

# 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

**MAY 8, 2009**

### MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst,	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pierre Loebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silversity Madrazo, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin
<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 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, Member at Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Deerr-Lord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy VonWald, AC Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

<b>Excused Absence</b>	Tim Burgess, Lorna Stone, Kate Slaminko, Julie Peterson, Phil Pitruzzello, Amy Astle-Raaen, Thelma, Pegues, Rose Finnegan, Dr. Robert Gross, Jacqueline Deer-Lord, Barbara Hurst
<b>Guests:</b>	Jennifer Wieland (speaker), Marsha King, Richard George, Zelalem Kassa, Elizabeth Phelan
<b>ADS Staff</b>	Karen Winston, Doug Ricker, Gigi Meinig, Maria Langlais, Rosemary Cunningham
<b>United Way Staff</b>	Linda Woodall
<b>King County Staff</b>	Deborah Kuznitz
<b>City of Seattle</b>	Pamela Piering

### Welcome and introductions:

**Cathy VonWald, Chair**, welcomed Advisory Council members and ADS staff to the meeting. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

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

Co-sponsored by:



**Program:**  
**City of Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan roll-out**  
**New developments in transportation for seniors and the disabled**

**Area Plan Objective:** *Increasing Independence for Frail Older Adults and People with Disabilities*

**1. City of Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan:**

Jennifer Wieland an Associate Transportation Planner in the Policy and Planning Division of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is a member of the project team for the City of Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan. As part of the official SDOT roll out Jennifer presented Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan to the ADS Advisory Council and described other pedestrian initiatives in King County.

Jennifer began with an overview of recent King County-wide safety initiatives. According to a recent survey from 35 of 39 municipal jurisdictions:

- 20% have a formal safety education effort in place
- 12% have a pedestrian safety website
- 83% ticket or warn drivers for failing to yield to pedestrians
- 63% ticket or warn pedestrians for crossing illegally

While Seattle is a national leader pedestrian in pedestrian policies and infrastructure, challenges still exist for pedestrians. For example, 27% of Seattle does not have sidewalks.

Seattle's planning process began in 2007 with the help of an advisory board and partnerships with community groups and police. The vision was to make Seattle the most walkable city in the nation through the following goals:

- Safety – Reduce the number and severity of crashes involving pedestrians
- Equity – Make Seattle walkable for all through equity in public engagement, service delivery, accessibility and capital investments
- Vibrancy - Develop a pedestrian environment that sustains healthy communities and supports a vibrant economy
- Health - Raise awareness of the important role of walking in promoting health and preventing disease.

Planners created effective tools using an innovative approach to gather information. They completed a comprehensive citizen survey, included feedback from roundtable discussions and gathered an extensive amount of data. The plan includes:

- The *Pedestrian Environment Report*
- Recommendations
- A toolbox with options for enforcement, education, design, engineering, planning, accessibility, land use, zoning, equity, health, environment, encouragement and funding
- System plan
- Funding and implementation
- Performance measures

The plan, background and reports may be found on-line at:  
[http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pedestrian\\_masterplan/](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pedestrian_masterplan/)

### **Questions and Answers:**

Question: Has a pedestrian safety analysis been completed in unincorporated King County?

Answer: *The Public Health Department continues to encourage jurisdictions in the King County region to complete an analysis. Current budget shortfalls may slow the process.*

Question: Will the plan address good design elements in the public right of way?

Answer: *The SVR design company hired by the City to complete the plan will make good design elements a priority.*

Question: The article in the Seattle Times focused on obesity as one of the main health factors of a sedentary society. Was this based on data?

Answer: *The plan addresses six positive health outcomes which should see improvements once people begin to use pedestrian corridors.*

## **2. New developments in transportation for seniors and the disabled.**

Michael Miller, past ADS Advisory Council Chair and Director of Sound Transit's Accessibility Unit gave an update on changes to the Puget Sound Regional Transportation network which affect seniors and people with disabilities. The biggest change is the switch to the ORCA smart card. The card uses "smart" technology to automatically account for different fares and transfer times. Riders may re-load transportation cards by phone 1-888-988-6788, by mail, over the web at [www.orcacard.com](http://www.orcacard.com), and at participating retail locations such as Bartells or at vending machines on rail platforms. The cards may be used on trains, busses, ferries throughout the Puget Sound area. Here are some changes riders will see in the near future:

- Within 6 months paper transfers will be eliminated requiring people to pay for every trip if they do not have the ORCA card.
- Reduced regional fare permit holders must switch their current card to the ORCA card. Riders will no longer be able to buy "paper stickers". Sound Transit and Metro are still in the transition period. Some riders have had difficulty with the new card, so keep your current passes until full implementation.
- Employer-issued passes will receive the new ORCA card at the end of the year.
- Consider registering the card so if lost or stolen the rider will have their value transferred from an "electronic purse".
- Consider buying the ORCA pass right away to avoid a future up-front cost.
- Michael is willing to set up a briefing at locations where seniors congregate such as senior centers or retirement communities. Contact him to coordinate.
- The Seniors Digest will have information about ORCA in the June and the July editions.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Minutes**

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the previous meeting

### **Planning and Allocations Committee**

Diane Snell reported that the:

*Draft Area Plan Report Card* was reviewed. The current objectives and the draft Area Plan Report Card were sent to aging network providers, key partners, and King County regional planners. New objectives will be brought before the committee at the May meeting.

*Budget Update* – Selina Chow provided an overview and update of the P&A Committee's 2009 discretionary budget allocations and strategies.

- The City of Seattle General Fund: Eliminated Homesharing.
- State Senior Citizens Services Act, July 09-June 2010: reduction in funding for administration.
- Medicaid Case Management/Nursing Services, July 09-Jun 2010: No vendor rate increase.
- Medicaid Home Care, July 09-June 2010: a reduction in client home care hours and a requirement to transition agency family providers to the individual provider program.
- Medicaid Adult Day Health: Possible 70% reduction. Some in-home clients may be served under other waivers, other clients will no longer be eligible.
- Federal Older Americans Act, Jan-Dec 09: An increase of approximately \$317,560 for service allocation, however, a portion is earmarked for nutrition.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:
  - (1) Nutrition services - from now until December 2010 a \$450,000 or 6% increase in meals.
  - (2) Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program - \$75,000 increase.

*Preliminary recommendations* - More information was requested regarding Special I&A, Nutrition Services, Volunteer Transportation and Adult Day Health. However, committee members agreed to schedule an additional meeting to finalize their preliminary recommendations.

Advisory Council members moved, seconded and passed a motion to accept the initial allocation. Once finalized the recommendation will receive a hearing then be presented to the Sponsors for approval.

### **Outreach and Advocacy Committee**

Don Moreland reported the senior community did not fair as badly in this round of State legislative cuts as other constituents, although severe cuts were made to Adult Day Health. Don praised Jerry Riley, Margaret Casey, Tony Lee and AARP for their efforts in Olympia. Don also commended Eric Pettigrew for supporting senior initiatives.

According to Don further efforts will be needed by the Advisory Council to contact legislators. He praised Advisory Council members who took part in the Senior Lobby days and suggested

the council begin to develop a strategic message to on how to protect senior programs in the future.

Don distributed a “Legislative Wrap-up” written by Margaret Casey. The document outlined the major State legislation affecting seniors including:

- Senior Citizens Services Act administrative funding decrease by \$284,000.
- Adult Day Health 70% reduction. Clients living in Adult Family Homes are no longer eligible for services and funding for transportation to the center was eliminated.
- Medicaid in-home care hours were cut 4% affecting clients and workers.
- Relative home care providers will no longer have the option of working for an agency.
- Medicare Part D co-pays for dual eligible clients were eliminated.
- Two pilot projects to test cost sharing and cost-saving opportunities for persons with special transportation needs was added.
- General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) was reduced by \$65 million.
- Housing Trust Fund saw a 50% reduction in capacity.

### **Universal Design**

Art Mussman reported a new building standard was proposed for single family homes. If adopted, these standards will make homes more accessible and useful for elderly and disabled. While the new standards will not be incorporated into building codes it is a good start which will guide builders of single family homes.

### **State Council on Aging**

1. Cathy VonWald and Don Moreland reported on the latest budget information presented by Bea Rector. Also, on the agenda was information about informed decision making related to Long Term Care. The SCOA invited the Governor to appear in June.
2. The next Aging Readiness Forum will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver.
3. Finally, September is the deadline for the SCOA *Excellence in Action* awards. The King County Area Agency on Aging received an award in 2008 for the Senior Employment program.

### **Director’s Report**

1. Pamela Piering praised the Planning and Allocations committee and Outreach and Advocacy committee members for the extra time and effort they put in each month. Their participation created positive outcomes for the Area Agencies on Aging.
2. Pam expressed her appreciation for the information Jennifer Wieland gave to the Council regarding the Pedestrian Master Plan. She said the ADS staff were inspired to participate in walking groups. The previous year a group walked around lake Washington in 5 mile increments over several months. This year the group will walk to every library over the course of the next few months.
3. Pam commented on the budget situation. While the State budget will see dire cuts, the Federal Older American’s Act budget will see an increase.

4. Project 2020 was pulled back. Pam anticipates the new Director of Health and Human Services and the newly appointed AOA Directors will send the legislation through the channels before it is sent back to congress.
5. Members of the Senior Housing Study group will meet with ARCH and East King County municipalities to discuss senior housing needs.
6. *The W4A State Staff Development Conference* will be held in June. The keynote speaker will be Sandy Markwood, the Executive Director of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. One of the goals of the conference is to provide staff with education related to the big picture. There will also be individual workshops focusing on pain management, veteran's services, and universal design.

**Announcements:**

1. The Snohomish and King Co Advisory Council Executive met to plan the October 9 joint meeting. More to come.
2. Future Advisory Council Programs:

**June 11th** Remy Trupin, Executive Director of the Budget & Policy Center, an economic think tank. He will discuss

- The big economic picture and give an update on where the State is economically.
- Options for raising State revenue from closing loopholes to raising revenue via taxes.
- The most effective way for the Advisory Council to advocate.

**July 10** – Dr. Elizabeth Phalen, Gerontologist at Harborview and Irene Silver representing the State of Washington will present information on falls.

**August 14** – Mike Vowels and Emory Baldwin will present information in flexible Universal Design for Aging in place.

3. Sound Transit is looking for volunteers to help during the roll out of the new light rail system on May 18 and 19 when rides will be free to the public.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**  
**Remy Trupin, Executive Director of the Budget & Policy Center**  
**an Economic Think Tank**

**Friday, June 12, 2009**

**Noon – 2:00 PM**

**4060 Conference Room, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave**  
**Seattle, WA 98124**

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