

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

MARCH 10, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

| City of Seattle | King County | Public Health/United Way |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Martenson |
| <input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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|--------------------------|---|
| Excused Absence | Debra Juarez, Marsha Andrews, Carolyn Heersema, Mac McIntosh |
| Guests: | Diana Thompson, ADS Contracts and Administrative staff |
| Staff | Gigi Meinig, Lori Sanford, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Jon Morrison Winters, Karen Winston, Allison Boll, Mary Pat O'Leary, Irene Stewart, Angela Myamoto |
| Speakers | Dr. Christine Fordyce |
| United Way Staff | |
| King County Staff | Linda Wells |
| Public Health | |
| City of Seattle | Maureen Linehan & Andrea Yip |

Welcome and Introductions – Lorna Stone

Minutes were approved as written

**Advisory Council Program:
The Next Generation: Consumer Voice in Health Care
Kaiser Permanente Senior Caucus.
Christine Fordyce, MD**

Dr. Fordyce gave the background and history of Group Health Cooperative, now part of Kaiser Permanente, and the role of the Senior Caucus. Group Health was founded in 1947 as a progressive consumer driven non-profit health care system. It serves over 672,000 members throughout the northwest. Unlike top down health care management models, Group Health has always been consumer governed.

In 1976 Group Health was one of the first health care organizations to receive Medicare payments based on risk scores rather than fee for service. Soon after, Dr. Bruce Perry was hired as one of the first geriatric service directors in the nation. He understood frail older adults needed higher levels of care. Group Health's research concluded geriatric best practices, and health promotion served people living in their own homes with chronic conditions more effectively. Their emphasis on senior care and research improved patient outcomes and created cost effective services by encouraging physical activity and the use of community based services. Above all it found social isolation to be detrimental to positive health outcomes. This realization led to the development of the enhanced fitness programs.

In 1982, Dr. Charles Strothers formed a task force focused on death with dignity. The Senior Caucus grew out of the initial task force. Today, they weigh in on benefits, service delivery, senior care planning, actively participate in research studies, provide information about what is needed by seniors in health care settings and sponsor educational programs. The Senior Caucus includes 72,000 Medicare members.

In 1997 Group Health faced increased competition in the managed care market. The Senior Caucus played a major advocacy role by writing letters, lobbying and supporting bills that addressed Medicare funding inequities.

By year 2000 the financial picture became better. However, without deep pockets to provide support during challenging economic times the model was unsustainable. This realization, set the stage for the Group Health Kaiser merger. Kaiser's history and commitment to senior care made it a good fit.

Centenarians are the fastest growing segment of the population. The senior caucus creates a powerful forum for executives to receive information about the health care needs of seniors from the consumer's perspective. As part of Kaiser the Senior Caucus benefits by gaining an understanding of the healthcare system. The group meets on the first Friday of every month from 10:30 – Noon on the Capital Hill Campus. For more information click the link <https://www.ghc.org/html/public/governance/caucus>

Questions and Answers

Question: How involved is the Senior Caucus in politics?

Answer: They attend the Senior Lobby, contact legislators, write letters, organize events and forums. Kaiser's lobbyists provide testimony on behalf of the membership.

Question: What type of outreach is done by Senior Caucus?

Answer: Invitations are not generally extended to the general population. Outreach is focused on Group Health members. Meeting information is placed in locations throughout the network including clinics and doctor's offices.

Question: Does Kaiser have plans to reinstate the health care clinic on Vashon Island?

Answer: Dr. Fordyce has not heard whether a clinic will be brought back to Vashon.

Question: How will Kaiser support long term services and supports in communities.

Answer: Kaiser supports a foundation. Beginning in 2020 they will take grant applications.

Business meeting

Advocacy Committee

Ava Reported the Advocacy Committee members prepared for the Monday meeting with Congressman Dave Reichert. They reviewed two letters which will be given to him at the meeting
1) Housing tax credit 2) Proposed Changes to Medicaid. Individuals volunteered to be the point person on each priority.

They expressed concern about changes to Medicare and Medicaid under the proposed American Health Care Act which will negatively affect seniors and the most vulnerable including:

- Insurance company "age rating" which means under the proposed health care law they may charge people 50-64 years of age 5 times more than younger enrollees.
- Tax credits for older adults would not cover the higher expected premiums. Unlike the tax credits received by younger people.
- Repeal of a .9% increase in payroll tax on high income wage earners diminishing Medicare's solvency by four years (to 2022).
- Sweeping structural changes to funding Medicaid through block grants or per capita caps. The provision will endanger the health, safety and care of millions of vulnerable seniors, adults with disabilities and children who rely on essential health and long term care services. The change will place state economies in jeopardy making it difficult to fund state priorities such as education, essential infrastructure, and safety.
- Repeal of Community First Choice which provides higher match funding to states willing to develop home and community based services, a less expensive long term care option (costing one third of institutional care).

Advisory Council Members had the opportunity to view a short easy to understand video about Medicaid at: <http://kff.org/medicaid/video/medicaids-role-whats-at-stake-under-a-block-grant-or-per-capita-cap/>

P&A Committee

Sue Shaw reported the P&A Committee received an ADS budget orientation.

They recommended a revision to the 2017 discretionary budget due to increased need for home delivered meals. Their proposal reallocated funds from underutilized services.

Motion: A motion was made to add \$80,000 to the home delivered meal service base by re-allocating underutilized client specific fund dollars (\$50,000) dollars, and Elder Abuse Prevention funds (\$30,000) which receives dollars from other sources. The motion passed.

The P&A Committee will forward the draft to the ADS Sponsors. The public comment period will begin March 20 and will end on April 3 after the 10 AM public hearing located in the Seattle Municipal Tower Room 4096.

Partner Reports

King County: Linda Wells reported the King County Department of Community and Human Service continues to focus on the 2017 the Veterans and Human Services Levy. They will bring their recommendations to the Advisory Council in April.

City of Seattle – no Report

United Way – No Report

Communication Committee

Eric Martinson reported the Executive Committee will develop the 2017 meeting agenda based on the feedback from the Retreat.

State Council on Aging

Ava reported the State Council on Aging continues to support the same issues as the Advisory Council. Ava had the opportunity to speak to the Health Care and Wellness Committee on February 15 about long term services and supports. She highlighted house bill 1636 which creates a long-term care benefit through a lifetime of payroll deductions. Senator Keiser strongly supports the bill, but it may not move out of the committee this year instead it will be reintroduced next year.

NW Universal Design Council

Tom Minty reported February's meeting at the AIA Design Center on Western Ave was well attended. Marthalee Galeota, Access and Disability Program Manager for the Starbucks Coffee Company spoke about "Accessible Design Integration". According to Tom, "When the principles of Universal Design are considered, early and often, you don't see it, it's just better design." The next steering committee meeting is Monday, March 13 10-11 AM. Advisory Council members are encouraged to attend.

Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE)

No report

Director's Report

Advocacy

Maureen Linehan reported Senator Maria Cantwell is looking to her constituents to help make an economic argument for continuation of Medicaid as an entitlement program. She is concerned about the possibility of changing Medicaid to a block grant or per capita financed program.

Maureen gave an update on several state legislative initiatives.

- Increased case management rate – unlikely to be included in the state budget.
- Health Home reinvestment is a possibility.
- House and Senate budgets will be out by the end of March.
- The revenue forecast will be available later in the Spring.

ADS Staff update:

- Recruiting for the ADS director position will close March 21. Interviews will begin April 6th. Maureen anticipates a new director will be hired by May.
- Maureen will continue to oversee case management and advocacy.
- Andrea Yip was assigned the role of Area Agency on Aging operations manager handling finance, contracts, and planning.
- Angela Miyamoto was appointed as the planning supervisor during the transition.
- Irene Stewart will manage the age friendly initiative during its startup phase.
- Terry Ann Lee was hired as a Human Service Coordinator to staff the Age Friendly initiative.

Age Friendly update

- Maria gave an update on Age Friendly which is a global continuous improvement network with a focus on making communities places to grow up and grow old.
 - Bellevue Network on Aging and Kirkland Senior Council are bringing the Age Friendly concept to their city leaders.
 - City of Seattle Mayor and Council will formalize an Age Friendly Community resolution on March 22nd.

Announcements:

- HIV is ageless – Rainier Beach Community Center March 11th
- AARP has asked for stories about the importance of health care in their lives or the lives of family and friends. Send your stories to Gigi or Maria

Adjourn –

2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

April 14 Noon – 2:00 PM

Seattle Municipal Tower

Room 4060

Seattle Municipal Tower

700 5th Ave, Seattle

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