



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2022 February Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 2/22/2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East		Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council		Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Arlen Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Kinnaman	ALTSA
	Sandra Miles	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	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Serena Segura	ALTSA
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Kathy Bay	DOH
✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board	✓	Scott Lindquist	DOH
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East	✓	Don Stevens	Public



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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>Chairperson Georgiann Dustin called the meeting to order at 9:00am.</p> <p>February agenda reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Bruce Dougherty called to attention having previous advisory letters available for members to access (added to action items).</p> <p>January minutes were reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Action Items Georgiann discussed outreach for presenters at future meetings, including a presentation on fraud during March's meeting.</p> <p>Council members can reach out to Georgiann to suggest any other topics or speakers.</p> <p>Member Updates None to note during this agenda time.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Panel Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion recording commenced and can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/WsNaL-g-Us0</p> <p>Georgiann welcomed and introduced guest speakers.</p> <p>Serena Segura, ALTSA Emergency Manager and Risk Officer Discussed the role of the Long-Term Care Incident Management Team, provided overview of DSHS and ALTSA's response to COVID-19.</p>



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Serena reviewed DSHS's work in providing PPE to providers across the state, the affects of COVID-19 cases across long-term care facilities, the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC-G), DSHS priorities and mitigation strategies, as well as the future of the LTC Incident Management Team.

Kathy Bay, DNP, RN, CENP, Clinical and Quality Assurance Section Manager, DOH

Discussed vaccination efforts across the state including in LTC facilities, data sources for DOH's dashboard, current vaccine/booster recommendations, cycles of vaccine safety/clinical trials, breakthrough cases in ages 65+, vaccine's reduction in death/hospitalization rates, and the [LTC COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award](#).

Dr. Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases, DOH

Shared information on how to access DOH's [COVID-19 Data Dashboard | DOH \(wa.gov\)](#), provided a walkthrough of the pandemic waves using the dashboard, and stressed the importance of observation driven decision making.

Q & A

Council and panelists discussed the use of masks moving forward.

Dr. Lindquist noted his family's success stemming from four factors:

1. Optimizing vaccine status,
2. respiratory protection,
3. practicing social distancing, and
4. testing.

Kathy Bay added that improved ventilation that maximizes airflow, in addition to masking and smaller numbers of gatherings were important, as well as using trusted sources of information.

Further discussion followed on COVID-19 variants, additional booster shots, potential for future surges, affects on schools/school-aged children, DOH's vaccination outreach efforts, and the future effects of isolation/mental health requiring additional investment in public health.

Break



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ALTSA Update	<p>Cathy Kinnaman thanked the group and sent regards on behalf of Bea.</p> <p>Request Legislation SB 5745 - funding for Personal Needs Allowance increase is included in the Senate budget. This would raise the PNA to 300% of the Federal Benefit Rate.</p> <p>SB 5866 - Tribal government opt-in ability to determine Medicaid LTSS eligibility has good support.</p> <p>SB 5529/HB 1777 – regarding the Personal Aide definition for self-directed care – this is going to the respective committees soon. This would affect 1,200 DSHS clients.</p> <p>HB 1646 – regarding the Dementia Action Collaborative (not DSHS request legislation but ALTSA related) passed through the Senate with amendments. This would include SCOA representation.</p> <p>Acute Care Hospital Work Home and Community Services (HCS) is pushing out assessments for one year as a flexibility allowed under the disaster waiver for residential clients.</p> <p>AMN, a contracted staffing firm will assist with additional staffing for units in Seattle, Vancouver, Spokane, and Whatcom County. A plan to staff up to 10 nursing facilities by bringing in 1-2 teams a week is funded through the end of June, currently.</p> <p>Guardianship – working with the AAG to develop criteria for guardianship, for individuals who lack decision making ability. This involves setting up a referral process at hospitals. DSHS will incur up front costs and have asked the legislature to fund this.</p> <p>Provider Rates These are expected to continue through June and need the Legislature’s appropriations to go ahead. The Legislature is proposing to titrate these down starting in July.</p>
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	<p>PHE Unwinding Although there has been nothing specific from CMS, there is speculation that the PHE may be extended again. AL TSA is evaluating network and client impacts this may have. A lot will have to happen to unwrap the PHE related flexibilities, many of which have different end dates. There is a potential for gap funding post PHE.</p> <p>HCS may be able to continue post enrollment verification with the ability to do self-attestation for Medicaid financial eligibility applications. Work is happening with the Health Care Authority to pilot this effort.</p>
Partner Updates	<p>W4A, Cathy Knight Shared that the Senate budget is looking better for AAA funding, noting that the PNA is very important to W4A. This increase would make a huge impact in the future, and the hope is that the PNA remains at 300%.</p> <p>Funding for Case Management may be higher in the Senate. AAAs are asking for parity to the state as COVID funding will eventually run out.</p> <p>Acute hospitalization discharge is a key issue, as AAAs play a vital role in getting people back to their homes. AAAs are a very important partner with DSHS in providing home delivered meals, and so many more resources during these transitions.</p> <p>PHE flexibilities may come to an end, and W4A is an important link to the community serving almost 70% of the long-term care population. There is a continued need for additional resources to keep people in their homes.</p> <p>AARP, Cathy MacCaul Thanked the Council, and Kathy Medford for her committee work on fraud.</p> <p><i>Legislation</i> Telephone fraud – HB 1497 and HB 1650 will help address phishing scams and focus on texting/phone calls. Technology has advanced for telephonic and computer-based solicitation which has benefitted</p>



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	<p>commerce but also is used by fraudsters to scam individuals. AARP has been looking into model legislation on this topic and excited about WA's legislation.</p> <p>PNA – heading into appropriations, which is a positive indicator of support.</p> <p>Prescription drug affordability board – tracking and working with Senator Karen Keiser. Executive session is scheduled for following day. This would create an affordability board, and work is being done to define which drugs this would cover.</p> <p>Accessory dwelling unit (ADU) – would address affordable living situations for families.</p> <p>Senior Lobby, Walt Bowen Noted this being day 44 of a 64-day session, ending March 10th. The cutoff for each house to sign bills has passed, and now bills must move to the other house.</p> <p>Budgets are going through each house and are looking good compared to previous years.</p> <p>The next Senior Lobby meeting will be March 21st and will be discussing nutrition programs for seniors. During the last meeting Bill Moss's retirement was discussed. Council members discussed the support and work being done with AARP to address fraud, with Cathy MacCaul noting the options that AARP can provide in presentations.</p> <p>Representative Chambers noted HB 1877, which still needed to go through the Senate. This bill would address an added timeframe from 1 to 5 years to renew home care aide license renewal.</p>
Committee Meetings	[Breakout rooms 11:12am-11:30am]



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<p>Committee Updates</p>	<p>Legislative Michelle Blythe noted the committee discussing parity for case managers as well as raising the PNA, thanking Cathy Knight and Walt Bowen for providing information on these topics.</p> <p>Georgiann asked if the committee would like to have a separate Zoom meeting for added time aside from the monthly SCOA meetings—Michelle noted this wasn't needed.</p> <p>Cathy Knight added that the PNA is in both the Senate and House budgets, and that there is a lot of support for helping low-income individuals stay in their communities. This bill would put this increase into law, not just a one-time increase.</p> <p>Walt emphasized that there is a lot of competition for funding in the legislature, and that these issues need more champions to explain these needs to newer legislators.</p> <p>Cathy Knight announced that she would share a document on PNA personal stories she compiled for W4A to distribute to the council.</p> <p>Public Relations Kathy Medford requested setting up a separate committee meeting aside from the monthly SCoA meetings to allow for more discussion time.</p> <p>Kathy offered to share information with the council on AARP's fraud programs and resources.</p> <p>Social Isolation Karol Stevens shared that the committee would be meeting March 8th, the usual 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting, to discuss the book, "Neighbors: The Power of the People Next Door".</p>
<p>New business, Public Comment</p>	<p>Bruce Dougherty had previously asked about the body of work SCOA completed in the past, such as advisory letters, noting having received information on where to find these.</p> <p>Motion and approval of meeting adjournment at 12:00pm.</p>



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ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date
Send materials to Council (PNA personal stories, AARP fraud, panel recording)	Cameron Akita	ASAP
Set-up separate Zoom PR Committee meeting	Cameron/Melanie	By next meeting
Review member repository	Cameron Akita	By next meeting