

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023**

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office and Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arnie Dyer at 12:10 pm.

Roll Call: Arnie Dyer, Joe Bosch, Colleen Bennett, Pearl Blackburn, Marianne Burkholder, Diane Craft

Excused: Kathy Briggs, Gavin Carmichael, Greg Flakus, Jodi Oliver

Absent: Sue Cameron, Pat Cano

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnaris,

Guests: Justin Ross (COA Representative)

November 15 Meeting Agenda: Because there was no quorum, the agenda was not approved.

September 20 Meeting Minutes: Because there was no quorum, the meeting minutes were not approved.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Colleen Bennett:
 - Went to some YMCA functions recently, one of which was in Seattle.
 - Colleen shared that she learned that the AAA in Seattle has teamed up with the YMCA for some of their transportation needs.
 - She is interested in seeing if there is a way to have AAADSW partner with YMCA in a similar way.
 - She also let everyone know that the YMCA is currently holding talks about Medicare enrollment and benefits.
- Pearl Blackburn:
 - At the meeting with Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services one of the discussions topics was the perception of seniors.
 - Erica with Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services asked how to connect with area seniors. Pearl said that she and Marianne connect with their friends and the senior groups they participate in. Pearl shared her impression was that she and Marianne weren't necessarily seen as "seniors".
 - Pearl reminded the Advisory Council members that it is important to remain active in our communities and engage with people who are younger than themselves to help change the perception of what a senior is.
- Joe Bosch:
 - Nothing new to report.

- Marianne Burkholder:
 - She and Pearl Blackburn met with Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services and met the new Community Outreach Specialist (Carissa) since Kelly Patterson retired.
 - Pearl and Marianne shared with Julie, Erica and Carissa at Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services about how we are connecting with seniors, especially those living on the west end of Wahkiakum County.
 - Wahkiakum County also had the Living Well Health Fair at the Hope Center where AAADSW Advisory Council was represented by Pearl Blackburn and Kathy Briggs.
 - Marianne also shared that for the 60+ Friends Group she will be giving a rock painting class and Pearl will be leading a cookie exchange on the same day.
 - Marianne and Pearl are working to get the 60+ Friends Group more active as that is what the participants have indicated they would like.
- Diane Craft:
 - She has been to both the City of Longview Benefits Fair and the Cowlitz County Employees Benefits Fair recently. When at fairs like these she takes and shares information about AAADSW.
 - While at the City of Longview Benefits Fair she was able to meet with someone who is on the Advisory Council for the AAA in Thurston County.
 - Diane has also been working with AAADSW staff in regards to hosting a caregivers trainings in Longview.
 - It was also shared that the Canterbury is hosting one of the HOPE Dementia caregivers support groups. This is replacing a group that had previously been hosted at a church in Kalama. She will share a flyer when she has it.
- Arnie Dyer:
 - He received a call about a week ago from NPR in Washington DC in regards to the Men's Shed. Arnie was able to provide some background about the project.

Guests:

- Justin Ross, Clark Commission on Aging:
 - The Commission on Aging Readiness Plan has been approved by the county. Now the work begins on how to put the items in the Readiness Plan into action to make it happen.
 - There have been discussions with other agencies, like AAADSW, for possible collaborations.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike welcomed everyone and thanked our guests for joining us.

- *AAADSW Sponsored Documentary: Wine, Women and Dementia:*
 - This is a raw view of a caregivers journey and friendships that have been made along the way.
 - AAADSW sponsored 2 showings at Kiggins Theater in Vancouver, one on a Thursday and one on a Saturday.
 - Mike highly suggests watching the movie and noted that despite the title it is actually for men and women and it does feature some men in the movie.
- *High School Home Care Aide Updates:*
 - Wahkiakum County has some forward movement.
 - The superintendent has partnered with a teacher at the high school locally and they are beginning to work with the state to look at how they can offer the High School Home Care Aide program in Wahkiakum County.
 - No timeline as of yet other than to say there is forward movement.

- Cascadia Tech Academy (Clark County)
 - Thank you to Greg Flakus who introduced Mike to the chairman of their foundation board.
 - Cascadia Tech's Executive Director said that in January 2024 they will be looking at possibly offering the High School Home Care Aide program as a summer school class.
- Kelso High School (Cowlitz County)
 - Has a similar class as the High School Home Care Aide program however it is a little more advanced. It is more in the arena of Applied Health and CNA's.
 - They feel that at this time the High School Home Care Aide program is duplicative and have taken a pass on offering it.
- Skamania County (Carson/Stevenson School District) and Klickitat County
 - Mike continues to reach out to the superintendents but they are very busy and hasn't been able to meet with them yet.
 - Mike will continue to be persistent and try to arrange a meeting with them.
- Still on Mike's list to reach out to:
 - Castle Rock
 - Toutle Lake

➤ W4A:

- Legislative Priorities for 2024
 - \$15.2 million ask for funding for senior nutrition.
 - Partnering with a number of organizations to advocate for more state only funding for congregate nutrition sites and home delivered meals as well as possibly more creative options like grocery delivery.
 - Some of the organizations that are partnering are:
 - NW Harvest
 - Food Lifeline
 - Alzheimer's Association
 - More information to come mid-late January 2024.
- Discussion surrounding the WA CARES Act.
 - This is the Long Term Care Trust Fund that people who are employed are now paying into.
 - The state had wanted a single point of entry call center staffed with about 200 employees for people to call to get more information about the program and to determine eligibility for the program.
 - W4A has pushed hard saying this is something that our organizations should play a role in since we have established calls centers (ADRC's) and we are in the local communities.
 - Last month the state indicated that they would like to look at partnering with the local communities.
 - Initiative 2124 is currently circulating for signatures with the objective of making WA CARES optional to pay into. This movement has been in process in different forms for a couple of years.
- Funding model for MAC/TSOA programs
 - W4A and the state have been in negotiations about how these programs should be funded for sustainability and long term success.
 - It's coming down to the wire for an agreement about the funding model as the new contract for these programs starts in January 2024.
 - After seeing a couple of the funding models, Mike expressed that he feels confident that there will be a resolution and that we are in "good shape" and can "live with" any of the funding models on the table right now.
 - W4A is still continuing to push though for the model that is seen as "the ultimate and best solution" in our eyes for these programs.

➤ Other

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- Christina and Mike were in a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the state Long Term Care Ombudsman and our local Long Term Care Ombudsman about House Bill 1859 that was introduced late in the session last year. It will be reintroduced this year.
 - The objective of this bill is to take the same rights that residents of skilled nursing facilities have and push them out across the board to all community living situations such as assisted living facilities and adult family homes.
 - These rights have NOT been in place for assisted living facilities and adult family homes.
 - Some of the key issues in the initiative are:
 - Provides protection against unlawful discharges and evictions.
 - The right to have visitors.
 - The right of reasonable protection of personal property from loss and theft.
 - The right to a formal grievance process.
 - If the bill makes it to the Senate, Senator Cleavland has already agreed to sponsor the bill.
 - Even though it is not a formal priority for our state association, but Mike is making it a priority for AAADSW to provide some advocacy around.
 - **Arnie proposed that the AAADSW Advisory Council provide a vote of confidence and support Mike in making House Bill 1859 a focus of our agency. **Motion passed by vote of the Advisory Council.****
- National advocacy has been done lately requesting that the COVID-19 level of funding for services be sustained.
 - The request is to sustain the level of funding for aging services that was provided during COVID-19.
 - The funds helped provide services such as senior nutrition and senior transportation.
- Local advocacy/initiatives that AAADSW has been involved in.
 - We have loosely been working with Specialized Housing Inc. out of Oregon.
 - They are looking to build a 62 unit, low income senior housing building in Felida Park (Clark County).
 - They are currently gathering federal and state funding.
 - They are working with Vancouver Housing Authority.
 - AAADSW has written a letter of support.
 - This year the AAADSW leadership team has been trying to find places where we can intersect with housing that we can provide advocacy and support to.
 - Last month Mike met with Cowlitz County Health and Human Services and had a discussion around what is Coordinated Entry for housing.
 - Mike will now be serving on the Cowlitz County Homeless Housing Task Force because we are now seeing an increase in seniors who are currently homeless or who are facing homelessness.
 - Diane asked Mike to elaborate on what the Cowlitz County Homeless Housing Task Force is. She also requested that Mike let her know if there is a liaison role on the task force as she knows of a couple seniors who could potentially use help.
 - Mike shared that at this point he isn't fully sure what the role is or what the board is covering fully as he is still learning about it. He will continue to share more information as he learns more about it. He feels that his role is to help advocate for homeless seniors.
- Mike recently went on a couple of ride alongs.
 - Since AAADSW funds a couple of the home delivered meals programs he wanted to see how the programs work at a ground level.
 - One ride along was a Cowlitz County home delivered meals driver.
 - The other ride along was with a Clark County home delivered meals driver.
 - Mike shared that what he saw was fantastic. The drivers know their routes, know the seniors and check in on them to make sure everything is ok.

- Mike states that what he saw on the ride alongs was both inspiring and sometimes sad. He came away with some personal experiences that he will be able to share with legislators when advocating for funding.

Executive Committee: Arnie reported that the Executive Committee met on November 7, 2023, and drafted the agenda for today.

Planning and Allocations: (Met on Thursday, November 9, 2023.) Gavin was unable to attend the full council meeting to give a report on Planning and Allocations.

Advocacy and Outreach: Christina states she will be reaching out to the members so that they can discuss advocacy meetings starting in January 2024.

Membership Committee: (Met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023) Arnie reported that Kevin Callahan has expressed an interest in joining the council for Clark County when a position opens. There are also 2 possible candidates in Skamania County who expressed interest in joining the council.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): Gavin was unable to attend today's meeting to provide a report on SCOA.

Presentations:

➤ Presenting Area Plan Draft: Christina Marnaris

- At the September Advisory Council meeting we covered a general overview of the Area Plan. Today we will focus on the Issue Areas.
- Issue Area 1: Healthy Aging
 - Goal: Help individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia and their family caregivers connect to services and supports.
 - Objectives:
 - Sustain respite and personal care services.
 - Connect family caregivers to local support groups.
 - Offer family caregiver education opportunities via print, online and in-person.
 - Provide dementia capable training to AAADSW staff.
 - Goal: Facilitate the expansion of dementia friendly communities.
 - Objectives:
 - Collaborate with Washington Dementia Action Collaborative regarding the dementia friend communities' initiative.
 - Collaborate with community members, partners, businesses, and volunteers to expand Dementia Friends in Clark County.
 - Collaborate with community members, partners, businesses, and volunteers to bring Dementia Friends to a second county in our service area.
 - Goal: Reduce social isolation amongst older adults.
 - Objectives:
 - Join and participate in groups that focus on addressing social isolation and loneliness.
 - Research social isolation and find out what work is being done to address the issue in the community.
 - Explore ways to address social isolation and loneliness with Nutrition and Transportation providers.
 - Goal: Advocate for expanded transportation services
 - Objectives:
 - Research ways to recruit and obtain volunteer drives, share findings with community partners and determine implementation feasibility.

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- Participate with Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative and Gorge TransLink Alliance.
 - Contribute feedback to the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council's Human Service Transportation Plans.
- Issue Area 2: Expanding and strengthening services and supports that prevent or delay entry into Medicaid funded long-term services and supports.
 - Goal: Connect individuals and families to services and supports that maximize independence and improve quality of life in their home and community.
 - Objectives:
 - Sustain an information and assistance service in each county, provided by Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC).
 - Continue to cultivate healthcare partnerships and collaborations.
 - Explore new opportunities to expand ADRC service delivery.
 - Update resources for Yard Care.
 - Seek to expand network adequacy to include yard care as a service.
 - Goal: Expand support to family caregivers.
 - Objectives:
 - Include information for Family Caregiver Support Group (FCSP) at community outreach events AAADSW attends.
 - Promote availability of support groups through agency website and social media.
 - Connect family caregivers to information about dementia and memory loss through classes, online education, printed materials, and agency and community resources.
 - Maximize utilization of funding available for all services and supports available through FCSP.
- Issue Area 3: 7.01 Planning with Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations.
 - Reviewed in prior meeting.
- Issue Area 4: Person-centered Home and Community Based Services.
 - Goal: Provide a person-centered approach to explore resources and options for care.
 - Objectives:
 - Aging and Disability Resource Specialists and Community Services Case Managers will complete person-centered options counseling training within six months of hire.
 - Continue to share information about upcoming person-centered options counseling trainings with AAADSW's Medicaid Case Management and Care Coordination teams.
 - Aging and Disability Resource Specialists will assist individuals to explore resources and service options, and to support the individual in weighing pros and cons.
 - Case managers will continue to use the TCARE assessment to identify family caregivers' needs, provide consultations to share recommended services and supports, that meet their needs and collaborate with them to incorporate their preferred services and supports into their plan of care.
 - Case managers will continue to support clients in making informed decisions about Long-Term Services and Supports.
- Issue Area 5: Additional Goals
 - Goal: Increase awareness of High School Home Care Aide Program in rural service areas.
 - Objectives:
 - Conduct outreach with Superintendents in the four rural counties within the Planning Service Area to share information about the High School Home Care Aide Program.
 - Continue to brainstorm with stakeholders to improve probability of program being implemented.
 - Communicate progress with community stakeholders.

- Goal: Enhance outreach to older adults, and adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and community partners.
 - Objectives:
 - Develop outreach plan to promote ADRC.
 - Implement outreach plan to promote ADRC.
 - Conduct outreach with mobile park home communities with PSA.
 - Expand outreach with neighborhood associations and housing authorities.
 - Share information about senior health and wellness activities.

➤ Amendment to Bylaws: Arnie Dyer

- We don't have a quorum today to take a vote.
- Will be carried over to the Executive Committee to move forward the amendments.

➤ Slate of Office Nominations: Arnie Dyer

- We don't have a quorum today to take a vote. Vote held over until December.
- Nominations accepted to be put through for a vote are:
 - Gavin Carmichael accepted a nomination for Chairperson.
 - Diane Craft accepted a nomination for Vice Chairperson.
 - Marianne Burkholder accepted a nomination for Secretary.

➤ Vote on the 2024 slate of offices – Take nominations from floor: Arnie Dyer:

- No additional nominations.
- Due to not having a quorum to vote at the November meeting, voting will be held over until December.

➤ Recap of Virtual Statewide Advisory Council Meeting and Senior Citizen's Fall Conference: Arnie Dyer

- Arnie expressed disappointment in the morning session on the first day of the conference as he felt it didn't have much substance. He couldn't attend the afternoon session. However, he was very impressed with the morning session on the second day. He was shocked to learn the numbers of caregivers to care receivers now versus in ten years. If things continue at this rate there will be a serious shortage of available workers to be caregivers. Christina will share the slides that provide the statistics.

➤ All Staff: Arnie Dyer

- Christina asked if the Advisory Council would like to share their slide presentation about how older adults are making an impact at the AAADSW All Staff meeting in December. Arnie thought it sounded like a good idea and there were no objections.

Good of the order:

- Diane Craft shared that New Westside Terrace in Longview (Cowlitz County) has changed their income cap for those who need light assisted living. They no longer have a cap if they have availability. They do take Medicaid and the last she heard they still have availability.

Public Comment:

- No public comments

Membership Vote:

- No new members to vote on.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Signature



Date December 26, 2023

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