

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024**

Location: Vancouver AAADSW office – Columbia Room and Zoom.

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

Roll Call: Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Marianne Burkholder, Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Arnie Dyer, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar

Excused: Colleen Bennett

Absent: Shelley Baxter, Jodi Oliver

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnaris, Patti Atkins, Maggie Ridenour

Guests: Kevin Callahan, Justin Ross

February 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda: **Arnie** moved to approve the agenda. **Greg** seconded. Motion passed.

January 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes: **Arnie** moved to approve the minutes. **Diane** seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Patti Atkins:
 - Patti visited Cathlamet to meet some of the members of the 60+ Group that Marianne is helping to facilitate. Patti wrote an article that was published in The Wahkiakum County Eagle.
 - The group activity was making Valentines.
 - Patti delivered some of the Valentines to the Longview AAADSW office to share with clients.
 - Patti's article on the Cathlamet seniors group can be found here:
<https://www.waheagle.com/story/2024/02/15/wahkiakum-people/cathlamet-seniors-find-connection-on-puget-island/23246.html>.
- Joe Bosch (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Kathy Briggs (Wahkiakum):
 - Kathy appreciated meeting with Senator Wilson and representing Wahkiakum County. She found it encouraging that Senator Wilson was verbally supporting AAADSW's efforts. It was nice hearing that Senator Wilson is familiar with Wahkiakum County and is supportive of AAADSW's efforts in the community. She found herself wanting to make even more of an effort in working with AAADSW.
 - Kathy is continuing to help Marianne with the 60+ Group and is excited about getting to help share about AAADSW a bit more and keep her "finger on the pulse" of needs in their community for seniors.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):

- Marianne shared that she appreciated having Patti attend the 60+ Group and that it was nice getting to know her.
- Sue Cameron (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Pat Cano (Clark):
 - Washougal Senior Center holds a pancake breakfast on the last Friday of each month from 7:30am – 10:30am. Cost is \$5.00 or a donation.
 - The City of Washougal is raising funds for a new library (donations are accepted for this project).
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat):
 - Gavin empathized with the situation in Skamania County regarding the cook position at SCSS because Klickitat County Senior Services (KCSS) is still seeking a cook to help in preparing the home delivered meals as well as the meals at the congregate nutrition sites.
 - Klickitat county continues to seek additional \$3 million of funding for an assisted living facility to be built in the White Salmon area.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Diane shared information about recent efforts Senator Wilson and the Longview City Council have taken to address the crisis of homelessness.
 - Recently the City of Longview removed a group of homeless citizens from the gazebo in the center of town. Some of the citizens who were removed were also able to receive some social service assistance. Not all the citizens wanted help and have chosen to remain in their current situation.
 - The city isn't making huge changes right now, but they are listening and are trying to be more involved in a solution.
 - On February 5, 2024, PeaceHealth opened a new hospice care center in Longview.
 - https://www.peacehealth.org/locations/longview/peacehealth-richard-nau-hospice-house?utm_source=gpb&utm_medium=organic&utm_content=LONG-801&utm_campaign=gmb
- Arnie Dyer (Clark):
 - Clark County Men's Shed will be having a big push in April for new membership with the hopes of rebuilding pre-COVID momentum.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
 - Greg attended the annual luncheon at the Clark County Food Bank.
 - The event was well attended, and they reported what we have all become familiar with, demand for services is up.
 - The number of seniors receiving food boxes is up.
 - There was good news, the Clark County Food Bank reported that they have been getting more food supply to be able to distribute to those in need from many different sources.
 - The distribution centers are being provided with enough food supplies that they have enough to meet the needs of those who need the service.
 - The Clark County Food Bank is also building a 2nd building next to their current building.
 - During the legislative visits Greg was able to reach out to his local legislators by email about the topics AAADSW has been supporting. He reports that there was overall a positive response.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Mary expressed concern that Skamania County Senior Services (SCSS) may lose their cook in August 2024 if they are unable to fund a full-time position.
 - The SCSS cook is responsible for meal planning and preparation for the home delivered meals as well as the meals at the congregate nutrition site in Skamania County.
 - Mary would like to know if there is a way to obtain more funds for SCSS to help fund the position.

- Mary has reached out to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to see if they would be able to possibly job and cost share the cook position between the jail and SCSS.
- Greg suggested possibly contacting the local school district also to see if they could help with the cook issue as SCSS (possibly loan their staff or cost share).
- Christina also suggested having Sophie (the director at SCSS) reach out to the AAADSW Nutrition Program Coordinator to discuss the needs that she is seeing and to see if AAADSW can help to address any of the needs.
- Diane stated that some of the Lewis County congregate meal sites have run into similar funding and staffing issues and have found fund raising helpful in sustaining their programs. They have also had some locations that have volunteers that cook preplanned recipes on days that the site has no cook.
- Skamania County is still experiencing a shortage of respite/in-home care caregivers.
 - Providence currently holds the Certificate of Need for home health services
 - Christina explained that the Certificate of Need was specific to home health services and both PeaceHealth and Providence were trying to fill the need, however the challenge has been having adequate workforce available. The workforce available is not enough to meet the need. This lack of adequate workforce covers both home health services and respite/home care agencies. This has become a local, state and nationwide issue.
- Skamania County is also experiencing challenges for dental care services, especially for seniors.
 - Christina discussed the Oral Health program through AAADSW that is available and offered to connect with SCSS if they needed more information.
 - Mary explained that SCSS is aware of the AAADSW Oral Health program. However, because the services are in Battle Ground (Clark County), transportation becomes the issue.
 - Christina advised that AAADSW is also in the process of pursuing a mobile dental care option.

Guests:

- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
 - Kevin expressed that he is impressed with the AAADSW Advisory Council and is looking forward to the opportunity to work with us more.
- Justin Ross (Clark):
 - Nothing new to report. He explained that his primary role as a representative of the Clark County Commission on Aging is to share the Advisory Council meeting highlights at the Commission on Aging meetings.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike thanked everyone for sharing what is going on in their local communities and sharing ideas with each other on possible solutions. He appreciates the collaboration.

- 2024 Legislative Session:
 - Mike thanked those who were able to participate in the January Legislative visits and those who wrote to their local elected officials. Hearing from the public does go a long way towards building relationships and gaining familiarity.
 - We met with 13 – 14 of the 18 elected officials in our 5 county area.
 - Nutrition request of \$15.2M for nutrition services for older adults and adults with disabilities. This ask was not only for our area but was a statewide ask by the AAA's.
 - Updates:
 - The Senate funded this request at \$7 million which was in line with the Governor's budget.
 - The House has \$10 million for Senior Nutrition.

- Budgets are still being worked out so this is still a work in progress and could change.

➤ High School Home Care Aide Updates:

- Diane was able to convene a meeting for Mike and Bill Ofstun, the Director of Assessment, CTE (Career Technical Education) for the Longview School District.
 - Bill is enthusiastic about the High School Home Care Aide idea.
 - Coming out of the meeting there are some action steps with the potential of offering the class starting with the 2025 school year.
 - Mike introduced Bill to the person at the state level who is working on this program so that they can further develop a plan.
- Mike also spoke with the Wahkiakum County School Superintendent (Brent Freeman).
 - Learned of a CTE Co-Op for Rural School districts with 200 or less students (through ESD 112).
 - They are very interested in working with rural school districts in looking at a virtual model for the program.
 - There are action items that came from this meeting too.
 - Because the co-op already has some programs in place it will be a matter of integrating the Home Care Aide program into their curriculum and getting enough students interested in participating.
 - Wahkiakum County School District is very interested in the program but due to the low enrollment in their county they are unable to tackle it themselves, but they could with the help of the co-op.

➤ Other:

- Mike expressed his disappointment in not seeing the \$3M Capital Budget Request for the assisted living and memory care facility in White Salmon (Klickitat County) in the Senate Capital Budget. He is hopeful it will be in the House's Capital Budget as this is a huge community need. Mike wants to have some discussions to see what we can do to help get the remaining funding for the facility.
- Following: House Bill 2114 and companion bill Senate Bill 5961
 - Passed out of the House and is now in the Senate and looks promising.
 - This bill aims to help provide some protection and allowances for people, particularly in mobile home parks.
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2114&Initiative=false&Year=2023>
 - "Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act by limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement."
- Mike continues attending the Cowlitz County Homeless Housing Task Force monthly meetings.
 - He has attended about 3 meetings so far and is learning more about how the Task Force works.
 - Homelessness, as it relates to seniors, is a growing concern for AAADSW and we are learning where and how we can make an impact.

Executive Committee:

- Gavin reported that the Executive Committee met on 02/06/24 and drafted the agenda for today.
- The possibility of rotating the Advisory Council meetings in the nicer weather months to each of our 5 counties, similar to what was done pre-COVID.
 - We will reach out to the local partners in each of the counties to find out when meeting locations may be available.

- Once locations/dates are provided a schedule will be set and then brought forward at an upcoming Advisory Council meeting for discussion.
- Zoom online meeting option will continue to be offered also.

Planning and Allocations:

- Postponed until new committee members are chosen.

Advocacy and Outreach:

- Christina reported that legislative visits have been completed and Patti has developed a nice follow up letter recapping our advocacy points and expressing our gratitude.
 - Two versions of the letter have been developed, one version for the legislators that we met with and one for those we weren't able to meet with.
- There will also be an invitation for legislators to visit local meal sites for lunch later in the year so that they have an opportunity to see how nutrition funding is being applied.

Membership Committee:

State Council on Aging (SCOA):

- Gavin reported that on March 19, 2024 there will be a "Caring for the Caregiver" event hosted by AARP. Gavin will provide more information on this to Christina so that she can distribute accordingly.
- Discussed [OAA Final Rule](#) updates.
- SCOA has recently done an update on their Bylaws.
- Gavin is still open to having someone assist him with attending the meetings. He says he feels that SCOA is good at working to solve issues in metropolitan areas but having voices from more rural areas would be good too.

Presentations:

- 2024 Legislative Visits Recap:
 - Mike said that he feels, from his perspective, the visits went really well overall.
 - We asked for support surrounding two specific issues.
 - 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).
 - This didn't get out of committee, which is very disappointing.
 - The State Long Term Care Ombudsman will bring this back next legislative session and AAADSW will continue to offer support for this important issue.
 - Nutrition - \$15.2M for nutrition services for older adults and adults with disabilities. (Covered earlier in the meeting under the Executive Director's Report).
- Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Center (GWEC) Update:
 - Two grant cycles have been completed.
 - AAADSW is in the process of partnering with UW for a third grant cycle.
 - If awarded the grant AAADSW will have a focus in SW Washington on dementia education for supportive care workforce.
 - Supportive Care Workforce includes family caregivers as well as non-medical service providers and community members.
- Advisory Council 2024 Focus Discussion Wrap-Up:
 - Do we want to continue with presentations?
 - Presentations should be continued however with a time limit of 15 – 20 minutes so that there is still time for other agenda topics.

- Speakers aren't necessarily needed at every single meeting, space them out throughout the year.
- Speaker invitations could be Advisory Council led based on interest or requests from the committee.
 - If you have a suggestion for a topic to learn more about or a speaker suggestion, please email that to Christina. As Christina receives requests, she can work on identifying who would be best to bring in to cover that topic and can work on getting them scheduled in 2024.
- Allow more time for general discussion of the topics that are important to the committee.

Membership Vote:

- Vote on current Advisory Council Clark County vacancy.
- Ballots have been sent and Christina will follow up with final tallies.

Public Comment:

- Justin shared that as people start looking at the modular home kits to help with the homelessness issue there may be issues that come up with accessibility due to how high off the ground they are.
 - There are ways to work with the accessibility issue, like installing ramps, but may raise an issue of cost due to how much ramp would be needed to meet current codes for accessibility.
 - There are alternative options to ramps, like platform lifts, but they also come with their own set of issues such as who will be approved to install them.
- Diane asked Mike if it would be possible to have some of the legislators join us at an Advisory Council meeting throughout the year so that questions can be asked, such as finding out more information about why specific bills may not have passed and what could possibly be done to help them pass. It would be nice to have the advocacy done throughout the year instead of just at legislative session time.
 - Gavin would like to have kind of a "high school refresher class" on what goes into making a bill and maybe relearning about the process a bill goes through.
 - Christina suggested inviting legislators to a lunch to learn how to enhance advocacy efforts.

Good of the order:

- Appreciation of outgoing Advisory Council Member Arnie Dyer.
 - Gavin thanked Arnie for welcoming him with open arms when he joined the Advisory Council and inviting him to join a committee. Arnie set a great example for others. He has been very professional in reaching out to people. Thank you Arnie, for your dedication to the community and all you do.
 - Mike expressed that he has really enjoyed working alongside Arnie on the Advisory Council and in COG meetings. Arnie has always done a great job with reporting at the COG meetings, being supportive and sincerely thanking the elected officials for the job that they do and the support they provide to the agency every time. Mike shared that Arnie has done a great job leading meetings and is a real "stand up professional" whom he has learned a lot from. Arnie's leadership has been appreciated and will be very missed.
 - Christina shared that she really appreciates the leadership Arnie has provided, his kindness and positivity that he radiates no matter who he is engaging with. Arnie has an authenticity and an ability to listen to what is going on in the room and put it together and sew it in with whatever the council or agency needs. Thank you for the leadership that you have provided.
 - Arnie expressed that he feels that the AAADSW Advisory Council has possibly been one of the best community organizations that he has ever worked on. He will miss the monthly meetings but is open to helping whenever needed. He appreciates being part of the work that AAADSW does.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16pm.

Signature

Jimmy Hankel

Date

20 Mar 24