



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2020 January Washington State Council on Aging Meeting
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 01/26/21

✓ 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	AL TSA
✓ Marty Johnston	Aging and Long Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Amber Leaders	GOV
✓ 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	AL TSA



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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 9:00 A.M.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of 2021</p> <p>Members introduced themselves</p> <p>Motion made to approve the agenda and the November meeting minutes. Motion passed</p> <p>Review of current action items- Welcome letter for returning and new members of the legislature. Letters were sent out by the Legislative Committee on behalf of the Chairperson during the first week of legislative session.</p> <p>Member/Organization Updates</p> <p>Art Swannack-Whitman County- There is some frustration with the new Safe Start plan. COVID-19 response: Public Health is doing a good job with vaccine distribution, there are challenging logistics but it's improving. The senior retirement centers have more incidents, the college age incidents are down in fairly low category right now. The biggest frustration right now is in small business sectors and navigating/understanding requirements.</p> <p>Sandra Miles- the rate is going down. At Sea Mar they did get a vaccine supply for front line workers but have run out of supply- currently have 150 people in line waiting for additional supplies for vaccine distribution.</p> <p>The nursing home is closed, assisted living is operating. Have been able to vaccinate residents. In discussion with people at hospitals they don't seem to be having same issues with supply.</p>



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Georgiann Dustin- Local AAA is getting a hold of members of legislature to set up meetings. Reports that Whatcom County is currently highest COVID-19 rate in the state right now. Hospital beds are at 90% occupancy.

Beth Anderson- Dave Kelly retired. Mike Reardon is the new AAA Director. The AAA has partnered with Humana for transitional care coordination, meals and transportation. During the first week they received 600 referrals. Clark County Fairgrounds is opening up for vaccine distribution. Peace-Health is also coordinating vaccine distribution.

Karol Stevens- Kitsap AAA is having legislative meeting training this week, have appointments scheduled later this week. Post-holiday COVID-19 cases went up and they have had significant outbreaks in some LTC facilities. People in LTC have received their first vaccines. For general community there are some challenges with vaccine access but overall access continues to expand.

Marty Johnston-Cases in Spokane County are going down. Idaho also. Vaccine access is a problem here- some delays with scheduling. The Arena will open tomorrow for vaccine appointments. There are some logistical challenges. A new evidence based program is starting.

Kathy Medford-. Catch as catch can approach. Have provided vaccines in the nursing homes – unsure about the assisted living and adult family homes. Have concerns about sustainability of local businesses as significant issue. There have been 25,000 positive case-1 out of 10 people in Yakima County have had COVID-19 and there have been 342 deaths. So numbers are significantly high concurrent to the push to try to reopen everything. Think there needs to be more focus on logistics of distribution of vaccine. Currently no vaccine reserve. Need improved organization for vaccine distribution. Do appreciate prioritizing more vulnerable populations first.



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Pat McIntyre- In Pierce County 29,000 people have received the vaccine. 6800 have received both shots. Death rate is still not good. The AAA Advisory Council is meeting with legislature members on Thursday.

Sharon Curley- Muckleshoot Tribe has vaccinated elders, front line workers and teachers received first shot. Have had a high rise in cases and most of this relates to residing in multi-generational households.

A lot of the tribes are also getting vaccines out- but still have tribes facing high rate of cases and those passing away are not all elders, many are in the 25 to 50 year age range. Discussed recent flooding on the coast and challenges with food access. Muckleshoot Tribe has been providing food supply. Muckleshoot is also currently in grant season so really busy. The Muckleshoot Tribe is really interested in accessing Grand Pads and related technology to help Elders with social isolation.

Karen Kiessling- a lot of elders and multigenerational families are receiving vaccines- the distribution has been highly organized. At the last ALTCEW Advisory Council meeting there was discussion about how to address LTC workers who don't want to get vaccinated-this is identified as a significant issue to address. Discussed impact of recent \$600 stimulus benefit and debit card issue.

Ron Vivion- does not think Snohomish County vaccine distribution is going well. It does not seem adequately organized. Did find out that they set up new appointments scheduling starting at midnight.

Joe Sharkey- just finished six days of mass vaccination in Clallam County- initially disorganized with people lining up. Joe & his wife received vaccinations this past Saturday. Jamestown Health collaborated with the town and it was very efficient and highly organized. COVID-19 rates on the



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north Olympic Peninsula are going down. Local food banks continue with high rate of food distribution and collaboration with other food banks.

Michele Blythe-Vaccine distribution has been challenging, shared her dad's experience. It is really difficult for people to figure out how to get a vaccine and communication has not been great. Hearing similar for Island county

Louise Ryan Administration for Community Living (ACL) - Louise introduced herself. She is the new Regional Administrator for ACL. Previously she worked with ACL on the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and previous to that was Washington State Ombuds. Louise conveyed from federal level perspective they are very concerned about improving vaccine distribution.

Lynn Ford- There have been 3100 COVID-19 cases and 34 deaths. The number is going up but not as fast. Not all assisted living facilities have gotten shots, still working toward that. Tomorrow Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Committee members have scheduled legislative meetings.

Art conveyed there is frustration around federal and state regulations for vaccines. Kathy Medford discussed challenges with refrigeration requirements and viability of vaccine. Discussed an additional vaccine coming on that may be more shelf stable.

Michele asked what if there is key difference in Biden Administration. Louise Ryan stated that early to say but can say response to date has been very helpful- the vaccine production is ramping up and she's hopeful distribution plans will receive more support.

Kathy commented that she thinks use of Defense Production Act will also help with improving access to supplies, like syringes.



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<p>Council Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Action Collaborative • Long Term Care Advisory Committee • Tribal Issues • Other 	<p>Dementia Action Collaborative-Ron Vivion</p> <p>www.memorylossinfowa.org is the direct access link to Community Living Connections website. If you go to the legal section there is now a very comprehensive section on setting up legal support mechanism, Durable Power of Attorney, wills, and other processes that can help people work through what support they need. One of Ron’s responsibilities for the DAC is keeping links current. Also involved in updating some pages.</p> <p>Long Term Care Advisory Committee</p> <p>Marty Johnston-vaccine update for LTC facilities. Monochronal antibody-can be used as intervention, but requires close monitoring and experience with infusion. How can we support nursing homes to have capacity to provide this treatment? One suggestion was use of a rapid response team-paid by state, using nurses and nursing assistants. Also looking into people who are IV certified. Have been very impressed with the work of this committee.</p> <p>Tribal Issues-Please see Sharon Curley’s member organization update</p>
<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>Senior Lobby</p> <p>AARP</p> <p>W4A</p>	<p>Senior Lobby-Walt Bowen</p> <p>There have been problems related to the number of vaccines that the federal government said would be available for the state. The state did not end up with the number of vaccines that were originally planned to be allocated.</p> <p>Legislative session is doing relatively well with virtual meetings. The State Capital is currently fenced. Most staff are working remotely. Because of security concerns there are concerns about bringing firearms on campus. Discussed HB 1141 increasing access to the death with dignity act and proposed modifications, requests feedback. Share that Senior Lobby will not be holding a Lobby Day this year.</p>



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W4A- Jon Rudicil

Jon shared that they are having Lobby day over 3 days, have scheduled appointments with legislators. They are focused on supporting LTC funding being maintained, [HB 1323](#)-Concerning the long-term services and supports trust program to include Tribal employees, [HB 1120](#) - Concerning state of emergency operations impacting long-term services and supports, LTC workforce improvements, Medicaid Transformation Demonstration funding, and DAC funding.

AARP-Cathy MacCaul: Provided a quick update on HB 1120. AARP is taking an oppose position, have concerns from consumer perspective that it does not have enough guard rails, (training). We had AARP DC Policy team review- it's not a bill that is necessary, it gives authority over to DSHS.

Supporting [HB 1218](#) and working closely with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program/State Ombuds. We have heard numerous complaints from family and residents that they cannot access resident by phone, occurring over unacceptable time periods

Supportive of [8200](#)-concerning the investment of funds to provide for long-term care services and And also supportive of HB 1323.

Also working on broadband and also other consumer protection legislation.

Discussed vaccine access.

AARP- vaccine distribution is huge issue for us. Discussed existing capacity, looking at existing phone information and assistance. Also looking at increased transparency about where the vaccines are being distributed.



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Sandra expressed concern about the AARP position on HB 1120 -there is need to address statutory requirements and workforce needs-encourages AARP to seek compromise with DSHS.

Cathy and members engaged in discussion about COVID-19 related federal funding that has been received by the nursing home industry- received 94 million dollars, and where that money going. Discussed high incidence of COVID-19 in nursing homes nationwide. Discussed lack of adequate number of staff and other challenges.

Members engaged in additional discussion about the intent of HB 1218. Cathy stated there is no single document that is available for emergency contact information. We need to make sure that these facilities have a single place for access (issue of family members not being contacted when resident is really sick or has passed away). The LTCO should be able to come in and have access to this information.

Lynn Ford shared that she previously was a Nursing Home Administrator and started as a nursing aide. At the time the training required was on the job training. She stated she was surprised to hear that there is not access to the emergency contact info. There were procedures in place for emergency contact.

Sandra Miles expressed concern about broad assumptions and that existing policy and procedures and requirements need to be complied with.

Cathy clarified that the concern is where the requirements are not being followed. Calls out facilities that are doing great work, but there are also those that are doing poorly.

Members will review HB 1218 in more detail and determine possible next steps.



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AL TSA Update	<p>AL TSA Update- Bea Rector</p> <p>Vaccination Update-COVID-19. On the good news front 100% of nursing facilities have received first dose, and well on way with Assisted Living Facilities. Adult Family Homes are more challenging logistically, working with DOH on outreach. Work with homecare workers in ongoing, going well. Work with IP's continues. There are challenges with vaccine availability due to limits of supplies. DOH is notified every Tuesday what the supply will be and are hopeful that supply side will improve. DOH continues to provide education at local level to clarify the phases and who is eligible.</p> <p>Kathy Bay at DOH (leading vaccine distribution planning) has been really responsive. Bea thinks it will get better, its' just going to take to some time. Ron shared that it would help that the governor would understand, that there is not a clear process in place-it just isn't working, for people who have diminished capacity, or do not access to internet. Bea agrees there are significant problems that need to get better. Michele shared example of seniors going to pharmacy and being told to go home and go online to register. Bea has talked to other states to see what counterparts are doing. One example is use of 211 call system. The IT/internet divide is huge and needs to be addressed. Pat McIntyre shared an 80 year old person's example of not being able to access vaccine process on line.</p> <p>Karol Stevens asked if primary care providers are involved in contacting seniors. Bea shared there are a lot of ideas that have been conveyed. The question is what the coordinating approach is. Definitely the Phasefinder is a portal to find your phase. Bea has asked DOH what their process for determining the next phase-concern is addressing people in current phase who have not yet received first dose. So DOH is tracking numbers in each phase- and they won't move to next phase until designated number in current phase have been vaccinated.</p> <p>Marty reported some issues with Phasefinder and eligibility. Lynn Ford expressed concern that underlying conditions might not be consistently factored in.</p>



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Bea shared there is a lot more work to be done. Suggest that it would be helpful for the Council to submit concerns in writing, to offer suggestions to address, e.g. using single number to call.

Public Health Emergency- Federal government has informed ALISA that the enhanced match funding is extended through June 30th. This will be helpful to fund PPE and there is also a bill to extend enhanced rates.

The State of Emergency extension is really important because of the impact on staff access to training and being able to continue working. Have house bill 1120 to address workers remaining qualified, this bill is really important to pass. Sandra Miles asked a question about survey/inspection. Bea replied they have focused on infection control and complaint resolution and will resume survey/inspection.

Discussed [HB 1275](#)- nursing facility Medicaid rate rebasing, inflation, and case mix. To have nursing home rebasing to move to annual rebase instead of two years. Also discussed [HB 1323](#)-Concerning the long-term services and supports trust program.

Discussed online Provider Training-This is a system that is available to provide workers access to high quality online training. A lot of the training has focused on person centered approach, working with people with behavioral challenges, traumatic brain injury and other challenges.

Provided an updated on the Social Isolation Workgroup-Have had good workgroup meetings. The plan is to publish a white paper to provide top recommendations to address social isolation, to do some webinars, and to regroup in April to check in to see how things are progressing.



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<p>Senior Policy Adviser Update</p>	<p>Amber Leaders-Senior Policy Adviser Update</p> <p>Amber provided an overview of the Governor's 2021-23 budget proposal providing funding for public health, economic supports for workers and businesses, and other services that Washingtonians need to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19.</p> <p>Seeking additional funds for supporting public health. Small businesses have been really hard hit. Discussed housing and rental assistance with more specificity. There has already been 120 million in CARES Act funding. The governors proposed budget includes 160 million. There are also dollars for affordable housing including 220 million in the capital budget.</p> <p>There are additional dollars for residential broadband access, also smaller amount for digital navigators that can provide additional digital assistance.</p> <p>Discussed behavioral health needs- seeing increase in suicide, ideation, depression and anxiety. There is funding for an expansion of mobile crisis teams, additional focus on youth, enhanced crisis line capacity, also focus on people who have not previously accessed behavioral health resources/supports.</p> <p>Art asked a question regarding housing /rental assistance. There are landlords that have not received rents in nine months. Amber shared that the Governor's Office has been really paying close attention to impact on landlords and property owners</p> <p>Michele asked about the eviction moratorium extension. The extension is currently extended until March. There is also a proposed bill addressing this issue. There is concern about what happens when it ends. How do avoid having a big cliff. There is legislative work going on and important to monitor.</p>
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Ron expressed concern there is not a centralized process around vaccine distribution.

Amber agreed that yes we need to provide a better way to improve communication- the current vaccine supply is not adequate. There are large number of access points but not adequate supply, but starting to see there is increase. Don't have more detailed information at this time.

Ron shared concern about those with diminished capacity, lack of internet access.

Amber asked for recommendations that could provide better pathways. Ron suggested putting in place an infrastructure to have centralized data base where information is put in.

Georgiann shared that she received a call from her doctor- go to this location to receive vaccine.

Kathy Medford conveyed we all have local public health departments- seems that we could use them for data and determination of allocation of vaccines based on number of cases. Also need more funding for public health.

Karol Stevens agreed with the need to increase funding for Local Health Jurisdictions/Public Health. In looking at countries that have done well, they have strong public health infrastructures.

Amber shared that the proposed budget does have focus on public health, including depoliticizing and also a proposed tax focused on public health funding. .

Art shared points from county perspective. For small counties there are challenges to keep local systems intact versus bureaucracy. And also important to keep in mind the financial impact that passes cost on to individual users of health insurance.



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Committee Updates	<p>Social Isolation and Engagement</p> <p>The Committee has been meeting once per month and is focused on how to address social isolation pandemic or no pandemic. Meetings currently on second Tuesday of the month-looking at alternative dates. There are a variety of different needs for different groups so there will be a need for a menu of options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadband Access• Grand Pads-following pilots• Robotic companion pets• Family photos• For those using phone/television- having public service campaigns (vaccine, reach out campaign to remind people to reach out to those in their communities to check in with people who are isolated-strengthen networks) <p>Public Education and Outreach-</p> <p>Will have subcommittee on the website repository, Karen, Ron and Lynn will participate.</p> <p>Legislative Committee- discussion on HB 1218- aspects that are worthwhile, as written there are issues that are not addressed, there are procedures that are already in place. Marty will talk to the LTC Advisory Committee. Kathy Medford commented that when residential facility complaints are lodged and discussed there are distinctions when the complaints are lodged-consistent over time or a in a flurry at height of a crisis.</p> <p>Sandra commented on HB 1120- the understanding is it's not applicable to person off the street (new staff) - it's to address scenarios where access to training has been impacted by COVID-19 to allow staff to continue to work and putting in place a process so compliance issues can be mitigated when the emergency waiver is lifted. W4A is supportive of bill. Walt provided suggestion that LTCO be invited to address HB 1218.</p>
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New Business	<p>Letter to DOH re summarize concerns about vaccine access and offer potential ideas. Lynn will draft a letter for circulation for member comment.</p> <p>Lynn conveyed in general that members want to remain mindful moving forward, we have highly polarized environment and provided a reminder we are bi-partisan group.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date
Letter to DOH to summarize concerns about vaccine access and offer potential ideas. Lynn will draft a letter for circulation for member comment.	Lynn Ford & Ron Vivion	TBD