



COG Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2025

Members present:

Members present by phone/Zoom: Commissioner Cothren, Commissioner Ferrell, Commissioner Nichols, Councilor Fuentes

Members absent:

Members Excused: Lori Zoller

Alternates present:

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Claire Steiner, Karen Wolfe, Christina Marneris, Samantha Waldbauer

Advisory Council member present: none

Visitors present: Jeri Kelly, Cindy Chow, Debbie Radillo; Breanne Swanson, Brittney Coughlin, Karen Schnitzer

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Cothren.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 1. Agenda Review:** Mike Reardon asked for a motion to amend the agenda with an additional business item, SOPPADA #2025-3, for the COG's consideration. Comm Nichols moved to approve the amended agenda, Commissioner Ferrell seconded. Motion passed.
- 2. Review of Minutes:** Commissioner Ferrell moved to approve the July 25, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Public Comment (3-minute limit):** none

4. Anniversary Recognition.

Mike congratulated Cindy Chow, Community Services Case Manager, J. Girard's team, for her five-year anniversary. Cindy thanked everyone.

Mike congratulated Debbie Radillo, Medicaid Case Manager, Heather Bochart's team, for her ten-year anniversary. Debbie stated she loves her job, is here to stay, and appreciates everything.

Mike congratulated Jeri Kelly, Medicaid Case Manager, Chava Solberg's team, for her fifteen-year anniversary. Jeri thanked the COG. She stated it doesn't seem like 15 years. She likes and appreciates her job, and values what she does in helping clients and connecting to them; being part of a team keeping clients in their homes. Jeri has seen a lot of change but the core values have been consistent.

5. Advisory Council: Christina reported on the August and September Advisory Council meetings. In August the Advisory Council visited Klickitat senior services in White Salmon with a presentation from Sharon Carter on services. Council members appreciated Sharon's efforts. They also expressed concern over HR 1 over advocacy. Nominations committee was formed for 2026 officers. In September the Council travelled to Cathlamet for their meeting. Council approved the updated Bylaws at the September meeting. Council member Marianne Burkholder was recognized for her three years of service

6. Review of Financials. Claire reviewed the July 2025 payments of \$ **3,288,573**. There was a \$200,000 payment for the new Longview office which contributed to the higher monthly amount for July. August 2025 payments were **\$2,763,186**. We paid our general liability insurance premium in August of \$330,000, plus 1/3 the cost of the Longview buildout, plus cost of 65 new laptops.

Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the July 2025 payments of \$3,288,573 and the August 2025 payments of \$2,763,186 respectively. Commissioner Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claire reviewed the June and July income and balance sheets. June Assets exceed liabilities; YTD surplus is about \$188k; strong position. June Revenue and Expenditures – doing a bit better budget-wise. July Balance Sheet – strong positions. YTD surplus is \$142k. 3X assets to liabilities. Still waiting for our State/Fed contract to be signed and release two months of receivables to us. July Revenue and expenditures are ahead of budget on revenue, and slightly behind on expenses.

Claire reviewed the July 2025 Fiscal dashboard pages. Chart 1 YTD revenue and expenditures. Chart 2 excess of revenue over expenditures. Have had a couple months of deficit recently due to known large expenditures. Chart 3 Caseloads by Type. Title XIX continues steady growth. Community Services and Care Coordination were relatively flat. Chart 4 YTD Expenditures by type – 65% wages and related, 25% subcontractors, 10% all other. Chart 5 12 monthly cash payments by type. Expected subcontractor payments in September. Chart 6 Fund Balance. Trending down due to recent deficit spending. Chart 7 Medicaid revenue and expenditures and net income. Continuing positive growth. Chart 8 other Governmental revenue et al. Chart 9-non governmental revenue et al. Chart 10 Admin revenue, investment balances, etc. all doing well. Chart 11 YTD revenue by type.

Claire presented the proposed updated 2025 Internal Operating budget for the COG's approval. Claire explained how the IOB process gets an update in the middle of the year, to account for increased rates and revenue

Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the proposed updated 2025 Internal Operating budget. Commissioner Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Director's Report.

Mike reported on the following topics:

- W4A, Legislative, and US Aging advocacy – Mike updated the COG on the situation with the State proposing a Fund Balance agreement with the AAAs. They are looking at revenue from Medicaid contracts through June 2025, to spend down in two years. W4A hired law firm

K&L Gates to craft a rebuttal letter to the State, that the State has no legal basis to ask for this.

The State now wants to know what our plan is, and we are responding with another reiterating letter from our legal counsel, that we will not send a plan but we will send a report as we have in the past.

- Upcoming legislative session is going to be one of the most important since 2008. Gov Ferguson estimates the impact of HR1 is about \$3B to Washington.
- Tracking the federal government shutdown at the end of September. Business as usual for AAADSW. We are also tracking reauthorization of the Older Americans Act this year.
- Kudos to Claire and her team for an unmodified opinion from the SAO for our recent audit.
- Overhauling the Policies and Procedures at the recommendation of Enduris. Should be proposed at the December COG meeting.

Mike presented SOPPADA #2025-3, to Align Position Titles to Work Performed. Mike explained the purpose of the SOPPADA based on more accurately reflecting the Senior Supervisor positions, and rename the Managers to Directors. Impacts about 9 positions. On the con side there is no change in salary with the title change. Commissioner Ferrell clarified that the jobs aren't changing, just the titles. Correct. Commissioner Nichols asked if this would change or impact any labor relations and the Union contract, or the budget. Mike does not feel there will be any other impacts.

Commissioner Ferrell moved to approve SOPPADA #2025-3, to Align Position Titles to Work Performed. Councilor Fuentes seconded. Motion passed.

Christina reported on the recent Area Plan grants – 3 proposals were selected for funding. We received more rural county proposals and were pleased to award \$204,355 in total grants.

Contracts Report – A couple new provider contracts, one amendment, lots of monitorings.

Communications Report - More Senior Heroes Awards news.

8. Quality Assurance Results for Medicaid TXIX and MTP programs. Mike explained the QA auditing the State does annually. We have a history of excellent QAs. Mike asked Christina Marneris and Samantha Waldbauer to give high-level overview of the results and let their teams shine.

Samantha explained that the audit questions asked about compliance, CMS-reportable questions. We are getting close to 6,000 clients. Sam introduced Alison Luzader who is instrumental in responding to the QA process. Alison detailed that signatures and authorizations are scrutinized, skin observation protocols or other services needed. Alison reviews client contacts as required, medical treatments received from a qualified provider, informal supports and paid providers are captured, correct assignment of tasks based on the client's Care Plan. The QA found that all mandatory referrals were made timely, assessments are updated as needed. Alison also conducts internal file reviews: 140 this year, 240 next year. Sam noted some of the improvements noted are actually something the State will address since many AAAs were impacted.

Chirstina detailed the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). Breanne detailed the QA for the MTP program. Over 800 clients have been served this year. Breanne introduced Brittney, Margaret and J, all supervisors, and Karen Schnitzer. Brittney complimented Karen Schnitzer to become a subject-matter expert. Karen reviewed the QA proficiency and results. Margaret reviewed the Supervisor File Review process to keep the QA on track. J tied it all together with all the QA steps being done, plus the Case Managers may self-audit to improve performance.

Mike thanked everyone for presenting to the COG today.

9. Mike updated the COG on the matter regarding a former staff member threatening legal action by taking AAADSW to Small Claims Court. We tried mediation, unsuccessfully, and we are going to be going to court.

10. Good of the order: none

11. Adjourn. There being no further business, Commissioner Ferrell moved, and Commissioner Nichols seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.