

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

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MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 13, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jonathan Wanagat
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Dennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose Finnegan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, V- Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Mussman	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input type="checkbox"/> Ann Ballard
<input type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence Tom Rasmussen, Candace Inagi, Dr. Robert Gross, Kate Slaminko, Midge Levy, Dr. Jonathan Wanagat, Michael Miller, Ann Ballard

Guests Dr. Sally Fitts, Silversity Madrazo, Diane Snell, Barbara Hurst, Wendy Kinzell, Jennifer DeRosa, Kaylene Moon

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Marcy Kubbs, Karen Winston, Margaret Casey, Maria Langlais, Doug Ricker

United Way Staff Linda Woodall

King County Staff Linda Wells

MINUTES

Don Moreland, Chair, welcomed Advisory Council members, guests and ADS staff to the meeting. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



PROGRAM : PHASE II SENIOR CENTER STUDY: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS & CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Don introduced the speaker, Andrea Cohen, MSW, a consultant working with the Seattle City Council on Phase II of their Senior Center Study. Ms. Cohen shared information on Seattle's changing demographics including the following:

- From 2000-2001 the overall population grew 4.7%
- From 2000-2001 the 60+ population grew by 38.1%
- By 2011, those 60+ will be 20% of the population, an increase of 32,350

Generally, as the population of those 60 and over increases, the number of 0-19 year olds declines. Between the years 2006-2011 it is anticipated that Seattle will experience a 10,471 decrease of those 0-19 years old. At the same time it is projected that those 60 years of age and older will increase by 19,068.

The greatest increases in older adults will be seen in the southeast and southwest sections of Seattle. Most of these individuals will be "aging in place". Locally, this means more individuals with healthcare and mental health needs will be living in the community longer. Senior center programs will be a critical arm in responding to these needs because of their ability to provide:

- Services
- A place to "belong"
- "One-stop shopping"

Senior centers may also provide aging adults with the following:

- Stimulation
- Meaningful activities
- A place to contribute their expertise

Ms. Cohen described Seattle's senior centers as currently needing a number of tangible items including:

- More financial support
- Larger operating budgets
- Additional staff
- Facility repairs

In addition, the centers need less tangible things such as:

- Increased vision in leadership
- Increased vision in their boards

Recommendations being considered include:

- Obtaining a clear statement of support from the City of Seattle identifying senior centers as a part of the local aging network.
- Identifying Aging and Disability Services (ADS) as the focal point for operating dollars that will administer a Request-for-Proposal perhaps using indicators from the National Institute of Senior Centers to evaluate proposals and disburse funds to qualifying centers. Outcomes to strengthen senior centers could be required such as:
 - Evidence of long-term planning
 - Financial soundness
 - Good marketing strategies
- Asking ADS to develop a “Senior Center Development Institute” to provide training to new leaders and boards. Quarterly meetings might be offered as a vehicle for sharing best practices.
- Providing funds to City-owned facilities to help them become safer and more sustainable.
- Embarking on long-term community planning processes based in the center’s geographic service area including a variety of stakeholders such as foundations, non-profit agencies, housing, health services, parks, consumers. This “bottoms-up” approach would help clarify the appropriate role for the City.

Ms. Cohen indicated the current senior center study provides a number of creative opportunities. She invited Advisory Council members to share their thoughts on senior centers.

One member asked if the decrease in individuals 0-19 years of age was due to a flight to the suburbs. ADS staff responded that according to one recent demographic report, it is not.

Another member shared the difficulty senior centers have trying to raise needed funds from their senior consumers who are on fixed incomes. Other support is needed.

Ms. Cohen indicated that while federal and state funds contributed support to meals and health promotion services, they did not support operating costs. In Seattle, United Way historically provided funds for center’s operating costs, but their priorities have changed in recent years. She described the current system of support for these programs as “patchwork”. Some are affiliated with Senior Services, three or four operate independently and a few in the larger municipalities in King County operate through their parks department.

Linda Well, King County Aging Program Manager, indicated that King County pays for “unduplicated clients and service hours”.

One member observed that the system seems fragile and speculated that it may take 4-5 years to bring significant change to the system. Another suggested that centers need to make themselves more attractive to seniors. Others suggested that the senior centers need to form partnerships, perhaps meeting regularly as a number of King County senior centers do to share their expertise.

Pamela Piering commented that New York City has 300 senior centers. A recent report on declining participation at senior centers, evaluated the top 10 centers in the city to determine what made them so successful. The critical factors were found to be the center's leadership, the principles under which it operated and the inclusiveness of the programs.

While it would not take a significant amount of funding to adequately support these programs, the City is facing a \$21 million loss in 2008 due to changes in state law relating to the B&O tax. While the Parks Department has been viewed as a potential funder for these programs, they will experience a \$170,000 loss when the Parks Levy sunsets in 2008. The upcoming Parks Superintendent hiring process could be a good time to inquire about potential support for these programs through that department.

One final suggestion was to consider a general activity center model where individuals with developmental disabilities would be able to participate. Such a model would help older adults open to the broader community.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the March 9, 2006 minutes be approved as written.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Sponsor's Meeting

Don Moreland reported that the King County Human Services Recommendations Report was discussed at the last Sponsor's meeting. Don raised questions about the lack of language on older adults in the report, advocating services to older adults be included to receive some of the levy funds.

Linda Wells reported that the King County Aging Program that she manages will be funded through 2008. In 2009 they will conduct a Request-For-Proposal to disburse funds, but it is not yet clear what services will be purchased. Also, the Executive has passed the report on to the County Council, but there is still time to comment.

Planning & Allocations Committee

Art Mussman reported that orientation and training for members continued at this month's meeting. The committee reviewed the Sponsor's guidelines and discussed four potential issues including the following:

- Older American's Act revenue and possible increase for nutrition programs
- Anticipated loss of \$21 million in City General Fund dollars next year
- Sponsor's desire to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and potential need to reduce funding for other services to provide it
- Funding of aging programs by King County and United Way might have implications for the ADS discretionary programs.

In light of the above, committee members will review the following services areas during 2007: Client Specific (also known as Amy Wong Fund), Technology Support, Health Promotion and Adult Day Services.

Outreach and Advocacy / Health Care Task Force

Diane Snell reported the combined committees have three motions they wanted to bring before the Council.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council invite Tom Tierny of Seattle Housing Authority to an upcoming meeting to provide a presentation and dialogue with members.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send a letter to King County Council expressing the Council's interest in participating in the ten-year King County Charter Review.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send a letter of commendation to Peter Greenfield for his leadership in advocating for passage of the Public Guardianship legislation.

Seattle City Council

There was no report.

Communications Committee

Don Moreland reported that the committee will be meeting in May.

Stat Council on Aging

There was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report

Pamela Piering reported on a number of items including the following:

1) **State Council on Aging (SCOA)** - Pam recently attended a joint meeting of the SCOA and Washington Area Agencies on Aging (W4A). The SCOA was asked to spearhead exploring with the state Aging Readiness planning. Don Moreland suggested holding an ad hoc group meeting with the Governor including advisory councilmembers from Pierce, Snohomish, King County and W4A lobbyist Jerry Reilly, sometime this summer.

2) **Marsha King**, a local columnist, has expressed interest in the Senior Center study and in Emergency Planning for older adults.

3) **Area Plan** – Four Focus on the Future Forums have been held in recent weeks including:

- **Community Design and Health Promotion**
- **Baby Boomers and Aging Demographics**
- **There's No Place Like Home: Long-Term Care**
- **There's No Place Like Home: Housing**

The one remaining forum is:

Working to Build a Disaster-Resilient Community

April 19, 2007

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Times Square Conference Center

660 – 39th St. SW, Renton

4) Legislation - The Eldercare Alliance was successful in getting many of their items included in the House budget such as funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. It also has \$4 million for the Family Caregivers Program, but no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The Senate budget has a vendor rate increase of 3.2% for 2008. The Senior Citizens Services Act cut was not restored, but will be an issue in the next supplemental budget.

5) Seniors Digest – Please e-mail ADS staff any ideas you may have for this electronic magazine.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**Note: Different
Location for
May Meeting!**

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, May 11, 2006

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Henry Art Gallery Conference Room

University of Washington

4100 15th Ave NE and 41st St

Seattle, WA 98195

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