



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2023 March Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 3/28/2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Gavin Carmichael	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council		Vacant	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Susan Kerr	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	(✓)	Arlen Washines (Melissa Howtopat)	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
	Vacant	At-Large West	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Desiree Monroy	ALTSA
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Ron Vivion	Guest (Snohomish County)
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives	✓	Emily Meeks	Dementia Friends, UW
✓	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East			



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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 action items • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Chairperson Kathy Medford called the meeting to order at 9:01am.</p> <p>Council reviewed February meeting minutes and the March meeting agenda. Karen Kiessling provided a correction to the February’s action items to note Art Swannack was drafting the advisory letter. Minutes were approved as amended and the agenda was approved.</p> <p>Art Swannack shared that he would forward the Kaiser Permanente advisory letter for the Council to review. Art reviewed the content from the advisory letter to be delivered to the Governor, Insurance Commissioner, and Attorney General. Council members discussed common concerns with Kaiser’s change in prescription drug refill policy.</p>
<p>AL TSA Update</p>	<p>Susan Engels, State Unit on Aging Office Chief</p> <p>Susan provided an update on the 2023 legislative session. 143 bills were dead that did not make it out of their initial chamber. Other bills had until March 29 to make it through their chamber of origin to proceed.</p> <p>On March 20, the state released its revenue forecast. The forecast showed an increase of \$194M for the remainder of the 2021-2023 biennium. For the 2023-2025 biennium, the forecast of \$64.7B reflected a decrease of \$483M. For the 2025-2027 biennium, the forecasted total of \$70.3B reflected a \$541M decrease. Proposed budgets are available on the OFM webpage, and the WA state fiscal information webpage.</p> <p>The House budgets were released March 27th, which included additional funding for Area Agencies on Aging. Less funding was included for Kinship than originally requested.</p> <p><i>Request Legislation</i></p> <p>AL TSA’s request to raise the residential personal needs allowance (PNA) was in both houses, but the Senate bill dropped away. The vehicle moving forward is through HB 1128.</p>



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	<p>Concerning Adult Protective Services, the House bill dropped away and SB 5370 will be the vehicle for this legislation moving forward.</p> <p><i>Other Bills of Note</i></p> <p>SB 5318 – Limiting estate recovery, sponsored by Senator Nobles, had public hearing on March 22 and was not yet scheduled for further action.</p> <p>SB 5526 – Concerning Nursing Facility Rates, should be moved along.</p> <p>HB 1435 – Concerning a home care safety net assessment is moving along.</p> <p>HB 1784 – Concerning Hunger Relief, working with W4A for this quick implementation. This funding must be used by the end of June 2023. Typically, AAAs are spending about \$2M per month through senior nutrition programs, including home-delivered and congregate nutrition services. This may also include grocery delivery, as well. AAAs will be able to charge to Hunger Relief funding instead of the typical Older Americans Act funds that would be used. This is waiting to be pulled to the Senate floor and was funded in the Senate Budget. Contracts for this funding have been queued up and AL TSA is looking forward to quick action.</p> <p>SB 5121 – extending expiration of the Joint Select Committee on health care oversight was delivered to the Governor on March 24.</p> <p>Bills regarding home care aide training and certification are all moving along. This includes HB 1568, sponsored by Representative Chambers, SB 5278, sponsored by Senator Lynda Wilson, and HB 1694, sponsored by Representatives Alvarado & Tharinger (SEIU Bill) which expands the definition of family members.</p> <p>Desiree Monroy, Home & Community Services Division Special Executive Assistant, clarified that the Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight will extend their work that had started in 2013.</p>
Intrastate Funding Formula Update	<p>Susan Engels, State Unit on Aging Office Chief</p> <p>Susan reviewed the current Gap-Year Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) and SCOA's involvement during these 2022 changes.</p>



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	<p>Under the Older Americans Act (OAA), states are required to develop an intrastate funding formula (IFF). States must be in consultation with AAAs, use the best available data, and publish the IFF for review and comment. To AL TSA’s knowledge, Washington’s IFF has used the same factors and weights since inception.</p> <p>After much consultation with AAAs, AL TSA and W4A decided on using American Community Survey 5-year data. The current factors and weights were also reviewed.</p> <p>In the Gap-Year IFF, no changes were made to the factors and weights, however the base allotments were changed. W4A provided recommendations for changes to the factors and weights. After a re-assessment of the base allocations, W4A wanted a different path forward (regarding increasing the larger base allocation to \$250K) than what is being proposed. AL TSA will be increasing the base allocation from \$175K to \$250K for each AAA, as well as adding base allotments to include 7.01 tribal planning efforts for AAAs. This will help to address the minimum staffing needs for all AAAs.</p> <p>Council members asked questions regarding the factors, metrics used, and how specific programs were impacted by certain factors.</p>
Partner Updates	<p>Cathy Knight, W4A Cathy noted the significance of the IFF, with typical updates occurring with Decennial Census updates. W4A’s focus was to work on addressing equity with the IFF, and Cathy encouraged council members to reach out to AAA directors about any changes.</p> <p>Cathy noted that the OAA does not provide adequate funding to AAAs and there will continue to be limited funding. The AAAs feel good about the factors moving forward. This will affect the funding allocations for years to come.</p> <p>Cathy MacCaul, AARP Cathy shared information on the tele-townhall AARP was hosting with Governor Inslee.</p> <p>Housing – older adults are feeling the burden of the housing. AARP is looking at solutions for creating more housing options for older adults, caregivers, and family. Housing is a priority issue for AARP.</p>



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	<p>More work is needed on the senior property tax exemption, requiring corrections to the policy regarding Social Security income.</p> <p>HB 1329 - preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat is moving to exec session.</p> <p>Walt Bowen, Senior Lobby</p> <p>Walt shared that the state supreme court ruled in favor of the capital gains tax being constitutional.</p> <p>Walt noted he would be meeting with Insurance Commissioner Kreidler and could pass along the council's advisory letter and concerns.</p>
Dementia Friends	<p>Emily Meeks, Dementia Friends Program Manager</p> <p>Emily presented on the Dementia Friends Program. The model began in the UK and created a movement that spread to several countries. In the US, this model began in the Midwest. The program supports Dementia Friendly America initiatives.</p> <p>In Washington, the Dementia Friends uses a train the trainer model in educating tribal and county partners. The program works closely with regional leads.</p> <p>This program aligns with the Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) State Plan to launch public awareness and anti-stigma programming.</p> <p>Dementia Friends promotes 5 key messages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dementia is not a normal part of aging. Not everyone who grows old will develop dementia.2. Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's.3. Dementia is not just about having memory problems. It can affect thinking, communication and doing everyday tasks.4. It is possible to have a good quality of life with dementia.5. There's more to the person than the dementia. People with dementia are a valuable part of the community.



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	<p>Emily shared that for individuals with dementia, it may take 20 seconds to process a single word.</p> <p>The sessions Dementia Friends provides are interactive and non-clinical.</p> <p>The program met the goals of reaching 8 new counties and launching Dementia Friends WA. Ongoing work involves reaching underrepresented areas and engaging all ages.</p> <p>The program holds monthly Champion Trainings across the state.</p> <p>www.dementiafriendswa.uw.edu</p>
Break	
Committee Meetings	[Breakout rooms]
Committee Updates	<p>Legislative Committee Art Swannack, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee discussed the concerns with mail order prescriptions relative to mailbox security. The committee also discussed senior centers, housing, transportation, and pharmacy shortages.</p> <p>Cathy Knight added that the House budget includes two additional pilots for dementia resource catalysts, which would total four pilot AAAs. The House budget also included most of the request for case management while this was dropped by the Senate budget. The House also included funding for Health Homes. W4A plans to send action alerts to keep budget asks in the budget.</p> <p>Public Outreach and Education Committee Michele Horaney, Public Outreach and Education Committee Chair spoke about the planned outreach for the KP letter. This may include letters to the editor, social media, and other resources.</p> <p>The committee also discussed sharing useful links to respective sites or partner organizations.</p> <p>The committee was brainstorming promotion ideas ahead of Older Americans Month in May.</p>



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	Michele suggested having a joint committee meeting in April.	
MPA Initial Discussion / New Business / Public Comment	<p>Council discussed various outlets to access useful information.</p> <p>Bruce Dougherty noted the Long-Term Care Ombuds Program was in need of volunteers and would like to help get the word out for additional volunteers.</p> <p>Cathy Knight shared that W4A and the Senior Lobby webpages linked to several partner organizations.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:59am.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date
Edit/Send KP Prescription Drug Advisory Letter	Art Swannack, Cameron Akita	ASAP