



# Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2022 June Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 6/28/2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
	Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
✓	Sharon Curley	At-Large West		Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council		Arlen Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		<b>Guests Present</b>	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
✓	Sandra Miles	At-Large West	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
✓	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Jan Himebaugh	BIAW
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Review/approve agenda</li> <li>• Review/approve minutes</li> <li>• Action Items</li> <li>• Member Organization Updates</li> </ul>	<p>Chairperson Georgiann Dustin called the meeting to order at 9:00am.</p> <p>Motions made to approve the June agenda and May meeting minutes were passed.</p> <p>Action items reviewed.</p> <p>Georgiann reviewed the Dementia Action Collaborative’s need for representation from SCOA. A motion was made to nominate Georgiann as this representative, which was seconded and approved.</p> <p><b>Member organization updates</b></p> <p>Council discussed future meeting topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dennis Wheeler recommended a speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association,</li> <li>• Bruce Dougherty recommended the Long-Term Care Ombudsman – Patricia Hunter,</li> <li>• Walt Bowen shared information on falls prevention advocacy month during September, and</li> <li>• Art Swannack recommended the topic of hearing assistance programs.</li> </ul> <p>Walt Bowen informed the Council that the Senior Citizens’ Lobby Fall Conference would be held virtually this year on October 20<sup>th</sup>, preceded by the W4A / SCOA Fall Advocacy Conference on October 19<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Bruce Dougherty noted that in Pierce County, there has been an increase in providers wanting to adjust contracts for increased compensation.</p> <p>Kathy Medford recommended that based on May’s <a href="#">State Broadband Office</a> presentation, continued outreach for digital technology access in lower income populations could go out through home delivered meal programs.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling updated the Council on her volunteer experience with the Informal Dispute Resolution panel within ALTSA’s Residential Care Services.</p>



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Building Industry Association  
of Washington – Housing  
Discussion

## **Jan Himebaugh, Government Affairs Director for the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW)**

Jan discussed housing issues facing seniors in Washington State on behalf of the BIAW, including:

- Housing prices are becoming hard to afford
- Limited housing for seniors needing to downsize, putting pressure to stay in current homes
- A program within the BIAW that modifies homes and promotes aging in place
- Higher costs of complying to the state building code
- The permitting process for construction can add time and costs as interest accrues
- Middle- & lower-income seniors are especially challenged to find affordable homes

Jan referenced the average new home price in WA being \$580,000 while as a state also facing underproduction of housing units. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) were noted as part of the solution to relieve pressure on the housing shortage, but all kinds of housing would be needed. Jan suggested this requires a faster permitting process.

Representative Chambers asked whether incentives were in place for home upgrades.

Jan noted some incentives exist, but they are being outstripped by being mandated by code. Jan also noted the banned use of natural gas for heating as a particular issue for Eastern Washingtonians.

Jan discussed with the Council the costs & benefits of conventional versus green construction, impact fees, and the general makeup of the BIAW—which includes about 8,000 members, with about 40% being builder members and most being small business members.

Jan spoke to about additional challenges builders are facing including high lumber/material costs, supply chain disruptions, a lack of condominium inspectors in Eastern Washington, and builders having to take on added costs to compete.



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## Partner Updates

### **Cathy Knight, W4A**

Cathy updated the Council on the newly approved funding that will become available in July to reduce caseloads. Revenue forecasts are being looked at, with another forecast coming in September.

The Fall Advocacy Conference will likely be similar to last year's format, with Walt and Cathy fine tuning details during September's meeting.

Cathy discussed the Excellence in Action Awards noting work being done to address social isolation as a potential for organization awards.

W4A is staying connected with the WA Cares Fund team. As the state director, Cathy helps to inform AAAs and local levels about their plan. Part of the WA Cares Fund outreach includes partner roundtables, including business/labor groups, human resources, financial planning, community health, equity, faith-based organizations, etc. Advisory councils can provide a unique perspective in these settings.

Bruce Dougherty asked about WA Cares Fund and their ramping up of staffing/program needs.

Cathy shared that WA Cares interviewed each AAA to gather input on how they provide outreach, and additional staff had been identified to help with this effort. Cathy also sits on the LTSS Commission which helps to address many policy issues.

### **Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby**

Walt stated that the Fall Advocacy Conference will be held virtually with planning currently underway.

Walt noted that most seniors are gravitating towards Medicare Advantage plans. The PEBB will be meeting to eliminate one plan called Uniform, affecting about 53,000 retirees.

Walt shared that the [Washington State Senior Games](#) are scheduled from July 9<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>.



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	<p>Lastly, Walt shared information from a presentation by Traffic Safety Commission. With an increase in traffic accidents, information was provided on ways to increase protections for traffic safety in seniors.</p> <p><b>AARP, Cathy MacCaul</b> Cathy shared information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tele-Townhall event with Secretary of State Hobbs, scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup></li><li>• Tip-offs to Rip-offs: How to spot a con before they spot you, presented by AARP, AG's Office, AAADSW, BECU, and Nomorobo on Wednesday, July 20</li></ul>
ALTSA Update	<p><b>Susan Engels, Office Chief, State Unit on Aging</b></p> <p>The public health emergency (PHE) was extended through mid-October, and now expectations are that this will be extended through the end of the year. With the PHE comes extra federal matching funds into programs. Enhanced provider rates are allocated by the legislature which will titrate down periodically. A 20% reduction of enhanced rates will happen July 1 and will occur every 6 months following to prevent a cliff.</p> <p>Offices are operating in person, as needed. Most AAAs are conducting in person visits and working with local health jurisdictions to ensure safe practices. The PHE extension still allows the flexibility of phone assessments.</p> <p>Work continues on the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) in conjunction with W4A. A State Plan amendment will be requested with submission of the 1-year, gap-year IFF. This gap-year IFF will continue using 2010 Census data as 2020 census data was not available, with a deeper look into other IFF variables to follow. Other fixes will ensure the \$175,000 base allocation across all AAAs. Previously, the two smallest AAAs were held to ¼ of this base allotment. The clause that excludes the two smallest, tribal AAAs from receiving additional funding for multi-county coordination is also removed. A draft will be sent to the ACL, and a 30-day period of public notice will be provided ahead of the September meeting. Written comment will also be accepted. September will include official presentation of the gap-year IFF with a vote from SCOA for this fix. A formal request will be sent to ACL by October 15, with the plan to implement on January 1.</p>



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	<p>AAAs are getting State-Fed contract for funding of 75:1 caseloads, with excitement building around hiring staff.</p> <p>The Consumer Directed Employer project is fully implemented, which was a very challenging transition. Call wait times for the CDWA transition reduced from 2 hours at its peak, to 5 minutes as of last week.</p> <p>The updated Alzheimer's State Plan will be due in October of 2023. Legislation formalized membership on the Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) board. The Chair position will be shared between Bea Rector and an advocacy representative selected in September. SCOA has had a delegate position for the DAC.</p> <p>Susan asked whether the Council had concerns to bring forward for potential decision packages. Art noted the costs to operate programs in relation to funding increased wages as one issue. Susan shared with the council the background on the department process for decision packages.</p>
Break	
Committee Meetings	[Breakout Rooms]
Committee Updates	<p><b>Legislative Committee</b>          Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Michele Blythe noted the robust discussion from the breakout. Cathy Knight had shared about the 2013 Aging Summit, recommending the council requests another summit. Walt Bowen shared key points from the 2013 summit as well.</p> <p>Cathy Knight reviewed the issue of inflation and its impact on AAAs, which will stress budgets and require support moving forward.</p> <p>Walt Bowen noted the first view of the governor's budget may be at the October fall conference, with agencies currently putting their requests forward.</p> <p><b>Public Relations &amp; Education</b>          Kathy Medford announced that Michele Horaney will chair the committee for the following year and that suggestions for new ideas to go through the SCOA Chair and PR Committee Chair.</p>



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	<p>The committee also discussed ideas on how to elevate SCOA's impact at the fall conference.</p> <p><b>Nominating Committee</b> Art Swannack shared the slate of officers nominated, including Kathy Medford as Chairperson and Karen Kiessling as Vice-Chair. There were not yet volunteers for the Secretary position.</p> <p><b>Excellence in Action</b> Kathy discussed the nomination for the Dennis Mahar Individual award, noting Bill Moss, former ALTSA Assistant Secretary as a great candidate. Kathy also encouraged any other nominations for the organization award from local agencies.</p> <p>A motion was made, seconded, and passed in favor of Bill Moss receiving the Dennis Mahar Individual Award.</p>		
OAA Overview	<p><b>Cameron Akita, Program Manager, State Unit on Aging</b> Cameron provided a brief overview of the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965. Presentation information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief history of the OAA</li> <li>• The scope of the act</li> <li>• A breakdown of the titles of the OAA</li> <li>• Core programs within the OAA</li> <li>• How the State Plan on Aging fits into the OAA</li> </ul>		
New Business/ Public Comment	Council had no other business to share, and the meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		<b>Assignee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send out EIA award flyer to AAAs/Council		Cameron Akita	ASAP
Follow up with potential future meeting speakers		‘ ‘	ASAP