

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

Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of SW Washington
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2023

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office and Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arnie Dyer at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call: JoAnne Baker, Pearl Blackburn, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Sue Cameron, Gavin Carmichael, Arnie Dyer, Greg Flakus

Excused: Pat Cano and Jodi Oliver

Absent: Diane Craft, Colleen Bennett

Staff present: Christina Marneris, Mike Reardon, Sarah Revord, and Karen Wolfe

Guests: none

Agenda: Greg moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting; Gavin seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes: Sue and Gavin moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023, meeting. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

Kathy: Cathlamet/Wahkiakum has a group working on a senior social event at the community center, with dance, food, fun, and entertainment on August 5th. Kathy is also gearing up for Farmers Market and signing folks up for the vouchers. They can go to the Cathlamet market now, since it is certified for the senior vouchers.

JoAnne: Shared the Area Plan Survey with her neighbor who is a caregiver. Also wonders if we could start a caring closet in Cowlitz. The International festival is coming up on June 3rd. Council members are invited to staff the info table. Contact JoAnne if you would like to help.

Marianne: Looking forward to summer events.

Pearl: The Cathlamet Women's club had a pie social on Friday with 40 pies sold. They made about \$800. They also had a pickleball demonstration recently and are looking to get seniors involved in playing. There may be a pickleball competition at the Bald Eagle Festival. Skamokawa is going to paint a pickleball court on an unused tennis court. Pearl is also working with the Grays River Grange Farmers Market, which occurs monthly, as they are also interested in getting certified for Senior vouchers next year.

Greg: Greg shared that pickleball is easy to learn and lots of fun. He spoke with Senator Lynda Wilson by phone recently about legislation regarding staffing at hospitals and nursing homes nursing staff ratios. He also reported the food pantry in Washougal had their van stolen from the parking lot on April 26th. Volunteers are rallying to pitch in.

Sue: While recuperating for several months from her shoulder injury, Sue reports she has been testing out the home delivered meals from Meals on Wheels People (MOWP). When she enrolled they gave her information on connecting to other services. The volunteers are great and they check in on Sue weekly, when they bring her the meals. They will also go to the library for subscribers. She will ask the volunteers to fill out the Area Plan survey next time they deliver. Sue also reported the Clark County Commission on Aging report is nearly ready to publish. She hopes it will have good information to glean.

Arnie – took Area Plan surveys to Clark County Men’s Shed, which has recently restarted. They are planning a bike project with Fruit Valley Elementary School, targeting a few students to show them how a bike is put together and then giving them a bike. They hope to have it started by the end of the school year. Also hoping to have Men’s Shed members present once a month on careers. They are also planning a “Cooking For One” class through Clark College Culinary dept.

Getting to Know You: Sarah Revord – Christina introduced Sarah, who has been with the agency for several years, working in Case Management, Contracts, and most recently Kinship Navigator. Sarah is now the Coordinator for the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP). She shared a slide deck on the FCSP program and their goal of focusing on the caregiver and supporting them to continue doing their work. Any caregiver of a person that lives in our Service Area is eligible even if they themselves do not live in the area. Services include Information and Assistance (I&A), respite, education and resources, etc. Sarah outlined the three levels of support available. Sarah gave details on respite care services. Dementia resources include activity kits and Zinnia TV. Sarah then shared some client stories. Greg asked if there is a waiting list for services? Currently there is not a waiting list. In the past there has been a wait for respite services. Christina explained that our program is for caregivers of family members with functional disabilities or older adults. Developmental disability caregivers are served under a different program. She clarified that income information is asked at application for assessments, but it only applies to respite services. Greg asked where the respite caregivers come from. Sarah explained they are from Home Care Agencies that we contract with. Kathy asked if the caregiver has to be related – NO. Christina mentioned they do offer the same program in Oregon, however the State does not fund to the same level that Washington does.

Reports:

Executive Director’s Report – Mike welcomed all and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend today in the nice weather. Re: Caring Closet in Cowlitz, it’s called Love, Inc. JoAnne knows of them. Mike thanked Greg for his advocacy with Senator Wilson. Mike bragged that we have the most robust FCSP program in the State. It’s a tribute to Christina and her team listening to community needs. It’s also due to our Council of Governments (COG) board allowing us to use Fund Balance dollars to support the program.

Last month Christina and Mike travelled to Washington DC for the USAging Policy briefing. Three topics resonated – 1. shortage of paid caregivers across the nation (pay, recognition, training). Mike mentioned that the wait time for most Washington agencies is getting shorter. 2. CMS prioritizing Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) and the importance of Managed Care organizations and coordinating with AAAs. 3. Debt Ceiling – we land in the non-defense discretionary funding, where most of the financial hits will occur. Mike does not know what the impact will be and what the long-term effects will be. Mike and Christina met with Senator Murray’s staff and Senator Cantwell’s staff to discuss Title 3B of the Older Americans Act (OAA). There is a financial ask to double the funding for Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), Senior Nutrition, and funding family caregiver programs. They also met with Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in person. She is very connected to the Senior services in Skamania. Christina added that it was great to the RAISE Family Caregiver Act highlighted. She was honored to be able to attend with Mike.

W4a – 3 items of note: 1) Medicaid Case Management Unit rate is still being worked out. 2) WACares – discussed what the role of the AAAs is and the appropriate rollout of the program in outreach, education and navigation, supporting individuals to access the benefit and use the system. W4a continues to advocate for AAAs as the best resource to help individuals to navigate the program. Payroll deductions begin July of 2023. Pearl asked if they got to see any sights while in DC. Mike did not. Christina went to the National Gallery and saw some beautiful art. She also went to Union Station, had some delicious meals, and enjoyed walks with some of her peers.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on May 2nd and drafted the agenda for today. Also discussed the caregiver crisis. Gavin threw out the idea of doing some marketing around the profession to raise the status and their profile. Gavin shared that anything we could do statewide or regionally to attract people to the profession. Sue shared there was an article in the Columbian about training. Would there be a way to tack on to existing training we could team up with? Mike said there are some workgroups at the state level to partner with school districts on Allied Health. We haven’t had any sustained traction but would like to see us take another stab at it. Gavin hopes we can discuss what we can do and what we should do in supporting the effort.

Planning and Allocations: Committee met and discussed the Area Plan Survey. Breanne has been great in helping the committee. A question was asked if we compare the results to prior years' results to see if we are making a difference? Christina said we do some of that work in the federal reporting comparing the previous year's work. For instance changing trends in senior nutrition during the pandemic when congregate meal sites were closed and more folks were getting home delivered meals.

Advocacy and Outreach: Christina reported she and Colleen met last Friday and reviewed the previous agenda. Thank you letters will be sent out to the legislators for their support. The committee is researching a presenter from an organization that serves the deaf community. The Advocacy and Outreach Committee would like to know if the advisory council as a whole be interested in that presentation. Arnie asked for a show of hands and most were interested. Arnie thought it might be good to connect with Gluesenkamp Perez's office for potential Skamania Council members. Colleen and Christina discussed recessing the committee in June and resuming in September.

Membership Committee: Matt Hines and Jennifer Wright submitted their resignations. Karen forwarded Jennifer's card.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): SCOA created a nice slide deck of the legislative session and the results of our advocacy. Christina will forward to the members. Meeting next week in Olympia, Gavin will attend by phone. Not sure of the agenda. Governor's proclamation of May is Older Americans Month. Greg asked if anyone can attend the SCOA meetings. Yes, and Christina will send Greg the contact info for Cameron Akita. Gavin also shared the following information:

- Draft WSCOA Outreach Plan (Michele Horaney, Public Awareness & Education Committee Chair)
- ALTSA Legislative update slides (Jacqueine Cobbs, Deputy Director of HQ Operations, HCS)
- Governor's Proclamation and Older Americans Month Flyer (ALTSA)
- Leg Session Bill actions (Art Swannack, Legislative Committee Co-Chair)
- Email including Older Americans Month outreach resources (Michele Horaney)
- Link to subscribe for ALTSA updates by topic area - [Washington State Aging and Long-Term Support Administration \(govdelivery.com\)](#)
- ACL's Older Americans Month resources - [Older Americans Month 2023 | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)

Check-in regarding Area Plan Surveys and Public Hearings: Updating some of the data portions of the Area Plan. Public hearings are being scheduled for August and early September; one in-person and one virtual. We will review in August, then hold the public meetings and then review the AP again. The public hearings will be a town hall style to review the draft Area Plan and gain feedback for revisions. We'll share the public hearing dates info with the council members and hope they will attend.

Aging Unbound Presentation – Pearl reported that everything has been submitted. Christina shared the slide deck consisting of 29 slides. Did not receive any submissions for Clark County. We discussed possible Clark County residents to be nominated.

Good of the order: none

Public Comment: none

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Signature



Date

June 21, 2023

REMINDER: Next Meeting June 21, 2023, at AAADSW's Vancouver office and via Zoom; Committees 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (or as otherwise scheduled), lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., full council meeting 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.