

Southwest Washington Agency on Aging & Disabilities
Advisory Council (SWAADAC)
Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2010
Rock Creek Center
Stevenson, WA 98648

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair, Pat Culver.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Clark County: Karin Woll, Ginny Wilberg
Klickitat County: Lowell Smith
Skamania County: Patricia Culver, Sandra Bacus, Jim Jordan

Members Absent:

Clark County: Roxanne Jones, Elizabeth Brown, Mike Teefy,
Shanti Potts (All Excused)
Cowlitz County: Marc Bollinger, Patty Kinswa-Gaiser (Both Excused)
Wahkiakum County: Nicki Thomas, Anne Snyder (Both Excused)

- A quorum was **not** present. All items requiring a vote were tabled.

Staff Present: David Kelly, Executive Director
Klaus Micheel, Planner

Guest: Marilyn Butler, Director, Skamania County Senior Services

Announcements/Community Outlook:

Ginny Wilberg informed the council about a Clark County Vulnerable Adults Task Force meeting she attended which addressed the need to assist vulnerable seniors who have become victims of financial fraud schemes. There are many out there that are too embarrassed or frightened to report the fraud.

David Kelly said the meeting was in coordination with Elder Abuse Awareness Day. A hotline has been established for people to call who suspect a senior is or has been a victim of financial fraud. Joan Smith, Director of Loaves & Fishes

(Senior Program provider in Clark County) requested her staff to be aware and report seniors in need of assistance.

Marilyn Butler reported that Skamania County drivers delivering meals to seniors know to be aware and report any issues. She explained to her staff that this is a Washington State requirement.

Presentation: Skamania County Senior Services

Marilyn Butler, director of Skamania County Senior Services (SCSS) reported to the council the current activities of her agency:

- Human Services which includes Mental Health, Public Health, Community Events and Senior Services are now centrally located in the new Rock Creek Center.
- SCSS now has an assistant director who will provide much needed administrative support and be responsible for the management of transportation and senior nutrition services.
- A new assistant cook has also been hired. This was accomplished using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The senior nutrition program now puts more emphasis on fresh rather than processed food.
- The kitchen is still at the temporary mealsite while the finishing touches are completed in the new kitchen at Rock Creek Center. They should be able to move soon.
- Two case managers retired. The previous I&A person now fills a case manager position and a new I&A person was hired.
- On June 2nd the Regional Transportation Council hosted a meeting in Stevenson to gather input on human services transportation planning in the Gorge. Thirty-five people were in attendance. This was a very good response when compared to previous meetings with only a few residents in attendance. Seniors and high school students were well represented (council members Pat Culver, Sandy Bacus and Jim Jordan did attend). There was a good discussion of transportation needs and new ideas for improvements

were presented. While currently no funding exist to act on improving transportation; work is continuing to better coordinate what is currently available in the Gorge and a plan is being developed to put in place when funding becomes available.

- SCSS has implemented a new State requirement to establish electronic timekeeping for agency caregivers providing in-home personal care. All clients have been notified of the new system. Clients may refuse to allow use of their phones. If that happens the caregiver's time is recorded on a timesheet signed by the client.
- Two new vehicles have been purchased for the transportation program, a van with rear entry which makes loading and unloading clients in wheelchairs easier and a new 15 passenger bus which replaced the 26 passenger bus. The new bus gets much better gas mileage and the 26 passenger bus was never filled to capacity. The vehicles were funded with A.R.R.A. funds, State and County funds (20%).
- SCSS faces cost increases for the Labor and Industry Workers Comp Program and for caregiver training, as well as the cost of implementing electronic timekeeping. While the state increased the hourly rate it still does not entirely cover all cost associated with the in-home program.
- SCSS has asked SWAAD if they might transfer funds allocated to the (non-Medicaid) Senior Personal Care program to other programs because there are no clients in need of this service (SWAAD is looking onto this request).

Marilyn outlined the goals and accomplishments of her department:

- Working with SWAAD in an attempt to utilize service dollars not previously spent
- Working to fill gaps from \$80,000 grant SCSS did not receive
- Reduce transportation cost by combining trips and encouraging donations
- Looking to make all administrative functions as efficient as possible

- The new Senior Services website will be available August 1st and include a Resource Directory. Other outreach to seniors in the community includes publishing articles in the Skamania County Pioneer newspaper and continuing the monthly Senior Newsletter which includes health based information.

Marilyn Butler concluded her presentation and invited all to lunch with the seniors.

Staff Reports:

David updated the council on the COG's May 21st meeting which had included the 2009 annual report and updates on the second aging readiness forum, the Clark County Aging Readiness Task Force and the opportunity to apply for Community Development Block Grant dollars.

David reported that the Clark County Aging Readiness Task Force has 21 volunteers participating. Council members Karin Woll and Mike Teefy are members of this group. The task force will be looking into the following four areas for consideration: Housing, Transportation, Health, Work Force. The task force will develop action items for the county commissioners to make our community more aging ready. Tom Koeninger of *The Columbian* will be doing a major editorial about the task force.

Klaus informed the council that the second aging readiness forum "Planning for the Aging Boom in Southwest Washington", has been scheduled for September 16. Flyers were distributed. Targeted participants for the forum include baby boomers, elected officials, and planners. The forum will be discussing housing, transportation, health/ wellness and the work force. Bob Scarfo, WSU Spokane will be talking about his ideas on how communities should address the needs of the rapidly aging population. Co-Sponsors of the forum include: WSU Vancouver, Clark College, Lower Columbia College and the Governor's State Council on Aging.

Klaus reported that WA State (ADSA) is required to have State Plan on Aging completed by October 2010. The area agencies on aging have received a draft for comment. The plan focuses on helping consumers make informed decisions about their care options, strengthening family caregiver support, and expanding participant directed models of support, such as the Roads to Community Living

Program. SWAAD suggested putting more emphasis on the transportation/mobility issue in the plan.

David informed the council that an OAA Listening Session, a tri-state (Washington, Idaho and Oregon) meeting was held in Olympia June 10 to discuss the 2011 Reauthorization the Older Americans Act. Agency on Aging representatives and representatives from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) were present to listen to input given from area agencies on aging and their advisory councils. SWAAD staff, SWAADAC members, and county commissioners Swanson and Tolfree participated.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Report: The report was tabled until next month when we will have a quorum present.

Advocacy Committee Report – Karin Woll told the council members that the idea of using candidates’ forums to get our message out has been tabled until the primaries are over. The council should discuss this further at the August meeting. The committee believes future legislative priorities (the message) should remain the same and include “Protect Funding” and “Support Family Caregivers”. The committee is looking to piggyback to get the message out. A couple ideas for doing this are county fairs and health fairs.

Planning Committee Report – Ginny Wilberg reported that the committee was discussing procedures for reviewing contracts and contractor performance and is looking at ideas services to support aging Baby Boomers.

Public Comment:

Bud Quinn, former Skamania County Commissioner and guest at the meeting thanked Marilyn Butler, SWAAD staff and the council for the informative meeting. He explained while he was County Commission he was unaware of all the work being done by SWAAD and the council. He asked staff and council members to make certain the current County Commissioners are aware of the important work being accomplished. David thanked Mr. Quinn for his comments and assured him we would follow-up on his suggestion.

Meeting Wrap-up: Jim Jordan reported that he, Pat Culver and Sandy Bacus had a meeting with Skamania County Commissioner Jamie Tolfree to discuss

developing an Aging Boomers Task Force. David said we had an informative meeting: We know more about Skamania County Senior Services and we were able to meet and visit with clients.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 1:55p.m.