



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2021 April Washington State Council on Aging Meeting
 Location: Zoom Meeting Minutes submitted by Lynn Ford, Chairperson

Date: 4/27/21

✓ Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Patricia McIntyre	Pierce County Connections Advisory Council
✓ Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East
✓ Sherry Appleton (Shannon Turner)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓ Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Ron Vivion	Snohomish County AAA
Vacant	Central AAA	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓ Lynn Ford	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Vacant	Colville Confederated Tribes AAA Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓ Sandra Miles	At-Large West		Guests Present	
Ava Frisinger	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Bea Rector	ALTSA
Marty Johnston	Aging and Long Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate		Jon Rudicil	W4A
✓ Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓ Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long Term Care	✓	Jennifer Minich	Legislative Aide, Senator Kieser
✓ Rep. Kelly Chambers	WA House of Representatives	✓	Melanie McGuire	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 of current action items 	<p>Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.</p> <p>Members introduced themselves</p> <p>Agenda reviewed and motion made to approve.</p> <p>Minutes reviewed and approved. Add next meeting date</p> <p>Reviewed current action items-all reported completed.</p> <p>Member Organization Updates and Covid Response:</p> <p>Lynn Ford shared that the Department of Health is having Saturday and Sunday training classes on better balance. Scholarships are available.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling reported on Whitman County Covid incidence and vaccination status. She also sent Older Americans Month letters to the editor to area news outlets-to date one was published.</p> <p>Kathy Medford reported on COVID incidence and vaccination status in her planning service area- 4 new deaths yesterday. Still have large group that needs to be vaccinated. Discussed contracts developed to address in-home vaccinations. Vaccine hesitancy is a huge issue. Discussed issues for younger people.</p> <p>Michele Blythe thanked Lynn for sharing the Older Americans Month proclamation. She developed one for Arlington that is being submitted to the City Council.</p>



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Sandra Miles reported that King County is in Phase 3. Currently 36.8% of the population has received vaccine and that includes 75% of residents over 65. The vaccination rate for Hispanics and African Americans is lower. They are opening clinics in the evening to increase access for people working during the day.

Karol Stevens reported that Kitsap County is at 28% fully vaccinated. There is federal site data that is not included- cases are going up so Kitsap may be moved back a phase. The Health Department is starting to offer evening appointments. COVID-19 cases for people 65+ have dropped dramatically.

Ron Vivion reported on COVID cases by age group in Snohomish County, noting the largest group is now young adults. To date 35,000 cases 2100 hospitalizations and 563 deaths. About 250,000 vaccine doses have been provided.

Beth Anderson reported that in Clark County 274,126 vaccines have been given. Assisted Living facilities are open for visitors (Phase 3). 32% of Clark County population have received vaccines. She also shared that dementia friendly work is proceeding.

Georgiann Dustin reported that Whatcom County numbers are going up and more students are returning to WWU. Area schools are back to full time-no hybrid in her school district. There are vaccine sites opening in Lynden and Blaine areas.

Georgian visited a Senior Nutrition Program to see how it works with distribution of meals and shared that it was really well done and that some participants were social gathering in cars.

Jennifer Minich (Legislative Aide for Senator Keiser) reported on legislature funding DAC dementia project.



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<p>Council Focus Areas</p>	<p>Dementia Action Collaborative An all member DAC meeting was held, about a total of 60 people. Cheryl Townsend Winter continues to be one of the leaders on community engagement. Ron works on this group and one of the things he focuses on is Community Living Connection website dementia material- discussed expanding site to include a section for professionals</p> <p>DAC is very encouraged by the work of the legislature.</p> <p>Have approval for 20,000 additional rack cards-can order through May-will shipped in June.</p> <p>Karen share that at ALTCEW meeting had discussion about dementia friendly communities- one of the comments made was that many physicians are not comfortable discussing- so focusing on distributing the roadmap as important document for doctors to have</p> <p>Ron shared the medical community that gets it gets it. Are focused on other medical providers.</p> <p>Lynn shared that her mom was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment and part of the diagnosis was use of mini mental status test. Guidance given was to follow heart healthy diet.</p> <p>Pat McIntyre shared there is not a standardized approach to testing cognitive status –so doctors are using different tests.</p> <p>Jennifer Minich asked about the online CLC dementia resource-> https://wacalc.org/consite/explore/alzheimers_and_dementia/</p>
<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>AARP</p>	<p>AARP-Cathy MacCaul Currently working on recommending partial veto on a bill related to accessory dwelling units (ADU). There are a lot of seniors that are struggling to pay their property taxes-hears from seniors around</p>



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Senior Lobby	<p>the state, especially on the west side of the state. Hearing there is just not enough housing options available.</p> <p>How can we incentivize cities and counties to understand ADU's? (either attached or detached units, e.g.. mother in law units) Challenges around permitting process. Looking at nationwide about how to increase capacity to age in place.</p> <p>The reason we want partial veto is because changes removed some key aspects of ADU's and with the amendments added in the House it became worse. Provided example of requirement to have additional parking for the unit.</p> <p>Long Term Care Trust improvement bill passed-expanded out to tribes, independent contractors (gig workers) and people with disabilities and also provided option to opt out if have LTC insurance.</p> <p>Senior Lobby-Walt Bowen</p> <p>The Legislature got a lot done this session.</p> <p>There were improvements to the broadband bill.</p> <p>Discussed vaccine hesitancy-Walt reviewed contributing factors. Also discussed adding mobile sites and used example of senior nutrition programs providing transportation. Discussed workgroup that is focused on this topic. Working on identifying trusted sources to use to communicate to targeted groups.</p> <p>Karen discussed language barriers and idea of using known community members to speak to specific groups.</p>
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	<p>Kathy Medford discussed people who are concerned about side effects. There are some churches that from the pulpit are discouraging vaccination and fueling fear. She shared that when the Polio vaccine first became available there was only a 46% acceptance rate.</p> <p>Michele conveyed it also does come down to some people are not going to be vaccinated despite what is communicated to them.</p> <p>Most people getting vaccines have healthcare access, trying to improve ways to get vaccines to people who do not have access.</p> <p>Discussed reopening of senior centers but with the changes in phases, going back to phase two that is currently delayed.</p> <p>Senior Lobby re-election of officers was delayed- so have moved that to March of 2022.</p> <p>The Senior Lobby Conference is scheduled for October 21st, 2021.</p> <p>W4A Joint conference is scheduled for October 20th.</p>
<p>ALTSA Update- Bea Rector</p>	<p>Bea Rector-ALTSA Update</p> <p>Biggest thing that happened is we have an operating budget that passed this weekend- we are reviewing back up documents.</p> <p>Secretary Cheryl Strange will be releasing a DSHS budget memo and this will followed by an ALTSA budget memo.</p> <p>The good news is the budget is much better than original.</p>



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Reviewed some of the highlights including the Adult Family Home collective bargaining agreement, rebasing the nursing home rate, small increase to Assisted Living rate and funding of maintenance caseload increases.

1218 passed

1411 creates a workgroup to look at background checks and what is disqualifying, and potential changes.

There is approval for expansion of the homeless personal care project in shelters. In addition to existing project, there will be two pilots in additional counties.

AAA's did get some funding to offset staffing costs related to COVID

Temporary provider rate increases are continuing to end of year.

There is acute hospital transition funding

Currently seeking more information about what flexibilities we have with American Rescue Plan funding.

1115 waiver funding unpaid caregivers- got funding for additional year- have requested approval from CMS for a sixth year extension. To date New York and California have both been given approval for 6th year'

Karol asked if there was any movement on broadband access. This will be in Economic Services and Department of Commerce budgets and Bea has not been able to review yet. A Management Bulletin is going out about broadband access related to new federal funding.



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Karen asked about what things we did not get in the budget.

Bea responded that at this time still trying to understand the staffing budget around acute hospitals so we have staff to address complex service planning, and supporting people moving out. We have been using overtime payment and that is not sustainable.

We also wanted to give through 10% FMAP an increase to the personal needs allowance (PNA); it does not look like that happened.

There is funding for the Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) work around dementia capability in AAA's.

Discussed Federal level expansion of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

The Biden Administration Infrastructure Plan includes building long-term care workforce capacity related to increasing need.

We have been answering many questions about direct care work force issues.

We have also submitted information related to proposed legislation.

Also discussing HCBS as entitlement-currently only NH level of care and is mishmash of waivers around that.

Way that eligibility is defined in proposed legislation would have significant caseload increases and would require significant federal funding to offset increased costs.

Have to make sure that the comprehensive infrastructure is there to support this type of expansion.



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	<p>Bea invites SCOA feedback and will share information that has been provided with Council.</p> <p>Ron asked a question about eligibility in LTC facility related to stimulus payments received by residents.</p> <p>Bea will get info out about how federal government is addressing eligibility impact</p>
<p>Open Meeting Discussion</p>	<p>Open meetings presentation was provided by Art Swannack and Michele Blythe (refer to attached PowerPoint)</p> <p>Discussed legislative intent of the Open Meetings Act and how SCOA fits in.</p> <p>Meetings must be open and that includes virtual meeting formats.</p> <p>Reviewed what constitutes a meeting.</p> <p>Quorum is more than half</p> <p>Quorum is also defined by SCOA bylaws- SCOA does not include vacancies in count</p> <p>Action is defined by what type of discussion you are having.</p> <p>If you do not have a quorum, you can still have a meeting but you cannot take on any action.</p> <p>Discussed what it means to be 'open to the public'.</p> <p>Discussed subcommittee meetings as subject matter discussions.</p> <p>Karen- it's a subject matter discussion</p>



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	<p>Discussed other types of activities that can be considered meeting, e.g. retreats, training sessions, telephone meetings, email communications, text messages, taking a position on an issue. (Please refer to related attachment).</p> <p>Presented scenarios to ask members if they constitute meetings.</p> <p>Goal is to do your best and not get carried away with over interpretation.</p> <p>Karen discussed the history that led to development of Open Meetings Act.</p>
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<p>Council Committee Updates</p>	<p>Committee Breakout Session: The group divided into three committees: Legislative, Social Isolation and Public Relations and Education.</p> <p>The Social Isolation Committee is expanding to aging in place and strengthening community networks to enhance capacity for people to remain in their homes.</p> <p>Legislative Committee- discussed the large number of bills passed- most AL TSA request legislation moved through session. It is still early to address budget and federal funding impact. It is a large state budget. JLEC membership is likely to be similar to last year, Developmental Disabilities Ombuds has been added and there will be a change to leadership. Michele and Art will lead the Legislative Committee starting in September.</p> <p>PR Education Committee</p> <p>Some members have large ground to cover with LTE's so in those cases use your constituents to help send out the LTE's to local media.</p>
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	<p>Discussed new member orientation</p> <p>Rosemary will send out media outlet contacts.</p>
<p>Chairperson Comments</p>	<p>Having upcoming election of officers- so we need a nominating committee for officer slate Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary- Lynn recommends expanding the Secretary role; thanks Ron for how he has stepped up to complete associated tasks.</p> <p>Discussed how there are new members coming on board and how it will be helpful to have members volunteer to mentor them, especially since we are not meeting in person yet.</p> <p>New committee chairs need to be selected.</p> <p>Excellence in Action Awards committee needs to be appointed. The Chairperson requests Marty Johnston take the lead. Discussed what was done last year with general award. Recommends returning to regular EIA process- recognizing innovative things people have done.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>WA Traffic Commission- Walt has been appointed and would like to involve the Council to provide feedback. Walt will invite a Commission member to do a presentation.</p> <p>Homeland Security has extended Real ID deadline to May of 2022 (was previously October 1 2021)</p> <p>Lynn will be gone in June meeting</p> <p>Art may not be at May meeting</p> <p>Karen will not be at May meeting</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned at 11:48 AM</p>



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ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date
Distribute Media Outlet list for LTE's	Rosemary Biggins	ASAP
Walt Bowen will contact Traffic Commission about attending May meeting	Walt Bowen	ASAP