



COG Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2026

**Members present:** Lori Zoller, Wil Fuentes

Members present by phone/Zoom: Dan Cothren, Steven Ferrell, Robert Farris

**Members absent:**

**Members Excused:**

**Alternates present:**

**Staff present:** Mike Reardon, Claire Steiner, Christina Marnieris, Lois Chauncey, Karen Wolfe

**Advisory Council member present:**

**Visitors present:** AAADSW Staff members Prudence Zeni, Meagan Rosati, and Mikayla Rodriguez. Former AAADSW Staff member Matt Gustofson. Miller Nash attorney Amy Robinson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by COG Chair Zoller.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**1. Agenda Review.** The Agenda for today's meeting was reviewed. No changes were needed. **Councilor Fuentes moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cothren seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Minutes.** The minutes for the December 5, 2025 meeting were reviewed. No changes were needed. **Commissioner Zoller moved to approve the December 5, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**3. Public Comment (3-minute limit).** Matt Gustofson, former AAADSW employee, asked if the Care Coordination program succeeded in staying in last year's State Budget. Mike reported it is funded through 12/31/26 and we are currently advocating for another 6 months of funding through 7/1/26.

**4. Anniversary Recognition.**

**5-year anniversaries:** Meagan Rosati and Prudence Zeni.

- Mike congratulated Meagan on her anniversary and thanked her for persevering through the trials and tribulations with Care Coordination last year. Mike noted our elected officials are very supportive of the program. Meagan thanked the COG for the opportunity to do this work; it's very important.
- Mike introduced Prudence and noted she started as a Care Coordinator and then moved to her current role as Care Coordination supervisor. Prudence noted a temporary employee had her last day recently and shared how supportive the team was for her. Prudence noted she shares the feeling of being happy to come to work and feeling supported.

**10-year anniversary:** Mikayla Rodriguez

- Mike congratulated Mikayla and mentioned she has worked for the agency several times over the past ten years. Mikayla noted AAADSW is a wonderful place to work, with incredible co-workers. She is proud to say she works for AAADSW and grateful for the opportunity.

**5. Advisory Council.** Christina reported on the December 2025 and January 2026 meetings, where our legislative priorities were reviewed and confirmed in preparation for our January 22<sup>nd</sup> legislator visits in Olympia. At the December meeting, the Advisory Council unanimously approved Sue Neal of Clark County to join the council, effective January 1, 2026.

Christina requested approval of new Advisory Council member, Sue Neal representing Clark County, to join the Advisory Council effective January 1, 2026.

**Councilor Fuentes moved to approve Sue Neal, representing Clark County, to join the Advisory Council effective January 1, 2026. Commissioner Farris seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

**6. Review of Financials.** Claire reviewed the November 2025 payments of \$2,422,420. Wages were comparable to the monthly average. Payments to subcontractors were below average, likely due to the holidays. Other payments remained comparable to average. We paid the last of the Longview improvements fund. Claire reported on the December 2025 payments of \$3,074,673. Wages remained comparable, payments to subcontractors were higher, and everything else was pretty much standard. Commissioner Zoller asked about respite care services – Christina reported that we have funding for Care Transitions program which covers respite care.

**Councilor Fuentes moved to approve the November 2025 payments of \$2,422,420 and the December 2025 payments of \$3,074,673 respectively. Commissioner Farris seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claire reviewed the October 2025 Fiscal reports. AAADSW's overall financial position is good with assets exceeding liabilities. Accumulated surplus is \$446,020. Budgeted target for October was 83.33% and we are on target. Federal funding was over budget.

Claire reviewed the October Fiscal Dashboard pages. Councilor Fuentes asked about the dip in June; Claire explained it had to do with the purchase of new computers. Caseloads by type are on a slight trend upwards. Year-To-Date expenditures by type: wages and related expenses are 64%. Rolling monthly cash payments by type are typical. Fund balance is still robust and continues to grow. Commissioner Zoller asked about the letter we sent to the State about their efforts to claw back Fund Balance from the AAAs. Mike reported that so far there has been no response from the State. Councilor Fuentes asked if we ever get grants from counties or cities: Claire noted that most of our grants come from HCLA at the State level. Claire elaborated on how our federal funding is on a pass-through basis. Claire noted she is always open to feedback about other dashboards the COG would like to see.

**7. Director's Report.** Mike thanked everyone for attending today. He reported on the following topics:

- W4A/Legislative Advocacy – Health Homes is in the Governor's budget at \$6.3 million. None of our state-only funding was reduced. Other state-funded programs did not get increases. AAA Lobby Day in Olympia was yesterday. Mike reported he, Christina Marnieris and Patti Atkins plus two Advisory Council members, Sue Neal and David Rorden, attended. They met with 14 of our 18 elected representatives and received a good reception and support.

- Mike noted the U.S. House of Representatives passed FY2026 budget, which positively impacts the Older Americans Act (OAA) program funding. It now goes to the Senate.
- In March Mike will be traveling to DC for the annual USAging Aging Policy Briefing, where he will meet with our federal elected officials.

Christina provided the following updates:

- The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program is part of the H.R.1 budget reconciliation bill. CMS awarded Washington State approximately \$181 million for year 1 of the program. These funds will support rural hospitals, clinics, and providers. Washington State's Health Care Authority (HCA), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) — in support of Governor Ferguson's Office — have partnered to develop and administer Washington state's RHT plan.
  - Part of the funding includes expanding dementia resources and building dementia capable communities. AAADSW forwarded a letter of interest in providing Dementia Resources and expanding Dementia Capable Communities in year one. Additionally, AAAs will help the State expand mobile health services to promote prevention, disseminate critical health information, and conduct outreach; providing access to isolated communities and helping individuals better prevent or manage chronic conditions.
  - Washington will also expand current mobile health capacity to connect residents with chronic disease screening and self-management programs, naloxone and opioid prevention education, mental health screening, dental services, telehealth referrals, and consumer wearables. Increasing the number of vans in rural communities will allow for expansion to additional services such as meal delivery, and transportation of residents to appointments. AAADSW is reaching out to stakeholders to discuss submitting a proposal for year 2 funding for the Mobile Health initiative. Funding for future years appears to be linked to utilization of year 1 funding so it is important that we submit realistic proposals.
  - More information can be found at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/value-based-purchasing/rural-health-transformation-program>.
- The National Council on Aging's (NCOA) Center for Economic Well-Being awarded AAADSW \$200,000 for 30 months of service as a Benefits Enrollment Center, for the funding cycle beginning February 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028. This funding will help AAADSW expand access to benefits for qualifying low-income Medicare-eligible older adults and adults with disabilities. Benefits may include Medicare Part D Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy), Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid.
- AAADSW partners with UW to offer the Northwest Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Center (NWGWEC) which includes a virtual practicum that was developed for Medical School residents during COVID. In December 2025, a NW GWEC article on our Virtual Practicum was published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. The title of the article is **Primary Care Trainees Learn to Support Aging in Place Through a Virtual Area Agency on Aging Practicum**. The article is available at <https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jgs.70288>.

Mike reported on the Contracts updates. There were 20 various amendments, including a few for funding increases.

8. Mike presented SOPPADA #2026-1 to Increase Purchase Approval Authority for some of our staff positions. If approved, Supervisors' approval authority will increase from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and Community Services managers' and supervisors' approval authority will increase from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Councilor Fuentes asked if these are monthly limits: Claire explained they are based on individual purchase orders/transactions.

**Commissioner Farris moved to approve SOPPADA #2026-1 to increase purchase approval authority. Councilor Fuentes seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**9. Executive Session.** At 1:45 p.m. Chair Zoller announced 1) the meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with [RCW 42.30.140\(4\)\(a\)](#); and 2) the COG would go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with Miller Nash attorney Amy Robinson. The COG will return from Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

At 2:05 p.m. the COG came back into session and Chair Zoller announced the Executive Session would continue until 2:25 p.m.

At 2:25 p.m. Chair Zoller announced the COG had concluded their Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with Miller Nash attorney Amy Robinson and the public meeting would now resume. No decision was made.

**10. Good of the order:** none

**11. Adjourn.** There being no further business, Councilor Fuentes moved, and Commissioner Farris seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.