



# Washington State Council on Aging

**Meeting Title:** 2024 February Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

**Date:** 2/27/24

**Location:** Zoom

	Members Present	Appointment		Members Present	Appointment
	Jean Kindem	At-Large East		Vacant	Association of Counties
✓	Gavin Carmichael	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council		Susan Conniry	O3A Advisory Council
	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
✓	Suone Cotner	At-Large West	✓	Susan Kerr	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
	Vacant	NWRC Advisory Council		Vacant (Melissa Howtopat)	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		<b>Guests Present</b>	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
✓	Ron Vivion	At-Large West	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Vacant (Michael Adusah sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Georgiann Dustin	Guest
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Kinnaman	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
	Stephanie Carpenter	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
	Rep. Tarra Simmons	WA House of Representatives			
✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board			
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East			



# Washington State Council on Aging

Topic	Key Points and/or Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome/Introductions</li></ul>	<p>Chairperson Michele Blythe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council Members introduced themselves to the group.</p> <p>Council members reviewed and approved January meeting minutes with one revision to add the RCS presentation as a viewable attachment (to be posted as a separate link).</p>
DAC Update	<p>Georgiann Dustin, advisory council member of the Whatcom Council on Aging, Chair of the Northwest Regional Council Advisory Board, appointed member to the Consumer Directed Employer Rate Setting Board, and current appointee to the <a href="#">Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC)</a> introduced herself to the Council.</p> <p>Georgiann provided an overview of the DAC, a group which aims to change the perception of dementia through its 3 subcommittees: public awareness, legal, and long-term care. Current work surrounds developing <a href="#">Dementia Friendly Communities</a>, creating public awareness for communities experiencing high risk of dementia diagnoses, designing educational materials, and leveraging existing resources.</p> <p>Dennis Wheeler asked about how to get hardcopies of the Dementia Road Map. Melanie McGuire noted that she would distribute copies out to Council Members.</p> <p>Ron Vivion shared information on <a href="#">memorylossinfo.org</a> which provides resources for legal planning, the State Plan, and the ability to request documents.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling described how CLC staff in at Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW) is helping to develop outreach.</p> <p>Dennis shared information about the <a href="#">Palliative Care Road Map</a> which is a guide for caregivers and individuals living with serious illness.</p>



# Washington State Council on Aging

CDE Rate Setting Board	<p>Cameron Akita updated the Council on behalf of Amber Leaders (Senior Policy Advisory - Behavioral Health, Aging, Disability and Poverty, Office of the Governor) about an upcoming need to appoint a SCOA member to the <a href="#">Consumer Directed Employer Rate Setting Board</a>. The Rate Setting Board meets in even numbered years to evaluate and propose changes in the rates paid to the consumer directed employers (Individual Providers, or IPs). SCOA appointed Georgiann Dustin to the board in 2022 and the position is up for appointment this year. Meetings are a significant time commitment over the summer. Georgiann added that the commitment to the board is a non-voting position.</p> <p>The Council motioned to keep Georgiann as SCOA's designee to the Rate Setting Board and voted in favor of her continued appointment.</p>
ALTSA Update	<p>Cathy Kinnaman, Director of Home and Community Services (HCS) Division at ALTSA introduced herself to the Council. Cathy noted that as a follow-up to a Residential Care Services-focused question from Bruce Dougherty, she had provided an annual Quality Assurance report for more information.</p> <p>Cathy discussed the 2024 HCS priorities which focuses on access to LTSS, aligning and supporting client transition services within HCS, continuing to address the provider workforce shortage, increasing the use of technology to reduce workload, and Age-Friendly/Aging Summit work.</p> <p><b>Access to LTSS</b> – Initiatives include expediting services and financial eligibility, rolling out presumptive eligibility approved under the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Demonstration beyond the pilot (in acute care hospitals), and working with AAA partners to help get people connected to Medicaid more quickly. HCS is working on expanding the application assistance line with the goal of creating a single statewide phone number to provide assessment and referral services. Through the <a href="#">HHS Coalition</a>, work is being done with a contractor to redesign the Medicaid application. The goal of this is to create a single application that can be completed in 20 minutes, with determinations made in as close to real time as possible.</p> <p><b>Client transition services in HCS</b> – to help address acute and state hospital discharges and diversions, HCS will continue to work with providers and coordinate across systems to successfully transition individuals with complex needs. HCS has also worked to implement civil transitions through the work of SB5440 by offer services and eligibility to those deemed incompetent to stand trial, with a diagnosis of dementia, TBI, or intellectual or developmental disability.</p>



# Washington State Council on Aging

	<p><b>Addressing the workforce shortage</b> – Initiatives include expanding the high school homecare aide program, implementing a remote caregiving pilot, and increasing exposure to caregiving careers through a marketing campaign.</p> <p><b>Increasing the use of technology to reduce workloads</b> – initiatives include adding remote supports to the COPES and New Freedom Waivers under 1915c Waivers and through the Roads to Community Living program, funding a pilot for remote supports work. Additionally, HCS is leveraging the use of BOTS technologies to automate Medicaid renewals beyond the PHE unwind period.</p> <p><b>Age-Friendly/Aging Summit Work</b> – working with many stakeholders on an Age-Friendly state designation, coordinating work for an Aging Summit in May, and setting the groundwork for a Multisector Plan on Aging.</p>
<p>Navigating the WA Leg Website</p>	<p>Ron Vivion provided an overview and orientation to the Washington Legislature website, <a href="https://leg.wa.gov/">https://leg.wa.gov/</a>. Topics included navigating the House of Representatives and Senate pages, how to review, access, and locate hearings, and how to track bill.</p>
<p>Committee Discussion</p>	<p>Bruce Dougherty discussed the work of the Bylaws Committee, which provided a revised version of the document to the Council on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Council seconded and passed a motion to approve the bylaws as amended.</p>
<p>Break</p>	
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p><b>Cathy Knight, W4A State Director</b></p> <p>Cathy noted the importance of partnerships with the DAC in creating public information and awareness through AAAs, ADRCs, and I &amp; A staff, and HCS in helping to develop strategies to address LTC issues.</p> <p>The legislative session did not provide funding for W4As case management ask, which would provide more support to those without paid caregivers in their homes. W4A is supporting workforce initiatives with ALTSA to align family paid caregivers with fair labor standards, HB1942</p> <p>Cathy noted that SB5811, to expand the definition of family caregivers, is moving along and will make a technical correction to the original bill.</p>



## Washington State Council on Aging

WA Cares legislation is working through the legislature, some of which will strengthen the program. One initiative would put the program to a vote in November and could destroy the program.

The Older Americans Act updated its regulations, and Cathy noted that the Administration for Community Living did not fully listen to AAAs nationwide in these changes.

W4A's nutrition ask has made it onto house budgets, with \$7M in the Senate budget and upped to \$15M from \$10M in the House Budget. Funding asks like this require starting early and getting legislative champions.

### **Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby**

Walt shared that the legislative session would come to an end the first week of March. Budget bills are currently being wrapped up.

The Adult Family Home bill just passed through the Senate and continues to move along.

Walt discussed the role of wealthy funders developing initiatives through this legislative session. A couple of these will have hearings, which are an hour long and allow for action to be taken on the bill sooner than if no hearing was held. If these were to go straight to the ballot, the legislature could not take action on the topic for two years.

Walt discussed the grocery merger of Albertson's and Kroger as something to watch in relation to food security. Additionally, the work of SCOA during the pandemic around its Social Isolation paper was impactful, and research continues to look the effects of social isolation.

The State Broadband Office plans to work with senior centers to increase broadband access.

The upcoming Aging Summit is scheduled for May, moved up from the fall. The last summit was in 2013. Cathy Knight clarified that the summit will be invite only for this in-person event.

Walt closed by sharing information from a new article that discussed data on younger individuals lacking retirement planning.



# Washington State Council on Aging

<p>Council Discussion</p>	<p>Bruce Dougherty noted that he was in contact with Mary Mitchell of King ADS to speak at an upcoming Advisory Council meeting.</p> <p>Suone Cotner volunteered to talk with legislators appointed to SCOA following the session. Bruce shared information on federal committees and state webinars that help to keep informed on LTC issues.</p> <p>Michele Blythe thanked the Bylaws Committee for its work to revise the SCOA Bylaws, as well as the presenters from the meeting. Deb Murphy noted that, in addition to the leg.wa.gov page, townhall meetings are a great way to gather perspective from other regions. Dennis shared the National Council on Aging webpage as another Council resource: <a href="https://www.ncoa.org/">https://www.ncoa.org/</a>.</p> <p>Cathy MacCaul, AARP, shared that yesterday was the last day for fiscal cutoff for bills. Several bills are moving forward, including SB6069 related to retirement savings. This would create an automatic retirement savings plan for small businesses and would reduce the burden of saving for retirement for many individuals.</p> <p>Cathy also noted that Washington lacks a dedicated senior crisis prevention hotline, while states such as Oregon and Idaho have these resources available.</p> <p>Lastly, Cathy noted that WA Cares bills continue moving forward to improve its portability.</p> <p>Ron Vivion discussed future work relating to Senior Centers, and how to develop work ahead of the 2025 session. Karen Kiessling added that it will be important to know how to develop this ask as future funding should not take the place of local funding.</p>												
<p>New Business/Adjourn</p>	<p>Council adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.</p>												
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