



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

August 16, 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: Arnie Dyer, JoAnne Baker, Gavin Carmichael, Kathy Briggs, Pearl Blackburn, Colleen Bennett, Greg Flakus, Jodi Oliver, Diane Craft

Excused: Marianne Burkholder, Pat Cano

Absent: Sue Cameron

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marneris, Karen Wolfe, Maggie Ridenour

Guests: Joe Bosch, Clark County; Maggie Campbell, DSHS; Justin Ross, Clark County Commission on Aging

Agenda: Joanne moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting; Gavin seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes: Gavin moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2023, meeting. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

Kathy reported on the Senior Prom; they had twice as many attendees as expected. Shared a photo.

Diane – has been very busy. Lots going on in the healthcare field, and older adults are moving into the area. Empress is up for sale by Eden, but it is still in the works. Diane has asked the home health agencies to send her a report every Monday for availability of home health services. It has been very helpful with the delay on caregivers.

Jodi: Nothing to announce, nice to see everyone.

Gavin – no updates

JoAnne – Joanne announced she is resigning from the Council. Arnie said he is sad to see her go.

Pearl: Fresh produce box distribution ended in June. Congresswoman Gluezenkamp Perez came for a town hall and Pearl mentioned it to her. She is on the Agriculture Committee and will find out why it was stopped. Local news reports the number of folks coming to the food banks has doubled, primarily older adults. Pearl also reported for Marianne, Catholic Community Center below the library closed in the past. The Hope Center is where the new congregate meal site is. A local resident, Nancy, has been trying to start a friendship group. Working with a pastor on Puget Island to let older adults meet at the Lutheran church. Pearl also reported she attended the Imagination Library event in Tacoma featuring Dolly Parton.

Greg: Fish in Vancouver reports numbers are up for food box requests. Received a nice donation to buy a mobile pantry van to go out to four low-income senior homes weekly to hand out food boxes.

Arnie noted the council is very proud of the agency and the services we provide.

Guests: Joe Bosch introduced himself. He lives in LaCenter and is a retired school teacher. In the past he has tried to work with the city on senior issues in LaCenter; there are very few services there.

Justin Ross, Clark Commission on Aging- He is a new Clark County Commission on Aging member, is our appointed representative, and wants to learn more about AAADSW.

#### Reports:

Executive Director's Report – Mike welcomed everyone and thanked our guests for attending. Kudos to the Wahkiakum County group for all their great work.

USAgging - Last month Mike presented at the USAgging national conference in Salt Lake City. His presentation was on the intersection of Information & Assistance and the disability community. Mike also presented on Medicare Advantage Plans and the opportunity for AAAS to contract with Managed Care Organizations (MCO)s to provide Care Coordination type services. Greg asked how those programs work. Mike shared how we have contracts with certain MCOs (e.g., Humana, Vancouver Clinic) to provide care coordination services, based on certain scoring of potential clients (usually those with chronic conditions that are high utilizers of emergency services). Mike reported that Samantha Waldbauer presented on the growing issue of homeless older adults. We are doing some minor home modification programs to help people stay in their homes. Also working with 7<sup>th</sup> Generation to support older adults remaining in their homes. This is the beginning of our work with this issue – what is our role, how can we be of better service, etc. Pearl asked if we know why the trend is happening? Are families more dispersed? Mike can only speak anecdotally – rising cost of housing, groceries, property taxes, etc. Pearl suggested that seniors may not be as connected with family members due to technological challenges. Pearl suggested we look at keeping family connections strengthened. Diane shared that she hears from seniors often getting evicted that need placement. Asked if there are any motels that could connect people with services. Mike deferred to Christina but wants her to weigh in on how we would connect. Christina will reach out to the Housing Authorities, which is who we usually refer people to. She will report back at the next meeting.

W4a – caregiver workforce shortage. Mike reported on meeting with the school superintendent in Wahkiakum and with the State. There is enthusiasm in Wahkiakum County for the high school senior home care training program. Mike has also reached out to the Stevenson Carson school district superintendent. He hopes to meet with her later in August. Meeting with Kelso and Longview school district superintendents. Pearl expressed her support. Greg reported on the Clark County Skill Center and would be willing to talk to the board chair or the director to make a presentation to them about the High School program. Mike was supportive of that suggestion and asked for a calendar invite or an email introduction. Kathy asked what kind of certification the students receive. Upon successful completion of the program, they will be certified home care aide. It would be a steppingstone to future career mobility. The course is 90 hours, based on either a school quarter or semester. Diane asked if there was an age limit. You must be 18 at the time of certification, and the program is limited to high school juniors and seniors. Would they be CNAs? Not sure, but they would probably need more training. Gavin thanked Mike for working on this. He thinks it's a lacking curriculum in schools. Diane asked if there has been collaboration to get candy-stripers going again? No. Jodi shared that this is a great vision. Gavin asked if there is anything moving in Klickitat County on the high school program. Mike stated he would appreciate an email intro to the school superintendent.

Mike reported there have been multiple meetings regarding senior living options in Klickitat County. There are some interested parties in the area that see the need. Mike has met with them on the viability and feasibility of a facility. The White Salmon project is dead and they had to return the donated funding. Mike is meeting with the group this Friday to continue discussing how to move the project forward.

Mike reported that Arnie Dyer was selected 2023 Senior Community Hero award winner in July. Kudos to Arnie!

We have had 4 audits in the last 5 months of our fiscal practices and programs. Mike is proud to report we continue to score well and receive high marks on the audits. We will celebrate with staff in September.

Kathy Briggs reported that Kelly Patterson is retiring from Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services. Christina reported we are talking to Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services to develop a transition plan.

Brittney will be working on this. Our Longview office will provide support as needed. Christina will keep everyone updated.

Mike thanked everyone for their work on behalf of the agency. Arnie thanked Mike for his efforts on the school training.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on August 1st and drafted the agenda for today. Also discussed that some committees may not need monthly meetings. Proposed they meet on a quarterly basis with more meetings added as needed. Gavin is in support of quarterly meetings. The subcommittees will meet at the beginning of each quarter, starting in October.

Planning and Allocations: nothing to report

Advocacy and Outreach: on hiatus until September

Membership Committee: Arnie thanked JoAnne for her service on the Council and her support of the Agency's mission.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): Gavin reported on two upcoming conferences. 18<sup>th</sup> of October W4a/SCOA Fall conference. W4a sent a Survey Monkey looking for suggested topics and Christina will forward the link to the Council members. September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> is the Dementia Friendly WA virtual conference. Gavin will forward the information to Christina and Mike

Presentation: Today's presentation is from Maggie Campbell, from the State Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). Maggie is the Hard of Hearing Consultation and Resource Program Manager. Maggie introduced herself and shared her background. She loves working with the vulnerable adult community. One in four people will have hearing loss by 2050. Maggie emphasized the importance of recognizing hearing trauma. Maggie first started advocating for communication assistance when she worked at Adult Protective Services (APS). The goal of the Hard of Hearing Consultation and Resource Program is to remove barriers and have equal access. Maggie described some of the services available through the program. ACT – Assistive Communication Technology – loop systems are installed across the state, they work with Bluetooth and cochlear implants. Telecoil works with the loop system. The program also provides FM Receiver/Transmitter kits for meetings; personal announcement systems "pocket talker"; UBO duo is a text based system which is not internet based. Maggie sent Christina a handout of resources available to the public. Most places are moving away from TTY in favor of newer technology. There is also a Spanish language relay service and for those with speech disabilities. Telecommunication Equipment Distribution (TED) is provided to individuals for distance communication, provided on a sliding fee scale, waivers are available; landline based amplified phones, caption phones, ipad or iphone, teletypewriters, deaf blind communicators, many other pieces of technology. There are emergency kits for people in facilities in case of emergencies, smoke and CO2 detectors, motion signals, doorbell signals; focusing on dignity and respect in entering a person's room. Also please be sensitive to people with issues with flashing lights (seizures, migraines, etc.). Maggie emphasized that we consider hearing loss when working with older adults. Maggie's program focuses on providing training and managing resources to HCS, DDA, AAAs, Residential Care services and nursing homes, etc., as well as consulting with individuals. Provides services to Social and Human Services to remove barriers through collaboration, revised regulations, policies and contracted services in local communities. Regional Service Centers – services will be available in Vancouver via ODHH. They also have Tribal Liaisons. Please contact Maggie if you have questions 564-200-2932, [mary.campbell@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:mary.campbell@dshs.wa.gov).

Kathy Briggs asked Maggie how to help a client with a family member with hearing loss. Maggie referred her to the correct person at ODHH.

The Council thanked Maggie for her presentation today.

Good of the order: Mike announced that today is Karen's last meeting in support of the Council. Maggie Ridenour, Community Services Program Aide will assume these responsibilities in September. Mike shared how much Karen has done for the Council and that he is happy he will still be working with her in her new responsibilities for the

Agency. Arnie thanked Karen for her support of the Council and presented her with a card from the Council. Karen will be receiving a vest like the outgoing council members receive at the end of their two terms. Karen thanked everyone for the recognition and expressed her appreciation for her 9+ years working with the Advisory Council. She shared that she has been training Maggie and will continue to do that for the rest of the month and will be available to consult with Maggie starting in September. Pearl stated that everyone will miss Karen and all she has done for the Council. Then we ate cake.

Public Comment: none

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Signature  Date September 20, 2023

REMINDER: Next Meeting September 20, 2023, at AAADSW's Vancouver office and via Zoom; lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., full council meeting 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.