



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2023 February Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 2/28/2023

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	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
	Vacant	At-Large West	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Cathy Kinnaman	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Jacqueline Cobbs	ALTSA
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Ron Vivion	Guest (Snohomish County)
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Adrienne Cotton	ALTSA
✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East	✓	Maren Turner / Annie Moua	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 • Review action items • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Chairperson Kathy Medford called the meeting to order at 9:02am.</p> <p>Council members and meeting guests introduced themselves.</p> <p>Council discussed recent changes to Kaiser Permanente’s rules around prescription drug/pharmacy delivery. Members shared concern over this change, especially for rural areas of the state that have few pharmacies.</p> <p>Art Swannack shared these articles/resources for more information:</p> <p>https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/feb/17/kaiser-policy-requires-mail-order-prescription-ref/</p> <p>https://www.nwpb.org/2023/02/14/kaiser-permanente-customers-discover-new-requirement-to-fill-prescriptions-via-mail-order/</p> <p>Council passed a motion to write an advisory letter to the Governor regarding Kaiser Permanente’s requirement to fill a prescription by mail only or at Kaiser pharmacies.</p> <p>Council reviewed and approved January’s meeting minutes and February’s agenda.</p>
<p>ALTSA Update</p>	<p>Cathy Kinnaman, Director, Home and Community Services Division</p> <p>Cathy provided an update on the legislative session as well as public health emergency (PHE) unwinding efforts underway.</p> <p><i>Request Legislation</i></p> <p>HB 1128 and SB 5183, regarding raising the residential personal needs allowance passed its third reading on the floor and is moving along.</p>



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HB 1528 and SB 5370, concerning Adult Protective Services was placed on second reading by the Rules Committee and has been moving through.

Other bills being watched

HB 1784, concerning hunger relief passed in the House unanimously. The key piece is \$6M designated for area agencies on aging (AAAs) to address the hunger cliff, specifically for seniors losing SNAP benefits, by supporting senior nutrition services.

SB 5318, limiting estate recover was heard for its second reading. This would remove TEFRA (pre death) liens when individuals have to go to a nursing home.

SB 5440, providing competency evaluations to individuals suffering from behavioral health emergencies. Originally intended for the DDA, this would include those suffering from dementia in addition to DDA clients.

AL TSA is following several bills addressing home care aides, including HB 1568, HB 1694, and SB 5278. HB 1684 may be the bill picking up 1568's key points that will move forward, which would expand eligibility to family members to provide services and help with the backlog of HCAs. This would ask for a feasibility study for paying spouses to provide care and opens up the possibility to pay more individuals to provide care.

PHE Unwinding

The PHE will end May 11th which will create new financial requirements around Medicaid eligibility. Washington will start medical redeterminations starting in April for MAGI and LTC clients, which will be a huge workload for staff. Regular renewals will continue (at about 3,400 per month) along with individuals kept on benefits during the PHE.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) has provided a lot of outreach and communication to clients to ensure they are aware of upcoming changes. It is key to have updated contact information for this population to



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	<p>maintain contact. Coordinating efforts with the Technology Innovation Administration (TIA) to automate renewal process work is ongoing.</p> <p>AL TSA is using multiple strategies to contact clients, including USPS mail, emails, text messages, and more. This work must be well documented and multiple strategies must be used to contact individuals under new federal requirements.</p>
AL TSA Home and Community Programs	<p>Maren Turner, Office Chief, and Annie Moua, Waiver Program Manager, Home and Community Programs</p> <p>Maren introduced herself to the Council and reviewed the waivers up for renewal. The renewal process will begin in July and HCS is seeking feedback on these services ahead of this time.</p> <p>The COPES Waiver program provides nursing level of care to individuals in their community-based settings through a variety of supports. Individuals who are 18+, blind, aged, or disabled. COPES Waiver services act as a wraparound to services available in the Community First Choice (CFC) state program; almost all COPES eligible clients can receive CFC services.</p> <p>Annie noted that feedback is welcomed for these renewals and should be provided before the end of May.</p> <p>Council discussed home delivered meals and transportation being important services, especially for rural areas. Annie shared that around 24,000 individuals are on at least one of these Waiver services.</p> <p>Maren discussed the second waiver up for renewal, the Residential Support Waiver. This program provides a variety of services for clients in adult family homes, enhanced adult residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, and enhanced service facilities.</p> <p>Council discussed how these programs are working in the community, and Annie noted that waiver programs help providers transition and serve clients into community-based settings. Maren emphasized the purpose of these programs is to support people in their communities of choice. AL TSA welcomes feedback on these two waiver renewals.</p>



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Partner Updates

Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby

Legislative session is halfway through, shifting from committee meetings.

SB 5560 which would require driver re-education at age 70 did not go through.

Senior Lobby held its first Lobby Day in a few years. Housing and food security are big issues.

Emergency planning is a topic of concern, especially in terms of earthquakes as Washington state sits on several fault lines.

Senior Lobby will continue following the Kaiser Permanente prescription issue.

Cathy Knight, W4A

The hunger relief bill, SHB 1784, which will target funding to SNAP beneficiaries losing emergency allotments is being followed. Would support AAA nutrition services and provide a better glide path to support clients, and has to be spent by June 30, 2023, if passed.

Excitement around bills addressing workforce crisis. AAA directors were interviewed about HB 1694 by the Everett Herald about how to expand the workforce.

Cathy shared that COPEs services (Maren Turner's discussion) is important to discuss at advisory council meetings as home delivered meals and transportation are big issues.

Adult Day Health is vitally important but not financially viable in Washington, as the rate is too low. AL TSA is looking at how to provide more support, potentially through hybrid models.

Senior Centers – a bill to keep sales tax dollars locally to support senior centers died. Funding for AAAs was not intended to support senior center infrastructure.



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	<p>Council members discussed future needs to look into how senior centers are funded, especially at the state level. Dennis Wheeler shared of a 2017 report conducted in Snohomish County that he would like to share.</p> <p>Cathy finished by discussing the ongoing work around the Intrastate Funding Formula between AL TSA and W4A, which is planned to be discussed more in March.</p> <p>Cathy MacCaul, AARP HB 1329 is being followed, which concerns preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. Discussion around concept of “gatekeepers”, utility or postal workers that would have similar roles as mandatory reporters who could notify agencies of issues.</p> <p>Council discussed availability of emergency managers, county officials as key resources. AARP is committed to this issue of educating people about the effects of heat on older adults.</p> <p>AARP is also looking at the issue of affordability of prescriptions.</p>
Break	
Committee Meetings	[Breakout rooms]
Committee Updates	<p>Legislative Committee Art Swannack, Legislative Committee Co-Chair discussed Senior Center issues, which will be discussed in September’s JLEC meeting. Dennis Wheeler noted that the Washington State Association of Senior Centers (WSASC) is looking into developing a directory of senior centers.</p> <p>Walt shared that the budget forecast is coming out next month.</p> <p>Public Outreach and Education Committee Michele Horaney, Public Outreach and Education Committee Chair has been drafting a plan to promote priorities. This will also lay out plans to expand outreach on the State Council on Aging, and provide more information to the public to promote SCOA’s efforts. In March, the both committees will convene to discuss this effort further.</p>



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MPA Initial Discussion / New Business / Public Comment	<p>Council discussed the topic of a Master Plan on Aging and how issues concerning older adults could be addressed through this cross-sector approach. The 2013 Governor's Aging Summit was noted an event this effort could be modeled after. Walt noted this could be a good topic for future JLEC discussion.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS		Assignee	Due Date
KP Prescription Drug Advisory Letter		Art Swannack	By March Meeting
Share Public Awareness and Education Plan Draft		Michele Horaney	ASAP