

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 JULY 11, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Peterson	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Burgess, elected official	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaylene Moon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose Finnegan	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Mussman, V Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller, AC Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Deerr-Lord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy VonWald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raen

Excused Absence	Phil Pitruzzello
Guests:	Nadia Fiorini, Page Ulrey
ADS Staff	Pamela Piering, Doug Ricker, Gigi Meinig, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Mary Pat O'Leary, Maureen Linehan, Hector Sidoine,
United Way Staff	Linda Woodall
King County Staff	Linda Wells
City of Seattle	Alan Painter, Terri Kimball

MINUTES

Michael Miller, 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: ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Video: Elder Neglect and Self-Neglect

The Advisory Council viewed a video produced by the Kirkland City Council on elder abuse. The video focused on neglect and self-neglect and used two scenarios to illustrate how both can go unrecognized with dire consequences to the neglected individual.

Elder Abuse Presentation

Michael Miller introduced the two speakers, Nadia Fiorini and Page Ulrey:

- Detective Nadia Fiorini, Domestic Violence Unit, Seattle Police Department investigates abuse and neglect cases against elders and vulnerable adults. Nadia began her career with the Seattle Police Department in 1994 and worked 7 years in a patrol assignment prior to becoming a Detective. Nadia graduated from the University of Washington in 1990 with a BA in Society and Justice.
Nadia.fiorini@seattle.gov, 206-386-1306.
- Page Ulrey is a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the King County Prosecutor's Office. She graduated from Amherst College and Northeastern University School of Law. After law school, she worked four and a half years as a public defender in Seattle. In 1998, she began work at the King County Prosecutor's Office. During the past ten years, she prosecuted domestic violence and mainstream cases, supervised the prosecution of misdemeanor cases, and chaired the Prosecutor's Office Juvenile Unit. In 2001, she was appointed to the newly created position of elder abuse prosecutor. She prosecuted cases of financial exploitation, physical abuse, sexual assault, and neglect of elderly and disabled adults. She has been involved in protocol development and has been a trainer on elder abuse investigation. In addition to prosecuting cases, Page formed and was the chairperson of the King County Elder Abuse Council and Criminal Mistreatment Review Panel.
Page.ulrey@kingcounty.gov, 206-296-9539.

Abuse of elders is growing higher than abuse in other age categories. This is due in part to:

- The increase in the elderly population
- The number of elders with dementia
- The lack of reporting by elders, who feel they have no one to turn to for help
- Minimal background checks of caregivers
- The high temptation and low risk of punishment

Seniors, more than any other age group are reluctant to report and cooperate with law enforcement due to shame, fear of loss (home and independence), belief the abuser will change, love for the abuser and wanting to protect the abuser. The elderly victim's relative, most often the victim's adult child or spouse, commits the majority of elder abuse.

Page and Nadia took turns explaining the different types of abuse. They described the victims, showed the magnitude of the problem, and provided several examples, which illustrated the difficulty prosecuting perpetrators and the dynamics of abuse. Below are four different kinds of abuse:

- physical and emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect and abandonment
- financial exploitation

The presenters gave three examples of abuse:

1. The first scenario was located in a facility which housed a number of disabled individuals who were repeatedly abused by a male caregiver working alone with complete access to residents. According to Page, people with disabilities are more likely to experience a higher incidence of abuse, receive more severe abuse, and be victims of multiple episodes by a larger number of perpetrators.
2. The second case illustrated physical abuse of a woman by her disabled spouse when he hit her with a metal pipe. Even with his disabilities, he was booked into jail. He died before the trial.
3. The third case was much more difficult to prosecute because of the victim's reluctance to cooperate with the police, the family dynamics and the concern that if charges were pressed against her son he would end up in jail. After the victim's husband died her adult son moved back with her. He had substance abuse issues, did not work and relied on her for shelter, food, spending money, etc. Even though she suffered from chronic health problems, he did not assist her. After she became ill, and was hospitalized, APS became involved. The victim reported multiple thefts, assaults and verbal abuse. After the son was arrested, she refused to cooperate with the prosecution. Cases similar to this one may take years to make progress. Many agencies became involved in this case, filing fourteen official reports in two years along with numerous additional police calls. Handling this type of case becomes a team effort. Detectives and prosecutors see challenges in other cases similar to this scenario where the victim reports abuse but misses the adult child, or refuses help when agencies attempt to connect her with service. The victim never gives up hope that the perpetrators will "get better".

Next, Nadia and Page explained financial abuse, which ranges from theft, credit card fraud, to property transfer scams. Usually, unlicensed contractors, telemarketers, and sellers of investment fraud, power of attorney or guardians who embezzle funds or provide undue influence target victims.

There are signs of improvement:

1. An increase in legislative interest at the State of Washington
2. An increase in the number of City of Seattle detectives to four who focus exclusively on elder abuse
3. Improved systems coordination

Questions:

Statement: Concern and surprise was expressed that 80/90% of developmentally disabled women have experienced sexual abuse.

Question: What should be done to reduce elder abuse?

Answer: Page suggested additional funding, or resources in the form of detectives who focus on abuse, and an increase in public education on prevention.

In response, John Deacon from Senior Services gave an update on recent outreach efforts to get the word out on elder abuse and get people to report. As part of their gatekeeper-training program, Senior Services recently presented information to banks and other businesses that encounter seniors frequently.

Question: It appears to be difficult to “knit” agencies together to work together to prevent the cycle of repetitive abuse.

Answer: It is difficult given the relatively small amount of public safety resources dedicated to prevention. On the bright side, the topic is seeing an increased amount of attention from the Attorney General’s office, which will sponsor a summit to raise the following issues:

- Increase the number of mandatory reporters
- Suggest an increase in resources
- Recommend mandatory national background checks for caregivers
- Increase training
- Suggest legislative changes

Question: Although it appears there is not enough tax dollars, is there a way for business and the free market to support abuse prevention?

Answer: Education is a huge component for prevention and the presenters suggested several ideas:

1. The annual two-day Elder Abuse Conference “Making the Case of Justice” will be held September 10 & 11 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue (contact: Cyndee Cavanah, 206-296-8797). Donations and/or support of specific event would be welcome.
2. The Senior Services gate-keeper program trains people in frequent contact with the elderly to recognize the symptoms of abuse neglect and self neglect. The gate-keeper program needs volunteers, financial support, and a forum for outreach and training.
3. Sponsors are needed for television and radio ads, or other forms of advertising (e.g. public transportation, print ads).
4. First responder training is needed to help responders recognize the symptoms of abuse and neglect.

Question: It appears when prosecuting and arresting perpetrators of domestic violence, the perpetrators have more rights than the victims?

Answer: The US Constitution protects the defendant. There are not many protections for victims. Laws are slowly improving to protect victims. Prison time, while very low, is increasing as more legislators are informed and educated on the topic.

Question: Can you tell me the number of cases reported?

Answer: Between APS and King County there could be as many as 5,000 cases reported. Page will follow-up.

Question: Could block watch be considered a forum for training and information sharing on abuse and neglect to the community?

Answer: Nadia agreed, and will discuss the idea with her supervisor. Other forums to reach the public include community picnics sponsored yearly in each precinct.

Finally, Nadia and Page praised the forward thinking efforts of the City of Seattle to hire four detectives for a special domestic violence unit. They were concerned about the 38 City jurisdictions and King County who are experiencing severe budget cuts which may result in their inability to handle abuse cases.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes: Action Taken: It was moved, seconded and passed that the June 13 minutes be approved.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

City Council Report - While there was no report, we were honored to have Councilmember Burgess and his staff Betsy Graef in attendance.

Sponsors Meeting - No Report

Planning and Allocations committee – Rose Finnegan reported on the upcoming public review period on the discretionary recommendations set for July 21 through August 8. The final recommendations will be posted on the ADS Website at <http://www.agingkingcounty.org/advisory-council/>

Please send comments to Karen Winston by email to karen.winston@seattle.gov or by regular mail to:

Aging and Disability Services
Attn: Karen M. Winston, Planner
PO Box 34215
Seattle, WA 98124-4215

The Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services will host a public hearing scheduled for **Friday, August 8**, at 1:45 p.m., following the AC business meeting. The hearing will take place in the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, 40th Floor, in downtown Seattle.

Outreach/Advocacy & Healthcare Task Force Committee:

Today Peter Greenfield presented information to the committee on the progress toward raising the Medicaid limit from \$637, or 75% of the federal poverty level (FPL), to \$693 or 80% FPL. According to committee members, Peter urged many members of the house and Senate to carry the bill forward. He also encouraged legislators to request that DSHS provide statistics and information to educate house and senate members. Peter's efforts were a success. The legislature adopted the bill and the Governor signed legislation increasing the "categorically needy income level" (CNIL) to 80% of the FPL.

There are still several challenges ahead. The increase will happen only if it is included in the executive's budget. The second is the need to assure parity between CNIL clients and those eligible for the Medically Needy Income Level MNIL, which remains at the 75% of FPL. Note: Please see Peter Greenfield's attached talking points on "*The Proposal to Increase Medicaid Income Eligibility for Adults Who are Elderly or Disabled*".

Legislative Forum

Doug gave an update on the Legislative Forum planning process scheduled for September 17, 2008 at the Tukwila Community Center. The flyers are finalized and Doug encouraged the Advisory Council to let him know how many are needed. He will mail them out. Registration opens July 15 at www.agingkingcounty.org/legislativeforum.htm. If you have any questions, you may contact Doug Ricker at 206-684-0292 or doug.ricker@seattle.gov. Finally, Doug reported that a number of high-powered speakers and interesting topics are scheduled including:

- **“Advocacy How-To’s”** with panelists: Tony Lee from Solid Ground; Jerry Riley, Lobbyist; and Dennis Mahar, AAA Director.
- **“Federal and State Aging Readiness”** with panelist Dawn Morrell.
- **“Increased Access to Services” with speaker Kathy Leitch, DSHS Assistant Secretary.**

Don Moreland stressed that the role of the Advisory Council is to advocate. Don asked AC members to urge policy makers and other community representatives to attend.

Universal Design Council: Art reported the Northwest Universal Design Coalition changed their name to the Universal Design Council. He gave a brief overview of the supportive Technology and Design for Health Living conference he attended at Skamania Lodge in June. He explained that there were numerous research and design options some funded by Microsoft and Intel that will help seniors with chronic illness and people with disabilities live independently in the future. Please see attached notes from the *“Supportive Technology and Design for Healthy Living Conference at Skamania Lodge, June 25-26, 2008.”*

State Council on Aging

Cathy attended the June meeting which focused on the Governor’s request to create a statewide forum on aging. The State Council will begin by creating smaller regional forums. The first regional forum is planned for Spokane in September.

Communication Committee

Kate reported good news. Seniors Digest subscriptions have increased. Further, Seniors Digest receives over 10,000 hits per month, up from 1,550 in 2006.

The Communications Committee continues to research the possibility of incorporating information about disabilities in the Seniors Digest. The committee suggested the following possibilities:

1. Add a monthly column about disability related items
2. Complete a disability compilation once or twice a year
3. Try a variety of options testing how the public reacts
4. Complete additional research

Director's Report

1. Pam followed up on Michael's announcement of the National Council on Disabilities and reported that the Mayor of Vancouver, a quadriplegic and disability advocate, will also speak along with Mayor Nickels.
2. Pam reported that the Medicare Parity bill, which we heard about at the previous Advisory Council meeting, is moving forward in Washington DC. A number of people are lobbying for the decreased mental health co-pay. The bill also includes an additional \$4 billion, which will provide education on Medicare by SHIBA, AAAs, Native Americans and other groups.
3. It is expected the older American's Act will receive an additional funding boost.
4. Pam was delighted to have been a participant and speaker for the Harborview Grand Rounds where she presented information on geriatrics to interested social workers and other health care professionals. She felt it was a wonderful opportunity to bridge the gap with health care and service providers. She observed each sector focuses on the same problems, yet each discipline approaches it differently.
5. The Federal 20/20 project sponsored by Maria Cantwell may become a draft bill. The National Association of State Units on Aging along with N4A are the key sponsors of the initiative. The initiative should save billions of dollars. Yet it will serve the increased population of people over the age of 65 by using evidence based health promotion and disease prevention, diverting clients from nursing homes and providing person centered access to information. The description can be found on the NASUA website, www.nasua.org.
6. In October 2008, there will be a joint meeting in which we will hear the results from the State Council on Aging Spokane forum.
7. Last month, home care agency and case management program supervisors participated in a simulated "table top disaster planning exercise." A consultant was hired to develop two emergency scenarios. The exercise highlighted challenges in communication and suggested new policy development in the future.
8. Pam, Dr. Mark Snowden, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Harborview Medical Center and Bea Rector, Chief Home and Community Programs, DSHS were invited to Washington DC to a mental health intervention think tank to present the PEARLS model of depression screening and treatment. They hope to develop a package to sell to organizations whose patients would benefit from the intervention.

Announcements

Vial of Life

Cathy presented information on the “Vial of Life.” This vial looks like an oversized prescription bottle, yet it is a receptacle for vital important information on household residents needed by first responders in an emergency. Each AC member received his or her own vial. The Vial of Life includes instructions, a refrigerator magnet, and a sticker for a front door or window. In addition, the vial includes forms for household members to record vital statistics, advance directives, and medical and emergency contact information. The vial is to be stored on the top shelf of the refrigerator. The Kirkland Senior Council, the Bellevue Network on Aging, Bartell Drugs and Medic-One, are sponsors of the campaign. Additional vials may be purchased from Bartells for \$1, and are free from sponsoring agencies while the supply lasts.

Falls workshop

Don attended an excellent Falls Prevention Workshop given by Irene Silver, from DSHS. He was surprised that the statistics indicate that people over 60 have four times the risk of falls than their younger counterparts due to the loss of strength in their legs and their balance. The King County MS will give groups \$200 to host a Public education seminar on falls.

Medicare Bill

Dr. Gross gave an update on the Medicare bill. It appears the 50% mental health co-pay will become equivalent to the 20% physical co-pay in the future.

National Council on Disabilities

Michael reported that the Quarterly Meeting of the National Council on Disabilities will be held in Seattle on July 14-16 at the Renaissance Hotel. One of the main agenda topics is emergency preparedness. Local presenters include: Greg Nickels, Mayor, City of Seattle; Barbara Graff, Director, Seattle Office of Emergency Management; Susan Reinertson, Regional Administrator, Region X FEMA; and Lieutenant Dave Beste from the Bellevue Fire Department. Michael encouraged members to attend. The website may be found at http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/quarterly/2008/agenda_july14-16-08

Hunger Summit

Linda Woodall gave an update on the recent Hunger Summit where participants discussed system gaps and brainstormed solutions to meet the needs of the community. A second subcommittee will meet at Shoreline on July 17 at 10:00 a.m. to identify strategies to move forward, and will convene again on July 24.

Linda reported good news from the State of Washington, which will increase the food stamp subsidy to \$200 beginning in September. EBT food card may be accepted at many farmers’ markets (those with the EBT scanner).

Medicare scam

Rose reported a Medicare card scam where callers tell seniors a new Medicare card is being issued and they ask for personal information.

DSHS project

Amy will prepare a report for the governor with outcomes for a number of issues. The Elder Abuse topic was timely in that the current practice is to close APS reports within 90 days. The presentation highlighted the complexity of these cases and the need to keep them open longer. For more information visit www.accountability.wa.gov.

Primary election

Don reminded everyone to get ready for the August 19 primary election. July 19 is the last day changes may be made to your voter registration.

Social Security COLA

Maria Cantwell is sponsoring a bill to tie the Social Security COLA to a more accurate inflation adjustment.

Adjourn: 2:00 PM

Next Meeting

August 8th is the next AC meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, August 8, 2008

Noon – 1:45 p.m.

2009 Preliminary Discretionary Allocation Overview & Comment 1:45

4060 Conference Room, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave

Seattle, WA 98124

www.adsadvisorycouncil.org