
 3. Long-term Care Ombudsman Program state funding is maintained.
 4. **Engrossed Substitute SB5167 – 2025-2026** (Biennial Omnibus Operating Budget Proposals) was signed by the House and Senate on April 27 and delivered to the Governor on April 28. Governor Ferguson signed the budget into law on May 20, 2025.
- Legislative Outcomes
 1. **SB 5337 – 2025-2026**
 - As of July 1, 2026, SB 5337 requires assisted living facilities to be certified to care for people with dementia. It was signed in the Senate and House on April 18. It was signed by the Governor on April 30.
 2. **HB 1217 – 2025-2026**
 - 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 associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement. It was signed in the Senate and House on April 27 and delivered to the Governor.
 3. **HB 1191 – 2025-2026**
 - Concerning removing vehicle titles from manufactured homes. It was signed in House on April 4, by the Senate and the Governor on April 11.
- National Advocacy
 - The House Budget Committee advanced more than \$700 billion in Medicaid cuts and \$300 billion in cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We are advocating with our representatives to protect Medicaid and SNAP.

Advocated that OAA programs remain together at the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) and critical aging programs to be saved from elimination! The leaked draft budget called for elimination of OAA's evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention program (Title III D) and elder rights (Title VII) efforts to prevent elder abuse and neglect, among others.

➤ **Credit for Caring Act**

- **New State Advocacy Call to Action**
 - WA Cares should provide relief to family caregivers. Unless Governor Ferguson acts now, beneficiaries may lose the opportunity to directly employ a spouse, child, or other family member when care is needed. Instead, beneficiaries could be limited to employment options that deduct up to 30% of their limited benefit for needed services – like health insurance or retirement plans most family caregivers already have.

➤ **Older Americans Month**

- Every May, is the nation's observance of Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm our commitment to serving older adults.

The 2025 theme, Flip the Script on Aging, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions.

Clark County Council presented a Proclamation commemorating Older Americans Month to the Clark County Commission on Aging and the Area Agency on Aging.

CoA and AAADSW have been community partners since 2012, when the Commission was founded. Chair Franklin Johnson hoped to join us today but asked that I convey his deep appreciation of our partnership and AAADSW's service to Clark County. I would like to encourage you to visit their website to view their [Aging Readiness Plan](#).

Governor Ferguson issued a proclamation in observance of Older Americans Month.

➤ **Outreach**

- Longview YMCA, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services, Skamania County Senior Services, Meals on Wheels, North County Foodbank and Clark Cowlitz Fire and Rescue. Works in progress include WAGAP, and Klickitat County Senior Services.
- Quarterly Legislative Newsletter

State Council on Aging (SCOA):

- No report shared.

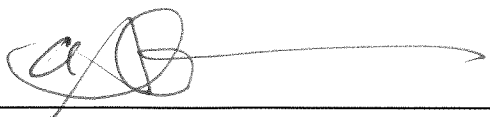
Presentations:

- AAADSW Community Services Supervisor, Margaret Westervelt, presented on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) & Community Services Case Management for Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties.
- Appoint Bylaws Committee (Kathy Briggs): Tabled until June meeting due to time.

Public Comment:

- No additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at **1:00 PM.**

Signature  Date 6/18/25

