



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes April 25.

✓	Members Present	Appointment	✓		Appointment
✓	Barry Lamont	At-Large East	✓	Patricia McIntyre	Pierce County Connections Advisory Council
✓	Cheryl Townsend Winter	At-Large West	✓	Peggi Moxley	Aging & Adult Care of Central WA Advisory Council
✓	Suzanne Holmes	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Helen Spencer	Yakama AAA Golden Eagles Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Sherry Appleton	WA House of Reps	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Carl Bender	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Ron Vivion	Snohomish County AAA Advisory Council
✓	Aruna Bhuta	At-Large East	✓	Joseph Sharkey	Olympic Area on Aging Advisory Council
✓	Lynn Ford	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Vacant	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council Colville Tribes AAA Advisory Council At Large West (2)
✓	Ava Frisinger	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Guests Present	
✓	Marty Johnston	Aging and Long Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	w4a
✓	Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Susan Welsh	Kitsap AAA Advisory guest
✓	Phillip Lemley	Association of Cities	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Paul Malinski	Southeast WA Aging and Long Term Care Advisory Council	✓	Dr. Stark	WA Policy Center
			✓	Bea Rector	AL TSA

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairperson Cheryl Townsend Winter welcomed new member Joe Sharkey, Joe has been appointed by the Olympic Area on Agency Advisory Council. Joe is also on the Healthy Communities Commission for his region
- Members introduced themselves
- Agenda reviewed/approved
- Minutes reviewed and approved with correction to name of Senator on page 4
- Action items reviewed

Ron shared the Council is not directly engaged at county level-it's beyond scope, however many members are engaged at local level.

Art Swannack suggests to focus on Association of Washington Counties annual convention and to provide a presentation about the Council.

Public Awareness and Education Committee

This committee is focused on community education and also organizes information/documents on behalf of the Council

Cheryl asked members to share other activities they are involved in on local level

Updates on WASCOA Focus Areas

Federal Issues

Ron discussed the current amendment to the American Health Care Act-the amendment makes it optional for states to not have essential benefits and pre-existing conditions could end up being subject to higher cost/high risk pools

Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC)

Cheryl provided an update on the DAC and the group of six recommendations. A broader update will be provided at the May meeting.

Guardianship

Peggi Moxely Encourages everyone to attend the May 7th Guardianship Forum in Wenatchee. There will be a national expert, speaking on 4 different topics

Cathy Knight shared that Shirley Bonden is trying to look at how we can better coordinate guardianship information amongst stakeholders-there is conference call Thursday

Senior Housing and Homelessness

Suzanne signed up for legislative notification alerts related to housing and homeless issues. There is a bill focused on putting more funding in at the county level related to collection of fees. She also provided follow up information about a recent article about ownership of mobile homes in Florida.

Walt Bowen shared that on May 10th and 11th there is the annual housing conference and asked Suzanne to attend on his behalf- also suggested that the Council should have representation.

Medicaid Transformation (1115) work continues, AAA's have received funding from the state to coordinate workgroups related to Medicaid Transformation implementation

AARP Update= Cathy MacCaul

AARP currently has 33 million members nationwide, 900,000 in Washington State

There is a focus on advocacy and also on the community engagement for seniors and consumer protection issues including the fraud fighter network There are standing community panels on variety of issues

Legislative Session update

The three top bills we supported have passed and we thank you for supporting this work. Legislation addressing vulnerable adults, personal needs allowance and guardianship isolation passed.

Still waiting on hearing aide legislation related to 1.6 million for Medicaid funded hearing aides. If passed one hearing aide would be available for people 21 years and older.

The JLEC on Aging and Disability is hopefully going to receive funding through a budget proviso.

On the federal level AARP has been very involved in advocating for better health care insurance reform.

The current amendment being considered for the AHCA is more troublesome than the original legislation and still moving in direction of block grant to states for Medicaid.

Members and guests engaged in additional discussion

Cathy Knight shared feedback from her recent meeting with Congressman Newhouse and discussion about his position on the Medicaid program, block grants and role of states. Cathy shared information with him about the loss of 1.8 billion in funding by 2028 if there is shift to block grants

Cathy MacCaul stressed importance of focusing on the efficiencies Washington State has created, how the Affordable Care Act is working and you don't need to take a sledgehammer to it, you need to fine tune it

Cathy met with Congressman Reichart and will keep working with him.

AARP and other advocates are hosting forums- May 9th or 10 in Vancouver and will be having another in Cashmere

It's important to not forget about the need to advocate for adequate OAA funding

Older Americans Month Planning-Cheryl Townsend Winter

Cheryl announced the Governor's signing of the Older Americans Month Proclamation. so have discussion about what to do

Council members discussed things that members can do to promote awareness

Lynn Ford will draft a letter to editor template for members to use in writing individual letters to the editor for local media outlets.

AL TSA Update- Bea Rector

Health Care Insurance Reform

Bea engaged members in discussion about implications of potential changes to the Affordable Care Act, e.g. implementation of American Health Care Act legislation.

Ninety million in savings to state is associated with implementation of the ACA through the federal enhanced match.

If the enhanced match went away one question would be if we could continue to fund Community First Choice (CFC). Savings associated with CFC has been reinvested in services and supports for people with developmental disabilities and long term services and supports.

If system changes to per capita basis it would require blending per caps for four populations into one and would be challenging to see how it could truly reflect the needs of individuals. If you have per cap you will ultimately end up needing to cut services or raise additional revenues. Every biennium there has been a 10% increase related to population increase and the cost increase for providing services. Council members have been provided with statewide data on the impact of Medicaid expansion to date.

The other way being considered is to go is block grant system. There are already examples of block grant programs, e.g. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and mental health block grants and even to an extent Older Americans Act Programs. Concerned about long term funding viability, keeping pace with increase number of people needing services.

Medicaid Transformation

The 1115 waiver is being rebranded as Medicaid Transformation Demonstration (MTD)

The Long Term Services and Supports component of MTD continues working toward July 1st implementation and significant amount of work is being done with AAAs and

Legislative Committee

Ron discussed the committee planning calendar. He also reviewed the Councils eleven state priorities in context of legislative session.

Other updates, New Business and Public Comments

Suzanne shared the content of her 2016 Older American Month letter to the editor

The Yakama Elders Dinner is scheduled for May 18th and members are encouraged to attend, contact Helen Spencer for more details.

Cheryl requested that Ron present on the Veterans Assistance Fund at a future meeting

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

Send list of bills discussed- Rosemary

Follow up on intake and assessment timelines- Bea

Send information on Older Americans Month toolkit-Rosemary

Send Media Contact List-Rosemary

Coordinate Wellness Presentation-Rosemary

Coordinate Workforce Development Presentation-Rosemary