

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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

Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle, WA 98124-4215

Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, 51st Floor

Tel: 206-684-0660 TTY: 206-684-0702 FAX: 206-684-0689

www.adsadvisorycouncil.org

MONTHLY MEETING

APRIL 8, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bev Heyden	<input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Andrews
<input type="checkbox"/> Debra Juarez, Seattle City Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Heersema, pending	<input type="checkbox"/> Katty Chow
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Provine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Martenson
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone	<input checked="" 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, pending
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Shaw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Wilcox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Excused Absence	Claire Brannan, Katty Chow, Kathe Matrone, Kathy Wilcox, Mac MacIntosh, Marsha Andrews,
Guests:	Paula Houston, Tom Minty, Dave Rogers, Sterling Clarke, Pamela Calderon, Cynthia Snyder, Valerie Kendall, Carrie Hennen, Karyn Poblocki
Staff	Gigi Meinig, Lori Sanford, Jon Morrison Winters, Amy Holland, Jon Morrison Winters, Karen Heeney, Ashley Clayton
Speakers	Jason Johnson, HSD Deputy Director
United Way Staff	Carolyn Cunningham
King County Staff	Linda Wells
City of Seattle	Maria Langlais

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Advisory Council Program Innovative Strategies to Reduce Homelessness

Jason Johnson, the Human Services Department Deputy Director is a key player in Mayor Murray's Homelessness initiative. HSD's yearly budget is \$130 million. The department invests \$89 million in the human service safety net programs for seniors, youth, families, and people facing domestic and gender violence and \$50 million annually to address homelessness. Almost half of the funding for homelessness is Federal and the other half is from Seattle's general fund. The investments include permanent housing, homelessness prevention, homeless intervention, food shelters, day centers, and survival services. Mayor Murray issued a state of emergency during November of 2015. At that time the City allocated a one-time investment of \$7.25 million to connect homeless individuals and families with services.

Research from over 300 cities found higher rates of homelessness associated with:

1. A \$100 increase results in a 15% increase in homelessness in urban areas and a 39% increase in rural/suburban areas.
2. Areas of high poverty and unemployment. (Note: The Seattle area economic boom does not mean conditions are good for everyone as the price for housing and basic needs climb).
3. Low mental health expenditures.
4. A transient and/or growing population in which people arrive for job opportunities or seasonal work, but don't have the financial cushion to handle a lost job.
5. Areas with higher numbers of baby boomers, single person households and racial disproportionality.
 - a. Native Americans/Alaska Natives are 7 times more likely to be homeless.
 - b. African Americans are 5 times more likely to be homeless.
 - c. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders are 3 times more likely to be homeless.

Although Seattle is a prosperous City one in three residents pay over 30% of their income toward housing expenses. More than 10,122 people are homeless in the Seattle/ King County area which ranks third behind New York and Los Angeles. To alleviate the number of people without housing, the Seattle Housing Levy bought 6000 affordable housing units. Together Seattle and King County have created 8337 units of housing. This region is ranked as third behind New York and Los Angeles for the number of housing units built for low income individuals and families.

New strategies to address homelessness:

1. Rapid re-housing intervention provides short term rent subsidies (3-6 months) in private market units for people likely to gain employment. Program participants receive financial assistance, employment training and counseling. Program barriers include high rents and lack of inventory. This is not the case in Houston and Salt Lake where rents are lower.
2. Diversion and flexible funding targets individuals and families that may not need shelter. Instead they are diverted from the shelter system. Case workers are assigned to work with individuals and families using their own support system to return them to permanent housing. A flexible fund buys hotel/motel vouchers, transportation, relocation assistance, medications, work clothes, car repairs and other basic needs. San Francisco and Los Angeles have successfully used this approach.
3. Housing First provides housing and services as quickly as possible. This approach recognizes people are more likely to succeed in holding a job and managing their needs when housed.

Policy shifts include

1. Opening the “back door”
2. Implementing a regional, coordinated system to divert people from homelessness.
3. Aligning homelessness strategies with the region’s affordable housing agenda.
4. Implementing housing first through an integrated citywide response.
5. Using data analysis to inform, shift and align resources.
6. Ensuring funding processes and contracting practices are outcomes driven.
7. Improving coordination and alignment with other funders.

Questions and Answers

1. Question: How has Salt Lake and other cities been successful?
Answer: Salt Lake is committed to provide essential services, such as drug treatment, mental health, and employment. They found it cost \$61,000 a year for emergency services, but only \$16,000 a year to house and treat an individual.
2. Question: The approach between government and nonprofits seems to be piece meal.
Answer: The City’s safety net is threadbare and there are few options for treatment and detox. The goal is to place a roof over people’s heads no matter what condition the person is in. Social workers help them access benefits in which they are entitled (such as veterans’ benefits or social security) and with rent subsidies.
3. Question: Do people want to be homeless?
Answer: No one actively chooses to live outside. The environment deteriorates their health and mental health. Mental health and substance abuse services are not well funded. There is no network to support people as move through institutions. People end up living on the streets as a result.
4. Question: Is it a homeless or mental health problem?
Answer: The federal investment in mental health system took a dip during the Reagan years. Budgets were gutted through 1988. Those funds have never been replaced and it is now the responsibility of states and local government to back fill the loss in the mental health system.
5. Question: How many people were counted during the “One Night Count”?
Answer: During the 2016 “One Night Count” 3000 people were living unsheltered in Seattle and 4500 throughout King County. Suburban cities have seen a huge growth in the homeless population. People who are homeless try to stay invisible making those numbers much higher
6. Question: Do people who are homeless leave Seattle?
Answer: Yes people leave because of violence in Seattle streets. They move to suburban or more rural areas. The Mayor realizes streets are unsafe. Self-managed encampments are safer and more secure.
7. Question: What is local government doing to develop housing and homeless interventions?
Answer: We can’t build our way to eliminate homelessness. Building housing is a slow long term process and relies on leveraging Federal dollars.
8. Question: How many seniors are living in emergency shelters?
Answer: Approximately 23% of people using shelters are seniors.

9. Question: Local neighborhoods are seeing modest homes replaced with expensive town houses with high purchase prices or high rents.
Answer: Invite Seattle’s Office of Housing to attend the Advisory Council to discuss incentivized development for affordable housing and the HALA recommendations.
10. Question: There is an urban legend that people who are homeless are coming to this region because of the generous homeless resources.
Answer: The truth is that the majority of people who are homeless are from the local area. People come for a variety of economic opportunities. They don’t come for our homeless system or “awesome shelters”. Social service agencies use a diversion strategy called homeward bound to move people back to their former community. They are connected to a job, housing and given a stipend before they receive a plane or bus trip to their hometown.

Business meeting

Minutes were approved

Community Living Connections

Angela Myamoto, ADS Planner gave the Advisory Council an initial viewing of the Community Living Community video being developed.

Planning and Allocation Committee

1. Budget Updates
 - a. State
 - i. Funding was included for Individual Providers (IPs) overtime requirements.
 - ii. The Kinship Navigator Program was expanded to tribal communities.
 - iii. The Health Home Program which provides intensive care coordination will continue through the full biennium. A 6% savings is expected.
 - b. Federal – The Older Americans Act passed. Lost funding due to sequestration was restored to nutrition programs.
 - c. Local – City of Seattle/General Fund – The City’s budget process has started.
2. Investment Updates –
 - a. The Case Management Program “Request for Qualification (RFQ)” closed March 1. Three applications were received. An evaluation committee met to review the proposals. The new provider will be announced at the end of April. ADS will temporarily supervise Evergreen Care Network staff until the provider hires a manager.
 - b. The EMS Vulnerable Adult Pilot Project ended in 2015. The project was a coordinated effort between the Seattle Fire Department, ADS, Adult Protective Services, Emergency Medical Services, Seattle area hospitals and the University of Washington. The purpose was to improve identification and reporting of adult abuse and neglect, and increase care coordination, communication among agencies, and improve health outcomes of vulnerable adults in Seattle. The pilot was successful. Based on the findings, it is recommended that this program continue in Seattle and be expanded regionally to King County.

3. King County Veterans and Human Services Levy
 Marcy Kubbs, Levy Administrator, and Leo Flor, Levy Renewal Manager, presented information about the King County Veterans and Human Services levy renewal process. King County voters renewed the Levy in 2011 and will vote again this year on another 6 year levy. The Levy's goals and are grouped into four overarching strategies:
 - a. Supporting Veterans
 - b. Ending Homelessness
 - c. Improving Health
 - d. Strengthening
4. Future Site Visits
 P&A committee members discussed ideas to learn more about ADS funded programs.
5. 2015 Area Plan Report Card – Karen provided an overview of the draft Area Plan 2015 Report Card and highlighted the accomplishments. Next steps: The draft will be reviewed by the full Advisory Council, followed by the Sponsors approval, before it is forwarded to the State Unit on Aging.

Communications

Eric Martenson gave an update about the upcoming Advisory Council programs. The next meeting will be held May 13 which will be an opportunity to hear about human resource best practices geared toward seniors, practical job seeking tips, options to counter age discrimination, community training and job program opportunities, and information about age friendly employers.

Advocacy Committee

David Baker reported the thankyou letter approved by the Advisory Council was reviewed. Changes will be made then it will be sent to King County legislators.

He gave an update about the outcome of 2016 legislation:

1. The Governor signed the Care Act last Friday (HB2424/SB6327). The Senate & House voted unanimously to approve the bill.
2. HB1725/SB5709 passed. The bill gives DSHS the authority to adopt rules related to payment of overtime for individual providers passed. Funding was approved for Individual Providers (IPs) overtime requirements.
3. House Bill 1499 would have increased penalties for the elder financial exploitation failed to pass as did a number of the guardianship bills.
4. Budget:
 - a. \$175,000 for Long Term Care Ombudsman Program was included in the both House and Senate Budgets but was not included in the final budget.
 - b. The Medicaid coverage for hearing and vision which would have cost the state over \$600,000 was not included in the final budget.
 - c. 1115 waiver will move forward. Legislators placed a cap on how much funding may be spent for housing using the waiver.

The Advocacy Committee plans to set their priorities early for the 2017 session. The committee agreed to limit the number of priorities they take to legislators. They plan to explore several options including hearing & vision, less restrictive “guardianship” options, and long term care coverage for state residents. They look forward to working with partners such as Sound

Generations. David encouraged Advisory Council members to forward additional ideas to the committee.

State Council on Aging (SCOA)

Ava Frisinger reported the SCOA focused on the outcome of the 2016 legislative session and visits with legislators. Ava agreed take an active role on the SCOA Legislative Committee.

Northwest Universal Design Council (NWUDC)

Tom Minty encouraged Advisory Council members to attend the April 14 Northwest Universal Design Council event “*Are Your Digital Communications Accessible?*” featuring technology accessibility specialist Terrill Thompson. Terrill has 20 years of experience in IT accessibility and continually works to promote IT accessibility around the world. He will address challenges faced by people with low vision or other disabilities when accessing information online.

The next monthly steering committee will be held on April 18 at 10 AM in the Seattle Municipal Tower 51st floor.

Director’s report

Maria Langlais reported

1. On March 30th, Maureen Linehan, Ava Frisinger and Catherine Lester presented an overview of age friendly communities to Human Services and Public Health Committee chaired by Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw. The presentation focused on the World Health Organization Age Friendly Community priorities and e requirements cities must complete to work toward the designation process. Click the link for the entire presentation <http://goo.gl/zYg2vd>. (Note: Maureen’s presentation begins at about 14 minutes from the beginning). The presentation generated a lot of interest and questions.
2. The Advisory Council is now a member of the Seattle Human Services Commission (SHSC) which will give them an opportunity to submit their recommendations during the City of Seattle budget process.
3. Molly and Maria met with the Sound Generations board to provide input into their strategic planning process.
4. State & federal budget updates:
 - a. The Kinship Navigator Program was expanded to tribal communities.
 - b. The Health Home Program will continue through the full biennium. This service provides intensive care coordination to manage health care and long term care needs of dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid clients. A 6% health care savings is expected. The legislature included funding for King and Snohomish counties to begin Health Home services. DSHS is in the process of figuring rates. ADS will determine if the rate is sufficient to support the service in King County.
 - c. Funding was included for Individual Providers (IPs) overtime requirements. IPs will be paid for working over 40 hours. For hours worked over 60 case management approval will be needed.
 - d. The Federal Older Americans Act passed both houses and the president signed off on the legislation. W4A has asked Advisory Councils to write op-eds or meet with editorial boards to stress the importance of stable funding to support services.

Announcements

Paula Houston, CEO Sound Generations, appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with ADS during Senior Lobby Day. She spoke about the need for allies and advocates, plus the importance of raising consciousness of legislators. Sound Generations recently started their strategic planning process and are emphasizing the importance of partnerships.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**May 13, 2016, Noon – 2:00 PM****700 5th Ave, Room 4060****Seattle, WA**

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