

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024**

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Room and Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gavin Carmichael at 12:04pm.

Roll Call: Shelley Baxter, Colleen Bennett, Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar

Excused: Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Jodi Oliver

Absent: N/A

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

Guests: Justin Ross (Clark County Commission on Aging), Marcy Le

March 20, 2024, Meeting Agenda: Mary Repar moved to approve the agenda. Kathy Briggs seconded. Motion passed.

February 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Kevin Callahan moved to approve the minutes. Diane Craft seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Patti Atkins (AAADSW): Nothing new to report.
- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
 - Klickitat County Senior Services hired a cook for the congregate and home delivered meals.
 - Klickitat County legislative district has been redistricted.
 - Now part of Klickitat County is in the same district as Skamania County.
 - This is the first time the county has been split legislatively.
 - This now creates 2 groups of legislators to advocate for Klickitat County.
 - Shelley shared information about the Pathfinder 2 study for early cancer detection.
 - <https://www.onecommunityhealth.org/news/2023-join-the-pathfinder-2-study>
 - <https://www.ohsu.edu/knight-cancer-institute/join-pathfinder-2-study-find-cancer-early>
- Colleen Bennett (Cowlitz): Nothing new to report.
- Joe Bosch (Clark):
 - Started contacting people in LaCenter to work on arranging senior events as the only thing really aimed at seniors is Meals on Wheels.
 - The City of LaCenter has a Community Liaison coming on staff and they will be connected to Joe to start working on plans.
 - The City of LaCenter has also offered to assist with grants to help get things started.

- Joe explained that one concern is lack of a meeting space in LaCenter for whatever activities are arranged. The community center is booked solid.
 - A local nonprofit organization aimed at suicide and drug prevention for teens called LaCenter United was contacted also about mentorship possibilities.
 - LaCenter Arts has been interested in adding seniors to the groups they offer and they are working on a grant.
 - The library in LaCenter is also interested in adding senior activities and has offered the use of their facilities before and after hours for activities and meetings.
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum): Nothing new to report.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
- Weekly Senior's Friendship Group continues to meet every Wednesday at the church in Cathlamet.
 - This week they have a photographer coming to talk about cameras.
 - Marianne has ongoing painting classes and held a West Coast Swing Dancing class.
 - Marianne has been in contact with the person who heads up the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Voucher Program about the availability of fresh produce locally.
 - Very few farmers are willing to work with the program.
 - They are working to get at least 3 farmers involved in the program for 2024 so that the vouchers can be used locally like they did in 2023.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
- Has been in contact with the City of Vancouver planning staff and housing staff.
 - They are in the process of updating their comprehensive plan.
 - Looking at how to better meet the housing needs of the community.
 - Kevin presented them with information, specifically about what is going on with mobile home parks in Vancouver.
 - The city is looking at adopting policies that talk about the preservation of mobile home parks as well as possibilities of being able to finance tenant conversions of mobile home parks through a co-op.
 - Process will take about 18 months.
 - Kevin has also been trying to reach out to the county about the same process to see where they are.
 - Kevin was able to have a text conversation with the county assessor.
 - Low income seniors who are homeowners may qualify to get a reduction in their property taxes. Kevin asked if seniors living in a mobile home park become part of a co-op and own their mobile home could they get the reduction in property taxes too. The county assessor said yes, they could. This could be an incentive for those who are looking to transition from renter to land buyer.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat):
- Some funding has come through for the senior assisted living facility to be built in White Salmon.
 - However, due to inflation and the increasing cost of supplies (like lumber) the initial ask of \$3m has increased to about \$3.5m so Klickitat County is still short funds for this project.
 - Some USDA Rural Development funds have been requested to try and fill the gaps.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
- Diane has found that Cowlitz County is short on in-home PT and in-home services and that it is not only a small community issue.
 - May 30, 2024 – Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Health and Wellness Fair at the Cowlitz County Expo Center.
 - The Health and Wellness Fair will be for all ages, not just seniors.
 - The goal is to have guest speakers and vendors.
 - Cost is still being determined.
 - Diane is on the planning committee and is willing to take suggestions for speakers or sponsors to the planning meetings.

- Diane would like to see an AAADSW presence if possible.
 - Diane has also signed up to be part of the Woodland High School career fair. She will be there for Koelsch but will also be able to discuss AAADSW services and network with local companies to try and reach people who may need AAADSW services but had never heard of us.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Mary is advocating for funding to support Skamania County Senior Services funding their cook full time instead of 32 hours a week.
 - Mary had a meeting with Skamania County Senior Services and AAADSW to discuss funding.
 - Mary has been in contact with county commissioners and representatives about the shortage of funding for the cook position.
 - If funding is not secured by August 2024, Skamania County Senior Services will lose their cook.

Guests:

- Justin Ross (Clark): Nothing new to report.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike thanked everyone for sharing what is going on in their local communities and sharing ideas with each other on possible solutions. He appreciates the collaboration.

- 2024 Legislative Session:
 - This year's session has ended.
 - New state funding of \$12m for nutrition has come through.
 - Funding is to be spread statewide.
 - These funds will help fill the gap as ARPA funding ends.
 - Additional funding is being advocated for at the national level through the Older American's Act.
 - WA Cares Fund – Long Term Trust Act:
 - Initiative 2124
 - This is a payroll tax.
 - Would allow for WA Cares Fund to be opt in/out.
 - Will go to voters in November 2024
 - A lot of campaigning is happening around WA Cares Fund and the benefits (AARP is involved and supporting the fund).
 - If the initiative passes in November 2024, it will be an opt in/out option.
- Trip to WA DC for advocacy:
 - Christina and Mike traveled to Washington DC for the Aging Policy briefing.
 - Met with Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Senator Maria Cantwell in person as well as Senator Patty Murray's healthcare committee staff.
 - The main focus of the meetings was:
 - 2024 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
 - Requesting COVID level funding to continue
 - Requesting additional flexibility in nutrition funding
 - Mike and Christina shared information about local programs such as Senior Hero Awards. Representative Gluesenkamp Perez offered to write letters of support when AAADSW does this.
 - Discussed social isolation, particularly in rural areas.
 - Specifically discussed with Representative Gluesenkamp Perez the needs around senior nutrition and the needs of a cook in Klickitat/Skamania counties.
- Other:
 - Mike will be attending a Governor's summit May 2024.

- On Monday, March 19, 2024, Mike and Christina attended the City of Vancouver - State of the City address with Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle.
- Mike will attend the May 3, 2024, Klickitat County Senior Advisory Meeting.
- Patti Atkins has been working hard in her Communications role and has been writing articles for local papers like the Senior Messenger in Clark County, The Wahkiakum County Eagle and The Reflector in Battle Ground.
 - <https://www.thereflector.com/stories/volunteers-empower-seniors-to-advocate-for-themselves-in-long-term-care.336686>
- There was discussion around how the nutrition funding for congregate meal sites and home delivered meals gets divided up between the two programs and between contractors.

Executive Committee: did not meet in March.

Planning and Allocations: did not meet in March.

Advocacy and Outreach: did not meet in March.

Membership Committee: did not meet in March.

State Council on Aging (SCOA):

- An overview of the legislative process:
https://leg.wa.gov/LIC/Documents/Information/Overview_of_Legislative_Process.pdf
- Three retirement planning related articles shared by Walt Bowen :
 - <https://www.axios.com/2024/02/19/us-baby-boomers-turn-65-2024>
 - <https://pew.org/3SbSBxR>
 - [Retirement Insecurity 2024: Americans' Views of Retirement - National Institute on Retirement Security \(nirsonline.org\)](https://www.nirsonline.org/retirement-insecurity-2024)

Presentations:

- **Mobile Home Parks:**
 - Discussion surrounding mobile home parks and the challenges that residents and park owners face.
 - Mobile home parks help provide a sense of community and help in the battle of social isolation.
- **2024 USAging Policy Priorities:** https://www.usaging.org/Files/Policy-Priorities-2024_WEB.pdf
- **Committee Chairs:**
 - Christina is still reaching out to Advisory Council members to discuss committees.
 - Kathy Briggs has agreed to be the Advocacy and Outreach committee chair.

Public Comment:

- No additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.

Signature  Date 17 Apr 24