



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2023 May Washington State Council on Aging Meeting

Date: 5/23/2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

	Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓	Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
	Gavin Carmichael	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Susan Conniry	O3A Advisory Council
✓	Rep. Kelly Chambers (Dianna Hawkins, Leg. Aide)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Dennis Wheeler	Snohomish County AAA
	Sharon Hamilton	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	✓	Melanie McGuire	ALTSA
	Vacant	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Cameron Akita	ALTSA
✓	Bob Scarfo	Aging & Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
	Sen. Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Kimberly Henriquez	AARP
✓	Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Sharon Turner	HHS
✓	Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Ken Gardner	CMS
	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 • Review action items • Travel Updates • Member Organization Updates 	<p>Meeting called to order at 9:03AM.</p> <p>Council reviewed and approved May's agenda, April's meeting minutes.</p> <p><i>Older Americans Month</i> Jean Kindem noted that Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington's (ALTCEW) Executive Director, Lynn Kimball, spoke to the county council on Older Americans Month.</p> <p>Michele Blythe shared about reading an Older Americans Month proclamation during a city council meeting.</p> <p><i>Travel Updates</i> Melanie McGuire discussed the recent communications about travel forms and requirements as the Council returns to holding an in-person meeting option. Individual questions may be directed to Melanie.</p> <p><i>Member Organization Updates</i> Members and guests introduced themselves. This first hybrid meeting included six members and two ALTSA staff joining in person, as well as eight members along with several guests joining remotely via zoom.</p>
<p>ALTSA Update</p>	<p>Susan Engels, Office Chief, State Unit on Aging Susan reviewed the biennial budget with Council.</p> <p>Mandatory caseload adjustment included \$240M more funding over the next two years, with \$102M of state funds which are matched with federal funds.</p>



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	<p>The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program included a note of additional federal funds (American Rescue Plan Act).</p> <p>Agency provider administration rate received a \$0.56/hour rate increase.</p> <p>Art Swannack noted that the Adult Family Home funding seemed like a lot. Susan shared that the legislature funded the entire bargaining agreement.</p> <p>The Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) received ongoing funding for two existing sites (ALTCEW and NWRC) within AAAs and will receive funding for one additional site.</p> <p>The Kinship Navigator Program was the first in the nation to gain evidence-based status, that unlocks federal funding (matching) to the program. Only 30/39 counties have navigators, some AAAs have not had them at all. The program has received flat funding for over a decade (\$86K funding for a full FTE). Funding increased to include all AAAs to have one navigator and increasing the FTE for some; this will be statewide. Tribal Navigator was not picked up.</p> <p>The legislature added funding to Senior Nutrition Programs as hunger relief issues persist, especially due to SNAP pandemic benefits ending. This will help support programs and provide a longer glide path for other Older Americans Act funding.</p> <p>Bruce Dougherty asked about how much of the Hunger Relief Funding (\$6M) had been obligated. Susan shared that all of the funding had been obligated to AAAs, which are working to obligate this locally. The new ongoing funding for Senior Nutrition would provide an additional \$1.77M annually.</p> <p><i>Reframing Aging</i></p> <p>Susan shared resources from the Reframing Aging movement, which works to affect change in how we talk about, and in turn, develop policy around aging.</p>
State Plan on Aging Updates	Susan Engels, Office Chief of the State Unit on Aging (SUA), and Cameron Akita, Program Manager in the SUA provided an update and overview on Washington's State Plan on Aging (SPA). The upcoming 4-year plan will be opening for public comment in May 2023. The 2023-2027 plan will be due to the



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	<p>Administration for Community Living (ACL) on July 1, 2023. The SPA will address several topic areas set by the ACL and discuss many of the long-term services and supports within ALTSA. Before submitting to the ACL, ALTSA will bring the final draft form of the SPA to the Council for review.</p>
<p>Region 10 Health and Human Services (HHS) Update</p>	<p>Sharon Turner, Acting Director of Region 10, Health & Human Services</p> <p>Sharon shared an update on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and its impacts on Washington State. Sharon discussed Region 10, which is made up of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It includes 272 federally recognized tribes.</p> <p>The IRA is one of the biggest reforms since the Affordable Care Act. It caps prescription costs for Medicare beneficiaries, covers recommended preventive vaccines for free, and lowers prices through direct negotiations with drug companies.</p> <p>By September 1, 2023, CMS will publish negotiated prescription medications for 10 drugs. This will take effect starting on January 1, 2026. The number of prescription medications will be added each subsequent year.</p> <p>Sharon shared information on 9-8-8, a national suicide prevention hotline resource. 988 will provide 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors and will serve as a universal entry point from anywhere in the U.S., through call, text, or chat.</p> <p>Ken Gardner, Director, Seattle Division of Casework Management (CMS) discussed how the IRA would directly affect older adults. The act would lower annual out of pocket costs by \$2,000 for seniors.</p> <p>Georgiann Dustin asked whether this would affect only A and B plans, and whether premiums would see a rise as a result. Ken noted the IRA only affects part D, relating to prescription drugs, which is optional. Insulin pumps would also lower in cost, as well.</p> <p>Ken shared that for seniors with Medicare A or B plans, most participants also have a prescription drug plan, which will receive a reduction. Advantage plans include part A, B, and D.</p> <p>Art noted that Medicare Advantage plans are not available in every county.</p>



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	<p>Karen shared that she was happy to see tribal focused support lines as a part of the 988 hotline. Sharon noted that Washington is one of the states where this is an option.</p> <p>Bruce Dougherty asked if there were any updates to the long-term care survey process for region 10. Ken noted that he would need to follow up on this information as this is not his area of expertise.</p> <p>Dennis Wheeler asked whether Advantage plans would see increased benefits from Medicare, such as dental, hearing, or vision being added. Ken discussed how these are up to insurance companies to decide and set benefits. While some companies provide these benefits, Congress will likely need to address adding categories such as dental/vision.</p>
Break	
Partner Updates	<p>Cathy Knight, W4A State Director</p> <p>Cathy shared that October 18th will be the date for the annual Fall Conference. Walt Bowen (Senior Lobby President) will be looking into locations in Tacoma for the event.</p> <p>Cathy discussed the Medicare cliff. Due to Affordable Care Act and WA's expanded Medicaid coverage, many people for years have had benefits covered under Medicaid. When they turn 65, they are over income limits for 138% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For some people, it can become prohibitively expensive for care. 200% of the FPL is about what an individual needs in WA to get by.</p> <p>The legislative session ended and W4A is relieved the case management program received funding. This will need to get into maintenance level funding, and W4A is working with ALTSA to develop a rate methodology.</p> <p>Health Home Program got a rate increase that was requested. The Health Care Authority holds contracts, and the cost savings for this program is large.</p> <p>W4A will continue to work towards getting a Dementia Pilot in every AAA.</p> <p>Bruce asked if the Dementia Catalyst Project would go out to RFP for all AAAs. Cathy noted that there</p>



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	<p>were 2 pilots last time, which was a competitive process. ALTCEW and Northwest Regional Council, as well as Southwest applied. With one additional pilot being funded, Southwest was given the opportunity to apply, and Olympic AAA has also submitted interest.</p>								
Joint Committee Meetings	<p>Public Outreach and Education Committee Michele Horaney, Chair of the Public Outreach and Education Committee recommended the Council put a hold on the public outreach plan until thoroughly vetting the Council's mission. The next steps will involve discussing the mission, gathering current RCW, and other pertinent information to send to Michele.</p> <p>Council discussed the SCOA webpage, and how its design might play into better promoting the work of the Council. Council discussed restructuring the webpage to make information more accessible and prominent, when needed to highlight SCOA's work.</p> <p>Nominating Committee Council designated Art Swannack, Georgiann Dustin, and Deb Murphy to sit on the Nominating Committee.</p>								
OAM/New Business/Public Comment	<p>Cathy Knight requested Council Members send her any local work done to promote Older Americans Month to highlight the work done by W4A and SCOA.</p> <p>Bruce shared that in Pierce County, the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is going strong and issuing many benefits.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 12:19PM</p>								
ACTION ITEMS									
Public Outreach planning, mission, resources	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Assignee</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Council (send to Michele Horaney)</td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCOA webpage restructure</td> <td>Cameron Akita</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Assignee	Due Date	Council (send to Michele Horaney)	Ongoing	SCOA webpage restructure	Cameron Akita		Ongoing
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