



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2023 April Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 4/25/2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

| | Members Present | Appointment | | | Appointment |
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| ✓ | Jean Kindem | At-Large East | ✓ | Art Swannack | 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 |
| | Sharon Curley | At-Large West | ✓ | Susan Kerr | Kitsap AAA Advisory Council |
| ✓ | Georgiann Dustin | NWRC Advisory Council | | Arlen Washines (Melissa Howtopat) | Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council |
| ✓ | Deb Murphy | Central AAA | | Guests Present | |
| ✓ | Michele Horaney | Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council | ✓ | Cathy Knight | W4A |
| | Vacant | At-Large West | ✓ | Walt Bowen | Senior Lobby |
| | Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in) | ADS King County Advisory Council | ✓ | Melanie McGuire | ALTSA |
| ✓ | Bob Scarfo | Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council | ✓ | Cameron Akita | ALTSA |
| | Sen. Karen Keiser | WA State Senate | ✓ | Jacqueine Cobbs | ALTSA |
| ✓ | Michele Blythe | Association of Cities | ✓ | Cathy MacCaul | AARP |
| | Kathy Medford | Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care | ✓ | Ron Vivion | Guest (Snohomish County) |
| | Vacant | WA House of Representatives | | | |
| ✓ | Bruce Dougherty | Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board | | | |
| | Karen Kiessling | At-Large East | | | |



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| Topic | Key Points and/or Decisions Made |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Review/approve agenda • Review/approve minutes • Review action items • Member Organization Updates | <p>Georgiann Dustin, sitting in for Chairperson Kathy Medford and Vice-Chair Karen Kiessling, called the meeting to order at 9:03am.</p> <p>Georgiann introduced Susan Conniry, appointed by the Olympia Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council to the State Council on Aging.</p> <p>Council reviewed and approved March meeting minutes and approved the April agenda as amended to reflect a joint committee meeting (instead of separate breakout meetings).</p> <p>Action items reviewed to include forwarding the Kaiser Permanente advisory letter to the Governor, Attorney General, and Insurance Commissioner.</p> <p><i>Member organization updates</i></p> <p>Bruce Dougherty shared that in Pierce County, the contractor providing nail care for the Aging and Disability Services did not renew its contract. One potential provider came forward who may continue this service.</p> <p>Cathy Knight, W4A Director, updated the Council from USAging Policy Briefing Washington DC. Cathy would be visiting with the Congressional delegation, Senators Murray and Cantwell later in the day. The WA legislative session ended, and AAAs received additional funding for case management that includes maintenance level funding. One of the two requested dementia catalyst projects was funded. This will require continued advocacy next year. The USAging agenda will include a report of the federal budget and workforce issues. Cathy also shared the importance of Older Americans Act Title IIIB – Administrative funding for AAAs, which funds many supportive services.</p> <p>Ron Vivion shared his thanks for Senator Murray, who recently casted her 10,000th vote in the Senate.</p> |



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Michele Blythe asked for more details regarding the additional funding for case management. Cathy noted that although this year's funding was a good start, it doesn't keep all of the requested funding to keep parity.

Georgiann shared that the Whatcom Council on Aging is discussing its budget. This work has involved making updates to the building, the rental agreement with the city, and assessing parking issues. The WCOA is also in need of a new Meals on Wheels Director.

Art Swannack noted that the ALTCEW is moving to the Rockpoint Center to operate out of a centralized location.

Bruce inquired about where to receive regulatory updates. Information was provided linking to the ALTSA govdelivery page: [Washington State Aging and Long-Term Support Administration \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com/subscriptions/115833)

Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby President, noted that the Senior Lobby Fall Conference was scheduled for October 19th. The W4A joint conference is day before, October 18. The Senior Lobby is exploring in-person meeting options. April is national jazz month. The legislative session ended and over 450 bills were passed, including a \$96B operating budget. Some bills to note include legislation on hearing aids, robocalls, and extreme heat events. The capitol will be closed for 2 days for bill signing events by the Governor. This session marks the 6th year in a row the legislature ended on time. Before the next session, the JLEC will meet again to speak on several topics, including senior centers, homelessness, food insecurity, and natural disasters.

Ron Vivion shared details on preparations going into the JLEC meeting. Regarding senior centers, the Washington State Association of Senior Centers (WSASC) is contacting centers around the state to develop a listing. There are ongoing challenges getting a complete listing to confirm information, but hopes are to have this by September's meeting. Senior centers lack funding that flows from the state to centers.

Walt finished by noting that in May, the Senior Lobby would be discussing emergency planning for seniors. The State Broadband Office would also be providing an update.



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ALTSA Update

Jacqueline Cobbs, Deputy Director of HQ Operations

Jacqueline provided an update from the legislative session, including a reminder on the legislative process, request legislation, bills of note, and the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding.

The Governor's office is still signing bills.

- Bills delivered to the governor more than five days before the legislature adjourns have five days to be acted on
- Bills delivered to the governor less than five days before the legislature adjourns have 20 days to be acted on
- Most new laws go into effect in July (90 days after session concludes)

The Governor will likely section veto some bills, and we won't know the full budget until this process finishes.

Request Legislation

- HB 1128- Raising the Residential Personal Needs Allowance
 - Sponsors: Rep. Bateman (Sen. Liias was Senate version sponsor)
 - Raises the Residential personal needs allowance from \$75 to \$100, codifies COLAs
 - Delivered to the Governor on April 18, has until May 11 to sign
 - Funded in final budget
- SB 5370- Concerning Adult Protective Services
 - Sponsor: Sen. Wagoner
 - Makes a number of technical fixes to help APS continue to do their important work
 - Signed by the Governor on April 6, effective date July 23, 2023

Bills of Note that died

- SB 5318- Limiting Estate Recovery
 - Sponsor: Sen. Nobles
 - Would eliminate TEFRA liens and change Office of Financial Recovery practices related to
 - client resident personal funds
 - Died in House Rules, possible movement in 2024



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- SB 5526- Concerning Nursing Facility Rates
 - Sponsors: Sen. Van De Wege
 - Makes changes to the skilled nursing facility rate methodology to increase Medicaid rates
 - Died in Senate Ways & Means, unlikely to move in 2024
- SB 5716- Removing the department of health's authorization to perform certain validation surveys.
 - Sponsor: Sen. Rivers
 - Require JLARC conduct an audit of the on-site monitoring, state licensure and validation surveys performed on in-home agencies and give a final report by October 1, 2024.
 - Died in House Appropriations
- HB 1568- Concerning the Credentialing of certified health care professionals providing LTC services
 - Sponsor: Rep. Chambers
 - Major policy provisions included in HB 1694, which passed
 - Died in Senate Health & Long-Term Care

Bills of Note that passed

- HB 1435- Home Care Safety Net Assessment
 - Sponsor: Rep. Bronoske
 - Creates a workgroup and gives data collection authority so the state can evaluate whether or not it would be possible to implement a Safety Net Assessment for Home Care Aides
 - Delivered to the Governor on April 18, has until May 11 to sign
- HB 1784- Concerning Hunger Relief
 - Sponsor: Rep. Gregerson
 - Provides \$28 million in supplemental budget funding to hunger alleviation efforts in Washington state, including \$6 million to Senior Nutrition programs
 - Governor signed on April 13, went into effect on April 13.
- HB 1694- Concerning the Credentialing of certified health care professionals providing LTC services
 - Sponsor: Rep. Alvarado & Rep. Tharinger
 - Delivered to the Governor on April 18, has until May 12 to sign
- SB 5278- Implementing audit recommendations to reduce barriers to home care aide certification.
 - Sponsor: Sen. Lynda Wilson
 - Delivered to the Governor April 20, has until May 13 to sign



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| | <p><i>Budget highlights</i> The budget included rate increases for providers of all types. The JLEC was reauthorized, the Volunteer Services Program was continued, funding was added for the Kinship Navigator Program, and funding added to AAA case management. Link to the budget: https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/co/co5187-S.EAMC-COF-H-2006.4.pdf</p> <p><i>PHE unwinding</i> Renewals will start in May. Individuals no longer eligible for services will not be renewed after May 31. Some MAGI renewals have begun with around 300 applications are being determined. Financial staff is looking to see if this group may be eligible for other services (last day would be April 30).</p> <p>Ongoing work involves ensuring clients' contact information is up to date. The state is required to try contacting individuals twice.</p> |
| Partner Updates | <p>Cathy Knight, W4A (shared update earlier in the meeting)</p> <p>Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby (shared update earlier in the meeting)</p> <p>Cathy MacCaul, AARP Cathy shared some significant legislative wins, with some bills already signed.</p> <p>Robocall bill, HB 1051 ending abusive practices of robocallers which may have involved dialing consumers 10-50x a day. This still allows for some robocalling for preferred services.</p> <p>Prevention of extreme heat utility cutoffs, HB 1329, 67% of heat related deaths 65 or older.</p> <p>HB 1128 passed, increasing the residential PNA.</p> <p>Senior property tax, HB 1355, passed. This increases the period of senior property tax review to 5 years.</p> <p>HB 1110, increasing middle housing and allowing for duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes passed. HB 1337, accessory dwelling unit bill passed.</p> |



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| | <p>Workforce bill, HB 1694, making it easier for training and certification of individual providers – removing unnecessary barriers—passed.</p> <p><i>Budget</i> Small amount of the budget was added to fund WA Cares. Funding for training and support for seniors in tech support.</p> <p><i>Looking ahead</i> Medicare redetermination is focus of AARP now. Redetermination letters have started to go out.</p> <p>AARP will be working with ADS King County on a veteran and senior services levy in King County. Also looking at Seattle housing levy.</p> <p>The Governor is considering at \$4B housing levy. Art shared that the bond levy didn't go through, and Cathy acknowledged that this may need to put on the ballot.</p> |
| Break | |
| Joint Committee Meetings | <p>Michele Horaney, Chair of the Public Outreach and Education Committee shared updates on the SCOA Outreach Plan. The two current committees are Legislative, which determines priorities, and Public Outreach and Education, which provides education.</p> <p>With each priority, Michele noted there should be accompanying goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics. SCOA members must represent themselves as individuals. This can be a challenging from a P.R. perspective. Guidance would be helpful from the Leg Committee for how and when to promote these priorities and goals. This may involve short letters or essays that SCOA could personalize for outreach needs. With Older Americans Month approaching, the council should start this information and outreach process. The Committee is looking at revisiting this process in a year to evaluate. Currently, there are 7 priority issues. The mission statement of committee should also be considered.</p> <p>Guidance on and format for promotion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goal |



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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Objective3. Strategy4. Tactic5. Evaluation <p>SCOA can provide a lot of materials and look to the Legislative committee for direction.</p> <p>Michele Blythe thanked Michele Horaney for the wonderful presentation speaking to advocacy and making a difference. To summarize, SCOA is looking at being a voice for our aging communities, speaking out for important topics, on behalf of self, SCOA, and older adults.</p> <p>Council members continued to discuss the importance of advocacy, when advocacy crossed into lobbying, and the ability to amend bylaws versus the RCW revision process. While SCOA Bylaws could be amended by majority vote, SCOA does not have the authority to change RCW without legislative action. This would involve consulting the Attorney General's Office for DSHS. How do we define lobbying? Advising and education is different.</p> <p>Georgiann suggested replicating another joint meeting in May.</p> |
| Older Americans Month | <p>Michele Blythe shared that in Snohomish County, the City Council had put out a proclamation for Older Americans Month.</p> <p>Susan Conniry asked what process to follow for developing a city proclamation.</p> <p>Michele Blythe described how in Snohomish County, the council provided the city with document and asked to read the proclamation at council meeting. Without a local newspaper, this was kept more on social media. The city administrator can help get this posted, as most are willing to post this information.</p> |
| May SCOA Meeting | <p>Council discussed the upcoming May SCOA meeting. Council members had participated in an online poll to explore who would join an in-person meeting. 10 of the 13 respondents were planning to meet in person.</p> <p>Melanie McGuire noted that she would be sending out an email reviewing travel needs to the SeaTac Radisson. There is generally a 50-mile distance requirement from member's residence to justify paid</p> |



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| | <p>lodging, which may affect individuals from nearby counties (Pierce, Thurston). More information would be sent in the follow-up email.</p> |
| <p>New Business / Public Comment</p> | <p>Ron Vivion encouraged city and county councils to provide the Governor’s Older Americans Month proclamation.</p> <p>Dennis Wheeler asked how SCOA could continue to advocate on behalf of senior centers.</p> <p>Ron discussed how senior centers are struggling, and that this would be a topic at September’s JLEC meeting. Ron stressed the importance of linking social isolation with more challenging health outcomes. With many senior centers rolling into community centers, the focus on seniors often gets lost. This needs more attention at the state level.</p> <p>Susan Conniry shared the changes in her local Ocean Shores Senior Center. Before COVID, the center was very active. During COVID, this turned more into a warehouse of food distribution, providing remarkable amounts of food. Now the center can’t provide congregate meals because of a lack of volunteers.</p> <p>Dennis shared how all senior centers are unique and depend on local needs.</p> <p>Michele Blythe noted how SCOA can help educate legislators on this need.</p> <p>Walt shared that Rep. Steve Tharinger, representing Ocean Shores, is co-chair of the JLEC and aware of this issue. Walt also noted that from discussions with individuals from the State of Colorado, their State Council is having similar discussions reviewing their role/scope.</p> |

| ACTION ITEMS | Assignee | Due Date |
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| Follow up email to plan travel for May meeting | Melanie McGuire | ASAP |
| Share Older Americans Month resources | Cameron Akita | ASAP |
| Post advisory letter on SCOA webpage | Cameron Akita | ASAP |