

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

STATE COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:	Kathleen Miller, Joanne Levine, , Helen Spencer, Suzanne Holmes , Aruna Bhuta, Marilyn Vogler, Phillip Lemley, Cheryl Townsend Winter, Diane Snell, Rep. Linda Kochmar , Ron Vivion, Patricia McIntyre, Courtney Jaren, Paul Malinski, Peggi Moxley
Members Absent:	Sen .Karen Keiser, Barry Lamont, Ron Bacon, Carl Bender, Javier Figueroa, Rep. Sherry Appleton
Guests:	Cathy Knight-W4A, Karen Fredriksen Goldsen
ALTSA Staff:	Rosemary Biggins, Andrea Meewes Sanchez

ACTION ITEMS LIST	WHO	DEADLINE/DUE DATE
Meeting Date: September 22, 2015		
1. Distribute Final 2016 Meeting Schedule	Rosemary	Done
2. Get example Power Point presents on guardianship from W. Bowen.	Marilyn	Near future
3. Distribute Aging Mastery Program RFP to Council Members	Cathy Knight	Done
4. Letter to Governor re: current federal legislation	Executive/Rosemary	Done
5. Members to contract members of congress about OAA reauthorization & Medicare Observation Status legislation	Members	Near Future
6. Resend Medicaid Transformation Waiver informational materials and link to waiver and link to comment section	Rosemary	Done
7. Draft and send letters to EIA awardees and nominees	Rosemary/Executive	Done

Welcome, Remarks, and Introductions

Cheryl Townsend Winter served as Chairperson and welcomed new member Peggy Moxley who will represent Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington planning service area comprised of Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Lincoln and Okanogan counties. Peggy is an Elder Law attorney in private practice and lives in Wenatchee.

General Council Business

The agenda and previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Action items were reviewed. Items requiring additional follow up: Walt Bowen will be contacted to forward resources for development of a PowerPoint presentation on guardianship and the presentation will be completed.

Members reviewed the draft meeting schedule. The final schedule will be distributed once the 2016 dates for Senior Lobby are confirmed

Election of Officers

Kathleen Miller presented the slate of Officer Candidates for member vote as follows, Chair -Barry Lamont, Vice Chair -Cheryl Townsend Winter and Secretary- Suzanne Holmes. Hearing no other additional candidates the nominations closed. Officers were elected by unanimous consensus.

W4A Update –Cathy Knight

The City of Seattle/King County & AARP are hosting candidate forums

Discussions ongoing to attempt to address the impact of planned United Way King County budget cuts affecting older adults, for example, Senior Services of King County may lose over \$700,000 in annual funding

Senior Lobby agreed to send communication to King County United Way raising concerns about decision to change amount of funding for senior services. They are also working on communication to state and national United Way about ways to move forward to minimize harm to existing services

AARP is going to be involved in continuing push for legislation to increase legal consequences for perpetrators of financial exploitation, the King County prosecutor, Attorney General, DRW and AARP are also on board with this- hoping the bill itself will be a

deterrent because people will know they can be prosecuted. (Note: At the end of last legislative session, house bill 1499 was reintroduced and retained in present status

Reference: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1499&year=2015>

Ron Vivion discussed the United Way process underway (that extends beyond the King County situation). They are engaging in a collaborative process to determine funding priorities. For example, Snohomish County collaborative impact process is focused on breaking the cycle of poverty- Ron asked them how senior citizens fit in & there is uncertainty about it.

Marilyn Vogler took last month's Council discussion on United Way back to the LMT Housing Coalition to discuss potential impact and concern about groups being left out. Concern that shift to breaking cycle of poverty will mean focus on children to exclusion of older adults

Aruna Bhuta suggested that the focus be on breaking cycle of poverty and strengthening families because that would be inclusive of older adults

Representative Kochmar asked about senior services of king county and any potential alternatives to replace anticipated loss of funding.

Senior Citizens Services Act funding (state funds) is one funding stream to consider

Rep. Kochmar is interested in being part of next session's process related to HB 1499 and financial exploitation.

Cathy discussed the October 5th 2015 Candidate Forum for state's 30th legislative district

Cathy discussed the October 29 meeting and distributed an informational sheet and requested members fill it out and return to her.

She also distributed a National Council on Aging (NCOA) Aging Mastery Program (AMP) handout; W4A has received a related grant. Cathy will be forming an advisory committee for the grant. The grant will provide small amount of seed money; there is an RFP process underway for 13 entities to receive funds. Cheryl Townsend Winter volunteered to be State Council representative. Cathy requested she participate in RFP review process for the AMP. Cathy will distribute a link to the AMP RFP to Council members

Senior Lobby Update –Ron Vivion

Group Health Cooperative has a senior caucus that is now formally part of Senior Lobby

David Lord provided an ADA overview presentation

Walt Bowen informed people there will be 252 less parking places in Capital area this year.

Members discussed the Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging & Disability (JLEC AD) meeting schedule- Ron is unable to make the first meeting Oct 26 12-5pm in the Cherberg building-and asked for a volunteer to attend in his place. Phillip Lemley will listen to the meeting on behalf of the Council

Disability Rights Washington and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman have been appointed to JLEC AD

Cathy suggested that Patricia Hunter be invited back to speak to the Council, given she's now a member of JLEC AD.

The 1366 initiative (on November ballot) was discussed by Jerry Reilly at Senior Lobby. It could have impact of forcing state to reduce sales tax 1% under certain conditions. Concern is that public is assuming that the courts will deal with the initiative. Jerry's suggestion is that people contact local media about any concerns they have.

Phillip Lemley mentioned that Sam Reed is aligned with democrats in opposition to 1366

Given fiscal state of the state this initiative would be very damaging and 17 individuals in the legislature could prevent fiscal issues from moving forward

Senior lobby passed motion to take action to oppose the initiative

Emerging from the Margins-Risk and Opportunities for LGBTQ Older Adults – Dr. Karen Fredriksen Goldsen

Cheryl introduced Karen Fredriksen Goldsen, PhD. Karen provided the following presentation: "Emerging from the Margins-Risk and Opportunities for LGBTQ Older Adults". A copy of the PowerPoint we be attached to meeting minutes distribution email. It will also be stored in the Council archive.

Following the presentation members engaged in discussion about the project findings to date as well potential best practice to address findings

As those at the meeting will recall, Dr. Fredriksen-Goldsen is the Principal Investigator of *The National Health, Aging, and Sexuality Study: Caring and Aging with Pride over Time*, the first national project to study health and well-being among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults and their caregivers.

More information can be found here: <http://caringandaging.org/wordpress/>

Legislative Priorities Discussion—Ron Vivion and Council Members

Ron clarified Council by laws related to Councils role and involvement in federal issues

Ron thanked Rep. Linda Kochmar for attending meetings. Linda represents the Republican House Caucus.

He also recognized the challenges faced by legislators attending meetings and expressed his appreciation

Ron asked for additional follow up to be made to ensure that there is an appointment from the senate representing the republican side. The position has been vacant for over a year.

Ron asked for members to be thinking of ideas for legislative priorities. Priorities will be finalized at the November meeting.

We know we have interest in guardianship issues.

Aging network advocates have reached out to Sen. Conway on guardianship legislation status to find out if there is something moving forward

Discussed legislation on federal level related to Medicare Observation status designed to ensure that hospitals accept observation status time as Medicare time. Also discussed legislation related to reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Ron also recommends that members get in touch with their congressional representatives to convey their support for this legislation.

Ron also recommends that governor be informed of the Council's position on these bills.

Helen Spencer recommends that same be done on House side to move OAA reauthorization and to also convey the OAA needs to be adequately funded.

A motion was made to support the federal legislation discussed and communicate to the governor. Motion passed

Ron will draft a letter to the governor conveying Council position of the federal legislation

Phillip shared that he met with Senator Patty Murray and Rep. Dan Newhouse. During his meeting with Sen Murray he thanked her for her support of the OAA and related funding and during meeting with Rep. Newhouse he encouraged him to support the OAA and funding it.

Members were requested to email Rosemary to confirm contact with members of congress in their districts

Council Focus Areas Update

Guardianship- Helen suggested new member Peggy Moxley be part of this focus area group. Clarified that Marilyn Vogler is WINGS representative.

Ron brought up issue of the use of power of attorney to impact guardianship inappropriately, e.g. who visits the ward

Peggy shared that she thinks that many (not all) of the issues identified reflect a need to provide more education

Marilyn remarked yes but there are also situations where guardian may not know they cannot isolate ward, but the issue is that they are doing it

Cathy Knight shared the deadline for commenting on WINGs legislative agenda

Helen remarked that white culture that brings APS requirements (code) to tribes is not the most effective way to work and mentioned the recent Warm Springs Tribe document about interdisciplinary approach for tribes to work on elder justice.

Ron suggested that HB1499 is legislation that the Council should keep supporting (to increase punishment for financial exploitation)

Transformation Waiver- Cathy commented on the Medicaid Global Transformation Waiver- CMS approved it. Less clear at the moment is Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) and how that will work. W4A will continue to be an active partner with ALTSA to keep working on it. Also commented that the best defined part of the waiver is the long term services and supports section- there are also implications for the family caregiver program

Rosemary will resend the informational materials about the waiver previously provided to members and will also send direct link to the waiver with information about how to submit comments.

Members' discussed/described Council role regarding the waiver as looking out for the best interests of older adults about what services are available.

Legislative Committee Update

Ron shared that he will email legislative committee members to let them know agenda items prior to committee meetings

The committee will continue to work with partners on issues of importance to the council and also be exploring issues related to the Affordable Care Act and Medicare

Rep Kochmar reminded members this is a 60 day session so not as much policy will be addressed and the primary focus will be on education and levy issues. There will be some bills that were discussed in previous session that will advance to the next session

Phillip Lemley will tune into the next JLEC meeting- others are also welcome to do so.

Research Committee Update

Suzanne shared the committee continuing retirement communities' discussion. They will consider looking at the issue more closely focusing beyond private CCRC's and will bring to Council attention to determine if members are interested in having a presentation at a future meeting in the spring.

AL TSA update- Andrea Meewes Sanchez

The AL TSA decision packages have been submitted to the Office of Financial Management. We should know more about status at the next meeting.

To comply with the court ruling on overtime for individual providers, AL TSA will be focusing on request legislation to address budget impact.

Ron asked how the state will address scenarios where a client has, for example, one provider providing 60 hours a week. Response: currently we don't have statutory authority to oversee client scheduling

The 1115 waiver application- (Global Transformation) waiver has been accepted by CMS.

Members engaged in discussion about the waiver and the commenting process. Rosemary will resend waiver information and briefing materials. Members will add the waiver to focus areas.

Excellence in Action Awards

Members reviewed the finalists for the 2015 awards.

By member vote the following awardees were determined:

Ecumenical Helping Hands Organization (ECHHO) for the Organization award.

Margene Olson for the Individual award

Awards will be presented at the October 29th joint meeting. Letters acknowledging nominees will be drafted and sent

State Council Member Recognition

On behalf of the Council, Cheryl recognized Kathleen Miller and Ron Bacon for their two 6 year terms of services to the Council

Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Update- Cheryl Townsend Winter-

Cheryl provided an update on the status of the Alzheimer's State Plan

Members have received link to the draft and there is still time to comment.

After the comment period, the plan will go to the Governor's office and then to the legislature

Members engaged in additional discussion about plan content, e.g. assistance for veterans, silver alert system and next steps in the process for plan implementation.

Cheryl shared that the public awareness committee is working on an Alzheimer's Power Point presentation

Other Updates and member comments

Helen reviewed an outline for a presentation on CFCO she is providing to a group.

Meeting adjourned.