



Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 15, 2026

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Conference Room and Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Apryl Schneider at **12:11 PM**.*

Roll Call: Joe Bosch, Kevin Callahan, Diane Craft, Sue Neal, Susan Petrie, Mary Repar, David Rorden, Apryl Schneider, Rick Seekins, Eileen Stearns-Raff

Excused: Roberta Doster, Arnie Dyer

Absent: N/A

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

Guests: Amanda Loasney (Cowlitz Indian Tribe), Teresa Andrus (Community in Motion)

April 15, 2026, Meeting Agenda: Sue Neal moved to approve the agenda. Eileen Stearns-Raff seconded. Motion passed.

March 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Rick Seekins moved to approve the amended minutes. Susan Petrie seconded. Motion passed.

Member Announcements:

Clark County

Joe Bosch reported that Meals on Wheels continues to operate successfully in La Center through its partnership with the Lions Club. He also noted that the Lions Club has expanded its involvement in community projects.

Kevin Callahan stated that he is continuing outreach to smaller communities in Clark County to discuss zoning issues related to manufactured homes.

Rick Seekins reported that he recently contacted *The Messenger* to request distribution of the publication within his manufactured home park and was impressed with the prompt and helpful response. He also shared that residents have been informed that the park has been sold; however, no rent changes have been announced at this time.

Cowlitz County –Diane Craft reported that Cowlitz County will be returning to a rural classification.

Klickitat County –Susan Petrie shared that 130 units of low-income housing are currently under construction in Hood River, Oregon.

Skamania County –Mary Repar discussed concerns brought forward by community members regarding hospice services and renter-related issues within Skamania County.

Wahkiakum County –Eileen Stearns-Raff noted that she continues efforts to recruit representatives for the Advisory Council from Wahkiakum County.

Executive Director's Report:

- Client Caseload Ratios
 - Due to slight decrease in funding, caseloads are projected to be 80:1 effective 7/1/2026. Currently, caseloads are 76:1.
- Other:
 - Washington State, specifically the Director of Washington State Health Care Authority – Ryan Moran, responded to the letter from House of Rep. Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding Medicaid Fraud.
 - Update on Executive Director interviews
- W4A: Christina Marnieris attended on Mike's behalf and provided a brief overview of the meeting.

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee met on 04/06/2026 and developed the agenda for today's meeting.

SCOA Report (Rick Seekins):

- SCOA met on March 24, 2026.
- HCLA updates
 - The budget increased by 3% over the previous biennium, driven by rising caseloads and growing demand for services.
 - Frontline services received additional funding, though broader support infrastructure did not receive proportional increases.
 - Washington received \$180 million in Rural Health Transformation funding to expand access and training in rural areas, build dementia-capable communities, deploy mobile health care, and support workforce development.
 - This funding is helpful but does not offset federal funding losses tied to HR1.
- Age & Dementia Friendly Washington Initiative
 - Community forums are being held now to interpret statewide data and gather ideas for action planning.
 - Four major themes emerged from data shared earlier this year and the group did some brainstorming around ways the State might solve these challenges.
 - **Affordability & Aging**
 - **Planning for a Long Life**
 - **Access to Public Spaces & Safety**
 - **Intergenerational Connection**
 - Some members noted that many proposed ideas already exist within AAAs.
- Housing Trends & Challenges
 - Presented detailed data showing severe housing affordability challenges in Snohomish County and statewide
 - Home prices have risen dramatically, requiring incomes far above local median income to purchase a home.
 - Rent increases continue to outpace household income.
 - New construction is dominated by apartments, with limited single-family or multifamily development.
 - Less than one-quarter of eligible low-income households receive housing assistance.
 - A large share of renters, especially older adults, are severely cost burdened.
- Fraud & Consumer Protection

- Crypto kiosks, which resemble ATMs, are increasingly used in scams; over 1,000 are registered statewide.
- Scammers use highly realistic AI-generated documents, including fake jury summons.
- Banks' fraud-prevention practices are being circumvented by scammers coaching victims on what to say.
- Older adults lose the most money, though all ages are affected.
- SB 5280 proposes limiting transaction amounts, requiring receipts, and capping fees.
- State & Federal Policy Updates
 - Recent bills signed by the Governor include expansions to the Senior Property Tax Exemption program.
 - Federal litigation is creating new data-reporting demands, including requests for household and immigration information.
 - Conflicts between federal requirements and state-codified DEI practices are being reviewed with the Attorney General.
 - The state is seeking clarity on HB1 to ensure people can remain on needed services.
- Boards, Committees & Leadership
 - CDWA Rate Setting Board: new appointments pending following a retirement.
 - DAC representation continues with Ron.
 - Cameron Akita will assume Aime Fink's former role at HCLA; a new SCOA representative will be selected.
 - Cathy Knight (W4A) reported ongoing collaboration with HCLA and upcoming updates on Rural Health Transformation, HRSN, and WA Cares.
 - Washington's congressional delegation remains supportive of OAA programs.
- April Presentation
 - O3A will present next month on their ElliQ project, mobile health initiatives, and dementia resource catalyst work.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Transportation Presentation (Amanda Loasney):

- Amanda Loasney shared a presentation about the Cowlitz Indian Tribal Transportation program.
 - <https://www.cowlitz.org/transit>
 - Phone: 360-232-8585
 - Available for Clark, Cowlitz and Lewis counties.
 - Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM (flexible based on needs)
 - Closed on Federal and Tribal holidays
 - Area covered is a 20-mile radius East or West of I-5
 - Not able to cross into Oregon
 - Service is publicly funded, open to the public and is free of charge to all

Community In Motion Transportation Presentation (Teresa Andrus):

- Teresa Andrus shared a presentation about the services provided by Community in Motion.
 - <https://communityinmotion.org/>
 - Phone: 360-694-6577
 - Non-profit agency focusing on community transportation needs
 - Multiple programs to provide transportation services for many different needs.
 - Employment Transportation
 - Mobility Management
 - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
 - North County Shuttle Service
 - Reserve-A-Ride Transportation

- Trip Resource Center
- Volunteers In Motion

Area Plan Updates (Christina Marneris):

- Patti is setting up meetings at meal sites in each of the counties we serve to invite participants to complete a survey.
- Christina will be sending the Area Plan surveys out to staff for their feedback.
- Public meetings are scheduled throughout the month of July 2026.

Membership Update (Christina Marneris):

- Christina and Rick recently traveled to Wahkiakum County to visit the Cathlamet Women's Group and shared information about Advisory Council membership and invited people that are interested to contact them or apply to be a member.
- Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Klickitat and Skamania counties have vacant positions.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37PM.

Signature David H Lorden Date May 20, 2026