

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026**

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Conference Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Rick Seekins at **11:57AM.***

Roll Call: Kevin Callahan, Diane Craft, Roberta Doster, Arnie Dyer, Sue Neal, Susan Petrie, Mary Repar, David Rorden, Rick Seekins, Eileen Stearns-Raff

Excused: Apryl Schneider

Absent: Joe Bosch

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

Guests: Cass Freedland (Clark County Commission on Aging), Brian McCarl (Felida Park Senior Housing)

March 18, 2026, Meeting Agenda: Susan Petrie moved to approve the agenda. Sue Neal seconded. Motion passed.

February 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Susan Petrie moved to approve the amended minutes. Dave Rorden seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Diane Craft (Cowlitz)
 - Submitted her applications to be part of the Healthy Living in Wahkiakum County events that will be held two times in 2026. The first event will be May 29, 2026 in Rosburg and the second event will be later in 2026 (possibly in the fall).
 - It was also shared that there is a very large concern about the availability of home health services in Cowlitz County. People are being discharged from the hospital with orders for home health services but once home the services aren't available due to several reasons outside of the patient's control (staffing, reimbursement rates, etc.).
- Sue Neal (Clark) is part of the Faith Based Nurses community and inquired if AAADSW could offer a presentation on brain health and healthy aging.
- Susan Petrie (Klickitat) shared that at this point it appears White Salmon will not receive state funding for a much-needed assisted living facility. She stated that they are now looking towards other funding models like a private/public partnership.
- Mary Repar (Skamania)
 - Reports that she is continuing to follow Veterans' issues.
 - She also shared that she has applied for a position on the Digital Equity Board. Mary expressed concerns about the cost of internet access in smaller communities.
- Eileen Stearns-Raff (Wahkiakum) shared that Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services will be setting up healthcare kiosks in the county.

Public Comment:

- Cass Freedland shared the Clark County Commission on Aging meetings will now be held on the 3rd Monday of each month. Cass also shared that the Commission on Aging is currently accepting applications for new members.

Executive Director's Report:

- State Legislative Session
 - Health Homes program fully funded through 12/31/2027
 - O.T., P.T., and S.T. included in final budget
 - Funding provided to phase in 1,162 LTC slots (out of ~2,800) to maintain services for lawfully present immigrants who would otherwise lose access to services because of HR 1 (LTC clients who are asylees, refugees, etc.)
 - \$2.5M State/\$2.5M Federal, total \$5M cut to Medicaid Case Management funding. Narrative states this is a 3% overall reduction.
 - Delaying rate increase for Assisted Living
- Other:
 - Washington, DC legislative advocacy, March 16-17
 - Sen. Maria Cantwell's Legislative Aide and Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Legislative Aide
 - Advocacy/Policy Priorities
 - Re-authorization of the Older Americans Act
 - Currently stuck in Senate
 - Protect Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services
 - "Thank you" for support for manufactured home parks (Marie Gluesenkamp Perez only)
 - Letter to WA. (Gov. Ferguson and Secretary Rameriz) form House of Rep. Committee on Energy and Commerce on Medicaid Fraud and report from Kaiser Family Foundation regarding change to CMS' approach to federal Medicaid spending in cases of potential fraud
 - Guidance provided to employees when interacting with law enforcement
 - Update on Executive Director search

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee met on 03/02/2026 and developed the agenda for today's meeting.

SCOA Report:

- Rick Seekins reported the February SCOA meeting was primarily based around the asks for the legislative session which echoed the report shared by Mike Reardon. Rick states he continues to be in awe of the agencies involved in SCOA and how they work together to move advocacy forward.

Felida Park Senior Housing Presentation (Brian McCarl)

- Brian gave a presentation about Felida Park Senior Housing.
 - <https://www.felidapark.com/>
 - Phone: 360-938-6816

Planning, Allocations & Membership Reports (Christina Marnieris):

- Planning and Allocations Updates:
 - 2025 Data:
 - Explanation and discussion about the handout provided for meeting covering service, vendor, utilization and funding data for ADRC, Transportation, Congregate Nutrition Sites and Home Delivered Meals in each county.

- This will be a quarterly report that is shared with the Advisory Council by email prior to the meeting so there will be time for review and discussion at the meetings.
- Membership Updates:
 - Clark County is completely full for AC members
 - Christina will at the Cathlamet Women's Club in Wahkiakum County in April to share information about the Advisory Council. Wahkiakum County has 2 vacancies.
 - Patti has sent out a press release for the positions in Cowlitz (1 vacancy), Klickitat and Skamania counties (2 vacancies in each).
- Update on AC Member Concerns:
 - Proposed VA Disability Rating Rule:
 - Christina highlighted Mary's concern about the VA and the proposed rule change to take into consideration the effects of medication when determining eligibility.
 - The current thought is the VA is pulling back on this; however, they are still leaving it open for comments.
 - The Executive Committee has decided that the Advisory Council will offer a formal comment against the rule change. They will work on an official comment from the Advisory Council.
 - Christina will send out a follow-up email with the link to the Federal Register to allow members the opportunity to comment.
 - Department of Housing Task Force Survey that was shared by email from Mary. Christina will be sending this to the Advisory Council again as a follow-up and friendly reminder. There was the ability for agencies to offer comment and Christina provided comment on behalf of AAADSW.
 - Both Mary and Diane have raised concerns about availability of transportation services for people discharging from the hospital in the evenings and on the weekends.
 - Christina has done follow-up with Skamania County as well as Cowlitz County stakeholders.
 - At the April Advisory Council meeting we will have a presentation from Community in Motion as well as Cowlitz Indian Tribe to discuss what they are able to do.
 - In addition to Community in Motion and Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Christina has reached out to the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council and will be meeting with them about the issue and start talks on how the issue can be addressed long term in planning.

Area Plan Updates (Christina Marneris):

- Survey is currently being finalized.
 - Patti is contacting Congregate Meal Sites to schedule a visit to invite meal site participants an opportunity to complete the survey.
 - Patti will reach out to the Advisory Council members share the schedule once it is complete.
 - The survey will be offered electronically and in paper form to the Advisory Council members for distribution within our communities.
- In July there are Public Meetings. Advisory Council members are welcome to attend these meetings as their schedules permit.

*Meeting adjourned at **1:38PM.***

Signature David H Rouden Date April 15, 2026

