

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	Public Health/United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Molly Holmes	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Florence Klein	<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Heersema,	<input type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston,
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone	<input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Snyder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty
<input type="checkbox"/> Mac McIntosh	<input type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Sawczuk - pending
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger, SCOA Rep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Becker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Shaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irma Farsch	<input type="checkbox"/>

Excused Absence	Debra Juarez, Marsha Andrews, Carolyn Heersema, Kathe Matrone, Molly Holmes, David Baker, Mac McIntosh, Cyndy Snyder, Lorna Stone
Guests:	Issaquah Community
Staff	Gigi Meinig, Andrea Yip, Mary Pat O'Leary, Angela Miyamoto, Terry Ann Lee, Allison Boll, Jon Morison Winters,
Speaker	Ava Frisinger, Pamela Piering, John Wilson, Klaas Nijhuis, Clark Fulmer, Yichuan Zhao, Shawli Hathaway
United Way Staff	
King County Staff	
King County Public Health	Mary Snodgrass
City of Seattle	Cathy Knight

Welcome and Introductions – Ava Frisinger

Minutes were approved as written

Business Meeting

Minutes: Were approved as written

Nominating Committee: June Michel announced the slate of officers to be voted upon at the November meeting:

- Chair: Ava Frisinger
- Vice Chair: Dick Woo
- Secretary: Cynthia Snyder
- At Large: Dave Rogers

Art of Alzheimer's –The next event will be held on September 27 at Benaroya Hall. Jean Smart, Emmy Award-winning actress and Alzheimer's champion will be the guest speaker. She will discuss her experiences and give her perspective on caregiving and support for loved ones with Alzheimer's.

Partner Updates

King County Public Health:

Mary Snodgrass reported they are concerned about the latest Congressional vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act which will cause thousands of people in King County and throughout the state to lose their health care.

Planning and Allocations Committee

No meeting until January

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee updated their advocacy priorities (below):

- Preserve and increase affordable, accessible housing (No funding available until the capital budget is passed).
- Create legislation that enables more older adults to qualify for the Senior Property tax exemption.
- Increase long term care and case management services.
- Create capacity for the Dementia Action Collaborative.
- Ensure Medicaid coverage for hearing and vision.

The following meetings have been scheduled with Legislators:

- Senator Sharon Nelson
- Representative Cindy Ryu
- Representative Mia Gregerson
- Senator Saldana

State Council on Aging

No meetings July and August.

NW Universal Design Council

The next meeting will be held September 22 where they will review their mission.

Age Friendly

- Pedestrian Potluck (September 20, 2017 at Jefferson Park)—a fun and free end-of-summer potluck. Learn about pedestrian safety efforts and pick up free safety swag. Hot dogs and drinks provided; salads and side dishes welcome. RSVP at sound.steps@seattle.gov or 206-684-4664.
- "A City for All" Hackathon (September 22–23, 2017 at Seattle City Hall) - The City of Seattle's Civic Technology Program is hosting an Age Friendly Seattle hackathon.
- "Engaging Aging" Women's Equity Forum (November 6, 2017 at Seattle City Hall)—save the date! For more information or to RSVP www.surveymonkey.com/r/EngagingAging.
- Age Friendly Task Force—For more information, e-mail agefriendly@seattle.gov.
- Age Friendly Street Design

Director's Report

Cathy Knight reported

Federal

- Congressman Dave Reichert will not seek another term.
- N4A Update

Two amendments to increase funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) came up for consideration by the full House this week. N4A is encouraging advocates to call their representatives.

 - Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) proposed an amendment to boost OAA Title III B \$350 million supportive Services funding by \$14.2 million.
 - A second amendment proposed by Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Dave Loebsack (D-IA) would boost OAA Title III B, C and E programs \$51 million.

Note Definitions:

Nutrition Services (Title III-C): Includes congregate and home-delivered meals to increase the health, functionality, and quality-of-life for millions of seniors.

Supportive Services and Senior Centers (Title III-B): Includes services that enable older adults to remain in their own homes to age in place, rather than enter institutions. The most frequently provided services are home health, personal care, and transportation.

National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E): Includes services to help ease the burdens of caregivers, including respite care, counseling, and supplemental services.

State updates

- The operating budget passed and included.
 - A 2% vender increase for case management,
 - A funding error in the budget reduced mental health services.
- The capital budget remains in limbo.
- The W4A is exploring alternative methods of funding in-home Medicaid case management to maintain Washington's high quality, cost effective long-term care system. Options include basing funding allocations on a state caseload forecasts similar to nursing facilities and Developmental Disabilities systems.

Senior Lobby

- The monthly Senior Lobby meeting will be held on Monday, September 18 at 10 AM in Lacy.

October W4A gathering and Senior Lobby Conference

- Advisory Council members were encouraged to participate in the Statewide W4A gathering and Senior Lobby conference held on October 18 and 19 in Tacoma. It's an opportunity to network with Advisory Council members throughout the state, celebrate, and learn about more about Medicaid, advocacy opportunities, and hear from partners and policy makers.

Program

Housing Forum Issaquah Senior Center

Ava Frisinger, Former Issaquah Mayor opened the Program

Pam Piering, Former Aging and Disability Services Director was the Moderator

Panelists included

- John Wilson, King County Assessor, Department of Assessments
- Clark Fulmer, Director, King County Low Cost Housing Repair Programs,
- Yichuan Zhao, Regional Manager, King County Housing Authority
- Shawli Hathaway, Assistant Director Resident Services, KCHA
- Klaas Nijhuis, Senior Planner, ARCH – A Regional Coalition for Housing

The audience was given the opportunity to raise their concerns about housing which included:

- Vast increase in the cost of rentals.
- Importance of staying in home.
- Scarcity of housing.
- Importance of planning for “long-term homes” that allow people to age in place.
- Transportation, an essential element to age in place.
- Change building code requirements for senior facilities to accommodate people as they age.
- Provide tax exemptions for Universal Design.

Panel Presentations/Discussion

John Wilson, King County Assessor, encouraged seniors making less than \$40,000 per year to apply for the property tax exemption at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/Forms.aspx> . Recently they've received 7500 new applications resulting from increased outreach.

Klaas Nijhuis, ARCH “A Regional Coalition for Housing” (geographic scope: East King County) provides subsidies for homes, community planning, and affordability. Klaas reported, 20% of their investments are for senior housing.

Clark Fulmer, King County Housing Repair Program helps older adults age in-place (Note: 80% of their clients are seniors) through the Home Access Modification Program. Approximately 150 applications are received each year serving areas outside Seattle, Auburn, Kent, and Federal Way (those jurisdictions have their own programs). In addition, a Mobile Home Grant Program is available.

Yichuan Zhao, Regional Manager King County Housing Authority

The King County Housing Authority provides public housing and Section 8 vouchers outside the Seattle and Renton city limits. Half of their public housing portfolio dedicated to senior housing.

KCHA also provides moderately subsidized housing, including a senior building in Issaquah. Unfortunately, the Section 8 waitlist is currently closed.

Shawli Hathaway, Assistant Director Resident Services, King County Housing.

The Resident Services Program at KCHA is designed to improve life outcomes. Eight full-time staff provide service coordination to support residents so they are able to maintain their housing. KCHA maintains strong partnerships with community providers including: Sound Generations, Full Life, AmeriCorps, cleaning & decluttering services, weatherization and reasonable accommodations.

Panel Discussion

Question: How should we adapt to the future?

Answer:

Shawli: KCHA is currently developing an aging-in-place plan, a Transit Oriented Development plan, and improvements in service coordination.

Yichuan: Preservation of this region's affordable housing. KCHA recently acquired senior housing in Bellevue and Redmond. They look for building and community accessibility, including walkability.

Clark: Continue outreach to folks unconnected to services. Their programs offer deferred, no payment equity loans. (Note: Reverse mortgages can make it difficult, but they are exploring options to make it work).

Klaas: Connects with non-profit developers and electeds. For example, a recent Redmond project in partnership with Providence co-located with a PACE program. Projects take will & partnerships. ARCH collaborates with Eastside cities on building codes to expand affordable housing options. Such as providing information to cities integrating Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) into building codes.

John: The Assessor's office is making it easier to qualify for property tax exemptions by taking away the hurdles. The current \$40,000 threshold is too low for King County. They are also looking at creating a property tax exemption to preserve existing housing and encourage building ADUs by making building codes senior friendly. Another option they are pursuing is changing zoning requirement to allow the placement of age-friendly housing at the ground level.

Question: How do you let residents know about property tax exemption?

Answer: John: Social media, partnerships, events. They may pursue other partnerships, e.g. tax prep agencies.

Question: Is there a tax exemption for accessible ADUs?

Answer: John: There is no exemption currently. We can encourage. If passed it might not apply to existing buildings.

Question: Can you provide contact info for your agency?

Answer:

- John Wilson, King County Assessor, Department of Assessments john.wilson@kingcounty.gov, Sara.Franklin@kingcounty.gov, 206-263-1105
- Clark Fulmer, Director, King County Low Cost Housing Repair Programs (clark.fulmer@kingcounty.gov)
- Yichuan Zhao, Regional Manager King County Housing Authority YichuanZ@kcha.org
- Shawli Hathaway, Assistant Director Resident Services, KCHA ShawliH@kcha.org
- Klaas Nijhuis, Senior Planner ARCH, KNijhuis@bellevuewa.gov

Question: How many applications are received for housing repair program? How are they vetted?

Answer: Clark: 125-150 completed projects a year. Applications must fit HUD's guidelines for household size & income. Eligibility is 80% of AMI.

Question: Can you provide an overview of SHAG?

Answer: SHAG, is a Washington non-profit organization, formed approximately 30 years ago to build stable housing for seniors. SHAG properties charge a higher rent than public housing. They have a small service coordination program.

<https://www.housing4seniors.com/>

Question: Where to start?

Answer: ARCH created a housing resource binder for senior centers. A great place to start is your local senior center. There are a range of options in the binders. Also, people can contact Community Living Connections- 206-962-8467 and 211, or search listings on Craigslist, <http://www.housingsearchnw.org/> and/or provider websites.

Question: What support is available for caregivers?

Answer:

Clark: We receive applications to address the needs of live-in caregivers.

Shawli: Caregivers are underappreciated and under-resourced. A reasonable accommodation may allow residents with live-in caregiver to qualify for a 2-bedroom unit and address any medical need. Examples include tub cuts, walk-in shower, widening doorways, etc.

Question: Can we bridge the need of affordable housing and impact of increased density?

Answer:

John: This is a central policy issue. Could we have a homestead exemption? What about renters?

There is a challenge of equity and affordability. Can we incentivize affordable housing?

Use transfer of development rights? Growth is good, but we need to address affordability.

Klaas: Jurisdictions have affordable housing requirements. e.g. downtown development requires affordable housing.

Yichuan: People are being pushed out. We are looking at preserving housing in areas of high density and opportunity.

Question: What is the effect of Amazon's new headquarters outside the region?

Answer: Amazon has driven housing demand. The impacts are uncertain. Amazon recognizes the affordability crisis. Vancouver BC and San Francisco are the examples. Tech firms need to invest in housing.

Question: Tell us more about homelessness?

Answer:

John: Recently spoke with Executive Constantine and Fred Jarrett. They identified two surplus King County properties. The cost of building one unit of homeless housing is \$350k+. One concept being explored is to put modular units on surplus land. An ADA compliant modular unit is \$70,000. In Seattle two acres have been identified which could fit 100 units. We have the resources, it's a question of will.

Shawli: KCHA has the lowest eviction rate of housing authorities. They are ending veteran homelessness through the VASH program. One individual lived in the woods for 20 years. Prevention is the key to address homeless children and families and end chemical dependency.

Clark: The home repair program is a homelessness prevention strategy in which people can age in place in a safe environment.

Question: Of current trends/challenges, how can we be part of the solution? What can we do together?

Answer:

Klaas: The community can solve homelessness by working with ARCH and having conversations with electeds. An example was the collaborative partnerships working together to build Bellevue's homeless shelter.

Yichuan: Important to be involved e.g. homeless shelter in Bellevue required partnerships.

Shawli: Highland Village began with learning about the situation from community members through the school. Partnerships are key – school, healthcare, local government, etc.

John: Take a holistic view of housing. It is a fundamental need. Demand that we work together to change rules and break down silos.

Clark: The King County home repair program works with Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, churches, etc.

Adjourn –

2:15 PM

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
November 17, 2017
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 5th Ave, Room 4060
Seattle, WA**



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