

# WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING

**May 19, 2015**

## STATE COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

<b>Members Present:</b>	Kathleen Miller, Joanne Levine, Ron Bacon, Helen Spencer, Ron Vivion, Barry Lamont, Gail Hiestand, Aruna Bhuta, Marilyn Vogler, Carl Bender, Courtney Jaren, Phillip Lemley, Cheryl Townsend Winter, Diane Snell, Rep. Sherry Appleton
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Rep. Linda Kochmar, Sen .Karen Keiser, Suzanne Holmes, Javier Figueroa
<b>Guests:</b>	Shirley Bondon, Office of Guardianship and Elder Services, Cathy Knight-W4A, Walt Bowen-Senior Lobby
<b>ALTSA Staff:</b>	Rosemary Biggins, Susan Engels, Susan Shepherd

<b>ACTION ITEMS LIST</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>DEADLINE/DUE DATE</b>
<b>Meeting Date: May 19, 2015</b>		
1. Reminder emails re: Excellence in Action Award.	Rosemary	Now.
2. Discuss plan for Oct 29 meeting after Sr. Lobby.	All	June meeting.
3. Comments on WHCoA Policy Briefs	CTW & CK	Out before June meeting.
4. Send out links for WHCoA Policy Briefs	Rosemary	DONE
5. Encourage all to send Email to Patty Murray re: re-authorization of OAA.	All	Now.
6. Consider a rep to the Guardianship Board.	All.	June meeting
7. Contact Roger Anunsen re: guest presentation to Council.	CTW	Now.
8. Contact Karen Fredrickson-Goldsen re: guest present.	CTW	Now for June.
9. Send article/book list to Barry, or Joanne, or Rosemary.	All	TBD
10. Review new CLC website.	All	Before June meeting.* <b>note this was subsequently revised by SUA to before the end of July</b>
11. Send out link for NYT article re: dementia.	Rosemary	DONE.

## **WELCOME, REMARKS, AND Introductions**

Barry Lamont welcomed members and requested all briefly introduce themselves; the agenda and previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Action items were reviewed.

Members checked in about letters to the editor (LTE) that have been sent out. So far LTE's have been published in the Everett Herald, Tri City Herald & Woodinville Weekly

Members checked in about Excellence in Action award nominations that have been received to date. (A total of 2) The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> and the Council will review scored submissions at the August meeting.

Gail Hiestand suggested members' visiting nominated organizations if possible

## **SENIOR LOBBY UPDATE – WALT BOWEN**

Fifty percent through first special legislative session called by Governor. Some speculation that there will be a second special session

Will continue to monitor

To date Senior Lobby has monitored over 125 bills

October 28th is fall conference date

General discussion ensued about status of current negotiations, revenue proposals and related issues.

## **W4A Update –Cathy Knight**

Cathy attended the recent guardianship forum in Wenatchee-the forum provided a broad perspective on guardianship,

Still waiting to hear about the status of case management funding in the new operating budget

Cheryl and Cathy proposed taking the lead in submitting comments on White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) policy briefs. The comments will reflect those generated during the pre-WHCoA listening session that was held in October 2014 in the areas of:

Elder Justice

Retirement Security

Healthy Aging

Long-Term Services and Supports

They will compile for review at next meeting -as a backup the Executive Committee will approve submission if the comment deadline occurs prior to the next State Council meeting

Rosemary will send out the link to the WHCoA comments blog

Cathy shared information on the N4A advocacy alert for OAA reauthorization and recommended Council members consider sending a note of thanks to Senator Patty Murray for her role in moving the reauthorization forward. Also recommended sending email on Wednesday to other congress members to say:

- fund, renew and protect the OAA by restoring appropriations to at least fiscal year 2010,
- passing a bipartisan reauthorization
- removing the continued threat of across the board sequestration cuts.

On Thursday call in with same message

**Alzheimer's Disease Working Group (ADWG) Report on Community Meetings/Listening Sessions; Alzheimer's Disease Working Group Public Survey Report & Alzheimer's Disease Working Group Primary Care Survey- Cheryl Townsend Winter**

Distributed ADWG data results for Fall 2014- Spring 2015. The public survey results may be found here:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/AL TSA/stakeholders/documents/AD/ADWG%20Public%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

During community listening sessions- one of the things that come up consistently is that people with dementia do not know what community resources are available

Another consistent issue is that often people do not receive a diagnosis for months to a year or more & early diagnosis is crucial part of accessing treatment

Joanne discussed issues that came up at Sequim listening session including that the local medical community needs more skill development- there are access to care issues on the Olympic Peninsula. Given structure of Medicare supplements- when you sign up there is no medical screening but if you want to change supplement having a diagnosis can pose barrier

Aruna stated there needs to be greater awareness of pre symptoms because early intervention with medication can help.

Ron Vivion shared that with early diagnosis person can enter into legal agreements, wills, POA's, end of life care plans.

Cheryl shared that people need a roadmap to navigate services. The ADWG public awareness committee is recommending a single web resource- also considering a hotline

Other information that has been gleaned from listening sessions, surveys and discussion:

- need to eliminate stigma
- increase awareness about dementia
- need support and education for caregivers
- need public/private partnerships to help with costs
- need to identify minimal cost/ mid and longer term goals that need government funding
- rural areas have challenges with resources and facilities
- education for doctors is needed to raise awareness for early detection
- less than 14% received information about community resources/less than 10% referred to an Alzheimers' organization

Top 5 recommendations (same for urban suburban rural)

- increase home care supports
- family caregiver education and supports
- financial help with care costs
- increase residential support options
- research on prevention

Prevention works for better and costs less, Cheryl is focused on pushing for a preventative piece of the state plan-this is an area that's been largely overlooked

Ron Vivion made the point there is paucity of funds focused on prevention

Cheryl shared there are 4 to 5 studies exist that link gum disease to Alzheimers

Aruna shared that Oregon has a program in gerontology that is focused on prevention (Roger Anderson) and that Individuals with downs syndrome--onset is earlier age and with greater frequency

Cheryl mentioned that there's is one plan recommendation specific to people with downs syndrome

Gail stated that the market for aging issues is difficult to penetrate. Doing life planning is something that can (should) be done before people receive diagnosis. Recommend libraries are an effective conduit for people to access information about life planning as well as dementia related info & info on community resources.

Cheryl shared that in planning ADWG group design- every committee has a person with dementia and/or caregiver

Joanne recommends that there are work force development plans as part of state plan- both issue of having a work force and educating it.

Ron Vivion mentioned article in NYT magazine about woman with Alzheimer's and end of life planning – article will forwarded to members.

Primary Care survey results were reviewed and the link to this survey may be found here:  
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/AL TSA/stakeholders/documents/AD/Primary%20Care%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

The state plan draft should be circulated this summer and is due in September

Shirley Bonden asked who's responsible for implementation

Cheryl responded the legislation does not include that---there is recommendation in draft plan that an advisory group created to oversee implementation

### **Guardianship Issues Discussion- Shirley Bonden**

References: Please refer to handout distributed at meeting and  
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Shirley introduced herself and shared she was glad to have attended the earlier part of the meeting

She is the Manager of the Office of Guardianship and Elder Services and staffs the professional guardianship board.

Shirley provided a brief outline of guardianship services

- Professional guardians are trained (9 month training) and are paid
- Family (or lay) guardians comprise a significant number of guardians in the state, approximately 14,000.
- Public guardians-there are currently 11 in the state-there are severe funding issues.

In addition to staffing the professional guardianship board, Shirley is also responsible for public guardianship

Here today to discuss the WINGS grant

Member reference: *WINGS stands for "Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders."* Creation and sustainability of such state groups to advance adult guardianship reform was a key

recommendation of the [2011 Third National Guardianship Summit](#) sponsored by the National Guardianship Network.

*WINGS are court-community partnerships that will drive changes affecting the ways courts and guardians practice, and improve the lives of people who need help in decision-making. What distinguishes WINGS from previous state task forces on guardianship is:*

*(1) WINGS is broad-based and multi-disciplinary, including judges and court staff, the aging and disability networks, the public and private bar, mental health agencies, advocacy groups, medical and mental health professionals, service providers, family members and individuals affected by guardianship, and more.*

*(2) WINGS is an ongoing, consensus-driven, problem-solving mechanism. It offers a permanent forum for considering how adult guardianship is working in the state, where the pressure points are, and what solutions might work.*

[http://www.naela.org/NGN/WINGS/Court-Community\\_Reform\\_Through\\_WINGS/NGN/WINGS/Court-Community\\_Reform.aspx?hkey=7d32011f-2ac5-461a-9b4a-5636722c4914](http://www.naela.org/NGN/WINGS/Court-Community_Reform_Through_WINGS/NGN/WINGS/Court-Community_Reform.aspx?hkey=7d32011f-2ac5-461a-9b4a-5636722c4914)

Shirley is coordinator for the WINGS WA grant

Supreme Court Justice Madsen is the executive sponsor

The National Guardianship Network will provide project advisors

Shirley reviewed the composition of the grant project steering committee

And the project subject matter experts- will also include the State Council on Aging. They will provide technical assistance (refer to handout)

Also including family and individual advisors

Using the term 'decision support' also known as supported decision making

Shirley reviewed the plan for the priority setting process and formation of 3 working groups

Groups will consider the low hanging fruit (small areas that realistically can be addressed)

There will be short and long term priorities with consideration given to where realistic solutions exist, as well as the potential for early wins (refer to handout)

Shirley shared a personal family story to demonstrate the need for planning well in advance and to talk more about decision support.

She also discussed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and obligations of the government to support and accommodate persons with disabilities

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Principles include that you do not lose legal rights with supported decision making

The U.S. signed with caveat that it's not legally bound to the convention.

The treaty is trying to respect the person/ person with dementia

With guardianship, the guardian steps in person shoes, with supported decision making there needs to be a team- a natural support network.

With a person with a developmental disability support needs remain relatively the same. With a person with dementia support can be variable

Hoping that supported decision making is a big part of WINGS planning

General discussion occurred including

- we can't afford to pay for protection of everyone
- we years away from fully implementing supported decision making
- years ago family members would be supporting family member, not guardianship
- we have to get away from protective mentality to more involvement/trust
- greatest threat is isolation
- Durable Power of Attorney can be more misused than guardianship (over stepping scope of POA power)
- POA draft language for statute modification has not moved forward in 5 years because of resistance from special interest groups
- Needs to be increased focus on elderly, similar to how there has developed more focus on children's' needs
- people with dementia make a contribution to society, needs to be focus on different aspects of contributions
- rural areas may have a bit of an advantage, people in small towns notice issues, have concerns about others

Barry asked how frequently there are complaints about professional guardianship. (and also provided background regarding some of the State Council interest in this area)

Shirley responded that her Office received 61 complaints last year, clarify that there are also complaints that go to courts that they don't receive

Most professional guardians get involved because of family disagreements; Professional guardians can sometimes take action against a family member who is making their job difficult. If a professional guardian is involved, family members need to adjust expectations; it will not be the same as before.

A guardian should not make decisions based on what they think is best, but on what the ward thinks is best.

There currently is no restriction on professional guardianship caseloads

Public guardians have a maximum of twenty caseload-research indicates 20 to 40 is maximum

The senate budget cuts the courts budget significantly

Shirley asked if the State Council could send someone to the guardianship board meeting.

Barry thanked Shirley for attending the meeting and providing this information to the Council

## **Update and Discussion on State Council current areas of focus**

### Transportation –

The Council has shifted to focus on Guardianship, however, Dianne Snell reported on progress made in Seattle related to restoration of bus services. Seattle voted for a \$60.00 car tab. Metro is focused on getting people downtown; she wants to get more transportation to neighborhoods, e.g. circulator buses.

Marilyn Volger reported that Shelton has just formed a transportation benefit district-the focus is on paving and related maintenance

### Community First Choice Options (CFCO) - Aruna Bhuta

No update except that roll out date is July 2015; training is in process everything is moving forward.

Ron asked about budget and is funding from enhanced match coming back to CFCO. At this time there is no change from information reported at the March meeting

The CFCO webpage can be located here: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/stakeholders/community-first-choice-option>

Elder Justice –Helen Spencer

No update

## **State Council Committee Reports**

### Public Awareness Committee

Letters to the Editor about May Older Americans Month were sent by members to local media.

Carl discussed having a distribution list that includes senior centers across the state.

The committee is currently developing a power point presentation on the ADWG.

### Research Committee

The Council is interested in developing a power point on guardianship issues. For starters, Marilyn (research committee) will pick up a thumb drive with sample guardianship presentations from Walt at the next Senior Lobby meeting

Joanne suggested that a recommended reading list be put on the Council repository section of the website

### Legislative Committee

Helen Spencer was in Olympia and visited the legislators who received the budget letter from the Council and talked to staffers and left another copy of the letter

Rep. Sherry Appleton reported that she just got call about a meeting tomorrow.

Executive session in legislature means the bill has already had a hearing and is now in executive session -anyone can amend a bill before it moves out of committee

Revenue is 377 million above forecasted in yesterday's forecast--that will help

As far as courts funding being cut, cannot just cut across the board because there are federal funds -so thinks that will not move forward

Local government has been cut during recession, and also swept liquor taxes from local and county. Should be made a bit more whole by returning liquor tax back to cities as well as portion

Also reported that to date it has been a rough year as far as the silver alert legislation but the legislation is still alive.

Discussed the process going on related to legislative salaries. An outside advisory group makes recommendations. Concern is that will lose younger members if salaries aren't adjusted and also there has not been a raise in several years

Aruna asked a question about the number of legislators who are members of ALEC? (American Legislative Exchange Council). The response is that you can follow similarities with legislation/legislative agendas for some members.

### **Community Living Connections Presentation – Susan Shepherd, AL TSA**

Susan provided a general overview of Community Living Connections and progress to date and distributed and reviewed a related handout.

She is seeking Council input before the public launch of the CLC website and asked if members would also be willing to 'test' the website before it launches. Members agreed and to that end she will send additional materials to the Council to assist in the website review.

Additional comments and questions focused on:

- Will there be an Alzheimer's/Dementia specific tab to help people find support (yes)
- How often will the AAA's be updating the resource directory (*at least annually*)
- Will there be a link to Health Plan Finder? (*not determined yet*)
- Suggest the term 'CLC staff' be modified to be more clear term-suggested local reference
- What about access for people who don't use computers? (genesis of question is often times planning focuses on technology of the moment) – *Intent is that staff will use website for resource when talking to people on the phone who do not use computers, or talking on the phone to clients who do use computer*
- What about people who don't know that CLC exists? *Hoping to get funding for 1-800 number and also planning on public service announcements on the radio*
- Concern that in the past there were staff that could be dedicated solely to outreach and with budget cuts over time that resource no longer exists
- There are additional edits needed on materials, e.g. icon consistency
- Suggest that people use search engine optimizing to enhance CLC function
- Are ADA requirements met? Yes
- Will there also be a planning tool for people with developmental disabilities as well as elders? Yes

### **New Business and additional Member Comments**

Barry inquired about member interest in meeting at the Radisson. It would be more convenient given the number of members who stay at the hotel.

ALTSA staff will develop cost comparison with current venue. Barry suggested that the August meeting (added last year) could be eliminated to compensate for cost. August is typically not a good meeting month.

Barry announced that Kevin Quigley will attend the June meeting and asked for suggestions for additional speakers at future meetings.

Marilyn recommended a speaker from SAGE. Cheryl will also connect with a University of Washington researcher in LBGT aging issues.

At the next meeting the Council will discuss preliminary plans for the October W4A/State Council meeting.

A suggestion was made to consider a presentation from a county clerk office.

Ron Vivion suggested someone to present on use of twitter and social media.

**Meeting Adjourned**