



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2022 January Washington State Council on Aging Meeting
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 1/25/2022

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Connections Advisory Council
✓	Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers	WA House of Representatives	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
	Sharon Curley	At-Large West		Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Arlen Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Sandra Miles	At-Large West		Guests Present	
✓	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging and Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA



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Topic	Key Points and/or Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Review/approve agenda • Review/approve minutes • Action Items • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Meeting called to order at 9:01am.</p> <p>Chairperson Georgiann Dustin welcomed new and returning members to the meeting.</p> <p>November meeting minutes and January’s agenda were reviewed and approved without objection.</p> <p>Request made by council to resend materials distributed from previous meeting, to include updated roster.</p> <p>Member Organization Updates</p> <p>Karen Kiessling discussed a local photographer in her community that died in the ER. After developing pneumonia following cancer treatments, they passed away in the ER with hospital beds being occupied by many unvaccinated people. She recommends a list of suggestions to help prevent this from happening.</p> <p>Jean Kindem shared having read this story as well and added that we have the opportunity to get the vaccine and mitigate symptoms.</p> <p>Sandra Miles shared that she agreed the council can do more to promote positive vaccination rates.</p> <p>Council members discussed more of the details of this story.</p> <p>Kathy Medford noted how important boosters are in the case of her neighbors—both were fully vaccinated, and while both contracted COVID-19, the husband became hospitalized having no booster shot while the wife, who had received a booster, did not need hospitalization.</p>



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	<p>Deb Murphy, newest member from the Advisory Committee for Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington, reported that among the commercial orchards she owns in Eastern Washington 98% of the workforce was vaccinated, also noting an 80% rate of breakthrough infection. She has been in touch with epidemiologists and thought that their input could be useful. Deb shared her experience having COVID and being involved in University of Washington study that was conducted for Washington residents.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling proposed having an expert speaker talk to the council.</p> <p>Art Swannack shared that studies are beginning to show multiple boosters' effect against the Omicron variant.</p> <p>Kathy Medford agreed that council members were not experts such as epidemiologists or physicians, and that social media can have a major influence from non-experts.</p> <p>Karol Stevens discussed her experience in Kitsap County specific to canceling events. Her community is next to a naval base. Young kids remain unable to receive vaccinations and home test kit availability are both factors. She agreed that having an expert to speak to these factors and helping to address coming out of the pandemic was a good idea. Karol also proposed the idea of a panel discussion to talk about COVID.</p>
ALTSA Update – Susan Engels	<p>Legislative Session</p> <p>With the short legislative session, things are moving fast. Bills must move out within the first 30 days of session.</p> <p>So far, ALTSA has provided analysis on 59 bills. Many of these bill analyses have been for the WA Cares Fund. The main bill, HB 1732 proposes an 18-month delay to the program, which moves the start to July 2023. The Governor has encouraged a pause in collecting premiums, however current law as written requires state employees to pay in. There are about a dozen bills proposed about the WA Cares Fund, as they relate to retirement, out of state residency, military members and their families, etc.</p>



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AL TSA Request Legislation

Regarding Tribal governments' ability to opt in to determining Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports eligibility— continues to move along with good support. This legislation would also include 1 staff at AL TSA HQ.

Personal Aide Definition – this legislation would ensure 1,200 individuals receiving services under Self-Directed Care can continue to remain independent in their homes.

APS Registry Petition – this Request Legislation is also moving along.

Other related legislation

Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) – [HB 1646](#) looks to formalize the DAC and direct the process for a new state plan. This would provide a member of SCoA as a member to this collaborative group.

The Governor's budget – very positive for AL TSA, including almost every decision package. The House and Senate budgets will come next, potentially mid-February, and will provide a better picture of the budget moving forward. The Conference budget will follow those.

Questions?

Susan - noted the welfare check/law enforcement bill Art Swannack had referenced at a prior SCoA meeting and its potential impact on CPS/APS, asking Art if this was being looked at this session.

Art responded that he had not been following but would look into it.

Karol Stevens inquired about broadband access being addressed during this session.



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Susan shared about the [emergency broadband benefit](#) access for lower income individuals, as well as 3G networks being shut down this year, with marketing materials likely to be distributed soon.

Georgiann – shared that her AAA had questioned the difference in PNA allowance requests from the AAAs and the state.

Susan – regarding the PNA, the request was in the governor's budget at 300% federal benefit rate.

Cathy Knight – added that for [SB5745](#), the bill that would increase the PNA allowance, the strategy would change the policy that directs these funds.

Susan – thanked Cathy for this addition noting that this bill would put this request into law, not just a budget proviso.

Dennis Wheeler – asked about who from the SCoA would be a member of the DAC, in reference to [HB1646](#).

Susan – all members of the DAC would be governor appointed. This may involve a recommendation from the SCoA, noting that Cheryl Townsend Winter, former SCoA member was an integral part of DAC.

Georgiann – shared that Ron Vivion, former SCoA member is still involved as well.

Art – updated the council that [HB 1735](#) is the legislation that addresses the issue of law enforcement performing welfare checks that was previously mentioned.

Susan – also shared that [HB 1723](#) is the new digital equity bill.



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Other items

State Plan on Aging extension – in November SCoA supported this one-year extension request which has been approved by the ACL. ALTSA looks forward to a robust planning period.

Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) - ALTSA is in conversation with W4A regarding updating the IFF which will become part of the State Plan. The IFF is the formula by which state grants from the ACL are distributed and is very impactful across the state.

Master Plan on Aging (MPA) - After the State Plan on Aging is completed and approved, which is now due July 1, 2023, focus will shift to developing a MPA. The MPA develops through input from multiple stakeholders, state departments (housing, transportation, commerce), and JLEC input. This approach would be similar to Governor Inslee's [Aging Summit](#) from 2013, with ALTSA likely taking lead to bring more awareness to healthy, positive aging.

The MPA would address the entire aging population and focus on key concerns such as housing and transportation. As ALTSA's focus is with long-term supports and services, this plan would bring in partnerships with other departments.

Georgiann – added that as former [Main Street Program](#) Director, she recommends they be involved in this process.

Cathy Knight – supported having the MPA modeled off the Aging Summit, which promoted the positive aspects of aging.

Minor Home Repair – Susan shared this funding had previously been limited to a \$150 lifetime limit with OAA funding. ALTSA requested an increase in this limit and gained approval at a \$1,000 lifetime limit (and up to \$2,500 with State approval). This will allow AAAs the ability to do more meaningful home repair.



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Acute Hospital Surge – the Governor requested ALISA's assistance in transitioning patients from hospitals who may no longer need hospitalization. This involves not only care transitions to rehabilitation centers which are in short capacity, but also supporting individuals to return home with needed supports (such as meals, medication management), and supporting successful discharge.

ACL provided an added \$1M funding to address the public health crisis through wages. This will help redeploy the right staff from AAAs to support local hospitals with discharge of non-Medicaid patients to home.

Questions?

Kathy Medford – asked how many AAAs actively do care transitions.

Susan – currently two AAAs – Southeast and Snohomish. Other AAAs will be doing the acute hospital care transition through this new grant. Tribes also receive \$80K through the ACL to fund this effort. This grant is unique in that it may be applied to highest risk areas without using the Intrastate Funding Formula. The WA State Hospital Association is helping focus efforts for this funding. State funds are also going towards this.

1115 Waiver – Susan shared that this waiver was approved, but the amendments may take until summer for full approval. This is in its sixth year and moving forward.

Consumer Directed Employer – rolling out this month to 1/3 of Individual Providers (IPs). Other IPs are set to onboard in April.

Walt Bowen – asked about the new DSHS Secretary.

Susan – [Jilma Meneses](#), who comes from the Portland area and Bay Area. She has done a lot in the fields of social and non-profit work.



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<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>W4A – Cathy Knight W4A action alerts – can subscribe to these updates at agingwashington.org.</p> <p>Action alerts have gone out for raising the PNA. There will likely be an alert for Case Management soon.</p> <p>W4A is asking for budget proviso language higher than what is in the Governor’s proposal. Analysis shows a 23% increase is needed to bring parity to the state. W4A’s ask is \$12M General Fund-State and the state has asked for \$9M GF-S.</p> <p>Advocacy week brought the opportunity for W4A to meet with legislators to meet budget requests.</p> <p>Hospital discharge – another budget proviso request made for additional money as AAAs assist and play a vital role in this process.</p> <p>PNA – SB5745 – this request is a game changer as some people are not getting the services they need with so much of their incomes going to paying part of their care.</p> <p>At the federal level, USAging is asking for increases in OAA funding to bring up base services that help people remain at home. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell can hear support for this push.</p> <p>Consumer Directed Employer – the move to the CDE is challenging and will be a big change at the AAA level. A lot of work is happening, and bumps are expected. Monthly meetings are happening, as this will be a big change for IPs.</p> <p>Senior Lobby – Walt Bowen Noted that this was the 16th day of session, and that February 14th will be the next meeting of the Senior Lobby.</p> <p>During the last meeting, Bill Moss presented on the state of LTC facilities, COVID outbreaks, and hospital discharges. Cathy Bay, DOH, also provided an update on the Omicron variant.</p>
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DOH launched an in-home rapid test kit portal; this ran out soon after becoming available. A federal supply of test kits also became available.

Social Security of WA- would like a couple people from SCoA to keep them up to date.

Cooper Jones Traffic Safety Committee – legislation coming out on traffic safety, stories can be sent to Walt.

COVID-19 – due to the mission of the Council to advise the administration, a COVID panel to advise on this topic is needed.

Colorado aging network – potential to connect with a group from Colorado through the Senior Lobby. Discussions are to follow.

AARP – Cathy MacCaul

WA Cares Fund – AARP has been behind the exemption bill and has been working on the WA Cares Fund from the beginning. Ninety percent of people can't afford private insurance and this program would save \$71M on the Medicaid budget. A budget proviso is needed, and AARP is working to get additional actuarial analysis, outreach, and education funding.

PNA – worked on the PNA in Residential Care four years ago, and this passed. Now there is a need to give those within home care the money that they need.

Prescription Drug Affordability Board – this was vetoed in 2020 due to the pandemic, and it has been brought back this year to address the high costs of medications. Older adults pay a higher portion of their income for prescriptions; Colorado and Maryland have passed these boards which provide the ability to negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry.

Housing – AARP is in a strange place as older adults want to move, cash out, yet stay in their communities that have limited options due to high housing costs. AARP is working closely with Senator



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Das on a ADU bill. This would provide private homeowners more ability to decide how their property is used and to maintain the quality of life within their communities.

Fraud/Scams – these have doubled in amount of money lost during 2020 (data from FTC) and this continued through 2021. Statewide work with Rep. Gregerson is ramping up relating to cybercrime awareness targeted for seniors. This will help people understand the information around financial exploitation.

Relating to future speakers, Ingrid Ulrey, Regional Director (Region 10) for HHS and a predecessor in Cathy's position would love the opportunity to talk to SCoA.

Bruce Dougherty – asked about the number of members receiving advocacy alerts from AARP or W4A.

Cathy MacCaul – noted that there were 900K members in Washington, and the numbers vary by alert topic. There is a core of about 500 individuals, and a smaller thinktank of ~50 people that reviews policy.

Cathy Knight – shared that they hope to expand their numbers and didn't have data on hand.

Rep. Chambers – inquired if AARP had met with Rep. Stokesbary regarding the Long-Term Care Trust Act and LTC insurance not being affordable.

Cathy MacCaul – discussed the actuarial analysis completed and adverse market selection that supports the WA Cares fund. WA Cares Fund has everyone contribute. Original 2019 legislation drew similarities to Medicare Advantage in bringing insurance industry to the table.

Rep. Chambers – noted several issues with the second bill, and 18 months will help in addressing the exemptions.

Cathy MacCaul – noted that exemptions and overall solvency were discussed during the commission meeting; WA Cares must be solvent for the greatest number of people.



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	<p>Art – asked if AARP has worked on the topic of increasing housing costs in terms of state regulation. Cathy MacCaul discussed impact fees and their source of revenue for municipalities. This topic is on the table, with last year’s work focusing on incentivizing housing that is affordable.</p> <p>Rep. Chambers discussed the Master Builders Association work on housing affordability especially as an issue for our next generation. Cathy MacCaul shared that AARP is working with the Coalition for More Housing Choices which works to address housing issues for all (coalition includes MBA, Microsoft, Amazon, and many more organizations). Rep. Chambers explained that for every \$1,000 increase in housing costs, an estimated 1,000 people are priced out.</p>
Legislative Priorities	<p>Art Swannack – discussed Legislative Priorities being passed in November, also addressing the interest to add more specific items. These issues were kept more broad to allow coverage of more topics.</p> <p>Michele Blythe – shared that she and Dennis had presented to W4A and discussed the issue of parity for case management. AAAs have an average caseload currently around 87 cases/manager and have a goal of 75, overseeing a majority of the 50,000 people receiving Medicaid LTC services. Dennis added that there was a lot of interest from senators and that they had very constructive advice.</p> <p>Rep. Chambers – shared her experience working in LTC for 18 years and noted the current shortage of home care workers. HB 1877, relating to the renewal of expired homecare aide licensure, works to carve out legislation to address issues among CNAs.</p> <p>Rep. Chambers – also briefly discussed HB 2025, relating to senior housing bingo. This would allow Gaming Commission to permit smaller level bingo.</p> <p>Michele Blythe – asked if a senior center needed licensure to do bingo.</p> <p>Rep. Chambers – added that this bill would codify the qualification of nonprofit organizations to engage in bingo gaming and wouldn’t interfere with tribal gaming. This is an agency request from the Gaming Commission.</p>



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Break	
Committee Meetings	[Breakout rooms 11:12am-11:30am]
Committee Updates	<p><u>Public Relations Committee Update</u> Kathy Medford – discussed the planning and implementation of ways to educate seniors, potentially using AARP’s report on fraud, inviting AARP to Advisory Council meetings, and including other ideas from the group.</p> <p>Georgiann – inquired if this meant having AARP coming to monthly Advisory Council meetings.</p> <p>Kathy – clarified that in working within local Advisory Boards, this could involve information sheets going out with home-delivered meals, for example, on how to avoid being a victim of fraud.</p> <p>Art – suggested the Department of Financial Institutions as a good resource, having seen a presentation of theirs at a previous W4A/Senior Lobby meeting.</p> <p>Walt – noted that the Secretary of State and DFI were included in a panel with the Senior Lobby and would appreciate the opportunity to connect with Kathy.</p> <p><u>Social Isolation & Engagement Committee</u> Karol Stevens – discussed the excitement around the potential for an Aging Summit in the coming years. The committee is inventorying ideas to address social isolation and community work to include multigenerational efforts. Flash Love in Vancouver, as an example, uses teams of young men trained to provide help to their assigned communities.</p> <p>There is a lot of interest to continue exploring work towards an Aging Summit in terms of helping elders live within their communities, and ideas that can be replicated across the state.</p>



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	<p>Relating to last year's committee work, robotic pets were discussed (Karol got to meet Oscar the robotic dog!). 700 pets are being purchased and distributed across the state and being monitored for effectiveness. This was a positive change.</p> <p>This committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and anyone is welcome to join.</p> <p><u>Legislative Committee Update</u> (Updates provided earlier throughout the meeting)</p> <p>Council discussed the ways to find legislation on the internet, with Art walking through the process of going to https://leg.wa.gov and subscribing to email updates or by searching for bills by topic or specific bill information.</p>
Dementia and the Built Environment	<p>Bob Scarfo – presented on his experience as a landscape architect working with people with dementia.</p> <p>Everyone reads their landscapes, and people with dementia have not lost their ability to do so but we must learn the vocabulary to help understand how they read this.</p> <p>Taking the interior-built environment as an example, the presence of dark holes on the ground or T-intersections can stymie individuals with dementia. Some buildings use painted walls (bookshelves on doors) to assist in addressing this challenge for individuals with dementia experience.</p> <p>The power of the designer is huge in creating a continuum or flow of movement through form, content, and character within the built environment.</p> <p>In Stirling, Scotland, the idea that if it is about us, it includes us (from the slogan “Nothing about us, without us”) has taken form. Their work includes walking, surveying, and evaluating the environment and has led to the Scottish government funding their community efforts.</p> <p>Suggested reading on this topic include:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Eheart, “Neighbors: The Power of People Next Door” • Boston public health report from 2005 workshop <p>Bob noted that he is open to discuss this topic further with anyone interested.</p>	
2022 Meetings	<p>[Discussed throughout meeting]</p> <p>Georgiann – suggestions for future meeting ideas can be sent to Georgiann.</p>	
New business, Public Comment	Meeting adjourned at 12:06pm.	
ACTION ITEMS		
Discuss COVID panel for upcoming meeting	Georgiann/Cameron	ASAP
Outreach for presenters at future meetings	Cameron	ASAP