

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 AUGUST 10, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input type="checkbox"/> Elsie Erickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pierre Loebel	<input type="checkbox"/> Silversity Madrazo	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jonathan Wanagat
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaylene Moon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Marie Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose Finnegan	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, V- Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Mussman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Ballard
<input type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input type="checkbox"/> Cathy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raen

Excused Absence Diane Snell, Dr. Pierre Loebel, Tom Rasmussen, Marie Cook, Candace Inagi, Kaylene Moon, Elsie Erickson, Silversity Madrazo, Cathy VonWald, Dr. Jonathan Wanagat, Phil Pitruzzello

Guests Timothy Wolfe

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Margaret Casey, Marcy Kubbs, Karen Winston, Doug Ricker

United Way Staff Linda Woodall

King County Staff Linda Wells

MINUTES

Don Moreland, Chair, welcomed Advisory Council members 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 : DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: INTERSECTIONS WITH AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Ray Jensen, Director, King County Developmental Disabilities Division (KCDDD) and **Nancy Meltzer**, Coordinator of the Arc of King County's Senior Family Caregiver Support Project, discussed the Developmental Disabilities (DD) service system, and how it intersects with Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Ray Jensen provided information on services available in the local DD system.

KCDDD which is authorized under RCW 71A, works in cooperation with the State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DSHS/DDD). The State DSHS/DDD determines eligibility and provides case management, family support, and residential services. KCDDD with its staff of 19 and annual budget of \$25 million provides Early Intervention (EI) Services for infants experiencing at least one major developmental delay, and services to individuals 21 years of age and older meeting eligibility requirements. KCDDD provides individuals and their families with such things as early intervention supports, family resource coordination, employment services, housing services, community access opportunities, community support programs, and in-home behavior support services.

Mr. Jensen indicated a developmental disability is attributable to one of the following:

- Mental Retardation
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- Autism
- Neurological or other condition closely related to mental retardation or that requires treatment similar to that required for individuals with mental retardation.

The disability must meet the following criteria:

- Originated before the individual attained age eighteen. This requirement can be problematic if parents did not seek a determination of disability before an individual's 18th birthday.
- Continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial limitations to an individual's intellectual and/or adaptive functioning.

Specific Early Intervention services include such things as:

- Assistive technology devices and services
- Audiology
- Early identification, screening, and Medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes
- Nursing services, required for developmental services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational & physical therapy
- Psychological & social work services

- Services coordination (Family Resource Coordination) including family training and counseling
- Speech-Language services
- Transportation necessary to enable a child/family to receive services
- Vision services

Their adult program includes the following services:

- Employment Services for individuals of working age 21 – 62. The upper age limit is in response to a new regulation requiring adults with DD to work until age 62.
- Community Access Services for those persons 62 and older who no longer wish to work and persons of working age who cannot work.

In response to a question, Mr. Jensen indicated that the referral of children involved in their Early Intervention services to the school systems is much smoother than the transition from school to their adult program.

KCDDD Housing services include:

- Referring individuals to affordable housing working in partnership with the State DSHS/DDD to prevent individuals from becoming homeless.
- Providing capital funding for new affordable housing through the Housing Innovations for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Program (HIPDD). KCDDD collaborates with the King County Housing Finance Program to administer this funding program and the State DSHS/DDD refers clients to the newly created housing.

KCDDD also supports a variety of community and recreation activities throughout King County that encourage integration into the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Statistics from the Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities indicate that in King County 9,833 individuals are eligible for services. They include the following:

- Birth to 36 months: **1,269**
- 3 to 5 years of age: **1,205**
- 5 to 14 years of age: **2,211**
- 14 to 18 years of age: **602**
- 18 to 21 years of age: **420**
- 21 to 40 years of age: **2,244**
- 40 to 62 years of age: **1,640**
- Over 62 years of age: **242**

Last year, KCDDD programs served the following number of individuals:

- Early Intervention Services - 1,875
- Employment Services - 2,098
- Community Access Services - 63

Many older adult DD clients live with their parents including:

- 432 over the age of 40 live with their parents

- 32 over age 60 live with their parents

Nancy Meltzer from King County ARC indicated that in her position as Coordinator of Caregiver Services she provides one-on-one services to families. One third of her time is spent assisting families in stabilizing federal benefits which she describes as being in “disarray”. Another third of her time is spent assisting in stabilizing housing. She shared the following housing statistics:

- Locally about 490 individuals with disabilities live with 470 families
- 64% of these individuals are living with their parents
- 34% live with their siblings

Ms. Meltzer reports many challenges in providing for an individual with a developmental disability and emphasized the following points:

- Families need to be able to pool resources and incomes of the household to adequately provide for the family
- Families need to share in household tasks
- There needs to be mutual support of companionship
- Individuals with disabilities need a meaningful break that provides recreation or employment, not just respite
- Families experience more stress when the primary caregiver is distracted by an aging spouse
- A case manager’s recommendation for a Medicaid Personal Care Provider that is unwanted can also be a challenge.

A new challenge is a recent regulation that requires adults with a disability to have an opportunity to work until they are age 62. In a time of cutbacks, it is more challenging to provide workshop environments to all individuals from ages 21-62.

Challenges of long term care planning include:

- People don’t want to think about it
- Federal benefits are unstable
- Individual’s own retirement packages are shrinking
- Siblings often don’t agree on a care plan
- Programs are complex

Transitioning to Aging Network

Individuals with developmental disabilities are approaching the same life expectancy as others. However, they are facing aging issues in their 40s as there is an early onset of chronic illnesses for individuals with developmental disabilities. The question is how these younger individuals will fit into aging services. How many of them will use those services and which ones will they use?

Ms. Meltzer indicated she found Senior Information and Assistance a very helpful service but noted as an increased number of DD individuals become eligible for ADS services families may be confused negotiating another service system. Her suggestions included such things as the following:

- Identifying programs frequently used by other DD individuals such as some Adult Day Health centers, so they might be able to enroll at programs with other adults with disabilities.
- Developing outreach materials for individuals under 60 years of age with clear information on eligibility requirements
- Evaluate how programs serving older adults may also meet the needs of 45-50 year old adults with disabilities experiencing aging related problems
- Considering special training on DD for those working in programs serving this population.

Ms. Meltzer also commented on proposed increase in training requirements for care providers. She noted that from her perspective there are three categories of providers used by the families she works with. They are:

1. Professionals who are on a career track who should have significant training
2. Non-professionals not caring for more than one person at a time for whom the 28 hours seems sufficient
3. Parents and other relative caregivers for whom 6 hours is sufficient if they care only for their relative

Pam noted that some themes she heard during today's presentation are:

- DD system has new requirements requiring adults with DD to work longer than in the past
- DD service system needs more funding
- Homecare agencies that have served individuals with DD have become more scarce (7 in King County)

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the July 13, 2007 minutes be approved as written.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Seattle City Council

There was no report.

Sponsor's Meeting

Pamela Piering reported that at the July 13th Sponsors meeting, the Area Plan and Planning & Allocations Committee recommendations were discussed. The recommendations include:

1. Maintain the 2007 allocations and establish a contingency fund of \$30,000

2. Fund an inflationary adjustment with additional revenue and a reduction in Client Specific and Technology funds
3. Should additional funds be available, bring the inflationary adjustment to 3.7% to match the anticipated City inflationary adjustment of 3.7%.

The Sponsor's approved the recommendations. The Area Plan will come back to the Advisory Council in September after public comments have been incorporated into the plan, then back to the Sponsors.

Planning & Allocations Committee

Rose Finnegan reported they have received good comments during the public hearings on the Area Plan.

Outreach and Advocacy / Health Care Task Force

Michael Miller reported the committee reviewed potential areas for advocacy work including: housing, Senior Citizen's Services Act funding, and transportation. The committee will wait until the Area Plan has been finalized to formally present the committee's recommendations to the Advisory Council.

A few volunteers are needed to attend City Council budget meetings to testify on behalf of the Advisory Council and report back to members. Barbara Hurst and Dr. Gross volunteered.

Midge Levy shared comments on end of life issues for the Area Plan indicating that the Do Not Resuscitate order has been replaced by the POLST form. She suggested making Objective #16 more specific to include education of Senior Center participants in the educational campaign.

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed to support these suggested changes to the Area Plan.

Communications Committee

There was no report.

Universal Design Coalition

Art Mussman reported that a subcommittee of the Coalition is working on developing a set of Universal Design (UD) guidelines for single family housing which is based on Dr. Sandra Hartje's survey of UD experts. The final document should be ready by October. During Aging in Place week, October 1-7, Dr. Hartje will formally present her work.

Also, on August 22nd from 1:30-3:00 in the 4096 Conference Room of the Seattle Municipal Tower, the Coalition will meet with Valerie Fletcher, an expert in Lifespan Housing. All members are invited.

NEW BUSINESS

October Events

Don Moreland advised members that due to the Statewide Gathering of Advisory Council and State Council on Aging members on October 18th and the Senior Lobby Conference being held the following day, the regular October Advisory Council meeting has been canceled. As a result, the Nominating Committee will need to start their work so they can report on their slate of candidates for the Advisory Council officers at the September meeting.

Director's Report

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

1. **United Way** – Pam indicated United Way issued a RFP for \$66,666 for Family Caregiving services targeting historically underserved populations which they plan to distribute in 1-2 grants.
2. **King County** – Pam reported the Veterans and Human Services Levy will provide \$900,000 for the life of the levy for treatment services for veterans, their spouses and older adults. Their draft plan of services will be available for public comment.
3. **Developmental Disabilities** - Pam noted that the conversation at today's meeting increased her awareness of services that are available on the federal, state and local level. She mentioned that effective July 1, 2008 some homecare agencies with ADS contracts will provide services to individuals with disabilities.
4. **National Conference** – Pam shared that a prominent theme at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) conference she recently attended, was a move from the Senior Information & Assistance (I&A) model to the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina Carbonell pledged \$5 billion over the next 10 years to this model which will provide information “upstream”. Other topics at the conference were emergency preparedness planning, healthy aging and livable communities.
5. **Advocacy** – The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) has drafted its 2008 State legislative agenda brochure. The final brochure that will be out soon will include a request for funding for ADRC, increased funding for the Senior Citizen Services Act and State leadership for Aging Readiness.
6. **Senior Services Event.** – On Tuesday, September 11th, Senior Services will host a speaker from New York who will present on how Senior Centers can be “turned around”.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.



NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, September 14, 2007

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

6070 Conference Room

Seattle Municipal Tower

700 5th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

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