

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING

January 27, 2015

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:	Kathleen Miller, Joanne Levine, Ron Bacon, Diane Snell, Helen Spencer, Suzanne Holmes, Ron Vivion, Paul Malinski, Barry Lamont, Gail Hiestand, Suzanne Holmes, Aruna Bhuta, Marilyn Vogler, Stuart Maier, Carl Bender
Members Absent:	Rep. Linda Kochmar, Sen. Karen Keiser, Rep. Sherry Appleton Cheryl Townsend-Winter
Invited Speakers	Emilio Vela, Executive Director State Independent Living Council
Guests:	Cathy Knight-W4A, Cathy MacCaul-AARP, Walt Bowen-Senior Lobby
Others	
AL TSA Staff:	Rosemary Biggins, Susan Engels

WELCOME, REMARKS, AND Introductions

Barry welcomed new member Marilyn Vogler to the Council. Marilyn was appointed by the Advisory Council for Lewis Mason Thurston Area Agency on Aging. Marilyn shared information about her interests and background. Barry welcomed Cathy MacCaul, Advocacy Director AARP.

Council Business

Barry announced the Gail Haskett has resigned from her position on the Council. Gail sends her best and is more than willing to be a resource to the Council.

Barry announced pending new appointments to the Council- Courtney Jaren, Javier Figueroa, and Phillip Lemley. Hopefully the appointment process will be finalized in time for the February 25th meeting.

The agenda was reviewed and Suzanne Holmes requested time to discuss a legislative issue in preparation for a meeting she is attending this afternoon. Agenda approved

The November meeting minute were reviewed and approved

Barry provided an update on Transportation plan- they are still in process of receiving documents so will be a month or two before human transit plans are completed

Barry will resend list of committees and assignments to members

2015 meeting dates will remain the same as previously posted.

COUNCIL ACTION ON SECRETARY POSITION

Suzanne Holmes was nominated and elected to the office of Secretary

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING - (FINALIZING RANKING TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRE-WHCOA REGIONAL LISTENING SESSION)

WHCoA Regional Conference is scheduled for April 9th and will take place in the Seattle Metro area. The U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Department is lead on the event and DSHS and the Aging Network and counterparts in other states have submitted list of suggested attendees- (*The regional conference will also include attendees from select western/northwestern states.*). HHS will finalize invitee list and issue invitations. At this time there is not additional information available about whether the event will be live streamed/or if other alternatives for viewing will be available

To date, the following State Council members who completed their review of recommendations from the WHCoA regional listening session conducted in October submitted them to Cathy Knight:

Carl Bender
Aruna Bhuta
Suzanne Holmes
Barry Lamont
JoAnne Levine
Paul Malinski
Kathleen Miller
Diane Snell
Ron Vivion
Marilyn Vogler

PARTNER UPDATES

Senior Lobby Update- Walt Bowen

Discussed legislative session (there are a large number of bills this session), the governor's proposed budget and call for increased revenue

Discussed status of transportation legislation

Discussed JLEC on Aging & Disability and how it was established by a budget proviso; there is momentum to continue the JLEC

Provided an update on Senate leadership, and appointment of Sen Pam Roach as President Pro Tem of the Senate. Currently the status of Rules committee leadership is unresolved.

Discussed 3 different proposals related to long term care financing and the hope to bring all interested parties together to see what may be agreed on.

Discussed process for Senior Lobby compilation of legislative priorities

February Senior Lobby meeting is scheduled for February 26th and there will be a legislative reception the evening of February 25th.

AARP Update- Cathy MacCaul

Affirmed the flurry of activity in legislature

Have to be mindful of importance of interest groups effectively working together to the greatest degree possible. (Avoid being divided and less effective)

On February 18th there will a AARP sponsored Governor Town hall Call focused on budget and priority issues and legislation

The AARP legislative luncheon is scheduled for March 12th. State Council members are invited to attend.

Discussed LTSS financing legislation, and work with legislators on 5258/1286

Bill Digest(5258)as pf 2/12/15: Requires the department of social and health services to contract for an independent feasibility study and actuarial modeling of public and private options for leveraging private resources to help individuals prepare for long-term services and supports needs.

Requires the joint legislative executive committee on aging and disability to provide oversight and direction for this analysis and convene interested stakeholders to provide input on the study design.

Discussed HB1499 concerning vulnerable adults - and work to date on this bill

Bill Digest as of 2/12/15: Revises the definition for first, second, and third degree criminal mistreatment.

Creates the crime of theft from a vulnerable adult.

Authorizes persons who are trained and qualified to serve on multidisciplinary personnel teams to disclose information and records to each other that are relevant to the prevention, identification, or treatment of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Discussed legislation (bill hasn't been dropped yet) to address need for retirement plans to address future needs. Anticipate that will happen next week. This type of legislation is also on AARP national agenda

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL PRESENTATION- EMILIO VELA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emilio Vela presented on the State Independent Living Council (SILC). (Please refer to the detailed presentation handout distributed at the meeting for details about the purpose and function of the SILC) Emilio provided information about contacting local centers and engaged Council members in discussion about opportunities to collaborate and to also learn more about each respective Councils work. Council members also discussed overlay of aging and disability issues.

LONG TERM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES (LTSS) FINANCING STUDY – CATHY KNIGHT W4A STATE DIRECTOR

Cathy provided an overview of S 5258 and H 1286 and discussed the coalition working on advancing the legislation and discussed recent print editorial board meetings conducted around the state.

To date the coalition has received good responses and favorable editorials have been published. (address links to editorials previously shared with Council members)

Reviewed project costs of variety of LTSS settings & projected average income of potential users.

W4A UPDATE

Cathy reviewed W4A legislative priorities, discussed related messaging. AAA' are also focused on serious concern about AAA case management costs and funds not being adequate.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (JLEC) ON AGING & DISABILITY FINAL REPORTS- RON VIVION, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Ron provided a presentation on the recently published Final JLEC report (members received copy via email and hard copy) including an overview of what the JLEC has accomplished over 2 years- and reviewed the recommendations on pages 6-11 of the report.

Legislation on continuing the JLEC has been introduced.

Ron suggested that the Chair write a thank you letter to JLEC ADS for their work and service and producing the report and encouraging them to continue. Motioned was passed to do so.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Barry initiated discussion on how the Council should relate to legislative session

Discussion ensued about how the Council decides on legislation in context of current legislative priorities and understanding that the legislative committee vets bills in this context. Senior Lobby is a resource for broader number of bills. Members engaged in discussion about the scope of bills to monitor with general agreement that the focus should be placed on what are State Council legislative priorities and related priorities. For example, the Council may be interested in public transit components of transportation legislations vs the entirety of the legislation related to transportation.

Members may advocate for positions agreed upon by the Council *(as long as you are focused on this and not your own agenda, you can talk to lawmakers, comment on legislation)*

Members as individual citizens may also have issues they advance *(as individuals on your own time, not as a State Council members/participating in an affiliated event)*

Action Items: Rosemary will send legislative committee members a Long Term Care Ombudsman program legislative monitoring report as example of how that program monitors legislation.

Aruna and Ron will coordinate overseeing monitoring of legislation

Council members are advised to sign up for area of interest to monitor legislation and keep other members informed

Marilyn Vogler recommended that end of life issues related legislation be monitored.

Members engaged in discussion about Silver Alert legislation. Suzanne Holmes will be attending a meeting this afternoon with Rep. Appleton and others. Suzanne shared data from Florida on number of silver alert

ALTSA UPDATE- SUSAN ENGELS

Susan reviewed ALTSA/DSHS request legislation

HB 1726 - Modifying certain definitions concerning the abuse of vulnerable adults changing definition of vulnerable adult to include developmental disability changing language from 'sexual contact' to 'sexual conduct' & defining use of restraint more clearly.

HB 1531 Training for Home Care Aides 1531: Would make permanent exemptions for certain class of workers

The following added post meeting for member reference: Long-term care workers who are exempt from becoming certified home care aides include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, long term care workers employed by community residential service businesses, and individual providers caring for only their biological, step, or adoptive child or parent. In addition, until July 1, 2016, there are exemptions for persons working as individual providers who: (1) provide 20 hours of care or less each month; or (2) provide only respite services and work less than 300 hours each year. Until 2016 when these limited hour individual providers must become certified

home care aides, they must complete 35 hours of training, including five hours of specified training prior to providing any care. Beginning July 1, 2016, limited hour individual providers must annually complete 12 hours of continuing education. HB Analysis

State Council members voted by majority (1 nay) to support these bills

HB 1725 DSHS request legislation addressing a consumer's right to assign hours to individual providers and the department of social and health and may adopt rules establishing criteria for the number of hours per week the department may pay an individual provider. The Council needs more time to review this legislation to determine position.

Susan provided an update on the Alzheimer's State Plan work group. There are various subcommittees as part of the process and people with dementia are participating. The State Council is represented by Cheryl Townsend Winter. A report is due to the legislature in November.

On the federal level, a bill has been introduced for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. (for 3 years)

AL TSA and the AAA's have engaged in conversation about OAA requirements as relates to funding minimums for legal services and subsequently the legal advocacy community is expressing concern about potential changes A conference call is scheduled for February 23rd for interested parties to discuss in more detail.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ON STATE COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS

Transportation

There is a transportation update from the Governor's office it's available on his website; Human Transit plans are not in yet

Diane Snell provided an update on the transit & safety issues in Seattle. She has been in contact with Tom Rasmussen (City Council member), they will be able to restore M-W bus route but not weekends, also Rasmussen is very interested in exploring circulating buses

The Transportation Commission is recommending 10% of transportation bill be set aside for transit

Discussed cost difference between Para transit and regular transportation

Members discussed the Governors transportation package and reviewed elements of the budget including the carbon tax

House 1314
Senate 5283

Vulnerable Adults

Helen Spencer reported that Yakama Nation AAA Golden Eagles Advisory Council has been looking closely at the Warm Springs Model (multi-disciplinary approach to elder abuse prevention). They also reviewed White House Conference on Aging regional listening session priorities from the October conference.

Community First Choice Option (CFCO)

Aruna Bhuta provided an update on the Community First Choice Option -ALTSA is still conferring with the federal Center for Medicaid Medicare Services (CMS) about the degree of flexibility available to consumers in the proposed model, and required services/permissible services. CMS is concerned that consumers would be getting more hours than they are entitled to. ALTSA continues to work on these issues.

Aruna also attended a meeting about Community Living Connections and shared that members would be hearing more about Options Counseling in the near future

Guardianship

Ron Bacon reported that there are two bills of interest- one addressing the Office of the Public Guardian and one addressing professional guardians.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting