

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

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claire Brannan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Baker, Mayor of Kenmore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Anderson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredrickson	<input type="checkbox"/> Katty Chow
<input type="checkbox"/> Sally Clark, Sea City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger, Former Mayor, Issaquah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Dicks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Provine, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Rogers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berta Seltzer	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Elizabeth Phelan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mac McIntosh	<input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Pak	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Shaw	<input type="checkbox"/> Bev Heyden	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell, SCOA Rep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Excused Absence	Dr. Elizabeth Phelan, Kathe Matrone, Katty Chow, Lorna Stone, Suzanne Pak, Bev Heyden, Sally Clark,
Guests:	Diana Thompson, Eric Martinson, Marsha Andrews, Sue Weston, Karuna, Sandra Miles, Faridah Abdullah, Kia Khamlei,
Staff	Gigi Meinig, Karen Winston, Angela Miyamoto, Lori Sanford, Rowena Rye, Mary Pat O'Leary, Jane Crum, Troy Knutson, Amy Holland, Karen Heeney
Speaker	Pamela Piering
United Way Staff	Linda Woodall
King County Staff	Linda Wells
City of Seattle	Maureen Linehan

Welcome and Introductions:

Ava Frisinger, Chair, welcomed Advisory Council members and ADS staff to the meeting. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

Program: 2015 Legislative Advocacy Preparation

Pamela Piering, former Director of Aging and Disability Services facilitated a discussion about King County's legislative priorities. She also gave the Advisory Council tips and strategies for visiting legislators during Senior Lobby Day. King County has five main priorities.

1. Restore Lost Case Management capacity

Washington State's Long Term Care system is ranked #2 in the country for delivering quality and cost effective services to older adults and people with disabilities. The foundation of this system, the Medicaid Case Management Program, is at risk as a result of flat funding over the previous 10 years and a reduction in 2008, which has eroded capacity, compromised service quality and reduced the amount of care coordination received by clients. Without a rate increase, the health and safety of over 10,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities in King County are at risk. Advisory Councils throughout the State are asking the legislature to invest \$28 million (\$14 million state dollars and \$14 million federal) to cover the cost of Medicaid case management. Funding case management for people living in-home saves long term care (LTC) dollars not spent on more expensive institutional care.

Pam described Community First Choice as an opportunity to fund the lost capacity. Normally, the dollars invested in the State Medicaid system are matched by the Federal Government at 50%. Recently, they offered to pay a higher match of 56% this will free up dollars which could fund long term care (LTC) program deficits. Without the influx of additional dollars King County's case management program will no longer have the capacity to continue. The state's alternative is to bid out this cornerstone program. The disruption to the health and safety of 10,000 complex vulnerable residents poses a financial risk to the state which may include expensive institutional care and increased medical costs.

2. Expand successful programs for Family Caregivers

The Family Caregiver Program helps family caregivers avoid financial catastrophe, and emotional exhaustion. Expansion of the program will provide additional support for caregivers including counseling, support groups, training, and respite. The program saves state Medicaid dollars by diverting clients from entering more expensive care. In Washington State 854,000 caregivers provide services estimated worth \$10.6 billion/year much more than the 1.5 billion allocated to Medicaid LTC services which reaches only one percent of clients.

3. Protect funding for the Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA)

SCSA state funding provides flexible, locally controlled dollars to fill gaps in services giving older adults access to meals, transportation and other supports to stay safe and healthy in their communities. Funding has remained flat for many years, and was reduced by 20% in 2011. Washington's 65+ population will more than double - from 12.3% in 2010 to 25% in 2030. The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A's) use SCSA to fund pre-Medicaid programs for seniors. The W4A is asking legislators to hold the line on funding. Future legislative sessions offer a better opportunity to ask for additional funding.

4. Promote a more secure economic future for all Washingtonians

The W4A is asking the legislature to support HB 1286/ SB 5258 to invest in a study to compare private and public options to fund long term care. Leaving Medicaid as the sole

vehicle for financing long-term services and supports will increasingly press state and federal budgets and leave elderly folks with health and safety issues at risk.

5. Protect Vulnerable Adults

Legislators will be asked to increase funding to support the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), the Office of Public Guardianship (OPG), and a DSHS budget request to fund sufficient investigative staff.

Advocacy Tips:

1. Good advocacy is accurate, brief, and persistent.
2. Hit the high points and use “leave behinds”.
3. Thank legislators for their good work.
4. If legislators ask a question and you don’t know the answer, let them know you will get back to them.
5. Send legislators a thank you email or note as a follow-up.
6. Build a personal connection with both your legislator and aide. If aides are treated well you will have better access to your legislator.
7. Identify as part of a group. This year participants will receive blue scarves which identifies them as part of the Senior Lobby. The unified message supports lobbyists and gives credibility to their work.
8. Legislators are appreciative about constituents visiting Olympia which makes their hard work worthwhile.

Business meeting

Minutes: Minutes were approved as written

Planning and Allocations Committee (P&A)

Berta Seltzer, Chair of the P&A Committee thanked Advisory Council Members who attended a special meeting on February 2nd with John Okamoto, HSD Interim Director. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the case management program (CMP) funding situation. John explained the CMP has remained 50 percent of the ADS budget since 1995. Over 150 case managers from ADS, Evergreen ACRS and CISC serve 10,000 Medicaid clients in King County, which reflects about 26 percent of all clients served statewide. Statewide AAA case management programs have not received a rate increase since 2004 and they saw a decrease in 2008. Locally, ADS spends more than it receives, caseloads are high, the staff-to-client ratio has increased, and the programs continue to lose critical nursing staff.

John discussed how the City of Seattle, acting as umbrella organization for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), did not receive the much needed revenue to cover the costs to administer the CMP. Although, cost saving strategies have been used, the program is not sustainable with the current rates.

While Governor Inslee’s proposed budget included a 9.2 percent rate increase, the Mayor of the City of Seattle submitted a letter to the Governor requesting a 26 percent rate increase. Because of the critical fiscal situation the City finds itself, the Mayor also made it clear that, in the absence of a 26 percent reimbursement increase, the City will no longer be in the position to sustain case management and would terminate the City’s contract and transition the program back to the State. The legislative session will determine whether the increase will be forthcoming. The City intends to follow the State legislative budget proceedings closely.

City staff continue to explore different financial scenarios. AAAs throughout the state are advocating for this issue and are working on strategies to educate legislators who lack understanding about the critical nature of CMPs and the complexity of the clients. AC members were encouraged to inform King County Councilmembers.

Budget Updates

State – Maureen provided an overview of the proposed DSHS budget and noted that there will be one more year of funding reductions, due to the funding formula change a couple of years ago.

Federal – ADS expects to receive the 2015 Older American Act (OAA) allocation in late March or early April. ADS anticipates 2014 some carry-over funds from OAA & SCSA budgets. More information should be available by the March P&A committee meeting.

Regional Task Force Update

Maria reported that letters were sent to King County municipal mayors, intended to educate them about the role/functions of AAAs and to discuss opportunities for working together on behalf of older people and adults with disabilities. Two cities have responded – Burien and Sea-Tac. She will follow-up to schedule meetings. Maureen asked the Task Force to also reach out to King County Council members. Karen provided an update about the three regional *Focus on the Future Forums*.

Outreach and Communications Committee

The Outreach and Communications Committee Co-Chair Claire Brannan gave an update on the programs topics for 2015

March 13

Livable Communities: Jeannette Franks “To Move or Stay Put”
Maple Valley Community Center

April 10

Parallel issues between DDD, mental health, and aging health issues
Seattle Municipal Tower

May 8

Long Term Living: Retirement and Long Term support options
Sno-Valley Senior Center, Carnation

Advocacy Committee

Mac McIntosh, Chair of the Advocacy Committee gave an update.

Senior Lobby Day February 26

The February 26th, Senior Lobby Day priorities were reviewed and revised. The “leave behinds” were identified and Maria will add the following documents to the ADS web-site.

1. Description of the King County Area Agency’s Medicaid CM decision
2. Map of case management clients per legislative district
3. DSHS AAA case management decision package
4. DSHS Decision package for Pre-Medicaid services
5. Description of SCSA

Pam pointed out that the JLEC on Aging and Disability recommended using Community First Choice Savings from the increased Federal match to fund W4A's priorities including

1. Family Caregiver program
2. Medicaid rate enhancements
3. Restore hours for client home care cuts
4. Pre-Medicaid services
5. AAA case management rate increase

Other priorities supported by the W4A were reviewed including Medicare Observation, Silver Alert, and the LTC option study.

Seattle Commission for People With Disabilities

Sue reported that she attended the fifth meeting of the ADA Anniversary Committee. The ADA anniversary celebration will be held July 23rd in the Bertha Landes Room.

Regionalism

Ava reported she and Maureen will meet with the SeaTac City Council on March 24 to introduce them to the "demographic Agewave" and let them know about ADS services available to their residents. Secondly, Ava and John Okamoto met with Deanna Dawson from Sound Cities to talk about the AAA CM issue. Sound Cities representatives were receptive and plan to contact their board about the issue.

United Way Report

Linda Woodall reported United Way's five year strategic planning process will begin in July. They have already met with many agencies and stakeholders.

ADS Director's report

Maria Langlais reported on behalf of Maureen Linehan.

1. The Duals Program is no longer a viable option. Health plans dropped out due to the low reimbursement rate.
2. Case management program
 - A statewide taskforce will revisit the current case management model to look at ways to streamline the program.
 - City of Seattle Office of Intergovernmental relations continues to communicate with legislators in Olympia – the issue is a high priority.
 - King County has not been quick to embrace the importance of the case management issue – the Advisory Council was encouraged to share information with their county council representatives.
 - The Mayor met with ADS staff. Many felt more hopeful after the time he spent with them.
3. Two bid process continue: the Family Caregiver and ADRC – Community Living Connection. Maria thanked AC members who are helping with the bid processes.

NW Universal Design

1. The January 8, 2015 NW Universal Design meeting featured Molly Erin McCabe "*The Beauty of Universal Design*". Molly is an award-winning kitchen and bath designer and co-owner of A Kitchen That Works. She discussed livability, and why it's important to create environments that are usable by all people. A copy of Ms. McCabe's Powerpoint

presentation, *"The Beauty of Universal Design: Designing and building for people of all abilities,"* is available online

http://www.environmentsforall.org/docs/Presentation_2015Jan8_Molly-McCabe.pdf

2. On Thursday, April 9, 2015 (10–11:30 a.m.) The NW Universal Design Council will hear UW gerontologist Jeannette Franks, PhD, discuss how and where to live in your last decades. She is a passionate lecturer and writer about successful aging, ethics, grief and loss, retirement options, and end-of-life issues. Her most recent book, *"To Move or To Stay Put: A Guide for Your Last Decades,"* helps older adults and families make good decisions about aging and living. She is an advocate for accessibility for all people. The event is free.

Announcements

1. February 19, 10 AM: The premiere screening of the ADS documentary, *"Our Elders, Our Selves: Visiting the Past, Planning for Our Future."* is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, at Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Room. Mayor Murray is expected to attend.
2. March 6, 10 AM, *Focus on the Future Forum - Health & Well-Being*, Mountlake Terrace Senior Center 23000 Lakeview Drive, Mountlake Terrace, WA
3. March 30, 9:30 AM, *Focus on the Future Forum – Community Design & Health Aging*, Mountain View Community Center, 3607 122nd Avenue East, Edgewood, WA
4. April 3, 9 AM, *Focus on the Future Forum – Behavioral Health & Memory Care*, WA Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

March 13, 2015, 11:45

Jeannette Franks

To Move or Stay Put: A Guide for Your Last Decades

Maple Valley Community Center

22010 SE 248th St, Maple Valley, WA 98038

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