

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

JUNE 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katty Chow
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Peterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Kaylene Moon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller, Member at Large
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Deerr-Lord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy VonWald, AC Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence	Tim Burgess, Julie Peterson, Midge Levy, Kaylene Moon
Guests:	Remy Trupin (speaker), Marsha King, Valarie Thiel, Lisa Yeager, Karen Lee
ADS Staff	Karen Winston, Doug Ricker, Gigi Meinig, Maria Langlais, Rosemary Cunningham
United Way Staff	Linda Woodall
King County Staff	Linda Wells
City of Seattle	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

Remy Trupin, Executive Director of the Budget and Policy Center
Where is the State economically and what options are available for raising revenue?

Area Plan Objective: Promote Civic and Social Engagement

Remy Trupin is the founding and executive director of the Budget & Policy Center. He directs the activities of the Center with a focus on state budget analysis, strategic direction, and external connections. He is a member of the Governor’s Priorities of Government Guidance Team. Remy’s career includes work at the federal and state level on behalf of foundations and funders. He also produced research and conducted lobbying. He serves on several boards and brings a diverse array of public policy experience.

Remy began his presentation by suggesting that state investment in the state government structure is essential. He explained there are four interdependent values necessary for a well functioning state and quality community life. The success of each value depends on success of the others.

Value	Percent of Washington State Budget
1. Education and Opportunity	52%
2. Thriving Communities & Economic Development	16%
3. Healthy People and Environment	28%
4. Economic Security Including Welfare & Unemployment	4%

The current economic shortfall has affected the ability of Washington state lawmakers to fund investments in the state’s infrastructure. This is due to a tax model adopted by Washington State which relies on sales tax for the majority of the state’s income. The model is considered regressive because it taxes low income citizens at a disproportionately higher level. People making less than \$28,000 per year pay 18% of their income in tax, while the middle 20% pay 11% in tax and the top 1% pay 3% of their income to taxes. There are a couple of ways to remedy this disparity:

1. Initiate a family tax rebate program giving an earned income tax credit to low income households.
2. Initiate an income tax – seen by many as a non-regressive tax. However, the start-up may add an administrative burden to the state and many people oppose an income tax.

Revenue Options: Below are several options states use to raise revenue:

Tax	Percent of Washington State Budget
1. Sales Tax	53%
2. Business and Occupation Tax	19%
3. Property Tax	10%
4. Fees	5%
5. Close exemption loopholes	0
6. Income tax	0

Advocacy:

Remy gave the Advisory Council several tips to effectively advocate:

1. *Timing:* The legislature convenes in October. The summer recess is the best time to make an impact with legislators and state departments that formulate budget requests for the next session. He suggested contacting legislators and department staff to make requests known right away.
2. *Message:* Remind legislators about state values and ask them to continue their investment in the structures/systems in place instead of dismantling systems needed for future generations. Finally, don't pit one service against another for example schools against long term care.

New legislation:

Proposed: Initiative 1033 sponsored by Tim Eyman

The intent of this initiative is to shrink government. The initiative will:

1. Limit general funds in city, county and state government based on population growth and inflation.
2. Reduce taxes if the total general fund revenue is more than the above formula.
3. Ratchet down the base during economic downturns.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Do non-profits have the capacity to fund social services needed by the public?

Answer: *According to Remy, revenue to non-profits has decreased from both foundations and individual donations.*

Question: Will the state legislature apply for federal stimulus Medicaid funding?

Answer: *Recently, Medicaid money was left on the table because there was not enough state match money available in the budget. Since then, Medicaid reduced the amount of match it requires. The legislature may take another look at its options.*

Question: Will there be an income tax in the future?

Answer: The income tax proposal is viewed more seriously now that legislators are considering how to resolve the revenue situation and are preparing for the next session.

Question: What suggestions do you have which will help us advocate?

Answer: 1) Ask legislators to raise revenue and let them know you are willing to provide support for them. 2) Remind legislators about the state's values and the importance of maintaining the structures and systems in place. Rebuilding systems will cost more in the future.

AC Member Comment: What are constituents thinking when they tie the hands of legislators?

Question: How will working families with adult dependents (seniors or disabled children) be affected?

Answer: A proposed "working family tax credit" may increase the number of allowable dependents up to three.

Question: Did the "Gates Study", which focused on the state's regressive tax system, make any suggestions on how to rebalance the tax system?

Answer: When the study's analysis was completed the study found an income tax could be revenue neutral and might be a regressive tax without rebalancing options for low income people.

Question: No one volunteers for a tax increase; in fact, there is a clear distrust in raising taxes. Do you have any suggestions on how to approach the public?

Answer: The Legislature finds it difficult to connect the dots with the public when raising taxes or revenue. Instead legislators should approach the public through an educational process which shows how the increase in taxes or revenue will be of benefit. Once voters understand the critical importance of raising taxes they will support it.

Business Meeting

Minutes

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

Planning and Allocations Committee

Transportation Overview

The committee received an overview on several “Special Needs” Transportation programs. The Washington State statutory definition of “Special Needs” follows:

“People, including their attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.” This includes older adults, low-income adults, children, and adults with disabilities”.

Funding streams for special needs transportation include: 1) Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC); 2) New Freedom; and 3) Formula Programs for Elderly Individuals & Individuals with Disabilities.

The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) is the Washington State entity that manages the coordinating functions of Special Needs Transportation (SNT) and provides some state-level funding. At the regional level, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) develops the regional plan which includes Kitsap, Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties. The plan is expected to be updated by Spring of 2010. King County’s Steering Committee will update its plan by December 2009. The King County plan will then feed into the Regional Plan. P&A Committee members agreed to forward the issue of Special Needs Transportation to the AC Legislative Outreach and Committee for further discussion and to strategize next steps.

2009 Discretionary allocations update and 2010 Discretionary revenue projection

Selina Chow reported the P&A Committee allocation recommendations were approved by the Sponsors last week, and are now out for public review and comment. The allocations included the addition of 2009 Older Americans Act funds. Public comments received by June 11 will be reviewed by the Planning and Allocation Committee, final allocation decisions will be made by the Sponsors in June.

The Planning and Allocations Committee recommended several one-time only allocations in 2009. Other items may be considered for funding through 2010. A recap of the 2009 additional allocations follows:

1. Volunteer Transportation: \$36,000
2. Adult Day Health: \$23,000
3. Special Information and Assistance: \$48,000
4. Health Promotion: \$32,000

Implication of funding

As in past years, the P&A committee may consider:

- 1) Examining the 2009 base funding for continuation in 2010,

- 2) Reviewing options for the increased OAA funding in 2010
 - Continue or discontinue the recent 2009 funding items in 2010;
 - Fund other items
- 3) Examining the impact of local funding reductions in early 2010
- 4) Identifying additional unfunded priorities for 2010

2010 Preliminary Discretionary revenue projections

Funding at the federal level is expected to be steady and possibly increased. Local and state funding is expected to decline.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Don Moreland learned that the Project 2020 legislation will be moved forward at the Federal level. Senator Maria Cantwell is the primary sponsor. Don asked AC members to make an effort to call or email their congressional representatives to advocate for the passage of this important legislation. There are three components to the legislation including:

1. Creation of a national system of Aging and Disability Resource Centers. For the most part these centers will be implemented through the current Senior I&A system.
2. Development of a Nursing Home Diversion program to divert individuals from nursing home care to community services which include in-home, adult family homes and boarding homes.
3. Focus on evidenced-based disease prevention services.

Don reported the Outreach and Advocacy Committee stressed the importance of talking with legislators to advocate for vulnerable persons at risk. He suggested asking representatives out for coffee or lunch to talk with them face-to-face.

Other topics included a discussion about media support. Marsha King gave some insights on how to use the media. At the top of her list was to identify objectives, focus on stories which illustrate issues and are backed up by statistics. Most important, she suggested reaching out to reporters to develop positive trusting relationships.

Karen Lee from Aging and Disability Administration gave some insights into how the state approaches media.

Seattle Housing Levy update from Burgess's Office

The City Council voted to place the seven year, \$145 million Housing Levy on the ballot. If passed by the voters the Levy will begin in 2010.

NW Universal Design Forum on Design and Technology for Healthy Aging

Art Mussman reported the NW Universal Design Conference, held May 28, brought forward a number of innovative ideas about how to age in place. Workshops included information on age friendly communities, co-housing, electronic monitoring, universal and green designed housing, alternatives to nursing care, and ethics surrounding the issue of technology. Art found the speaker on ethics to be most interesting.

State Council on Aging - The SCOA did not meet

Communications Committee

Seniors Digest (SD) receives approximately 13,000 hits a month. The Communications Committee discussed options to make the publication more cutting edge to help fill a void now that traditional news sources are dwindling in number. The committee discussed ways to improve SD:

1. Review the lineup of articles to decide which are the most newsworthy and are of most interest to the readers.
2. Improve the search function by adding a topic driven mode.
3. To better gauge topics of interest, begin gathering data on which articles are receiving the most hits.

The committee took a quick look at the AC web www.agingkingcounty.org. They decided to review each section of the AC web for possible improvements. Maria asked AC members to give her or the committee any suggestions.

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 commented on implementation of the most recent state budget cuts.
 - Across the board cut in home service hours by 4%. The hours must be recalculated and service plans for 8000 clients changed.
 - The switch from agency to individual provider (IP) for relative care providers involves several thousand clients and their caregivers. Clients are given a choice to stay with the agency or keep their relative provider who will be switched to an IP.
 - The Adult Day Health (ADH) funding reduction cut only 8 ADS clients. On the other hand, people with developmental disabilities (DDD) and people in adult family homes (AFH) will no longer be eligible for the service. ADH providers plan to reduce or shift staff and close sites. Recently, AARP initiated a law suit to stop the ADH cut based on the Olmsted Decision which says placing restrictions on where people live is discriminatory.
3. The Exception-to-Policy process may be available for some clients under special circumstances. However, ADS does not know how the policy will be implemented for clients facing cuts to services.
4. A meeting with the Muckshoot and Snoqualimie Nations resulted in a formal agreement and better case management coordination for clients. In particular ADS will assign a specific case manager to clients who are tribal members.
5. Don Moreland and Cathy VonWald attended the W4A State Staff Development Conference in Leavenworth. One of the goals of the conference was to provide staff with education related to the big picture. The keynote speaker was Sandy Markwood, the Executive Director of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Sandy gave attendees some insight into what's happening at the national level and in particular the

Project 2020 legislation. Bea Rector from the State Unit on Aging gave an update on the state funding situation as it related to people using services. Dr. Chris Fordyce provided an interesting insight on prevention programs. Using research they found social isolation and lack of exercise were the top predictors of decline. Other conference workshops included pain management, nutrition, outreach to ethnic communities and universal and green sustainable design. Note: The universal design speakers agreed to give the same presentation to the Advisory Council at the August meeting.

Announcements:

1. The Housing Report will be presented at a July 16th meeting of Eastside Housing providers.
2. Linda Wells gave a high level overview of the King County Lifeboat funding. It is expected that the lifeboat funding will be extended to December 2009. Linda thanked the Advisory Council for their work and the part they play in the political process.
3. Thelmas Pegues shared a success story about her senior center director who faced funding reductions. The director sent an appeal to the membership for donations. Within a day she received over \$5000 to keep the senior center going.

Next Meetings:

July 10 – Dr. Elizabeth Phelan, Gerontologist at Harborview and Irene Silver from the State Department of Health, will present information on falls.

August 14 – Mike Vowels and Emory Baldwin will give a presentation on Universal Design options for aging in place.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Fall Prevention

Friday July 10, 2009

Noon – 2:00 PM

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



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