

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

AUGUST 12, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Claire Brannan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor David Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Anderson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/> Bev Heyden	<input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Andrews
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Juarez, Seattle City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Heersema,	<input type="checkbox"/> Katty Chow
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Martenson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Mac McIntosh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger, SCOA Rep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston,
<input type="checkbox"/> Sue Shaw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Excused Absence	Claire Brannan, Katty Chow, Marsha Andrews, Bev Heyden,
Guests:	SHAG residents and guests
Staff	Gigi Meinig, Lori Sanford, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Karen Winston, Jon Morrison Winters
Speakers	Representative Ryu, Seattle City Councilmember Juarez and Isaac, Maureen Linehan
United Way Staff	
King County Staff	Linda Wells
City of Seattle	Maureen Linehan

Welcome and Introductions – Molly Holmes

**Listening session
State Representative Ryu,
Seattle City Councilmember Juarez
Isaac Prevost 21st District Legislative Aide**

The Advisory Council collaborated with Representative Ryu's office and SHAG to coordinate a listening session at SHAG's Interurban Building. Speakers included State Representative Ryu (32nd district), Seattle City Councilmember Juarez (district 5) and Isaac Prevost, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Strom Peterson, 21st Legislative District. The panel responded to questions about Washington's State's Aging Friendly Future. The Advisory Council, the Snohomish County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, AARP, SHAG residents, local healthcare organizations, and Seattle Parks were in attendance.

Maureen Linehan, Aging and Disability Services Director began the session by describing the role of Area Agencies on Aging, the supports and services it provides to communities.

Representative Ryu's 32nd district overlaps King and Snohomish Counties. She has resided in the district for more than 33 years and served as a Shoreline City Councilmember and was elected Mayor in 2008. She is running for her third term as State Representative. She currently chairs the House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs Committee and is vice chair of the House Business & Financial Services Committee. She recently sponsored a "payday lending bill" which tightens the law for payday lenders and helps consumers.

Her district has seen the population grow tremendously and she expressed concern about workers spending an enormous amount of time commuting to jobs. She sees the silver tsunami as a resource for society and the importance of giving people the opportunity to age in place.

Finally, she encouraged everyone to vote and to think hard about the implications of who they vote for as every vote counts.

Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez represents the City's newly formed 5th district where she has lived for over 30 years. Her number one priority is public safety and is collaborating with the community, city council and Mayor to develop a much needed police station in the north end.

She raised concern about rising rents and property taxes which has pushed older folks from their housing. However, she is pleased the Housing Levy passed and supports the HALA recommendations. In addition to housing issues many residents face:

- Food insecurity
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of access to mental health and drug treatment programs
- Few transportation options

Seniors continue to remain one of her priorities. She supports the expansion of Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security to meet the needs of the growing senior population and she is working closely with Mayor Murray to make sure our elders have the services they need to stay at home.

Question: What can be done about older adults who lose their housing?

Answer: Revenue is needed to develop housing and supportive services. The 2017 legislature faces pressure to fund education required by McCleary. This may result in other important issues being pushed aside. Policy makers must hear stories about the plight of families, and be given information about the return on investments in social programs. In other words, it's less costly to help people before they lose their housing and health.

Finally, the Washington State Housing Alliance is supporting a Medicaid waiver to connect housing and support services. If passed the waiver will give the Healthcare Authority the authority to build affordable/low income housing with support services.

Question: What can be done to improve employment opportunities and eliminate ageism?

Answer: Councilmember Juarez responded by saying her Native American community pays seniors to work in schools and hospitals which keeps them active and engaged. As an attorney, Debora felt employers could be sued for age discrimination but cautioned age discrimination is difficult to prove.

Representative Ryu acknowledged people are living much longer. While seniors have the option to retire and take social security as early as age 62, opportunities must be made available for them to remain in their positions or volunteer for programs which pay a stipend. Another option for people with extensive experience is to eliminate requirements to take standardized tests as a condition for employment.

Question: Are you familiar with the Alzheimer State Plan?

Answer: Neither Representative Ryu or Councilmember Juarez were aware of the recently completed plan. Aging and Disability Services will email information about the Alzheimer's plan to both of them.

Question: How will you ensure good transportation options will be available for residents?

Answer: Every other state and nation has a rail system. Not only is light rail important for our region but the bus system in King County must be continually maintained. Furthermore, main thoroughfares such as 145th must be upgraded – a difficult undertaking since 145th is part of three jurisdictions. Representative Ryu has submitted a house member request to study 145th.

Northgate has become a “hot neighborhood”, growing fast in anticipation of the light rail and a decision to target Seattle's 5th district for higher density. The district maintains a hospital, college, and mall. Yet it lacks convenient bus stops, grocery stores and is in need of a community center. The community continues to push for a new light rail station, transit oriented housing and a bridge over I-5 to mitigate the split in the district.

Question: How will you secure funding for transportation?

Answer: Representative Ryu served on the transportation committee. She is hopeful the finance committee will have enough votes to fund transportation in 2017.

Question: How will you ensure Universal Design is incorporated into new construction?

Answer: New housing should incorporate universal design elements during the planning process, avoiding the need to retro fit structures. Many group homes in Shoreline lack universal design features, yet for many participants it is vital to their mobility and quality of life.

Question: Have you considered the needs of people with hearing loss?

Answer: As an attorney, Councilmember Juarez has personally seen the importance of clear communication which eliminates mistakes. Additional resources are needed for medical interpreters and for people with limited English speaking skills. While expensive, (over \$250 for an hour), interpreters help professionals determine if there are cognitive, or medical issues. The audience chimed in saying they appreciated the hearing loop recently installed in the council chambers.

Question: Are there plans to increase the amount of affordable housing?

Answer: The City of Seattle currently gives tax credits to nonprofit low income housing developers. The Council may consider amending the current law to allow private developers a tax credit for creating low income/affordable housing. Also under consideration is an expedited permit process to allow older houses to be moved to other locations. This strategy will reduce solid waste in landfills and create additional housing. The State allocated \$8 million dollars to the Housing Trust Fund during the 2016 session.

Question: How do mobile homes fit into the affordable housing plan?

Answer: Mobile homes are a form of affordable housing. However, many city land use laws prohibit mobile homes. Mobile home park owners continue to sell their property to maximize their return. Many families have become displaced and must move 30 miles or more outside urban areas to find inexpensive housing options.

Question: What other options are available to reduce homelessness:

Answer: It's complicated. The Seattle City Council recently passed legislation in which landlords are no longer able to deny access to housing based on the source of income. Another law is being considered which requires landlords to rent on a first come first served basis. The Seattle City Council plans to vote on whether developers of new projects must allocate a portion of units as affordable or pay into fund to build more units.

Advisory Council Business Meeting

Minutes were approved as written

Sponsors reports:

King County:

- Terry Mark, represents King County as a Sponsor for ADS. According to Terry the Veterans and Human Services Levy provides \$20 million dollars in services and is up for renewal. Fifty percent of the funding benefits veterans and 50% provides human services to the most in need. King County staff are completing a data analysis which could result in more services for seniors.
- Terry welcomed two pending appointees from King County Dick Wu and Cindy Snyder.

United Way no report.

P&A Committee

Karen Winston referred to the P&A Committee memo sent to the Advisory Council regarding the result of the public hearing and the committee's unanimous decision to recommend approval of the 2017 discretionary status quo budget.

A motion was made and passed to approve the 2017 discretionary budget recommendation. The recommendation will be forwarded to the ADS Sponsors for their approval.

The P&A Committee invited Advisory Council members to participate as meal site observers. The work is being done in preparation for a future RFP process. The committee added several meal sites and more visitation dates to the schedule. Transportation will be provided. Contact Karen if you are interested in participating.

Communication Committee

The September 9, 2016 Advisory Council meeting will be held at the Seattle Municipal Tower. The speaker, Andy Nichols, Associate Director Fiscal Policy at the Washington Budget and Policy Center specializes in state budget and tax policy and has served on a legislative Task Force on Tax Reform. He has conducted a thorough analyses of Washington's tax structure. He will give an overview of the current Washington State budget situation, and will provide a framework for the issues which may be used during meetings with legislators.

Legislative candidate forums will be held:

October 4 from 10 AM-Noon, New Auburn Community Center, 910 Ninth Street SE, Auburn
October 10 from 1:30-3:30, North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue

Advocacy Committee

David Baker reported

- The committee approved their State Legislative priority flyer. The 2-sided flyer includes high level priorities and 3-4 detailed legislative asks.
A motion was made and passed to approve the state legislative handout.
- The Committee discussed questions in preparation for today's listening session.

Northwest Universal Design Council

The "Accessible Travel and Tourism" program will be held Monday, August 15, from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Bertha Knight Landes reception room at Seattle City Hall (600 4th Avenue, between Cherry & James Streets). This is an opportunity for businesses and tourists to learn more about Americans with Disabilities Act regulations that will ensure a positive experience for travelers. The forum is free and open to the public.

Directors' report

- Maureen welcomed Jeff Sukuma, Human Service Department Health Integration Strategist and Terry Mark, Deputy Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Director's Office.
- Seattle Mayor Murray and his staff are pursuing the designation of an Age Friendly City. Maria Langlais is leading the age friendly stakeholders work group which will develop a conceptual framework to create a livable community for Seattle residents as they age. Eventually, with the Mayor's support, they will complete a community needs assessment and formalize a design for an age friendly community.
- The Aging and Long Term Care Administration plans to forward a legislative request to increase the budget for the underfunded in-home Medicaid case management program.
- The Advisory Council has contacted Representative Reichert's office and Representative Delbene's offices for appointments.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

September 9, 2016

Noon – 2:00 PM

Andy Nichols, Associate Director Fiscal Policy

Washington Budget and Policy Center

Seattle Municipal Tower

700 5th Ave, Room 4060

Seattle, WA

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