



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2021 March Washington State Council on Aging Meeting
 Location: Zoom Meeting Minutes submitted by Lynn Ford, Chairperson

Date: 3/23/21

✓ Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓ Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Patricia McIntyre	Pierce County Connections Advisory Council
✓ Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East
✓ Sherry Appleton (Shannon Turner)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓ Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Ron Vivion	Snohomish County AAA
Vacant	Central AAA	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓ Lynn Ford	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Vacant	Colville Confederated Tribes AAA Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓ Sandra Miles	At-Large West		Guests Present	
Ava Frisinger	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Bea Rector	ALTSA
✓ Marty Johnston	Aging and Long Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Bill Moss	ALTSA
✓ Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Jon Rudicil	W4A
✓ Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long Term Care		Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓ Rep. Kelly Chambers	WA House of Representatives	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA



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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 of current action items	<p>Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.</p> <p>Members introduced themselves</p> <p>Agenda reviewed and motion made to approve.</p> <p>Minutes reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Reviewed current action items-all reported completed.</p> <p>Member Organization Updates and Covid Response: Members report that there seems to be easier access to vaccination sites and counties are putting systems in place to contact seniors that do not have access to computers.</p> <p>Lynn Ford reported that Lewis County has a phone number to call if you are over the age of 80 and they will set up a vaccination appointment. Twin City Transit will even transport the senior to the appointment.</p> <p>Ron Vivion, Snohomish AAA said that if a senior goes to a mass vaccination site at the end of the day, they might get any unused vaccine.</p> <p>Kathy Medford, Yakima stated that word has been getting out via Facebook. They still have the lowest county vaccination rate.</p>



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<p>Council Focus Areas</p>	<p>Dementia Action Collaborative Ron Vivian, DAC representative said he will send out the second ordering of the rack cards for any of our contacts.</p> <p>Long-term Care Advisory Committee Marty Johnson stated that the Long-term Care Advisory Committee reported that the long-term care facilities have vaccinated 80% of the seniors and 70% of Homecare staff. Because of the turnover, new vaccinations have not been given to all new residents or staff. Apparently, there is not a system to keep vaccinating people. This is causing a decline the percentage of those vaccinated in long care and assisted living. The good news is that long-term care facilities can open for family visitations. It was also reported that some of the facilities were not responding to phone calls during the pandemic. Sandra Miles, At Large West, stated that during certain times of the pandemic staffing was at critical lows.</p>
<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>Senior Lobby</p> <p>W4A</p>	<p>Senior Lobby Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby reported that we are at our one-year anniversary of the COVID 19 pandemic and the use of Zoom meetings.</p> <p>Older Americans Month is in May.</p> <p>The Senior Lobby Conference is scheduled for October 21st, 2021. Walt will hold an opening for the SCOA annual awards if we want.</p> <p>W4A Jon Rudicil stated that AAAs are helping seniors get vaccination appointments and that the Transportation budget may have some additional senior transportation funding</p>
<p>ALTSA Update- Bea Rector</p>	<p>Bea Rector, ALTSA stated that the Public Health Emergency declared by the Governor would stay in place through 2021, and the 6.2% enhanced Medicaid funding would continue. They will reinvest in the Provider network rate and give an increase to Home and Community Services.</p>



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The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 passed which will bring financial aid to the state. This will give a 16.2% increase or 1.5 billion dollars. It is time limited from March 2021 to April 2022. Subject to approval of the Legislature, they plan to use much of it for one-time purchases. Some potential uses under discussion include:

- Information Technology for Provider Networks, privacy and HIPPA Authorization
- Finding alternative ways to get client approval of plan of care
- Broadband access
- Paperless workflow
- Family Caregiver Training
- Covid Pay Enhancement
- Workforce Development such as free training for CNA's and NA's
- Childcare for workers,
- Quality Assurance bonus pay for Assisted Living facilities
- Innovation funds for Provider and Tribes for equality across populations
- Emergency generators for assisted living facilities and adult family homes
- Client assistance through increasing Personal Needs Allowance due to COVID food and gas increases
- Services for seniors while waiting in homeless shelters to access Medicaid,
- Social isolation improvements such as Get Set Up program and animated pets
- Vaccinations for homebound residents and IT support for AAA's providing this service
- Incentives to homebound workers to get vaccinated.
- Capital expenditures for Specialized Dementia units,
- Rent support after the eviction support is removed.
- Support Senior Centers moving towards Community Centers,
- Vaccines for new long-term care residents and staff.



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<p>State Ombudsman Update and HB 1218 Discussion</p>	<p>State Long Term Care Ombudsman/HB 1218 Patricia Hunter, State Ombudsman said that they are in support of HB 2018/SB5294 because during the pandemic they had reports of some facilities being nonresponsive to calls about care (even from physicians). Due process was being denied, they saw a decrease in mandatory reporting, and response to family questions within 3 days. In addition, telecommunication devices were not available for residents to communicate with families, emergency contact list were not given to Ombudsman even though they have the right to the information, and no disaster planning for some long-term care facilities such assisted living and adult family homes. The bill also has some requirements that facilities prepare for pandemics.</p> <p>Ron Vivion reminded members that the Council cannot support individual bills but as individuals, members can sign on approving the bill.</p> <p>Patricia also stated that by having Ombudsman in the facilities they provide oversight and promote and protect long-term care resident rights by dealing with low-level problems. They average resolving problems at the facility level 94% of the time with only 6% referred to an outside agency.</p> <p>They are also in need of new volunteers, because of the pandemic. They had 350 volunteers but are down to 150. They are also asking for additional permanent funding for the program. Compared to other states they should have 52% staff to the number of long-term care beds. Currently they have 22 paid staff and should be at 31.</p>
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<p>Council Committee Updates</p>	<p>Committee Breakout Session: The group divided into three committees: Legislative, Social Isolation and Public Relations and Education. The PR and Education committee reported that they have been working on SCOA new member orientation, Older American Month letters and updating the repository for our website. The Legislative Committee discussed HB 1218. The Social Isolation Committee discussed encouraging local senior centers to start opening.</p>		
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 P.M.</p>		
<p>ACTION ITEMS</p>		<p>Assignee</p>	<p>Due Date</p>
<p>Draft Older Americans Month Letter to the Editor Template</p>		<p>Public Awareness & Education Committee</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>
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