

AREA AGENCY ON
Aging & Disabilities
OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2025

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Conference Room and Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Apryl Schneider at 12:00PM.

Roll Call: Joe Bosch, Kevin Callahan, Diane Craft, Roberta Doster, Greg Flakus, Mary Repar, Apryl Schneider, Rick Seekins

Excused: Susan Petrie, Dave Rorden, Eileen Stearns-Raff

Absent: N/A

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

Guests: Sue Neal, Carole Lewis, Cass Freedland (Clark County Commission on Aging), Isha Snow

December 17, 2025, Meeting Agenda: Rick Seekins moved to approve the agenda. Greg Flakus seconded. Motion passed.

November 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Greg Flakus moved to approve the amended minutes. Rick Seekins seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Discussed advocacy for local food banks
 - The local food banks are low on donations/food
 - They don't do activities like Walk and Knock
- Roberta Doster (Skamania):
 - Roberta expressed concern over the food bank she volunteers for being low on items.
- Greg Flakus (Clark):
 - Greg discussed his advocacy for getting a law into place that will require all hospitals with a specific number of beds to have a patient advocate on site during all business hours. He is working with Senator Adrian Cortes to sponsor the bill.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Shared information provided by the Klickitat/Skamania County League of Women Voters
- Rick Seekins (Clark):
 - Walk and Knock donation program was successful but did see a 30% decrease in donations with the changes to the program.
 - Shortage of volunteers
 - Changed from going house to house to central drop off locations
 - However, even with the decrease in donations, the Clark County Walk and Knock program is still one of the largest in the country!
 - On Monday, 12/15/25 the City of Vancouver City Council voted to approve the new zoning laws which include references to manufactured home communities.

Executive Director's Report:

- Governor's Budget
 - Governor's budget is expected to come out this week. No revenue, all cuts budget.
 - It will inform us of our advocacy strategy.
 - Health Homes
 - Senior Nutrition
 - State-only funded programs
- Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce 2026 Legislative Outlook, 12/16/25
 - 12 elected officials representing all legislative districts
 - Working on meeting with Senator Paul Harris and Representative David Stuebe prior to the legislative session
- Other
 - Last month I reported on Medicaid LTSS clients losing services due to immigration-related HR1 impacts, effective October 2026. UPDATE: HCLA is working on moving them to state-only funded programs with reduced benefits.
 - Annual All-Staff meeting
 - Agency North Star and Values
 - Empowering our community through advocacy, connection and support
 - Access. Accountability. Client Choice. Collaboration. Respect.
 - MAC/TSOA Programs (Christina)
 - Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC)
 - Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA)
 - Both are part of the state's 1115 Waiver which allows us (AAA's) to do innovative programming using Medicaid dollars.
 - MAC/TSOA have been very successful but unfortunately, they have been moved to a state-wide wait list which has a significant impact on the community.
 - Both programs serve individuals who are eligible for Medicaid services and not accessing them or they fall right below the Medicaid eligibility line but still need support and care.
 - Wait list will remain in place until the state is able to come back into line with its projected budget for the year, it is unknown how long this will take.
 - Wait list went into place on 12/1/25 with us learning about it the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee met on 12/01/2025 and developed the agenda for today's meeting.

Legislative Visits in January 2026 (Christina and Patti):

- Location:
 - In person in Olympia
 - AAADSW will provide carpooling for members from both the Vancouver and Longview offices.
 - In the event of inclement weather, meetings will shift to a virtual format.
 - 6 appointments out of 18 have been set with legislators so far.
 - Legislators are being given the choice to have a group meet in-person or to have a virtual meeting at a later date.
 - Virtual meetings will be scheduled for legislators who are not available on 1/22/26
 - 1 legislator requested a virtual meeting so that will be scheduled at a later time.
- Dates:
 - In person date for meetings is Thursday, 1/22/26

- The plan would be for everyone who is able to attend, to drive/carpool up to Olympia on Wednesday, 1/21/26.
- Dinner as a group on the evening of 1/21/26 to discuss the 1/22/26 meetings and review the messaging that will be shared.
- Stay overnight in Olympia on 1/21/26 and attend meetings as a group on 1/22/26.
- Christina will be sending out an email to all members to find out who will be able to attend so that lodging and travel accommodations can be arranged.

➤ Advocacy Priorities:

- Sustaining funding for Senior Nutrition
- Sustaining funding for the Health Home Program
- If any other priorities come up for services/needs that are at risk of funding cuts those will be added as a priority also.
- Once the advocacy priorities/talking points have been finalized they will be sent out to all Advisory Council members.

➤ Please note: if the in-person visits do happen then the Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Advisory Council meeting will be cancelled.

2026 Planning Overview (Christina):

- In 2025 the Advisory Council requested we travel to each of our 5 counties and meet with a contractor in that area. Would the Advisory Council like to do this again in 2026? We would try to invite different providers/speakers for 2026.
- What are other topics the Advisory Council would like to talk about?
 - Suggested topics:
 - Homecare agencies
 - Felida Park Senior Housing
 - Invite legislators to speak
- Christina also suggested adding a Planning and Allocations report back to the agenda in 2026 so that the full council can get an idea of what is being offered in each county, the utilization of the programs being offered and the funding that is associated with the programs.

Membership Vote (by ballot):

- By ballot vote, Sue Neal was unanimously elected to fill a vacant position on the Advisory Council as a Clark County representative.

Public Comment:

- Isha Snow spoke about her qualifications to be a member of the Advisory Council for Wahkiakum County.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.

Signature



Date

1/21/26

