

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024**

Location: Due to inclement weather the meeting was held only via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gavin Carmichael at 12:01pm.

Roll Call: Colleen Bennett, Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Arnie Dyer, Jodi Oliver

Excused: N/A

Absent: Greg Flakus,

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnaris, Patti Atkins

Guests: Shelley Baxter, Pearl Blackburn, Kevin Callahan, Mary Repar

January 17, 2024, Meeting Agenda: Arnie moved to approve the agenda. Colleen seconded. Motion passed.

December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Arnie moved to approve the edited minutes. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Joe Bosch (Clark):
 - Joe expressed that in LaCenter where he lived there isn't much available for seniors except for Meals on Wheels. He contacted the Planning Commission, and they have a building that they would be willing to share for a senior center as long as there is a 501c attached. Joe is going to talk to some of the other community organizations to see if there are any that may want to help create a community center.
 - Mike would like to think about this some more to think about ways AAADSW may be able to help. He did extend the offer of support to Joe when attending meetings if it is needed in getting access to buildings or supportive services.
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
 - Kathy has an interest in digging more into what the obstacles are to getting the High School Home Care Aide classes into schools.
 - Kathy is also interested in looking into what it would take to get a community center in her area. She thinks that maybe reaching out to the community center in Longview to find out what they have and how they got it done would be a good starting place.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
 - Shared that she and Kathy Briggs are collaborating on setting up discussions in the spring with the new Community Specialist Coordinator at Wahkiakum Health and Human Services to get to know her better. They want to check in to see what is being seen as needs for Wahkiakum seniors and to try and get some more social things started.

- Pat Cano (Clark): Nothing to report.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Diane has been working behind the scenes to try and get good contacts willing to meet with Mike/AAADSW about the High School Home Care Aide program.
 - Diane has resumed meeting annually with all of her community partners. This is something that her agency had done pre-COVID and she is starting this practice up again. She is starting with the Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- Arnie Dyer (Clark):
 - Weather dependent Arnie will be giving a presentation on 1/18/24 to the Three Creeks Rotary Club in Salmon Creek about the Clark County Men's Shed to hopefully recruit new members.
- Jodi Oliver (Clark): Nothing to report.

Guests:

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
 - KCSS still doesn't have a cook.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Mary advised that due to the freezing temperatures pipes burst at the Hegewald Community Center and things have been closed for 2 days.
 - Mary expressed that some of the current topics of interest to her are senior housing and rent control due to personal experiences.
 - Mary let the committee know that Skyline Hospital now has a skilled rehab center in White Salmon with about 10 beds.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
 - Kevin expressed interest in the work AAADSW is doing as well as Clark County Commission on Aging.
 - Kevin said that his background is in Government Services as a City Planner, Public Works Director and Emergency Management.
 - Kevin is interested in working together to try and address some of the challenges that seniors in the region are facing.

Reports:

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

- High School Home Care Aide Updates:
 - Gavin asked Mike what the awareness level is at the district level about this program. He is curious as to if there is a warm reception to the idea or not.
 - Mike said that he thinks it may be time to circle back around to those who he contacted in Wahkiakum County to see where things stand but he did have a very warm reception to the idea there.
 - Mike stated that in Wahkiakum County he had handed things to the person he was in contact with (Brent) and the person at the state level who works with this program.
 - Mike would like to set up a meeting to check in with the Wahkiakum County contacts to see where things stand and would like for Kathy to attend as a concerned citizen.
 - A barrier that Mike has heard expressed (especially in rural areas) is funding and funding of a position to teach the program.
 - Mike shared that he has shared his ideas on how to work around the funding issue (like having some of the classes offered virtually to a number of rural locations) with the state.

- Mike has support from the AAADSW board to offer some help in getting this program going. One-way AAADSW may be able to help is assisting in funding the salary of the position teaching some of the in-person/hands on requirements of the program.
- Clark County has something that is similar in the works. Cascadia Tech may offer the program over the summer.
- Kelso school district advised Mike that they have something similar, so they have said “thanks but no thanks” to this program.
- Mike hasn’t had as much luck in getting meetings with people in the Longview School District and in Klickitat and Skamania counties. The last real big push Mike made was in the fall and he continues to reach out so that this doesn’t get forgotten. He thinks that his best chance at success will be if he can get in front of the superintendents and discuss some of his ideas for overcoming barriers to try and gain traction for this program.
- Gavin advised that he will reach out to Mike offline to provide the contact information for Klickitat County.
- In regard to support from AAA’s for the High School Home Care Aide program, Mike is finding that AAADSW is the only one with a real interest in this idea. He said that the curriculum and program have already been vetted by OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) as well as the state so from a bureaucratic standpoint the two main monoliths are in place, supportive and in agreement on the curriculum, structure, etc.
- Snohomish County does have a program already up and running and the person at the state is directing interested parties to reach out to the school district to learn about how the program has been implemented.
- Diane has a Longview School Board member that she is working with who has requested a summary of the program and what AAADSW would like to do prior to meeting with Mike. (Mike will provide this).

➤ Other:

- Mike shared that at the Federal level letters have gone out about sustaining the COVID-19 level of funding for senior services. This was the 2nd push advocacy wise for this to occur.
- Locally there were virtual meetings with 3 legislators where we were given verbal support for the two asks.
- There is still work going on getting more legislative meetings set up.
- Mike discussed a couple bills that have come to his attention but are not necessarily on AAADSW’s radar.
 - House Bill 1702 and companion bill Senate Bill 5686
 - Act related to imposing a local sales tax of 0.01 percent of the selling price, in rural counties only, wholly credited against the state sales tax to support programs for senior citizens.
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1702&Year=2023&Initiative=false>
 - Senate Bill 6101
 - Act related to establishing a regulatory structure for licensed acute care hospitals to provide hospital at home services.
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6101&Year=2023&Initiative=false>

Executive Committee: Gavin reported that the Executive Committee met on 01/09/24 and drafted the agenda for today.

Planning and Allocations: Postponed due to inclement weather.

Advocacy and Outreach: Postponed until new committee members are chosen.

Membership Committee:

- Christina shared thanks to Arnie for chairing the committee in 2023.
- Voting on 2 new members today.
 - Mary Repar – Skamania County

- Shelley Baxter – Klickitat County
- Kevin Callahan (Clark County) submitted his application to be on the Advisory Council. His application will be voted on in February for the vacancy that Clark County will have in March 2024.
- Once the three applicants have been voted on and are accepted onto the Advisory Council there will be 4 remaining openings left to fill. Vacancies will be:
 - 1 – Wahkiakum County
 - 1 – Klickitat County
 - 2 – Skamania County

State Council on Aging (SCOA): No report out

Presentations:

- Prep for 2024 January Legislative Visits:
 - **2024 Legislative Priorities and Talking Points (15 minute meetings)**
 - 1) Welcome by Mike, Christina or Patti (whomever is in attendance for each meeting)
 - a. Discuss who AAADSW is and what counties we cover.
 - b. Thank legislators for meeting with us.
 - c. Discuss what support is being requested and the impact to seniors.
 - i. HB 1859 – An ACT relating to the rights of residents in long-term care facilities (skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and adult family homes)
 - ii. Nutrition - \$15.2M for nutrition services for older adults and adults with disabilities.
 - 2) Advisory Council Member introductions
 - a. Name
 - b. County and/or Legislative District
 - c. Role - Advisory Council Member for Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of SW Washington.
 - d. How long on Advisory Council
 - 3) Thank you – 2023 Legislative Session Successes by Mike, Christina or Patti
 - a. Increase in personal needs allowance for Medicaid long-term care residents (from \$75/mo. To \$100/mo.)
 - b. Vendor rate increase in the Health Homes Program
 - c. Continued support of seniors, adults with disabilities and family caregivers
 - 4) 2024 Legislative Requests by Advisory Council Members + AAADSW Staff
 - a. HB 1859 (Sponsors: Representatives Simmons, Harris – 17th Leg. District, and Ryu)
 - i. The federal rights guaranteed to residents in nursing facilities are extended to residents in all long-term care facilities (veterans’ homes, assisted living facilities, enhanced services facilities, and adult family homes)
 - ii. Creates a clear legal process for all residents to appeal for a discharge.
 - b. \$15.2M for senior nutrition (Sponsors: Senator Van De Wege and Representative Chapman – both from 24th Leg. District.)
 - i. Governor’s budget includes \$7M for senior nutrition.
 - c. Advisory Council Members and/or AAADSW staff may share personal stories (if applicable) related to our legislative priorities.
 - 5) Your local resource
 - a. We are here to help with any constituent concern related to older adults, adults with a disability, and family caregivers.

- 2024 Legislator Visit Schedule as of 1/17/24 (*Mike will forward meeting invites to the appropriate Advisory Council Members*):
 - 1/19/24
 - 10:45AM – Representative McClintock (18th Leg. District, Clark County)
 - 1/22/24
 - 10:00AM – Representative Cheney (18th Leg. District, Clark County)
 - 4:00PM – Representative Waters (17th Leg. District, Skamania County)
 - 1/30/24
 - 1:00PM – Representative Wylie (49th Leg. District, Clark County)
 - 1/31/24
 - 11:00AM – Senator Lynda Wilson (17th Leg. District, Clark County)
 - 2/5/24
 - 11:00AM – Representative Abbarno (20th Leg. District, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties)
- Senior Heroes Awards:
 - Mike, Christina, and Patti from AAADSW traveled to Wahkiakum County to honor recipients of the Senior Heroes Award with Advisory Council members Pearl, Marianne, and Kathy.
 - Kelly Patterson, Caregiver of the Year
 - Deep River American Legion Post 111
 - Articles about the recipients:
 - https://www.chinookobserver.com/news/community/deep-river-american-legion-post-111-receives-community-hero-award/article_c5712ade-b3d5-11ee-a785-9f6d47d29a1f.html
 - <https://www.waheagle.com/story/2024/01/11/wahkiakum-people/area-agency-on-aging-honors-senior-heroes/23142.html>
- Committee Chair Appointments and Committee Meetings:
 - Committees will meet once a quarter.
 - Dates to be determined.
 - Gavin suggested spreading committee meetings out so 1 committee meets each month and reports out the following month.
 - Suggestion was supported by Mary Repar and Kathy Briggs.
 - Christina will follow up to coordinate a schedule with committee chairs once they are identified.
 - Committee chair appointments are 1-year commitments, facilitating 4 meetings (typically via Zoom) with 1 AAADSW staff member.
 - Christina will send a description of each of the committees.
 - The committees are:
 - Planning and Allocations
 - Gavin requested a volunteer to be the committee chair as he is needing to step back from this role.
 - Advocacy and Outreach
 - New committee chair needed.
 - Membership Committee
 - New committee chair needed.
- Brainstorming on Advisory Council focus for 2024:
 - Do we want to continue with the “Getting to know you” time of the meetings?
 - Do we want to hold more time in the meetings for Advisory Council member’s individual updates and report outs for more discussion time?
 - Mary would like to discuss county designations. She voiced concerns that, based on the census, Skamania County is now not designated “very rural” like Klickitat is. The change in designation impacted needed funds and programs (like the Family Resource Center and the Veterans Van) in the county.
 - Gavin made the suggestion that Mary’s topic would be a good topic of discussion for the Planning and Allocations committee.

- Mary also brought up the potential topic of suicide rates in rural counties for Advisory Council discussion in 2024.
- Diane made a suggestion of the Advisory Council putting together a community guide of resources.
 - Mary stated that Skamania County has a resource guide available.
 - Christina advised that paper versions of resource guides are often not available now due to the constantly changing environment but resources are available online.
 - AAADSW ADRC has an online database that is used when they receive calls. The public facing site is: <https://washingtoncommunitylivingconnections.org/consite/index.php>.
 - AAADSW ADRC does have some paper resource lists available that are updated about once a year.
 - Christina also suggested 211 as they have online resources.
- Gavin suggested possibly doing training for new Advisory Council members around the services and resources that AAADSW has available as well as holding space for discussion in meetings about what resources in general are available.
- Christina will follow up with an email to get more ideas and then there can be a larger group discussion and finalization of topics at the February meeting.

Membership Vote:

- Vote on current Advisory Council Skamania and Klickitat vacancies.
- Ballots have been sent and Christina will follow up with final tallies.

Public Comment: No additional comments

Good of the order:

- Appreciation of outgoing Advisory Council Member Pearl Blackburn.
 - Gavin shared his thanks for Pearl Blackburn. Pearl’s term on the AAADSW Advisory Council has been completed but she is still going to remain actively engaged in her community. Gavin shared that Pearl has been an Advisory Council member for 5 years (2018 – 2023) and that she has been a great advocate for Wahkiakum County. Gavin let Pearl know she is always welcome to join Advisory Council meetings as a guest when she has time.
 - Arnie shared that he thinks of Pearl as the Wahkiakum County “unelected representative”.
 - Mike shared his gratitude for Pearl and expressed that he feels she has set the bar very high for Advisory Council members, particularly in Wahkiakum County. Pearl has been a voice for the seniors, especially the “West Enders” who often feel like they are left out. He thanks Pearl for carrying a big part of the Senior Heroes Awards (particularly in Wahkiakum County). Mike says that Pearl’s impact will be lasting even after she is done with the Advisory Council.
 - Pearl let everyone know that she will continue to be active in the Advisory Council by “funneling” things through the other Wahkiakum members (Marianne and Kathy). She has invited the council members to stay in touch.
 - Colleen says Pearl “walks the walk” for senior engagement. She notices things and is very good at putting things together and matching needs with resources.
 - Christina says that she appreciates that Pearl is willing to roll up her sleeves to put in the work to get things done for her community. Christina shared about some of the larger projects that Pearl has given her time for like Senior Prom and working to get more resources for Wahkiakum County for the Senior Farmers Market nutrition vouchers.
 - Diane expressed that she hopes that Pearl will still head the bake sale in Cathlamet.

Meeting adjourned at 1:43pm.

Signature  Date 2-21-24