



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

April 17, 2019

Location: AAADSW Offices, Vancouver WA

The meeting was called to order by Lanae Johnson at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Sue Cameron, Beth Anderson, Lanae Johnson, Sandy Bacus, Sandy DeMent, Pearl Blackburn, Bernadette Goodroe, Ray Thygesen, Kathy Kyllonen, Pat Cano, Arnie Dyer, Lisa Bayautet, Roberta Doster, Shanti Potts

Excused: Carole Lewis, Tina McCully

Absent:

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Karen Wolfe, Sarah Revord

Guests: Bob Thygesen, Stephanie Sivils, Betty Pope, Jon Dieter

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves. Jon Dieter is a former member of the Council and is now retired from the Longview Housing Authority after 20 years. Jon and his wife are celebrating his 40 year wedding anniversary and they have 4 kids and 13 grandkids. He was thrilled when Mike contacted him about an opening on the Council to represent Cowlitz County.

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Ray seconded by Arnie. Motion passed.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Kathy. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook: Beth is starting in July as a choir director for the Alzheimer's group. Longest Day is coming up on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Esther Short Park. Pearl reported the Lions Club has a display of reading glasses at the Wahkiakum Community Center. Sandy D reported she's been busy with Area Plan Surveys. Ray reported they had a good turnout at Trout Lake for surveys. Pat is going to visit the Washougal Lions Club group with surveys. Roberta said it's been a nice experience meeting her neighbors through the surveys. Skamania County has completed all their surveys. Sandy B reported the transportation to/from Dog Mountain will start 4/20. Zoo Passes are available again this year. Strong Woman exercise program from OHSU had 50 people turn out. Mike reported he injured his eye in the crawl space under his house in retrieving a dead possum. His daughter tried out for Varsity Cheer and she made it. Kathy K said the surveys have been a bit of a challenge in Cowlitz County. Having a hard time getting them filled out at the Bingo centers. Bernadette completed her surveys and Wahkiakum is done too. Lisa is struggling with getting the surveys done. Hopes our business cards will be done soon as she feels it makes her more "official" when talking about the surveys with people. Shanti reported on Longest Day, and Senior Dance June 5/6 at Luepke

Center. She's got her regular trainings coming up again. Karen reported on experiencing Hospice care in MN for her uncle, and was very touched by all their help.

#### Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike reported on Dave and Samantha and Breanne attending the Aging in America conference in New Orleans, and presenting on our CBHO Best Practices and the GWEC program. Dave also has several meetings this week in New Orleans.

We submitted a nomination for the ADRN to the n4a Aging Innovations Awards.

W4a meeting was mainly on legislative priorities. LTCTA has passed out of the Senate as of last night. Increase in Case Management rate request and the personal needs allowance. Our ask was reduced in the House Budget and was left out of the Senate Budget.

Executive Committee: Lanae reported on the April Executive Committee meeting. COG report: Roberta was approved by the COG. Legislative updates. Discussed future presentations

Advocacy and Outreach: Beth reported on the theme for Senior Lobby Day 2020. Karen expressed concerns about the planned vests possibly conflicting with the vests we give to members when they finish their second three year term.

Membership: Arnie reported that the committee has vetted Jon Dieter's application. Betty Pope from Skamania County is considering applying to the Council as well.

Planning & Allocations: Sandy D. reported that Carole Lewis has turned in over 80 surveys. Will go until mid-May for completing surveys. Arnie confirmed he visited with area orgs for surveys. Please turn in your completed surveys to Mike.

State Council on Aging (SCOA) Report: Beth reported funding for JLEC has been continued. 50 Alzheimer's beds were approved. SB5210 regarding hearing aid disclosure. Alzheimer's got \$5.2M in funding. They has a presentation on 247,000 native Americans in Washington State and their health care systems.

Area Plan Survey check-in: Mike checked in with everyone and how it's going. We have the surveys in Spanish and Russian as well. See Mike. Nothing in Korean language yet. The Senior Messenger will be promoting the survey at Jamie Herrera Beutler's Senior Fair this month. Also at Senior Messenger distribution sites. We'll also have a link at our website to complete the survey. What's working? Shanti bought colorful pens for folks who fill out a survey. Question if folks from one county can help with surveys for another county. Yes. Sandy B says she tells people that the survey helps bring services to our community. Roberta reported that the CEO of Patagonia donated \$10M to climate change based on the company's tax savings. Sue Cameron noted a survey response mentioning depression and loneliness and lack of friends. Mike noted on behalf of the P&A committee how heartwarming it is to see everyone pitching in and helping, and the community issues coming to our attention. Ray reported on some of the surveys he received and the individual concerns of folks in the community. HIPAA sometimes prohibits us from identifying those people so it's important for us to share our resources with them. Lisa asked if there's a way the agency can communicate to the public some of the things we have learned from the survey. Could there be a County specific report of the survey results? Sandy D thinks it's a good idea. Pat stressed that we need to look at the comments on the issues that are very important to the Latino community.

Kinship Caregiver Program: Staff member Sarah Revord introduced herself and gave a brief history of the program. She works with families raising relatives' children. 35% of grandparents in Washington live with and raise their grandkids. Some counties top 50%. Breakdown of families by county: 9 Klickitat, 1 Skamania, 81 Clark, 49 clients in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum. Can work with any client. The Kinship support program has

funding for lower income families up to 250% of the federal poverty level. For a family of three the income level is around \$40k. It's a pretty generous program and she rarely has to turn anyone away. The other eligibility requirement is that there is no open CPS case. Funding can be used for emergent needs. Often the kids are dropped off with nothing. Frequently use the funding for Fred Meyer vouchers for the kinship kids – clothes, groceries, school supplies. Also can work with partners for furniture, tires and car repairs. Clothing bags from the Childrens Outreach. Clark County Connects also participates and they recently got Costco-donated diapers. Sarah was able to get 1,000 diapers for grandparents with 7 month old twins. Columbia Machine is working on clothing drives. The program also provides rent assistance and utility assistance. Kathy asked if there is a special relationship with the program and Fred Meyer. When the program came to AAADSW, Fred Meyer was the only retailer willing to work with us to bill us the items purchased with vouchers. In 2019 we've served 81 families in Clark County. There are support groups for the grandparents and mental health resources she can refer to. No focus on the parents – the program is focused on the kids and their grandparents. The \$1,000 is per year so they can reapply every year. Governor Inslee declared May 15<sup>th</sup> as Kinship Caregiver Day. Great Wolf Lodge does a kinship day and gives them reduced rates for lodging. Many attractions offer free admission for kinship families. Vancouver Family magazine featured Sarah and a client in their September 2018 issue. There are resources for legal matters, including custody etc. Question if there have been any situations for families with immigration issues. Pat will share that info with Sarah. Question if Skamania residents just aren't aware? Sarah reports it's difficult to get participation in Skamania. Ray suggests they may be overwhelmed and can't attend. There is no respite care, but Sarah says no one ever reports that they are sick and can't care for the kids. Question if there is any activity in the schools to do outreach. Sarah reports she works closely with the Clark County schools. And she talks to the principals at the schools. Ray asked since Klickitat is contracted with AAADSW how do they handle respite? The Senior Services person in Klickitat contacts Sarah on a regular basis to facilitate applications. The Council thanked Sarah for a great presentation and all the work she is doing to support kinship families.

May 16<sup>th</sup> AC Meeting/Senior Heroes Banquet: Reminder our May meeting is Thursday the 16th from 9-10:30 a.m., followed by the Clark County Senior Heroes Awards luncheon. Karen circulated a sign-up sheet to attend the luncheon. The Planning and Allocations committee will meet after the luncheon.

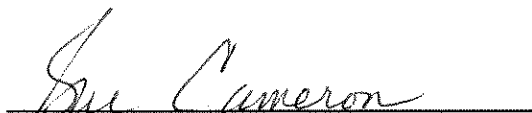
Arnie reported that Jon Dieter was unanimously elected to join the Council, effective May 1st.

Public Comment: Betty thanked everyone for their hospitality today.

Good of the order: Karen shared her experience at the Senior Center lunch in Minnesota.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

REMINDER: Next meeting is Thursday May 16, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. No committee meetings. Lunch at the Senior Heroes Awards Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Warehouse 23, 100 Columbia St #102, Vancouver.

  
Signature

5-16-2019  
Date