

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2023**

**Location:** Vancouver AAADSW Office and Via Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Arnie Dyer at 12:02pm.*

**Roll Call:** Colleen Bennett, Pearl Blackburn, Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Pat Cano, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Arnie Dyer, Greg Flakus

**Excused:** Sue Cameron, Jodi Oliver

**Absent:** N/A

**Staff present:** Mike Reardon, Christina Marneris, Karen Schnitzer, Patti Atkins, Maggie Ridenour

**Guests:** Shelley Baxter, Mary Repar,

**December 13, 2023, Meeting Agenda:** Joe moved to approve the agenda. Gavin seconded. Motion passed.

**November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Gavin moved to approve the edited minutes. Joe seconded. Motion passed.

**Announcements/Community Outlook:**

- Colleen Bennett:
  - Reported that the “Y” has recently started a Wednesday morning coffee that is attracting a lot of seniors.
- Pearl Blackburn:
  - Reported about the Cathlamet 60+ Club activities (cookie exchange and rock painting class).
  - Shared about recent flooding in Wahkiakum County that has been reported on national news and locally in the Chinook Observer as recently as today (12/13/23).
- Joe Bosch:
  - Reported that he met with someone from the City Planning Advisory Board in LaCenter to talk to them to see if there was a way of getting some kind of senior advisory board with the city.
  - He learned that they prefer not to have senior advisory boards where advice is given. But the suggestion was made that he may look at another route to help and reach out to local churches and grange halls.
  - Joe will be meeting with a group in Castle Rock who run a senior center to see if what they are doing can be mirrored in LaCenter.

- Joe explained that he recently visited a Meals on Wheels People meal site and had an “eye opening” experience where he learned how much the meal sites and senior centers are needed in his community.
- Kathy Briggs:
  - Shared that her community has had many holiday celebrations.
- Marianne Burkholder:
  - Cathlamet 60+ Friendship Group is planning another rock painting class in January 2024.
- Pat Cano:
  - Shared that she has been volunteering at the Meals on Wheels People meal site in Washougal and at a homeless shelter recently.
  - Pat suggested that seniors continue to put themselves “out there” to show the younger generations what aging is about.
- Gavin Carmichael:
- Diane Craft:
  - Reported that in Cowlitz County there is a new transportation service. The hospital discharge planner provided the information to Diane as the provider who will now handle the transportation for discharges.
    - The new provider is: Freedom Northwest Transport Services. They are based out of Idaho but have expanded into Washington.
      - [www.freedomnwts.com](http://www.freedomnwts.com)
- Arnie Dyer:
  - The Clark County Men’s Shed is working with Meals on Wheels People The Diner to arrange a possible morning meeting spot 1 – 2x per month to help build the outreach for Clark County Men’s Shed.
- Greg Flakus:
  - Because of recent positive changes in his personal caregiving journey, he is now able to do more volunteering.
  - FISH of Vancouver in expanding the building that they own so that they can offer more resources to the community.
  - FISH of Vancouver has requested that Greg assist in possibly learning about and bringing in more grants to help with the expansion efforts.
  - Greg stated that the lines at food sites have been getting longer and longer.
  - Greg shared that he is in touch with Senator Lynda Wilson about working on something in regard to hospital release policies. He would like to see better communication with patient caregivers upon release about policies and procedures.

**Guests:**

- Shelley Baxter:
  - Shared that she has been with the Senior Advisory Council of Klickitat County for about 4 years.
  - Has experienced that getting information in Klickitat County can be difficult.
  - Shelley expressed that she feels like her role right now is to be a liaison for seniors in her county in a proactive manner.
- Patti Atkins, AAADSW Communications Coordinator II:
  - Patti is the new Communications Coordinator at AAADSW.
  - She shared her past work history.

- Mary Repar:
  - Shared that all Skamania County representation on the Advisory Council has been lost.
  - Mary said she would share some of the concerns in her community later in the meeting.

## Reports:

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

- High School Home Care Aide Updates:
  - Mike is continuing to try and make connections with superintendents from Skamania and Klickitat Counties as well as the Longview School District to advocate for this program.
  - Mary Repar reports that she has spoken to a representative (Ingrid) in Skamania County to advocate for this program.
    - In the meeting it was indicated that one limitation is that the program will require the hiring of a teacher and Skamania County doesn't have the funds to support the salary to hire a teacher.
    - Mike said that he has provided some ideas on how to address the limitations and concerns around hiring staff in rural areas and he is willing to continue to follow up.
  - Diane shared that the Longview superintendent is retiring and asked if maybe we would like to speak to some of the Longview School Board members.
    - Diane offered to help with facilitating connections between Mike and a school board member.
  
- W4A:
  - The meeting was going on at the same time as the Advisory Council meeting today. Mike shared that he attended prior to the Advisory Council meeting and the discussion was centering around the legislative advocacy.
  - Mike discussed the ask for \$15.2 million in funds for senior nutrition services.
    - Please see the attached flyer.
  - Mike shared information about HB 1859 – Protecting the Rights of Residents
    - AAADSW is collaborating with the LTCOP (Long Term Care Ombudsman Program) to support this bill.
    - Please see the attached flyer for details on the bill.
  - Please keep in mind that a tentative date of Tuesday, 1/16/24 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm has been set for the annual state-wide Advisory Council/AAA meeting/training around advocacy issues and key points on talking to and engaging our local legislators.
    - Meetings to talk to legislators will likely be held towards the end of January 2024.
    - However, Legislative District 14 (Klickitat County) has dates already set. (Meeting invitations will be sent to the Klickitat County Advisory Council members once received).
      - 12/21/23 10:00am – meeting with Representative Chris Corry. This meeting is in conjunction with Southeast Aging & Long Term Care.
      - 12/21/23 1:30pm – meeting with Senator Curtis King.
  
- Other:
  - The COG (Council of Governments) board approved the Area Plan that was submitted to the State. We are currently waiting for a response from the State which could take up to a month to receive.
    - The COG is made up of a county commissioner from each of our 5 counties.
  - Mike extended his thanks and appreciation for Arnie's presentation at the AAADSW All Staff Meeting on December 6, 2023.
  - WA Cares (Long Term Care Trust Act):
    - Beginning in July 2023, those who are still working are paying a payroll tax that goes into this fund so that when they become eligible, they are able to access up to \$35,800 towards their long-term care costs.

- Initiative 2124 is gaining signatures to allow people to opt in to pay the payroll tax and to make it optional. This does run the risk of jeopardizing the WA Cares Long Term Care Trust Act.
- If the Long-Term Care Trust Act continues to move forward “as is”, the ADRC at AAADSW will be a touch point for people to reach out to so that they can learn what they are eligible for and to help navigate the system.

**Executive Committee:** Arnie reported that the Executive Committee met on 12/5/23 and drafted the agenda for today.

- The Executive Committee also voted on the minutes for the September meeting as there wasn’t a quorum at the November Advisory Council meeting to vote and pass the minutes.
  - September minutes were approved.
- The Executive Committee also voted on and approved the 2024 Advisory Council slate officers.

**Planning and Allocations:** Recessed until January 2024.

**Advocacy and Outreach:** Met on December 12, 2023.

- Discussed the 2 legislative priorities that will be discussed with legislators in January.
  - The committee had some good suggestions on how to approach and discuss the priorities with the legislators.
    - Under nutrition it was suggested that we should discuss the cost per person to help the legislators see the impact to the person.

**Membership Committee:** Recessed until January 2024.

**State Council on Aging (SCOA):**

- Gavin reported that there seems to be a lot of support for HB 1859 – Protecting the Rights of Residents.
- Gavin noted that he found it interesting that a lot of the AARP priorities align with AAADSW’s priorities also.
  - Examples: Housing, ground ambulances, HB 1859 and DSHS requests to legislature in regards to budget requests.
- Gavin suggested that it might be helpful to have another voice from Advisory Council join him to represent rural areas at SCOA meetings if it is allowed. Christina will follow up to see if there is space for this.

**Presentations:**

- Getting to Know You: Karen Schnitzer, Community Services Programs Coordinator – MAC and TSOA.
  - Karen presented on the MTP programs Medicaid Alternative Care and Tailored Supports of Older Adults.
  - *See attached for full presentation.*
    - Acronym meanings from the presentation:
      - FCSP – Family Caregiver Support Program
      - MTD/MTP – Medicaid Transformation Demonstration Program
      - ANP – Aging Network Program
      - MAC – Medicaid Alternative Care
      - TSOA – Tailored Supports for Older Adults
      - NFLOC – Nursing Facility Level of Care
    - Greg asked if the money that is provided through the MTD programs is self-managed or is there someone who watches over funds to be sure they are used appropriately?
      - Karen replied that the Case Managers will keep track of what has been authorized for services and if an Exception to Rule or Policy is needed.
    - Greg also asked if the state sets the amount for the in-home caregiver.
      - Karen replied that yes, those amounts are set by the state (AL TSA) and change every January and July.

- Karen was asked to explain what “dyad” means.
  - A dyad is a care receiver who has an unpaid caregiver. The two people are considered a “dyad”.
- An explanation of “presumptive eligibility” was also requested.
  - This means that we take a verbal attestation of what a client’s income is and based on the information provided we presume that the client would be eligible for the program. This allows for services to be started prior to a financial worker making a determination of eligibility.
- Mary Repar requested that if possible, Karen share the information about the programs with the Health Skamania Meetings. (Christina will help with facilitating connections with Karen, Mary and Skamania Senior Services).

➤ Prep for 2024 January Legislative Visits:

○ What to expect

- 1) Visits will likely be via Zoom.
- 2) During the visit we thank the legislators for the funding currently provided and highlight the impact of the funded programs.
- 3) We share briefly who we are if it is a new legislator, how we can be of support to them and their constituents and how to contact us.
- 4) We advocate for our legislative priorities:
  - Requesting \$15.2 Million to sustain senior nutrition services.
    - Impact of sunset of COVID relief funds
    - Growth in the
  - Support for HB 1859 to ensure equity for all residents in licensed long-term care
- 5) A Legislative Advocacy meeting and training for Advisory Council members and AAA staff is tentatively scheduled for **January 16, 2024 at noon**.

- Client stories from Senior Nutrition clients were shared with Advisory Council members.

➤ Advisory Council Appreciation:

- Thank you to Arnie, Gavin and Colleen for serving as the 2023 officers and for all of the contributions you have made this year to the Advisory Council.
- Thank you to Arnie and Gavin for being committee chairs and for doing double duty.

➤ Introduction of 2024 Executive Committee:

- Gavin Carmicheal – 2024 Chair
- Diane Craft – 2024 Vice Chair
- Marianne Burkholder – 2024 Secretary

**Good of the order:**

- Gavin thanked Mike and Christina for the team they have at AAADSW helping the Advisory Council. He says he doesn’t think that he would feel comfortable taking on the role of Chair if it wasn’t for the team here at AAADSW.

**Public Comment:**

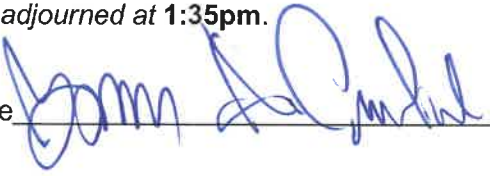
- Mary Repar voiced interest in joining the council to represent Skamania County.
  - Mary also shared that Skamania County Senior Services is losing their long time cook. Mary suggested that whoever is hired for the role may need an assistant as there hasn’t been one.
  - Mary let everyone know that DSHS has put together a resource list for Skamania County.
  - Mary has also heard that Providence will be starting home care in Skamania County.
  - There is only 1 medical clinic in Skamania County, and it would be nice to have a mobile medical and dental care clinic in the community.

**Membership Vote:**

- No new members to vote on.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Signature



Date

2.21.24