



# Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2021 October Washington State Council on Aging Meeting  
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 10/20/21

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
	Jean Kindem	At-Large East		Bruce Dougherty	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	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Vacant	Central AAA	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Arlen Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
	Sandra Miles	At-Large West		<b>Guests Present</b>	
	Vacant	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging and Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
✓	Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Louise Ryan	ACL
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Sariga Santhosh	ADS King County
	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
	Rep. Kelly Chambers	WA House of Representatives	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA



# Washington State Council on Aging

Topic	Key Points and/or Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Review/approve agenda</li> <li>• Review/approve minutes</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting called to order at 2:11pm.</p> <p>Chairperson Georgiann Dustin welcomed members and guests present.</p> <p>Agenda reviewed. Karen Kiessling asked to discuss making a report to the Governor to address the public on the topic of vaccines and noted an article that she would share.</p> <p>Art Swannack suggested to the Council that a quorum was reached, noting 10 members were in attendance.</p> <p>Georgiann acknowledged a quorum was reached and issues could be voted on at the meeting.</p> <p>The October agenda was reviewed without further questions.</p> <p>September minutes reviewed, and Karol Stevens advised that she was listed as the member to draft the letter to the editor, while it should have been listed as Karen as the Council's Secretary. This change was adjusted.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling moved to approve the agenda and minutes, motion was seconded and approved.</p>
<p>Review of Committees</p>	<p><u>Legislative Committee Update</u></p> <p>Co-Chairs Art Swannack and Michele Blythe provided overview of the Legislative Committee.</p> <p>Michele provided a high-level view of the committee as it looks at all aspects of the aging community and acts as a voice for them. As the Council hears from many organizations, it is</p>



## Washington State Council on Aging

important that members understand legislation and can speak to their community leaders as individuals.

Michele noted the rough draft of legislative priorities which speaks to issues of social isolation, labor shortages in the senior services sector, and other issues that give voice for the challenges among the aging community.

Art described the role of the committee in creating the legislative priorities list, as well as differentiating between members' ability to lobby as an individual, but the greater Council not being empowered to do so. Art shared the 2022 legislative priorities as follows:

- No State Budget cuts (this section was removed from the previous year's list)
- Social isolation moved to top priority
- Labor shortages for senior services
- Decreasing case load for case management
- Housing, Dementia Action Collaborative, Joint Legislative Executive Committee, and AL TSA's request legislation

The legislative priorities are shared with Legislators, DSHS, and the Senior Lobby. Interested members are welcome to join.

Senator Kaiser noted her shared concern with these issues and described an apprenticeship program for LPNs and medical assistants. This is one pathway of brining workers in, paying for on the job training, and attracting more people to the field of caregiving.

Art thanked Senator Kaiser for the great ideas.



# Washington State Council on Aging

## Social Isolation & Engagement Committee

Karol Stevens, Chair of the Social Isolation & Engagement Committee provided background information on the committee. This committee was formed last year and has met once since the last Council meeting. Last year they developed a list of key issues and suggested working with the Legislative Committee as social isolation is a top priority. Another topic discussed last year was aging in place, focusing on what could be done from a policy standpoint to strengthen this issue.

In October's meeting which was held via Zoom, the committee adopted an [AARP livable cities approach](#). The committee will first be looking at how outdoor spaces and buildings affect social isolation/engagement. There are seven other domains that will be covered across monthly meetings.

The committee has found the Zoom format to be very useful. In their monthly 90-minute meetings, the committee discusses readings and compiles recommendations to the Council. Bob Scarfo has requested to join. The Zoom format may continue even if meeting in-person resumes.

## Public Relations Committee Update

Georgiann Dustin introduced Karen Kiessling, Secretary of the Council, also noting previous discussion of the Secretary's involvement in letter writing and dissemination.

Karen Kiessling mentioned having previously asked for a clarification to the role of the Secretary, and that she is happy to begin draft letters. Karen offered that her concern is that success is dependent on knowing who you are talking to, which develops with time. She asked the Council for input to make sure the letter writing was informative, appropriate, and accepted.

Karen noted that she would forward letters to the editor that she had previously written for the November Family Caregiver month. She is happy to work on this committee and foster the aging community.



# Washington State Council on Aging

<p>Discuss/Draft Family Caregiver LTE *November: Family Caregiver Month</p>	<p>[This discussion was included in the Public Relations Committee Update]</p>
<p>Review Legislative Priorities</p>	<p>Georgiann Dustin noted that the Legislative Priorities had been addressed in Art's discussion of during the Legislative Committee Update.</p> <p>Art Swannack asked if new members had seen the State Council Bylaws and suggested that Cameron send these out to all members.</p> <p>This item was added to Action Items.</p>
<p>New business, other updates, discussion</p>	<p>Georgiann Dustin recalled the presentation of the Dennis Mahar Award given to Ron Vivion earlier in the day, noting Ron's surprise and tearfulness.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling stated that she would be sending out an opinion article to members for future discussion. The article mainly discusses vaccine hesitancy and notes the number of people who don't have primary care doctors. She will send this article and the LTE to Cameron to distribute. Karen suggested having members use local stories for LTEs to make their letters personal, local, and to give a huge thank you to caregivers.</p> <p>Georgiann shared that her local newspaper in Bellingham was going out of business.</p> <p>Georgiann noted that November's meeting can include more discussion of these letters. Karen provided context to the article by asking what we would do differently if we were starting over. Georgiann also finished by stating she wants to ensure a proper review of letters before they are circulated.</p>



# Washington State Council on Aging

Cathy Knight mentioned that the Excellence in Action Organization Award, which was selected for Senior Nutrition Programs this year, had a public notice component in years' past and asked if this would happen again.

Georgian and Cameron would discuss this following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44pm.

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>Assignee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send State Council Bylaws to members	Cameron	ASAP
Send draft LTE and article from Karen Kiessling to members	Cameron	ASAP
Discuss public notice of EIA awards.	Georgiann/Cameron	ASAP