



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2022 September Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 9/27/2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Gavin Carmichael	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Charla Wright	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	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	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	✓	Bea Rector	ALTSA
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Lori Clary	Department of Health
	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board	✓	Jerri Wood	Alzheimer's Assoc. of WA
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East			



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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 action Items • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Kathy Medford, Vice-Chair of the State Council on Aging opened the meeting at 9:05am welcoming those present and passing the meeting to Secretary Karen Kiessling.</p> <p>Members and guests present introduced themselves. Sariga Santosh, sitting in on behalf of the ADS King County Advisory Council, updated the Council that a new potential appointee may be joining SCOA soon.</p> <p>Council reviewed and approved September's meeting agenda and June's meeting minutes.</p>
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>Cathy Knight, W4A State Director Cathy reviewed the October Joint Fall Conference draft agenda. The agenda includes the State Council on Aging (SCOA) Chair providing an introduction, presenting the Excellence in Action Awards, as well as the Legislative Committee sharing priority issues for the following year.</p> <p>Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby President The Senior Lobby is looking at facilities in Tacoma for the 2023 Fall Conference. Registration for this year's Fall Conference will be sent soon.</p> <p>The 2022 Fall Conference will address senior housing issues, cover updated Age Wave data, include an update from OFM Director Schumacher, budget analysis from Andy Nicholas, updates from State Medicaid Director at the Health Care Authority, a healthcare panel with the State Insurance Commissioner, updates from Bea Rector, and recognition of Senator Keiser. The agenda will be provided about a week prior to the conference.</p> <p>Cathy MacCaul, AARP WA Advocacy Director Workforce issues across the continuum is a major issue. Debate schedules are set and include the Secretary of State debate (October 18, Univ. of Puget Sound), US Senate debate (October 25, Seattle Univ.), and the 8th Congressional District debate (October 28, Central WA Univ.).</p>



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	<p>Cathy reviewed current legislative priorities. There are no efforts to repeal the WA Cares Fund, which shows strong financial solvency. Long-term care workforce issues, quality standards, housing, eviction prevention, mobile/manufactured homes, missing middle housing, anti-robo calling, and digital equity are priorities this upcoming year.</p> <p>Meeting Schedule (moved up in the agenda from final slot) Council discussed the meeting schedule for 2023, including resuming meetings in-person. Art Swannack shared information on updates for the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Governor’s proclamations that relate to the OPMA.</p> <p>Discussion included support from both those in favor of meeting in person and those favoring a virtual platform. Art recommended checking further authority regarding OPMA and the public health emergency.</p>
IFF Review	<p>Susan Engels, Office Chief, SUA Susan discussed the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF), a federally required method to distribute grants to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) under the Older Americans Act (OAA). Washington’s State Plan on Aging received a one-year extension, and revisions to the IFF would affect funding for 2023 funding.</p> <p>The amended IFF was developed in collaboration with W4A to address major changes needed. Susan discussed the data used for the amended “gap-year” IFF and the factors to be used, which remain unchanged. The changes begin with the base allotments for AAAs; after allotments are taken for the State Unit on Aging (5%), base allotments had historically excluded the two smallest AAAs, which are tribal AAAs in Washington State. Another base allotment adding \$10,000 for multi-county AAAs excluded the two smallest AAAs. These exclusions have been removed for the gap-year amendment.</p> <p>Susan reviewed this amended IFF information sheet, demonstrating the changes made and how proposals would affect funding for AAAs.</p> <p>Arlen Washines discussed the challenges of serving the large area that the Yakama AAA serves and asked if this change would affect the service areas. Susan discussed that this was not the intent of the changes, but funding would help to address the large areas that tribal AAAs serve.</p> <p>Art Swannack asked what plans were in place moving forward past the gap-year, and if tribal nations receive other federal funding.</p>



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	<p>Susan shared that the intent is to update the IFF for following years past the gap-year amendment. Historically, the IFF has been updated every 10 years with the Decennial Census, taking 3 years to graduate funding changes. This current fix addresses equity more quickly. There are other federal funding sources for tribal nations, including OAA Title VI funding for federally recognized tribes.</p> <p>Susan asked if there was any other public comment on this proposal, and there was not. A motion to forward this IFF amendment to the ACL was seconded and approved by the Council. Susan thanked the Council for their support on this issue.</p>
ALTSA Update	<p>Bea Rector, Assistant Secretary, ALTSA</p> <p>Bea discussed the priority issues from both the Governor’s goals and DSHS priorities, sharing a graphic that addresses these key points (this graphic was titled, “Building a New House of Social Services”, and depicted priority issues as structural components of a house).</p> <p>The foundational priority issues involve modernizing IT infrastructure, developing an agency that is pro-equity and anti-racist (PEAR), and staffing stabilization. Building up from these priorities are transitioning people to community living, transforming behavioral health, and creating a sustainable infrastructure in relation to impacts on poverty reduction, homelessness, and climate, respectively. Lastly, the Governor’s five key goal areas of world class education; a prosperous economy; sustainable energy and a clean environment; health and safe communities; and efficient, effective and accountable government help provide an overarching direction for these priorities.</p> <p>Bea reviewed the ALTSA budget, noting that the administration is requesting more funding than ever before. The staffing crisis to support the home care workforce results in people consistently waiting for long periods of time to access services. This leads back to the priority of staffing stabilization to better address critical workforce issues and supporting those needing long-term services and supports.</p> <p>ALTSA has requested \$546million for Medicaid provider rates for the 2023-25 biennial budget. This will address care worker increases as well as increases to assisted living funding. Assisted living funding would address the wage component of the assisted living model to be funded at 100% instead of being set below the state minimum wage. Adult family home rate adjustments are not reflected in this request as these had to go to arbitration through collective bargaining. Collective bargaining agreements all go to the Governor’s Office, and if determined as not viable they would go back to collective bargaining.</p>



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The Medicaid rate request would also affect skilled nursing facility (SNF) rate increases. With the pandemic, 12% of SNF capacity was lost due to several reasons. This decreased capacity affects staffing and creates a backlog in moving people from the hospital to their home/appropriate rehab setting.

There is also a request for funding relating to workforce issues in addition to rate increases. This will involve working with high schools, developing outreach, and elevating visibility of this workforce, which is primarily made up of women and people from BIPOC/immigrant communities.

Other funding asks are around acute hospital length of stay/hospital transitions, IT around the WA Cares Fund, and many more budgetary requests.

Questions?

Michele Blythe asked whether staffing was an issue like it is now five years ago.

Bea discussed the ebb and flow of retention, often relating to the state of the economy. The demographics of the country has also been changing, increasing the needs for long-term services and supports. These jobs involve difficult work and are challenging to hire for when you compare these to other jobs at equal or greater pay, such as work in the foodservice industry, for example.

Cathy MacCaul noted that the workforce is a multifaceted issue and asked if the role of older adults as care workers has been included in this solution process.

Bea addressed the need to pull people into this workforce whether older or younger, and that older adults can play a role in this care. Remote work, part time work, and worker benefits are also areas being looked at relating to workforce issues.

Charla Wright asked about whether there were any benefits being considered for family caregivers.

Bea noted the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) through AAAs as a program to support family caregivers, which is not means tested and may decrease barriers to entry. Older Americans Act programs, and some Medicaid programs help support family caregivers as well.



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	<p>Jean Kindem asked whether caregivers were getting mileage reimbursement.</p> <p>Bea shared that there is mileage reimbursement for 100 miles for certain transportation needs, in addition to time.</p>
Break	
Falls Prevention Awareness	<p>Lori Clary, DOH Older Adults Falls Prevention Specialist</p> <p>Lori shared information and data on falls in older adults. Falls are trending upwards for this population, and if this continues would result in 560,000 falls in 2035.</p> <p>Older adults with dementia/Alzheimer’s Disease are at the highest risk.</p> <p>Falls are preventable and are not a normal part of aging. Regular exercise focusing on strength and balance reduces fall risk. This exercise can even be performed while sitting.</p> <p>Having medications checked annually by a pharmacist helps reduce this risk. Having hearing checked is another important component of reducing fall risk.</p> <p>According to emergency medical services (EMS), 60% of falls happen at home. Modifications such as handrails, removing throw rugs, good lighting, and reducing trip hazards help prevent falls.</p> <p>Council discussed other resources such as local Area Agencies on Aging, regular medical checkups, and other community trainings as ways to learn more about this topic.</p>
Alzheimer’s Association Report	<p>Jerri Wood, Alzheimer’s Association Community Outreach Manager</p> <p>Jerri shared a presentation on local resources, statistics, outreach/awareness, and educational programs for Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias.</p> <p>Jerri provided a list of local Alzheimer Association specialists (included below) who can provide education through different modalities, including support groups, courses, and Memory Cafés. Other resources reviewed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Community Resource Finder at alz.org/CRF, or Carelike - Provider Search (communityresourcefinder.org), and



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- The Alzheimer's Navigator tool: [Alzheimer's Navigator \(alzheimersnavigator.org\)](http://alzheimersnavigator.org)

Jerri finished her presentation with a call to action:

Please reach out to your local staff partner provided on the contact sheet to set up a meeting to learn more about these programs and services and how we can work together.

Alzheimer's Association
 Washington/North Idaho & Oregon/SW Washington
 Chapter Contacts

Please reach out to your local staff partner to find out more information about programs and services and ways to partner together.

Program Director:
 Meghan Means | Director of Programs | Washington State Chapter (Serving Washington and North Idaho)
 Phone: 206.529.3872 | mmeans@alz.org

King County:
 Karen Thompson | Manager of Community Support | King County ESML/ESSE & Specialty Support Groups
 Phone: 206.529.3879 | kthompson@alz.org

Kingster Behrens: | Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 206.529.3865 | kbehrens@alz.org

Erica Farrell: | Sr. Clinical Manager of Care Consultative Team (Serving Washington and North Idaho)
 Phone: 206.529.3885 | efarrell@alz.org

South Sound: (Cowlitz, Gray Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston & Wahkiakum)
 Maggie Christofferson | Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 206.529.3884 | mchristofferson@alz.org

North Sound: (Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish & Whatcom)
 Jerri Wood | Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 425.230.4678 | jwood@alz.org

SE WA/Central WA: (Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Walla Walla & Yakima)
 Alexis Bennett | Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 509.321.4579 | albennett@alz.org

Care Navigator: (Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla & Yakima)
 Julie Hooley | Care Navigator
 Phone: 509.392.8571 | jhooley@alz.org

Spokane & NE WA: (Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens & Whitman)
 Joel Louacore | Regional Director of Eastern Washington & North Idaho
 Phone: 509.321.4581 | jlouacore@alz.org

Kim McKenna:
 Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 509.207.7667 | kmckenna@alz.org

Far SE WA & North Idaho: (WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, & Whitman; North ID: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce & Shoshone)
 Michelle Larson | Community Outreach Manager
 Phone: 208.666.2996 | mlarson@alz.org

Oregon/SW WA Chapter: (Clatsop & Stamenia)
 Lenny Steinberg | Program Director
 Phone: 503.416.0214 | lsteinberg@alz.org

Andie Shepard: | Program Specialist
 Phone: 503.782.4869 | ashepard@alz.org

800.272.3900 | alz.org

Committee Meetings

[breakout rooms]

Committee Updates / Election of Officers

Legislative Committee
 Art Swannack, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee discussed the legislative priorities from the previous year. The committee is determining what to prioritize for the front page, as social isolation will be moved down to the second page and maintaining caseloads will be moved to the front.

Kathy Medford suggested housing as another priority issue.



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	<p>Art asked the Council to send priority issues to Art and Michele Blythe to be included in the 2023 Legislative Priorities. Cathy Knight suggested these be discussed at the October 19th Joint Meeting—this was added to the draft agenda.</p> <p>Walt noted that he can share more information on the housing issues for November’s meeting.</p> <p>Public Outreach and Education Michele Horaney, Chair of the Public Outreach and Education Committee discussed the committee’s role in terms of mission statements, as well as its advisory role with the Governor’s Office and DSHS. The committee wants to create public awareness of the many agencies and partner organizations that SCOA works with.</p> <p>EIA Committee The Dennis Mahar award was designated at June’s meeting, and the Council made a motion to approve the nomination for the organization award, which was seconded and passed.</p> <p>Nominating Committee Art shared the current slate of officers as Kathy Medford for SCOA Chair, and Karen Kiessling for Vice-Chair. There had been no nominations for Secretary yet.</p> <p>The motion to approve the slate as nominated was seconded and approved, while the Council continues to seek a secretary.</p>												
<p>2023 Meeting Schedule / New Business / Public Comment</p>	<p>[Meeting schedule reviewed earlier in meeting after partner updates]</p> <p>Cathy Knight shared that she would be editing the October 19th Joint Meeting agenda to update for the new slate of officers.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.</p>												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="197 1284 1226 1333">ACTION ITEMS</th> <th data-bbox="1226 1284 1568 1333">Assignee</th> <th data-bbox="1568 1284 1896 1333">Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="197 1333 1226 1382">Seek guidance for in-person meetings</td> <td data-bbox="1226 1333 1568 1382">Cameron Akita</td> <td data-bbox="1568 1333 1896 1382">Before next meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="197 1382 1226 1430"></td> <td data-bbox="1226 1382 1568 1430"></td> <td data-bbox="1568 1382 1896 1430"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="197 1430 1226 1472"></td> <td data-bbox="1226 1430 1568 1472"></td> <td data-bbox="1568 1430 1896 1472"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date	Seek guidance for in-person meetings	Cameron Akita	Before next meeting						
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