

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 MARCH 14, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daphne Tomchak	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input type="checkbox"/> Elsie Erickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pierre Loebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silversity Madrazo, Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jonathan Wanagat
<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Burgess, elected official	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaylene Moon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input type="checkbox"/> Marie Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose Finnegan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Mussman, V Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller, AC Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Deerr-Lord	<input type="checkbox"/> Cathy VonWald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence Lorna Stone, Cathy VonWald

Guests Barb Graff, Sandy Ciske, Alan Painter, Dick Sugiyama

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Margaret Casey, Doug Ricker, Maria Langlais, Gigi Meinig

United Way Staff Linda Woodall

**King County
Staff**

MINUTES

Art Mussman, Vice 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: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Speakers:

Barb Graff

Director, Seattle Office of Emergency Management

City of Seattle

Sandy Ciske

Manager Epidemiology, Planning, Evaluation Unit (EPE)

Seattle King County Public Health

Alan Painter

Deputy Director Human Services Department

City of Seattle

Respondent:

Dick Sugiyama, Emergency Preparedness Update for Case Management

Director, ADS Case Management Program

City of Seattle

Barb Graff, Presentation

Barb Graff spoke first and explained she leads the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management (OEM) comprised of 13 civilian staff. She directly reports to the City of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske who make emergency planning a top priority. OEM's mission is to respond to all hazards including earthquakes, terrorism, storms, or any negative local event where there is not enough services to go around and/or overwhelm the capability of local service providers. When no emergency presents itself, OEM continues to plan, and perform drills for all types of emergency situations focusing on public education, coordination, information sharing and resource identification. During an emergency situation, team members seek additional local resources, and once the area is declared a disaster area, State and Federal resources become available. Local regions are generally responsible for 10% of the costs related to the additional services such as search and rescue, medical, housing, food, and other needs.

OEM's recent planning initiative is to educate and coordinate emergency preparedness in communities isolated by culture or geography. In culturally isolated communities partnerships with the community leaders were formed and a campaign to distribute water bottles, crank radios and flashlights was implemented. The items were marked with instructions in 14 languages.

Question and Answer Session

Question: Is it true schools use children to get information to families?

Answer: Yes, using school children to bring home messages is effective in fact research shows 3rd graders are the best at getting the message out.

Question: Is there a citywide initiative to place generators in local community centers?

Answer: Yes, there are six generators targeted for large community centers in Seattle.

Question: An Advisory Council Member brought forward an incident in which a nursing facility maintained a written plan, yet when the facility lost power and black smoke filled the hallways, the staff began yelling fire. No one was identified as lead and it appeared there were no practice sessions.

Answer: Even with a good plan employees must be trained and drilled frequently for the plan to work.

Question: Is it true communication systems may not be effective during an emergency?

Answer: Communication from the media is one way. Barb suggested people become trained as ham radio operators, the most effective two way communication during an emergency.

Question: Who do you report to during an emergency?

Answer: Barb said she reported to the police Chief and the Mayor.

Sandy Ciske, Presentation

Sandy Ciske defined vulnerable populations as people unable to move to safety on their own. This includes the homeless, people with disabilities, or mental health issues, ethnic populations, children, and people in long term care facilities. King County Public Health is creating partnerships with numerous organizations including community colleges, hospitals, health care, long term care, mental health, substance abuse, clinics and many other community based organizations including refugee and immigrant communities.

King County Public Health uses the CARD model from San Francisco to train several hundred people through train-the-trainer sessions. This model reaches many communities. There is an expectation in King County that agencies receiving funding from United Way, King County or other government entities will develop an emergency preparedness plan. Two big challenges include filling gaps in the plans and the need for continuous training to sustain preparedness. Even though agencies have a written plan it does not mean they are prepared.

The key is to building a system with few gaps in service requires coordination with numerous agencies and the ability to leverage resources to fill those gaps. King County Public Health continues to bring numerous organizations to the table to coordinate resources. Agencies include DSHS, Red Cross, other government entities, non profits, City of Seattle, plus 38 smaller Cities and their fire/police departments.

An example where this model worked well was warning Limited-English speaking communities about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning when using indoor BBQs.

Alan Painter, Presentation

Alan is the deputy director of the City of Seattle Human Service Department (HSD) soon to be interim director. HSD is responsible for the well being of people during an emergency. Alan explained the three most important priorities in an emergency are preparation, response and recovery. Although the City identified six community centers, it is also important for neighborhoods to identify central places such as churches to gather

in the event of an emergency. Housing and food may reach critical shortages. Food banks will be at capacity. The devastating effect may last a long time. Recovery may take 72 hours, 6 months or longer as with the Katrina disaster. Businesses may close and people lose their jobs. The Salvation Army and Red Cross will play critical roles in helping getting communities return to normal.

Dick Sugiyama, Respondent

As the Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Case Management Director Program (CMP), Dick is responsible for 5000 low income, frail seniors and people with disabilities. When the CMP began preparing for year 2000 computer calendar changes or “Y2K” they also began preparing for the anticipated shut down of critical services due to computer glitches. At that time, CM staff placed information in client packets about how to prepare for an emergency. Staff also identified a number of potentially at risk clients and gave out emergency kits.

During 2007-08 the Case Management Program identified 400 of their most vulnerable clients. The list will be updated at regular intervals. Clients identified as vulnerable will receive a crank radio, flash light, “space” blanket, and water bottle. Each item will be labeled with instructions. The kits will include a one page checklist with other items to include in an emergency kit, such as glasses, medications, extra cash etc.

ADS is working with vendors to help prepare emergency plans and build a tighter network. The first service area to receive technical assistance is home care which serves our most vulnerable adults. A consultant was hired to prepare agencies through a disaster scenario exercise known as a “table top exercise”. In addition, a number of agencies applied for funding opportunities to buy emergency supplies.

Dick reminded attendees that many elder and disabled people were left behind during 9-11 and Katrina. Caregivers need to be trained and may even need to “find” their client after a catastrophe.

Questions & Answers

Question: Have you heard of the National Emergency Action Team a search a rescue organization? How will search and rescue organizations fit into the overall planning process to stabilize the community?

Answer: National search and rescue organizations will be an important part of the resource network if we see a catastrophic event.

Question: If businesses close due to destruction of their building how will they be replaced?

Answer: Once the area is declared a disaster, federal funding will be available to begin replacement, rebuilding, and repair of infrastructure.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the February 8, 2008 minutes be approved as written.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Seattle City Council

Pam received word from the **Councilmember Tim Burgess**, that he will be unable to make it to this meeting

Sponsors Meeting

No meeting to report.

Planning & Allocations Committee

Rose Finnegan reviewed recent committee actions.

1. The committee orientation was tabled until membership is finalized.
2. Greg Heartburg, DSHS Region 4 administrator attended the Feb. 27 meeting to gather feedback for the Washington State Aging and Disability Services Administration's Strategic Plan.
3. April 9 the Planning and Allocations Committee will meet for lunch at a congregate meal site. Transportation will be provided. Please contact Karen Winston at 206-684-0706, by April 7th.
4. Maria Langlais reported a nutrition service bid process called a Request for Investment (RFI) will begin soon. She encouraged interested Advisory Council members to join the committee or to drop-in on other meal sites. As part of the process to improve services, she asked members to complete a survey with questions related to what they liked about the meal site or what could be done better.

Outreach and Advocacy / Health Care Task Force

Don Moreland asked members to write letters or go to the governor's website:

www.governor.wa.gov to urge her to sign the following bills:

1. HB 2668 Aging in Place bill included a number of components such as respite
2. SB6807 a protection for boarding home residents in Boarding Homes terminating their Medicaid Contracts
3. SB6583 increases the Medicaid Categorically Needy eligibility level from 73% to 80% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The Advisory Council is the voice for vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities who are unable to make their voice heard. The governor and legislature need to hear from numerous constituents on this bill, and urge the Governor to sign it. A handout on the bill was passed out to everyone in attendance as a reference

Doug Ricker is working with the Legislative Forum committee to plan for the Fall legislative forum. They hope to partner with Pierce County and are looking for a venue which will serve both counties. He encouraged Advisory Council members to attend the 2:15 meeting immediately following the Advisory Council.

Communications Committee

Kate Slaminko is the new chair of the Communications committee.

State Council on Aging

Don Moreland again encouraged members to write or contact their legislators about the bills mentioned during the Outreach and Advocacy Committee Report.

ADS Directors Report

Budget

1. HB-2668 provides approximately \$2.8 million for fall prevention, family caregiver and respite.
2. \$2 million for the ADS Resource Centers was deleted in committee.
3. \$1.5 million in additional funding for the State's kinship navigator system.
4. \$100,000 in additional funding for the Senior Farmers markets
5. Training bill did not increase the number of training hours as originally expected. Instead caregivers will be required to take 36 hours of Fundamentals of Care Training, 12 hours of continuing Education and have optional training available.
6. The bill which would eliminate the hiring of family members by home care agencies did not pass

Planning

DSHS is using a new approach in gathering input for State priorities. Regional administrators are visiting Advisory Councils across the State to gather input on the State's strategic plan. The plan includes chronic care management program which managed people with high medical costs and included a caseload study to determine how much work/cases a caseworker should manage.

Nutrition

ADS is asking for a number of Advisory Council volunteers to visit senior centers and meal sites to provide suggestions on how to re-energize the nutrition programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, April 11, 2008

Noon – 2:00 PM

4060 Conference Room

Seattle Municipal Tower

700 5th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 684-0660

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