



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2023 January Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 1/24/2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Gavin Carmichael	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council		Vacant	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Susan Kerr	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	(✓)	Arlen Washines (Melissa Howtopat)	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Patricia Hunter	WSLTCO
	Vacant	At-Large West	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council		Melanie McGuire	AL TSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Cameron Akita	AL TSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Cheri Perazzoli	HLAA
	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Jacqueline Cobbs	AL TSA
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Ron Vivion	Guest (Snohomish County)
✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board	✓	Rebekah Smith	Guest
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East	✓	Britta Willson / Laura Culberg	Goldsen Institute, University of Washington



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Topic	Key Points and/or Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Review/approve agenda • Review/approve minutes • Review action items • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Vice-Chairperson Karen Kiessling call the meeting to order at 9:00am.</p> <p>Council approved January’s meeting agenda and November’s meeting minutes.</p> <p>Action items reviewed, including discussion of the meeting platform poll sent to SCOA members, and the Open Public Meetings Act.</p> <p><i>Member Organization Updates</i></p> <p>Bob Scarfo reviewed a community puzzle event put on by a Massachusetts town’s parks & recreation department, discussing if Council Members had other ideas for similar community organized events. Bob asked that ideas be sent to him to compile for others.</p> <p>Jean Kindem and Council discussed the potential to engage Senior Center leadership as COVID restrictions lift. Walt Bowen noted the new Chair of the Washington State Association of Senior Centers (WSASC) was Maryann Grafton, and Ron Vivion detailed other work WSASC and ALTA was doing to update a statewide resource listing.</p> <p>Cathy Knight added to contact local Area Agencies on Aging for regional resources on senior centers.</p>
<p>WA State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program</p>	<p>Patricia Hunter, WA State LTC Ombuds</p> <p>Patricia presented information on the Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTC Ombuds Program), for which she has served as the State Ombuds since 2011.</p> <p>LTC Ombuds serve a unique role in that they are independent from government agencies, resident driven advocates that are not mandated reporters. Their role is to protect and promote the rights of all LTC residents. LTC Ombuds can enter a facility at any time giving unique access to serve on behalf of the resident.</p>



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	<p>Unlike many other states, the Washington LTC Ombuds Program is independent from state government. Embedded in the Multi-Service Center and under contract with the Department of Commerce, the LTC Ombuds Program serves residents under broad mandates to protect health, safety, welfare, and rights of LTC residents.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for the program as LTC residents faced restrictions that prevented them from going outside or dining in groups. These restrictions loosened throughout the pandemic, but resulted in a very busy time for Ombuds as quality of life and quality of care are at the forefront of their work.</p> <p>The top 5 issues LTC Ombuds investigate are 1) improper eviction/inadequate discharge planning, 2) unanswered response to assistance, 3) lack of respect for residents (includes a wide range of issues), 4) administration and organization of medications, and 5) quality of life (i.e., resident roommate disputes, food/snacks, etc.).</p> <p>LTC Ombuds are required to have ongoing annual training (18 hours) on various topics. The program lost many volunteers over the past few years, and there is ongoing work to rebuild the volunteer base.</p> <p>In 2019, a stakeholder group helped to assess three models to better position the LTC Ombuds Program for projected growth. A 2020 report followed and found the LTC Ombuds Program was significantly underfunded. Support for two of the models included funding for a ratio of one Ombuds for every 2000 LTC beds, and funding to support the same 1:2000 ratio using future bed counts as projected by the Caseload Forecast Council. This assessment also compared Washington to other states similar to Washington; Washington was at 58% percentage of actual staff to recommended staff.</p>
AgePride	<p>Britta Willson, Goldsen Institute, University of Washington Britta presented on AgePride, a division of the Goldsen Institute (University of Washington) that provides training and services to inform and serve LGBTQ+ older adults, care partners, families, and other underserved communities.</p>



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	There is a growing need for inclusivity in aging services. LGBTQ+ populations face greater health disparities due to risk of social isolation, income not being commensurate with education, and facing more lifetime discrimination. These disparities are compounded in BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) communities.	
Hearing Loss Association	Cheri Perazzoli, Hearing Loss Association of Washington	
Partner Updates		
AL TSA Update		
Break		
Committee Meetings	[breakout rooms]	
Committee Updates	Legislative Committee Public Outreach and Education Committee	
New Business / Public Comment	The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.	
ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date