



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2022 March Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 4/26/2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
✓	Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council		Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Sharon Curley	At-Large West	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
✓	Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Arlen Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
✓	Deb Murphy	Central AAA		Guests Present	
✓	Michele Horaney	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council	✓	Bea Rector	ALTSA
✓	Sandra Miles	At-Large West	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
✓	Vacant (Sariga Santhosh sitting in)	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Deb Finck	Building Ohana
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care			
	Vacant	WA House of Representatives			
	Bruce Dougherty	Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources Advisory Board			
✓	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 • Action Items • Dementia Action Collaborative Update • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Chairperson Georgiann Dustin called the meeting to order at 9:01am and welcomed members and guests.</p> <p>April's agenda was reviewed and approved, with the addition of one topic on behalf of Karen Kiessling.</p> <p>March minutes reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Action items</p> <p>Reviewed presentation outreach for Building Ohana and in-person survey results.</p> <p>Council discussed resuming in-person meetings with regard to logistics for hybrid meetings, travel, and public health concerns.</p> <p>Motion made to vote on resuming an in-person meeting with a virtual option beginning in September was seconded and approved.</p> <p>Public Relations and Education Committee members developed Older Americans Month letters to the editor and will be submitted to local media outlets.</p> <p>Karen Kiessling reviewed a request from former SCOA member Marty Johnston, who had requested that SCOA recognize an organization in Eastern Washington, "Project Joy", in celebrating their 50th anniversary.</p> <p>Council discussed writing a letter of recognition to honor Project Joy's work on behalf of the aging community through the gift of live music.</p> <p>Motion to write a letter of recognition was made, seconded, and approved.</p>



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<p>Building Ohana Presentation</p>	<p>Georgiann introduced Deb Finck, Executive Director of Building Ohana to the Council.</p> <p>Deb thanked everyone and introduced the work of her community organization, Building Ohana.</p> <p>Deb shared how Building Ohana developed from its foundations as an organization that helped people with developmental disabilities exiting the school system and to serve a more diverse population including neighborhoods of all adults.</p> <p>Building Ohana aims to build a diverse, inclusive community of support for loved ones by finding practical solutions for populations that had gaps in social services.</p> <p>Deb reviewed the Board of Directors, as well as partnering agencies.</p> <p>Building Ohana was founded after discovering the loss of reliable, daily connection to a diverse community of support, and the purpose & belonging experienced by young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) as they left public education.</p> <p>Professional and relational care would provide support throughout transitions in life. For older adults, isolation can lead to significant health conditions. A community of support can foster better stability and friendships for older adults. Ohana will be largely populated by older adults, with 22-25% of the community made up of people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Current challenges include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Housing shortages – help to address housing issues for those otherwise unable to afford2. Crisis of care – caregiver shortages heightened by pandemic3. Over reliance on professional systems of support <p>Ohana is designed using a pocket neighborhood model, with densely located homes for people to live and connect around a central common house. The community will include supported living, independent living, quiet green spaces, outdoor gathering/recreational space, and gardens, with a mission to be neighborhood of visual accountability.</p>
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	<p>Building Ohana uses a community-engaged design process to gather input from residents, care providers, community stakeholders, design experts, urban planners, and landscape architects. The organization is currently in negotiations to pursue land and is working to break down stigma of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Questions?</i> Dennis Wheeler asked what the Council can do to support this cause.</p> <p>Deb encouraged everyone to keep asking questions; in Spokane they are seeking more flexible zoning.</p> <p>Kathy Medford asked whether a rental option was available in this community.</p> <p>Deb described range of options from 1-3 bedrooms, 125-150 residents, and rental/homeownership options on residents' needs, which would be income flexible terms. This cooperative housing model would not be prohibitive and is different from typical real estate development.</p>
Break	
AL TSA Update	<p>Bea Rector, Interim Assistant Secretary of AL TSA</p> <p>Bea noted the active recruitment for Bill Moss's position as Assistant Secretary, with hopes to fill this by end of June.</p> <p>Current priorities for 2022 include unwinding the flexibilities and waivers from the public health emergency (PHE); the federal PHE is still in place at least until mid-July, and there will be a 60-day notice of its end.</p> <p>The direct care workforce shortage is a top priority, with skilled nursing facilities being a priority to better assess numbers of CNAs needed.</p>



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AL TSA issued emergency rules and changed dates to provide more time for training/certification as a home care aide. Another flexibility for skilled nursing facilities has been adjusting the requirement for hours per resident.

Currently AL TSA is in the midst of implementing legislative work from the 2022 session, which was a great year for a supplemental year. Funding increased by around 9%, with a lot around AAAs and case management ratios. This will provide funding for more FTEs starting in July to help address the general workforce shortage. Caseloads will likely remain higher until February.

There will be a number of reports due to the legislature, including a workgroup together for policy recommendations to allow older adults and people with disabilities to hire a trusted individual with a criminal record that would otherwise disqualify the person from providing paid home care services (HB1411).

Another report will look at establishing a skilled nursing facility model in DOC settings to assess if there is better way to serve individuals in jails.

A report to commerce will be assessing the continuum of services across the DOH, DSHS, and Commerce.

2023

Planning is beginning for the 2023 legislative session with AL TSA looking at request legislation to put forward. One piece may look at the APS legislation that did not previously go through, which would address flexibility around information sharing and opportunities to petition the APS registry, which is currently a lifetime register.

Early stakeholdering is starting to address the governor's plan to reduce poverty, specifically relating to personal funds of clients.

Budget asks will include addressing the direct workforce shortage, inflation's impact on providers, vendor rate increases, and housing.



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	<p>With a lot of work surrounding ARPA funding, CMS and the general accounting office has provided many webinars for federal audit readiness. There will likely be asks for staffing to manage program integrity issues. There is also a need for IT investments to modernize systems and technology.</p> <p>The budget timeline involves current development through ALTSA, DSHS releasing in September/October, and the governor's proposed budget in December.</p> <p>Questions? Karen Kiessling congratulated Bea on her promotion and asked for support in a slowdown for reporting of COVID data in Whitman County.</p> <p>Bea would check on this and send reports to Cameron to forward.</p> <p>Art discussed providing a letter of support for Bea as ALTSA Assistant Secretary.</p>
Partner Updates	<p>W4A, Cathy Knight Cathy noted that current work surrounds supporting local programs with workforce shortages, reducing caseloads, and noted the strong partnership with DSHS for 30 years.</p> <p>Continued work will address legislation that did not pass to fund community case management to keep up with HCS.</p> <p>At the federal level, work will focus on OAA funding and federal/state resources. With expanded needs from COVID and a growing aging population, OAA funding will need to be addressed.</p> <p>Discussions for the next legislative session are beginning.</p> <p>Senior Lobby, Walt Bowen The Senior Lobby held elections for officers, with Walt being elected for another 2-year term.</p> <p>Plans to meet with State Broadband office director to discuss expansion of broadband network.</p>



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	<p>At next month's meeting, Louise Ryan will be speaking and talking about Older American's Month.</p> <p>The Washington State Senior Games will be happening in July—Senior Lobby will be providing support and more information.</p>
Committee Meetings	[Breakout rooms 11:12am-11:30am]
Committee Updates	<p>Legislative Committee Art Swannack discussed this being an interim point legislatively, with discussion about case management, cost of living adjustment, and future leadership. May will be when new legislators will have filed for office, and June is when legislative priorities will be developed.</p> <p>Public Relations Kathy Medford emphasized the committee's name as Public Awareness and Education. Discussion involved developing a structured orientation. For resource and reference materials, please reach out to Cameron.</p> <p>Committee discussed creating a letter to sign in support of Bea as Assistant Secretary.</p> <p>Council discussed options for this letter of support, with a motion be seconded and approved to send to the DSHS secretary.</p> <p>Social Isolation & Engagement Committee Karol Stevens discussed Deb Finck's presentation, and how to better facilitate projects such as Building Ohana; how to bridge social services with these types of projects.</p>
New business, Public Comment	Georgiann inquired if other councils on aging have hubs similar to what Whatcom COA is considering, which would combine resources and a police station.



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Walt Bowen suggested consulting with Ron Vivion as he is in a similar region. Karol shared a similar senior center in Kingston, Bob Scarfo shared about the Northeast Community Center in Spokane, and Dennis shared about the Edmonds Waterfront Center and Director Daniel Johnson. Also, Dennis mentioned the Northshore Center in Bothell, and that all of these are different. Michele noted Arlington has begun to change the senior center to more of a community center.

Georgiann noted the upcoming Dementia Action Collaborative meeting in May and asked about suggestions for May meeting topics.

Walt noted the new Broadband Office Director would align with priorities.

Art shared about the Association of Washington Builders to explore the housing issue in more depth.

Council discussed potential speakers on the topic of housing and decided on Broadband for May and Builders Association for June.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

ACTION ITEMS	Assignee	Due Date
Outreach for May/June meetings	Cameron	ASAP
Forward DAC meeting information	Cameron	ASAP
OAM letters to the editor, Project Joy letter, letter of support	PR Committee	ASAP