



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2021 February Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 2/23/21

Location: Zoom Meeting

✓ 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	✓	Bill Moss	ALTSA
✓ Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Jon Rudicil	W4A
✓ Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long Term Care		Cathy MacCaul	AARP
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 9:08 AM.</p> <p>Members introduced themselves</p> <p>Agenda reviewed and motion made to approve.</p> <p>Minutes reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Reviewed current action items-all reported completed.</p> <p>Member Organization Updates</p> <p>Members discussed vaccine access</p> <p>Karol- discussed data that Kitsap County is providing on the number of people vaccinated and the number of vaccines available. The data allows for exploration of socio economic and equity issues. For example to date the current rate of vaccination is 6% for Latinx population and 68% for white, data is useful; discussed incidence in congregate care settings</p> <p>Joe Sharkey- Jamestown Health very organized and efficient in their operations for administration for vaccines. Mass distribution through food banks informed the development of drive through vaccination operations.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling discussed efficiencies in vaccine distribution in the Pullman area</p>



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	<p>Sandra Miles shared there have been some challenges with second vaccine access and that weather has caused delays in the state receiving vaccines so shipment delays have impeded vaccine administration</p> <p>Jean Kindem shared there are still some delays in access, also share experience with health providers will only serve members of their health insurance plans.</p> <p>Marty Johnston shared that she had appointment scheduled but did not receive appointment confirmation and was unable to access initially-needs to be more coordination</p> <p>Art Swannack shared that a compounding issue was weather related shut down of mountain passes that delayed vaccine distribution</p>
Council Focus Areas	<p>Dementia Action Collaborative- Ron discussed the DAC's work on adding sections for professionals and social isolation possibly, for increasing content on the website.</p> <p>Long Term Care Advisory Committee- Marty reported there have been several meetings of the subgroup. Vaccine update: Walgreens has done what is necessary and the State has sent out vaccination teams to Adult Family Homes.</p> <p>Currently in long-term care facilities, residents can choose one support person who can come out to visit. There is a required system used where the provider who administers vaccine must enter each recipient into data system. Marty stated that 15% of supportive living clients have tested positive, 10% have nursing support. She stressed importance of nursing support.</p> <p>Karol indicated that during the Social Isolation Committee meeting, Sharon Curley shared that Indian Health Services (IHS) had provided vaccines to Muckleshoot Tribes Elders, front line &</p>



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	<p>health care workers. They also had surplus vaccines and were able to offer to the surrounding community.</p> <p>Kathy Medford shared that Yakama Nation has been contacting people to come to the IHS site for vaccinations.</p>
Partner Updates Senior Lobby W4A	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>Senior Lobby- Walt Bowen There have been over 500,000 COVID-19 deaths in the United States. This is the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world. Looks like cases are beginning to drop. Need to be considering Senior Center re-opening. Discussed Kaiser Permanente Senior Caucus meeting and if Council members are interested in providing input. If so, please contact Walt and he can provide meeting information. The next meeting is March 5 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.</p> <p>Hitting first year anniversary of COVID-19. Senior Lobby continues to conduct virtual meetings</p> <p>Art asked about changing safe start phases – Walt indicated he is not certain at this time and anticipates additional changes. Discussed some improvement in vaccine availability.</p> <p>We have to consider what our public health system is going to look like. We need to work on a process to scale it up. There is some related legislation. Perspective of Council very important.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling shared that the local senior center indoor track is open for people to come in for walking around. The center is using this as a recruiting tool.</p> <p>Walt will continue to work with the Department of Health about reopening plans for Senior Centers.</p> <p>Ron commented on the need for public health system improvement.</p>



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Lynn shared that her local senior centers are doing a good job on food delivery but need to improve on addressing social isolation. Discussed local effort to get small group together for socialization.

Karen discussed ALTCEW development of a virtual senior center proposal, to get seed funding to implement a pilot and hoping to be able to sustain.

Art shared that on county level CARES funding was provided for Pullman Senior Center to do outreach to address social isolation. Karen conveyed that most of the money was used for newsletter development and distribution

Art clarified the virtual project is focused on a Spokane area Senior Center.

W4A Update- Jon Rudicil

Challenges with vaccine as previously discussed- delays, availability of adequate amount of vaccines. Also are focused on assisting public health to reach people in-home.

8200 LTC Trust Act looks like it probably is not going to move forward this legislative session.

The other LTC Trust related bill focused on tribal members and people with disabilities and some smaller fixes is moving forward.

Members engaged in discussion about public health funding at the county level and differences associated with size of county and available resources.



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AL TSA Update- Bill Moss
& Bea Rector

Bea Rector-As previously shared, we followed up with DOH on Council concerns about vaccine access. There is still a severe lack of supply and there are still not enough appointments for people to get their needs met.

AL TSA is working with AAA's on access to vaccines for in-home Medicaid caseload for people who are going to need to receive the vaccine in home. We are also working with Research Data & Analysis Administration at DSHS to do some modeling on data projections for people who are unable to leave their house (not just Medicaid caseload).

Working with DOH to get vaccinations out to Adult Family Homes. There have some challenges with one contracted pharmacy. Walgreens has been very responsive.

Bill Moss reported that on the COVID front we have teams of nurses that are working with facilities to address COVID-19 incidents. We are seeing a down turn in number and trends keep going down. The emergency teams may be repurposed to help with in-home and AFH vaccination.

Discussed HB 1120 bill that gives DSHS authority to give time for training to get done. The bill is moving- asks for Council support.

HB 1275- to do more frequent re-basing for nursing home rates is not moving. There is 5311 bill in Senate that does same thing- that is currently moving forward. Hope at least to get something in the budget to address nursing home financial needs.

Recently had a meeting with the Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Discussed HB 1218 that was introduced by LTCO and AARP. It is focused on better communication protocols related to contact with families. There have been some amendments and it is now closer to consensus.



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Discussed HB 1148- around acute care hospitals. It takes existing quality assurance overlay to apply to hospital settings. We support concept and requested amendment to address concerns about licensure status- the bill is moving.

HB 1460- Is a broadband bill- it has a senior check in system to stand up process for people over 65 to get a check in call daily- advised it be for people who choose to receive-like the idea of having an opt in program.

HB 1411- this bill is for worker protections- lots of work on this bill, like where it is. This is to address people with non-assault crimes. Bea reported that it passed out of policy committee and into rules; next step would be to the floor.

8200- Regarding the LTC Trust and the fact that currently the investing board cannot invest in stocks & bonds, so low return rate, and people have to contribute more of their wages. This bill is not moving.

HB 1323 related to making some changes to LTC Trust that will allow Tribes to opt in and also address people with disabilities and self-employed-this bill is moving.

The budget situation is much better than originally anticipated- when the Senate budget comes out will have a clearer idea and will share with the Council.

Bea shared a reminder about a few things in the governor's budget- continued funding for people to move out of state hospitals- that provides funding for supports for people with dementia and/or significant geriatric needs to transition to community settings.

There is also funding for a program for people who are not Medicaid eligible. There are currently about 80 people served and 154 people on a waitlist. Most are receiving in home services but



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some are living in nursing homes. Those served tend to be medically complex. The governor's budget adds funding for an additional 20 people.

There is also funding for AAA located emergency incident specialists to provide resource for that hire-it's in a larger covid 19 package, also has money for PPE for AAA staff.

Discussed Adult Protective Services and concerns about COVID-19 impact on mandatory reporters not being in the home.

Ron shared that he received an email alert about concern that funding for Volunteer Services is not in the proposed budget. Bill conveyed understanding that it is in the base budget and ALTSA will follow up to provide additional clarification.

Kathy Medford conveyed concerns about limitations on APS in home visits and also sought assurances around transition to Consumer Directed Employment (CDE) system.

Bea shared they are looking at CDE as way to intensify case management, they are also in a lot of discussion with AAA's and HCS staff about getting back to home visits. They currently have 16 workgroups focused on topics related to what does it take to get safely back to do in person in home visits.

ALTSA has issued PPE to all AAA's- there are some nursing observations going on-focused on health and safety. Focused on getting right equipment.

For people in-home that are non-Medicaid, AAA does touch some people through home delivered meals program but there is a large population that are not touched- need to get creative about finding who is not going to be able to get out their home to receive vaccines.



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	<p>Kathy asked about HUD housing, independent senior housing and related outreach in those settings.</p> <p>King county public health has been going out to these settings. Not sure LHJ in all counties are currently doing so.</p> <p>Art- asked about what is being seen in terms of willingness to take vaccine.</p> <p>Bill indicated that for facilities it is 90% for residents- for staff it is much lower around 34% and in AFH is lower.</p> <p>Bea- The online 'Covid- 19 Check Up' was implemented in November. We know from related data (includes questions about do you get vaccine if not why) there are some hesitancies. Some responses include individuals worried about side effects, that it came to market quickly so there are concerns. Some people want to wait until more peers have gotten the vaccine. Have shown the data to GOV staff and DOH and recommend targeted communication to address hesitancies.</p> <p>Art shared a tip from his emergency management experience. Say: do you want to be able to go to a Washington State University game? It is important to identify motivators.</p>
HB 1218 Discussion	<p>HB 1218</p> <p>Ron discussed some experiences the LTCO had during COVID-19 response that encountered problems with status of emergency contact operations. In some circumstances, the facility would not provide information required.</p> <p>Some associations initially opposed the bill. They are continuing to work to reach consensus.</p>



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Council Committee Updates

Legislative Committee

Bea had requested advice on how to identify people who are living at home that will need to receive vaccination in home. During the committee meeting, they spent some time starting make a list that included:

- Conduct Outreach to self- identify
- Postal Carriers
- Home Delivered Meal Programs
- Going to churches
- EMS/Certified emergency response team
- Local police
- Food banks

Ron reviewed how to participate in the legislative process as individuals. You can provide testimony and comment on bills online. He described the process for selecting bills you want to testify about. There is a link to select the bill and it will give you three choices: to testify in writing or in position statement or in person. For the latter you have a 90-second maximum.

Sandra Miles shared that it is a positive experience to testify

Social Isolation Committee

Meeting on 2nd Tuesday

Last meeting spent a good deal of time on broadband access and reviewing related legislation. Would like to see more progress to address needs of people with no Wi-Fi access, or don't have funds, have necessary equipment or necessary technological skills '



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	<p>Found a project 'Aging Connected' – a recent study that was conducted was distributed to members earlier this month. It provides a good review of obstacles to access. Encourage members to read it.</p> <p>It is imperative that people have access to be able to fully engage in communities.</p> <p>Shared experience with 83 year old mom who needs reminders to remember how to access.</p> <p><u>Public Awareness & Outreach</u> Talked about Council webpage repository- Rosemary will get out a list of presentation documents for the committee to review for posting.</p> <p>Also discussed new membership orientation-we have new members that we need to provide orientation do we will set up a meeting for orientation-asks committee chairs to participate.</p>		
New Business	<p>Senior Centers- Discussed concern about whether there will be guidelines for senior centers to re-open.</p> <p>Sandra compliments Lynn on running meeting.</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 P.M.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS		Assignee	Due Date
Review presentations for repository posting		Rosemary Biggins	By next meeting
Follow up on budget question		Rosemary Biggins	ASAP