

Southwest Washington Agency on Aging & Disabilities
Advisory Council (SWAADAC)
Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2010
201 NE 73rd Street, Suite 201
Vancouver, WA 98665

Call To Order/Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair, Pat Culver.

Members Present:

Clark County: Shanti Potts, Karin Woll, Ginny Wilberg, Beth Brown

Cowlitz County: Marc Bollinger

Klickitat County: Lowell Smith

Skamania County: Patricia Culver, Sandra Bacus, Jim Jordan

Wahkiakum County: Susan Holmes and Nicki Thomas

Members Absent:

Clark County: Roxanne Jones and Mike Teefy (Excused)

Cowlitz County: Patty Kinswa-Gaiser (Excused)

Wahkiakum County: Anne Snyder (Excused)

A quorum was present

Staff Present: David Kelly, Executive Director

Klaus Micheel, Planning and Advocacy Manager

Mike Reardon, Community Services Manager

Introductions/Guests:

David Kelly introduced Fran Bessermin, Chair of the State Council on Aging (SCOA). Pat Culver introduced MaryAnn Pauline and Martha Quigley applicants for council openings for Klickitat County.

Fran Bessermin, Chair SCOA informed the council she had been on the Governing Board of the Commission on Aging and Long-term Care for 10 years and she also ran her small business. Fran has been on the State Council on Aging for 3 years and she said that Beth Brown was instrumental in having her elected chair. Fran complimented SWAAD staff for the marvelous book they developed which provided an overview of last years' Planning for the Aging Boom Forum. It is important to look at the large picture. We need a plan for the Boomers retirement;

drop in employment, families living with families and so many other issues. Fran said she is looking forward to attending the Forum tomorrow. Fran explained that the SCOA reports to the Governor about issues facing seniors and they also advocate to legislators to continue funding and improving programs for seniors. Karin Woll asked Fran if the SCOA will be affected by planned budget cuts. Fran explained that a portion of their funding is from the Older Americans Act and they will have budget cuts. They are already planning to cut back meetings.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

August 18, 2010 minutes correction noted in the Announcements/Community Outlook section Jim Jordan's statement was a recording error and should be stricken.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

Nicki Thomas inquired if the role of the Advisory Council members for the Aging Forum would be discussed today. David said that would be part of the Director's Report.

Jim Jordan explained that at the last meeting he was attempting to inform the Council about King County's Advisory Councils' Task Force on Healthcare. This is a separate Committee in addition to the Advocacy and Planning Committees. The committee's Task Force on Healthcare examines policies and procedures related to healthcare issues such as Medicare, patient's rights, mental health, dementia needs, and health insurance coverage and advocates for improved service in all of these areas. Jim thought this to be an important issue which directly affects everyone and wondered if this information was currently provided by I&A. He would like Council members to be educated so they can provide this information to their communities. If the information was not yet provided he would be interested in assisting in the development of I&A for this topic. He said he also had attended the Open House for the new Hegeweld (Rock Creek) Center in Stevenson. It is a beautiful building; but the Senior Services space was decreased.

Pat Culver said that after reviewing the by-laws she was announcing members for the Nominating Committee for the 2011 election of Council Officers; they are Roxanne Jones, Nicki Thomas and Jim Jordan.

Lowell Smith reported that the annual senior picnic held at Maryhill Park was attended by approximately 150 people and he made several contacts with people interested in learning more about the Advisory Council [David Kelly attended the picnic on behalf of SWAAD].

Nicki Thomas advised that she had attended a meeting on the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment. The committee has been successful in its proposal for legislation to double the fines for parking in handicapped reserved spaces. The success of this will depend on county enforcement. Nicki said she was fortunate to receive a scholarship to attend a state-wide conference on schizophrenia sponsored by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Wahkiakum County does not currently have a NAMI group.

Shanti Potts informed the council that work is continuing and moving forward to find a suitable geriatric psychiatric care facility. Shanti then spoke about the 7th Annual Caregiver Conference which will be held in Vancouver on October 30 and provided flyers to interested members.

Marc Bollinger said mental health services are facing state budget cuts; Clark, Cowlitz and Timberland RSNs (Regional Support Networks) which include Wahkiakum County are working together to provide services more effectively and assure that at least one Service Center remains operational to serve the overall needs of the communities [RSNs are County-based networks charged by the State Legislature with designing and administering local mental health systems].

Suzanne Holmes informed the council of a Dental Program for cancer patients. The Dental Program is a 501c3 and cancer patients may have their teeth cleaned free of charge. The program is "Cleaning for A Reason."

Karin Woll told the council about a Housing Workshop sponsored by the Clark County Aging Readiness Task Force which will be held in Clark County on September 16, 2010.

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser was unable to attend this meeting however she did express a willingness to serve a second three-year term on the council. After a brief discussion Jim Jordan made the motion to approve Patty Kinswa-Gaiser 's council membership for a second term; motion seconded by Marc Bollinger, vote was unanimous for Patty to serve a second term.

Election of New Members: Tabled.

Service Date Review:

Mike Reardon, Community Services Manager, provided an overview over service data for the first half of 2010. He stated that Adult Day Health program is only provided in Clark County for four people. In light of future budget cuts they are wondering if it is prudent to continue this service. The council discussed this issue and discovered that Adult Day Health care may only be provided in an existing State approved medical facility equipped to handle this service. Clark County is the only county in SW Washington with a State approved facility for an Adult Day Health program. Sandy Bacus asked why the numbers were so low for I&A. Mike explained that they changed the way they counted delivering information. In 2009 if they provided a packet with 10 pieces of information; it was counted as 10 contacts. In 2010 they decided a better reflection of numbers would be to count the packet as 1; regardless of the number of materials contained in the packet. Mike extended an invitation to the council to feel free to contact him in the future with questions or concerns.

Director's Report:

David Kelly reported: The Governor proclaimed September 16 *Fall Prevention Awareness Day*.

The Excellence in Service Award (Penny Black Award) will be awarded to staff at the December all-staff meeting.

Denny Heck, candidate for Congress, District 3, had requested and received a briefing on aging and long-term care issues.

Regarding September 16th second Aging Readiness Forum Dave explained:

State Council on Aging (SCOA) and the Advisory Council are co-sponsors of the forum. At the forum Klaus Micheel will present a compendium of aging readiness activities compiled at UC Berkeley. Dr. Carolyn Long, WSU Vancouver will be the moderator. The program will turn to developing actions plans for Transportation, Housing, Health and Long-term care. Members from the audience will be invited to provide suggestions, information or questions regarding these services. The next presenters will be Tracy Reilly Kelly, Clark College and Lynell Amundson, Lower Columbia College, speaking about training for older workers. Tracy Reilly Kelly will introduce the Plus 50 Program, a national model. Next Dr. Long will return to summarize an overview of the morning discussion and provide

suggestions for action plans in Transportation, Housing, Health and Long-term care. The lunch presentation will be provided by Dr. Bob Scarfo, WSU Spokane . His topic: *Aging Futures – investing in stronger communities*. There will be break-out sessions in the afternoon to explore the feasibility of aging readiness activities in small, medium, and large communities Members of the Advisory Council will moderate. The forum will adjourn at approximately 1:45p.m. The Clark County Aging Readiness Task Force sponsored Housing Workshop will follow the forum and be held from 3-6p.m.

Legislative Agenda 2011:

Advocacy Chair, Karin Woll, informed the council that an Advocacy meeting did not take place last month. She explained that we have our work cut out for us and we are looking to the entire council for input. Karin named the topics we want to advocate for; Secure SCSA funds, support family caregivers, provide access to quality health care, and mental health services. We are looking at ways to meet with state legislators and are open to ideas. Mary Ann Pauline suggested a pie social to pull legislators in for a meeting.

Meeting Wrap-Up:

Lowell asked the council for ideas to move forward on his project connecting youth with seniors. Council members provided several ideas for Lowell to utilize. Martha Quigley said she enjoyed the meeting and hopes to return. David Kelly informed the council that the October 12 meeting of SCOA and the AAA Advisory Councils we will be discussing state budget issues and long-term care part of health care reform.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 1:40p.m.