

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

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www.adsadvisorycouncil.org

MONTHLY MEETING

APRIL 14, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

| City of Seattle | King County | Public Health/United Way |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Holmes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor David Baker, Kenmore | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Andrews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debra Juarez, Sea City Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bev Heyden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Martenson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence Klein, Pending | <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Heersema, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Snyder, Pending | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston, |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mac McIntosh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo, Pending | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel, Pending | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger, SCOA Rep | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Shaw | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Rogers, Pending | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low - Pending | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irma Farsch | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Excused Absence | Debra Juarez, Marsha Andrews, Carolyn Heersema, Florence Klein |
| Guests: | Diana Thompson, ADS Contracts and Administrative staff |
| Staff | Gigi Meinig, Lori Sanford, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Jon Morrison Winters, Allison Boll, Irene Stewart, Angela Miyamoto |
| Speaker | Aaron Katz |
| United Way Staff | |
| King County Staff | Scott Nineman, Leo Flor, Adam Schmidt, Mary Snodgrass |
| Public Health | |
| City of Seattle | Maureen Linehan, Emily Burns, Mercedes Elizalde |

Welcome and Introductions – David Baker

Minutes were approved as written

**Advisory Council Program:
How will proposed health care changes affect Americans?
Aaron Katz, Guest Speaker**

Aaron Katz is a Health Services and Global Health lecturer at the University of Washington School of Public Health where he teaches several graduate level courses in health policy and held numerous academic leadership positions. He has worked in health policy and planning since 1978, serving as a health planner, policy and political adviser developing a deep understanding of the U.S. health care system, its strengths and weaknesses.

According to Aaron the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) seemed inevitable a few weeks ago. However, Congress was unable to gather enough votes to pass due to grass roots organizing efforts among constituents and members opposing the legislation. He expects to see another proposed bill soon.

The goals of the original ACA were to:

- Expand health care coverage.
- Slow the rate of spending on health care.
- Increase health care quality.

What was the effect of the ACA on healthcare?

Medicaid Expansion:

- Medicaid expanded coverage to people with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$16,394 for one person or \$22,108 for a two-person household).
- Nationwide 74 million people receive coverage from Medicaid, of that 11 million are covered under expanded Medicaid. In Washington State 2 million people are covered by Medicaid with 618,000 people receiving health care under expanded Medicaid.
- Thirty-one states including Washington voluntarily expanded Medicaid, and have benefited economically due to an increased federal match.

Individual Insurance:

- Nationwide 13 million people bought insurance through the ACA marketplace of those 11 million received premium subsidies. In Washington 175,000 people bought insurance through the State's marketplace of whom 115,000 received premium subsidies.
- Before the ACA, buying insurance was complicated. Now plan benefits are uniform and people have choices on how much they wish to pay in premiums, deductibles and co-pays.
- Premiums are generally based on competition and usage. The nation's average cost for premiums is \$4932. In Seattle, it is \$2856, and the highest was Anchorage at \$10,848.
- Though newer health care models can reduce the cost of delivering health care, insurance risk pools must include healthy people to keep the cost of care down. Stopping the mandate to buy insurance could undermine the effectiveness of the program.

What can we expect from any new congressional health care bills?

- Changes to Medicaid in the form of block grants or per capital grants to states will increase the cost to states, compete with other state services, infrastructure, safety and education, leaving states to scramble to fund health and long term care programs.

- Changes to Medicare coverage, a benefit Americans have already earned through a lifetime of payroll deductions, could be funded through a voucher system placing seniors at risk as the value erodes due to inflation and rising costs.
- Reduced Medicare solvency.
- An “age-tax” for people 50-64 years of age if premiums are allowed to rise and subsidies lowered.
- No option on the horizon to negotiate lower drug prices.

While not perfect, the ACA reduced the nationwide uninsured population which dropped from 16% in 2010 to 8.6% in 2016. In Washington State the uninsured percentage dropped from 14% in 2013 to 5.8% in 2016.

Question: Will there be an opportunity to expand Medicare coverage to everyone?

Answer: During the repeal process, there has been some new energy around the effort. Probably not likely.

Question: What fixes to the ACA should advocates request from their representatives?

Answer: Continuation of subsidies to the insurance industry to for reduce deductibles and premiums. Second, give the federal government the power to negotiate drug prices.

Question: How will long term care coverage fare under the proposed replacement plans?

Answer: If Medicaid is funded through block grants or a per capita plan, there will be no mechanism for states to respond to increased demand for long term care or higher health care costs for children, people with disabilities and seniors.

Question: Will school health care programs be affected under the new healthcare proposals?

Answer: Yes, however, the largest Medicaid expenditure is in the long-term care system.

Question: Is it true the last year of life is costlier than previous decades?

Answer: Yes. What do we expect?

Question: Do all U.S regions have similar healthcare quality?

Answer: The research shows the more training received by primary care physicians the higher quality of care and better outcomes.

Business Meeting

Minutes: Were approved as read.

Partner Reports

Mercedes Elizalde, from Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez's office reported six Advisory Council Candidates will be confirmed by the Seattle City Council on April 20.

Candidates include:

Appointments

- Florence Klein
- June Michel
- Larry Low

Reappointments

- Molly Holmes
- Lorna Stone
- Mac McIntosh

Emily Burns, Asset & Performance Management Program from the City of Seattle Department of Transportation spoke about the City's sidewalk condition assessment. The final report will include:

- Sidewalk repair and replacement priorities
- An inspection program
- Owner and occupant education
- Funding analysis of system wide repairs and new sidewalks.

She gave a detailed overview of sidewalk surface materials, planting strips and dimensions, and explained factors that breakdown sidewalks including encroaching tree roots, water damage, moss intrusion, cracking, settling, and vegetation obstruction.

King County - Veterans and Human Service Levy

Scott Nineman, Leo Flor, Adam Schmidt, Mary Snodgrass from King County gave a quick overview of reports submitted to the King County Council and Executive. The link to the revised VHSL assessment report and other documents can be found at:

<http://kingcounty.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2941064&GUID=C14ED4AB-E653-4A8E-B627-C5097C39582E>

The report included an assessment of issues affecting aging, housing, homelessness, transportation, and social isolation. The Executive and King County Council are in the process of reviewing the documents in anticipation of the November election. It is expected the cost to homeowners will be five cents per thousand property tax valuation. King County staff will return to the Advisory Council to discuss proposals being considered.

P&A Committee

Sue Shaw reported

Public Hearing: Two individuals representing Hyatt Adult Day Care attended the public hearing. No comments were made regarding the 2017 proposed discretionary budget revisions. The P&A

Committee finalized the 2017 Revised Discretionary Budget Recommendations and voted unanimously to forward them to the Advisory Council and ADS Sponsors for approval.

Motion: The Advisory Council passed a motion to approve the 2017 recommendations and forward them to the Sponsors.

Age-Friendly Task Force: After two years of work, the March 22 Age-Friendly Seattle launch was a success. The Human Services & Public Health Committee passed a joint Council resolution, and the Mayor signed the legislation on March 31. A plan will be developed in collaboration with other city departments. A preliminary plan for the 8 domains is expected at the end of April.

2016 Area Plan Report Card

Karen gave the P&A committee highlights from the draft 2016 Report Card. There are a total of 40 objectives of that 27 (67%) were completed during 2016, and 5 (12%) were less than 50% completed. Next steps - The draft will be forwarded to the Advisory Council and Sponsors.

Advocacy Committee

David Baker reported the committee plans to send letters to the Washington State legislature, congressional representatives and the Veterans Administration. He asked for Advisory Council approval.

A **Motion** was made and passed to: Send letters to King County Washington State legislators thanking the Senate for including rate increase for senior programs, and encouraging the House of Representatives to add the rate increase to their budget.

A **Motion** was made and passed to: Send letters to King County Congressional representatives emphasizing the importance of protecting Medicaid, Medicare and to restore sequestration cuts to the Older Americans Act (OAA).

A **Motion** was made and passed, with one member abstaining to: Send a letter to the Veterans Administration asking them to develop policy to respond to vulnerable veterans who are victims of financial exploitation and abuse.

State Council on Aging

Ava reported the State Council on Aging called their congressional representatives to support OAA IIIB (flexible local funding for seniors), IIIC (congregate nutrition), and IIIC2 (home delivered meals).

NW Universal Design Council

- Tom Minty reported the second quarter meeting will be held in June and will bring together transportation and NW universal design. The steering committee will meet on April 24 at 10 AM.
- Tom is collaborating with the Multiple Listing Service to include accessibility as a searchable field.

Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE)

Angela Miyamoto reported new members were recently confirmed.

Director's Report

ADS Director

- Eight candidates were interviewed the week of April 3rd. A second round of interviews will be held mid-April. She expects the new ADS Director will be hired by mid-May.
- Maureen Linehan's retirement party will be held on Friday, June 2nd from 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Seattle Municipal Tower Room 4060.
- \$243,000 in Senior Farmer's market vouchers will be made available through a lottery. Last year 7000 people applied; 6000 people received vouchers. Applications were published in 11 different languages.

ADS RFPs and RFQs

Nutrition RFP

- The nutrition RFP is scheduled for release the week of April 10. Every four years Area Agencies are required to bid out the service area.

Adult Day-Dementia RFQ

- The adult day-dementia RFQ is scheduled for release at the end of August and will include funding for Memory Care and Wellness Services, earmarked for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Community Shuttles RFQ

- The RFQ closed on March 31. Two applications were submitted. Applications will be reviewed on April 18. A decision is expected by May 15.

Kinship RFP

- Four applications were received. All four agencies currently provide the service.
- The Rating Committee met on March 16 to review and discuss their recommendations.
- Awards are expected to be announced at the end of April.

Adjourn –

2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

May 12th Noon – 2:00 PM

Seattle Municipal Tower

Room 4060

700 5th Ave, Seattle

<http://www.agingkingcounty.org/advisory-council/>