

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  
August 20, 2025**

**Location:** Klickitat County Senior Services – White Salmon and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Rick Seekins at **12:13 PM**.*

**Roll Call:** Shelley Baxter, Joe Bosch, Marianne Burkholder, Diane Craft, Roberta Doster, Susan Petrie, Mary Repar, Dave Rorden, Rick Seekins

**Excused:** Kevin Callahan, Greg Flakus, Apryl Schneider

**Absent:**

**Staff present:** Christina Marneris and Maggie Ridenour

**Guests:** Sharon Carter (Klickitat County Senior Services), Eileen Stearns-Raff and Kevin Going

**August 20, 2025, Meeting Agenda:** Mary Repar moved to approve the agenda. Susan Petrie seconded. Motion passed.

**June 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes:** Susan Petrie moved to approve the agenda. Mary Repar seconded. Motion passed.

**Announcements/Community Outlook:**

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
  - Shelley shared inquired if there were advocacy opportunities to seek potential exceptions for anticipated Medicaid cuts for religious orders that aren't able to work due to religious reasons.
- Joe Bosch (Clark):
  - Interest has been expressed locally in LaCenter to have a senior group.
    - The community center in LaCenter has recently been remodeled and the City of LaCenter has granted approval for the senior group to be held there.
    - An organizational meeting will be held within about the next month to get the senior group up and going.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
  - Preparation meetings are being held for the Senior Prom which is coming up on September 20, 2025.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
  - Koelsch is collaborating with Oregon Parkinson's to offer a Parkinson's support group at Delaware Plaza. Meetings have had a "soft opening" and they are seeing good attendance so far.
  - Koelsch recently held a resident car show at Delaware Plaza that had about 147 registered cars. It was a great partnership with some local businesses.
  - Dementia Support Group at Canterbury Gardens has had an influx of attendees through the summer months (more than normal) which is highlighting the need in the area.
- Susan Petrie (Klickitat):
  - Susan recently attended a local workshop on Advanced Care Directives.

- Susan reported that there will be a fundraiser on 8/22/25 Trout Lake with funds going to support senior breakfasts in the winter. The senior breakfasts will be held with the goal of providing socialization for seniors.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
  - Mary shared concern that 2 of Skamania County Senior Services buses were recently vandalized and are out of service.
  - Mary shared that there will be a Death and Dying seminar that will be held in Skamania County starting 8/27/25 at the Hegewald Center.
  - On 8/22/25 at 5:30pm there will be a Town Hall meeting with State Representative Maria Gluesenkamp Perez at the Hegewald Center.
- Rick Seekins (Clark):
  - Rick shared he has been focused recently on working on rezoning for manufactured home communities.
    - The City of Vancouver has agreed to create specialized zoning for manufactured home parks.

## **Reports:**

### **Executive Director's Report:**

- No report shared.

### **Executive Committee:**

- No Executive Committee meeting in August 2025

### **Bylaws Update (Rick Seekins and Susan Petrie):**

- Advisory Council Bylaws have been updated due to changes and needs within the council.
- Committees have been combined (Planning & Allocations and Membership) to better fit with the membership of the Advisory Council at this time.
  - This can be revisited when the Advisory Council has full membership again.
    - Membership numbers have been low since COVID.
    - We haven't seen the return to volunteerism increase as of yet making it difficult to recover and find qualified new members.
  - Topics that have been addressed in the past in the smaller committees will be addressed within the full council now.
- Updated Bylaws document reviewed.
  - Any edits and recommendations will be added to the Bylaws and the edited version will be brought to the full council in the September meeting and voted on.

## **Presentations:**

- Klickitat County Senior Services Presentation (Sharon Carter, Klickitat County Senior Services Program Manager):
  - Sharon shared that Klickitat County is roughly the size of the entire state of Delaware.
  - Klickitat County Senior Services has two offices in the main hubs of the county.
    - White Salmon
    - Goldendale
  - Services provided by Klickitat County Senior Services
    - Transportation
      - About half of the annual budget goes to transportation services.
      - The transportation service area extends much further than the boundaries of the county. Transportation services can be provided into Yakima, Vancouver, Portland and cities in The Gorge on the Oregon side as needed for medical appointments.

- Transportation is used for things like AAADSW's Senior Transportation (which can include transportation to meal sites for seniors), Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, fixed route transportation and Dial-a-Ride service open to any age.
- Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)
  - Helps with navigating Medicare.
  - Assistance is provided during annual open enrollment.
- Title XIX Case Management
- Community Services Case Management
- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Information & Assistance
  - Help in providing resources, phone numbers, etc.
  - Help with completing applications for services.
  - Helping people navigate programs/services they may be eligible for.
  - ADRC staff are trained to help with SHIBA
  - Provides outreach and education
- Nutrition
  - Home Delivered Meals
  - Congregate Meal Sites
  - Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers
- Medical Equipment lending
  - New and gently used medical equipment
  - Donations of equipment accepted
    - Examples:
      - Incontinence supplies
      - Walkers
      - Wheelchairs
      - Hospital beds (they don't have space to store these but can help connect people who may need them)
      - Hoyer lift
      - Knee scooters
- Education and resources in the county
  - Partners with Washington Gorge Action Program (WAGAP)
- Medicaid Waiver Programs
  - Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC)
  - Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA)
- Monthly Senior Newsletter
  - Available by print and online
  - About 1,700 households in Klickitat County receive the newsletter.
- Exercise classes (many are volunteer supported and run)
  - "Strong People" classes
  - Tai Chi classes
- Volunteer opportunities
  - Prep cooking at meal sites
  - Meal Site set up and cleaning
  - Transportation
  - Food box deliveries
  - Friendly visitor/neighbor supports for isolated seniors
  - Property cleanup/fire mitigation
  - Yard work
- Mental Health
  - Support groups (often volunteer led)
  - Grief group in partnership with Providence Hospice
  - Monthly "Let's Talk" session led by a local psychologist who is volunteering her time.

- There are no providers providing new psychological/counseling services for Medicare recipients in the Columbia River Gorge.
- There are 2 providers who can provide counseling to Medicare/Dual eligible recipients, but they have wait lists.

➤ SHIBA (Christina Marneris): Tabled until September meeting.

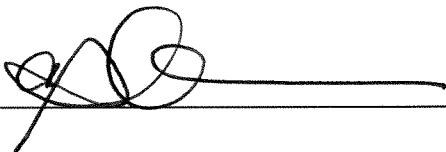
➤ Appoint Nominations Committee:

- Nominations Committee members reach out by email or phone to the full council members and ask about interest in filling the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions in 2026.
- Shelley Baxter, Rick Seekins and Susan Petrie volunteered.

**Public Comment:**

- Diane Craft shared that it has been difficult to get information and assistance for Veterans benefits in Cowlitz County, so she reached out to Rhonda Black at HEVIN (<https://hevin4vets.com/>).
- Diane asked the Advisory Council if they would be interested in having HEVIN present about what they do and how they help veterans.
  - Diane and Christina will connect offline to arrange this as the council agreed this will be a good opportunity.

*Meeting adjourned at **1:41 PM.***

Signature  Date 9/17/25