



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

April 19, 2023

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office and Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arnie Dyer at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call: JoAnne Baker, Colleen Bennett, Pearl Blackburn, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Diane Craft, Arnie Dyer, Greg Flakus

Excused: Gavin Carmichael, Jodi Oliver, Jennifer Wright, Matthew Hines

Absent:

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Amberly Rose, Breanne Swanson, Karen Wolfe

Guests: none

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

Minutes: JoAnne moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023, meeting. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Pat is glad to be back from LA and all the rain.
- Greg reported he did the Walk For Meals On Wheels last Saturday. We had a table with caregiver handbooks and he met AAADSW Nutrition Program Coordinator Claire Thackeray. He applied to be a driver for Community in Motion but felt the background check was too invasive.
- JoAnne is excited for the International Festival at the community college in Longview. She's also excited to join the SHIBA program in Longview. Mike noted how important these community relationships are.
- Marianne is working towards getting Seniors involved in the Aging Unbound presentation in May. They have about 8 applicants right now and are hoping for at least two more.
- Diane is coordinating the seniors in her area for Aging Unbound. Some are not interested in the recognition. She's working with the area senior centers in Scappoose and Rainier, Castle Rock, Toledo, Winlock, Longview etc. sharing the SHIBA information. She finds it interesting that a lot of people don't know about the AAA resources available. She's also working on an Alzheimer's Walk in Cowlitz and Clark County. She reports receiving many calls inquiring about memory care and Alzheimer's. Spending a lot of time working with family caregivers on appropriate language to use.
- Kathy followed up about adding eggs to farmers market senior voucher program. It turns out it is not possible under the rules of the federal program. She is also working with the Women's' Club of Cathlamet - they are looking into buying half a cow to donate to the food bank.

- Pearl reported the exercise classes are still happening in Cathlamet. She recently spoke with someone that was included in the senior presentation a few years ago, but they didn't want to be included this time as a "senior". Hence the name change of the presentation to "Aging Unbound".

Getting to Know You: Arnie introduced Amberly Rose, Home Health Lead Program Coordinator for AAADSW. Amberly introduced herself and her role at the Agency. She has been with the agency since 2013. In 2015 she moved to the Care Coordination program. In 2018 she moved to her current position. Amberly described the relationship between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and the Health Care Authority (HCA) to enable provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for high-utilization Medicaid clients. She shared a chart of the relationships between the various partners in the Health Home program. The focus now is on dually-eligible clients, i.e. those that are on Medicare and Medicaid. As a lead, we coordinate with other Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs). She shared the eligibility criteria, i.e. must be on Medicaid, includes all ages. Clients never "graduate" from the program.

Mike shared a bit about the program and shared a success story of a CCO client. The doctor was complaining that the patient was not following the post discharge plans. The Care coordinator found out that the client could not read. The Care Coordinator was able to intervene and help the client get on track with their Health Action Plan.

Amberly described the Health Home services available to clients. They are designed to see the client in their home or location of their choice. She described the work detailing the Health Action Plans, designed with the client and their Care Coordinator. The goal of the program is to reduce costs, slow the progression of disease and disability, and increase self-actualization skills. Amberly shared the workflow from Health Home Leads receiving referral batches from the HCA, and assigning them to CCO Networks. The CCOs conduct outreach and engagement. Reimbursement is a monthly capitated payment. Health Home Leads do the billing and invoicing to the CCOs.

Outcomes – 2023 is the ten-year anniversary of Washington's Health Home program. It has saved Medicare more than \$293 Million over the first 6 years. There are 11,300 engaged beneficiaries across all Leads as of December 2022. AAADSW has been a CCO since the beginning of the program. We are one of the largest in the State, with 1,280 active clients, and 34 Care Coordinators across our five- county service area. We have been a Health Home Lead since 2018, managing 817dually eligible clients across our network. We have the highest engagement rate for the Health Home leads in Washington.

Amberly then shared the statewide Health Home Leads dashboard, and answered a variety of questions from the council members.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report – Mike complimented Amberly on her presentation. Mike gave kudos to Diane for all she does in the community, and to Pearl for coming up with the "Aging Unbound" title. He will note that Diane needs more Dementia roadmaps. Mike thanked all the council members for their work.

Legislative session ends this Sunday. Most of our budget asks appear to be doing well. HB1355 updating property tax exemptions has passed both houses, increasing the amount of disposable income to qualify for exemptions & taking into account inflation as well as protecting episodic COLA adjustments. It will be adjusted every 3 years. Mike reported that the Health Home rates increase is included in both legislative budgets.

- W4a report – Intrastate Funding Formula, TXIX Case Management are still being discussed.
- W4A & WACares leadership team meetings to discuss their proposed model for how beneficiaries will learn about their benefits and navigate the system. We're really impressing upon them to utilize the local AAAs. Mike is cautiously optimistic that we will have a greater role to play.
- USAging Aging Policy Briefing and Capitol Hill day is next week. He and Christina will be attending. Meeting with Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez as well as Senators Cantwell and Murray staffers.

Pearl asked about COVID money going away. Mike responded that it will impact the agency financially. The unwinding of the COVID exceptions will result in increased calls to the ADRC. No impact to Senior Nutrition

and MOWP in the congregate and home-delivered meals. They were able to incorporate some of the best practices that came out of the pandemic to better serve seniors and make it less burdensome to providers.

Greg asked about the bill to increase reimbursement to caregivers. Mike thought it might have been put forth by SEIU. There are increases to nursing homes and adult family homes in play as well. Diane asked the outcome. Mike will follow up.

Hunger Relief Bill passed; we will receive roughly \$450K and our program coordinators have obligated/allocated all the money.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on April 4th and drafted the agenda for today.

Planning and Allocations: Greg noted the April committee meeting was cancelled

Advocacy and Outreach: The committee met on the 14th. JoAnne reported they are discussing finding someone to represent the deaf community. Colleen added that Matt is working on a letter to the legislators. There are some speakers lined up for the committee.

Membership Committee: Arnie contacted a history professor in Skamania but that person chose not to move forward. Gavin recommended someone in Klickitat but they currently don't have the time.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): No report today.

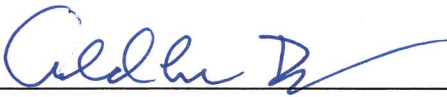
Aging Unbound Presentation – Pearl thanked everyone who submitted names. Applications are coming in. Karen reached out to Maggie to get a current count of submitted profiles and will report back later. Pat is meeting with someone that might be interested. Diane is talking to Lloyd Smith about submitting an application.

Area Plan Draft Survey –Breanne described the cover letter to go with the survey. The intent is for AC members to bring them to their communities. The survey takes about 10 minutes. It will include some contact information by county. The questionnaire has been pared down to one sheet on both sides, so it is not so cumbersome. Breanne described the survey questions. She set up a Survey Monkey that will be ready to send out for folks to respond electronically, plus hard copies. The time frame is by the end of May to have the survey completed and submitted to us. It is anonymous. Question: Is there a definition of "Caregiver"? Many folks don't consider themselves caregivers. Breanne said it was left out due to space. She encouraged AC members to encourage folks to submit the survey regardless. Suggestion was made to expand the question around the definition. Greg asked how to approach organizations. Mike said we can work on an "elevator speech" text for them to use. This is how we decide what programs/projects to fund. Mike will work on it and send it to Breanne. Pearl asked how we get the surveys back from responders. There is no specific goal of how many surveys to get back. Greg suggested the libraries would be a good resource to distribute. Question about how the QR codes work. Is it okay to help someone complete the survey? Yes, as long as they ask for help.

Good of the order: Diane reported that anyone enquiring on Medicaid at Delaware Plaza are not being turned away.

Public Comment: none

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Signature  Date May 17, 2023

REMINDER: Next Meeting May 17, 2023, at AAADSW's Vancouver office and via Zoom; Committees 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., full council meeting 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.