



**Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services**  
*Advocating for local, state, and national programs that promote quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities in partnership with Seattle Human Services and King County.*

**Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2018**

**Members Present**

<b>City of Seattle</b>	<b>King County</b>	<b>Public Health / United Way</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor David Baker, Kenmore	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty
<input type="checkbox"/> Debra Juarez, Sea City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Becker	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Florence Klein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger, SCOA Rep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diana Thompson
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathe Matrone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mac McIntosh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Sawczuk	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Snyder	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zelda Foxall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Excused Absence</b>	Kathe Matrone, Tom Minty, Debra Juarez, Sue Weston, Larry Low
<b>Guests</b>	Emma Herron, Barb Williams, Mi Yeoung Lee, Claire Petersky, Gemma Borg, Ella Williams, Cheryl Brown, Sonia Doughty, Judi Carr
<b>Staff</b>	Gigi Meinig, Karen Winston, Allison Bolls, Mia Kato, Lori Sanford, Maria Langlais
<b>Speaker</b>	Senator Rebecca Saldaña, Cathy Knight, Jon Rudicil
<b>King County Staff</b>	Marcy Kubbs
<b>Public Health</b>	Mary Snodgrass
<b>City of Seattle</b>	Cathy Knight

**Welcome and Introductions: Ava Frisinger**

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**In partnership with:**  

**A Conversation with  
Washington State Senator Rebecca Saldaña  
and  
Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging Director, Jon Rudicil  
King County Area Agency on Aging director Cathy Knight**

The Advisory Council was honored to have Senator Saldaña as part of a conversation with Cathy Knight and Jon Rudicil. She has experience in a variety of areas including worker and immigrant advocacy, transit equity, women's rights, social and racial justice, civic engagement, affordable housing and sustainable community development. Before becoming a Senator, she served as the Executive Director for Puget Sound Sage – a nonprofit that promotes affordable and equitable housing, transportation policies, environmental justice and workers' rights.

Senator Saldaña serves on the Senate Democratic Leadership team, as caucus Whip, sits on the Transportation and Labor & Commerce Committees.

**Introductions:**

- Senator Saldaña represents the 37<sup>th</sup> district an ethnically and financially diverse community which includes Skyway, Central Area, Rainier Valley, Mt Baker, Rainier Beach, and Beacon Hill. She has a keen interest in government policies informed by the community.
- Jon Rudicil is the new Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging Director. During the previous 10 years he worked for both conservative and liberal Legislators.
- Cathy Knight is the King County Area Agency on Aging Director and previously served as the W4A director.

**Panel Question and Answer:**

1. How would you summarize the 2018 legislative session from your perspective?
  - a. Jon: Busiest session he has been involved with during his career. Many bills and progressive legislation was passed within a short period of time.
  - b. Senator Saldaña – Had the opportunity to participate in the longest session during 2017 and the shortest session in 2018. Investments were made in many priority areas.
  - c. Cathy Knight: This was an amazing session so much happened so quickly. Several important W4A bills passed:
    - Respite Caregiver training requirements were reduced. Making it easier to find short term workers.
    - Individual provider hiring, management and administrative work currently done by case managers will be shifted to a new agency. This will free case managers to focus on clinical work.
2. What caucus dynamics will affect funding allocations and bills during the next session related to safety net programs and the growing senior population?

- a. Senator Saldaña: Senator Nelson's retirement will be a major change. The caucus decided not to make changes to committees during the 2018 session, instead, reorganization will begin during the off season. Important issues were identified including:
    - Housing affordability
    - Homelessness,
    - Eviction
    - People living on fixed incomes.
  - b. Jon Rudicil: New players are stepping into leadership positions in important areas such as healthcare.
3. What didn't get done and/or needs follow-up next session?
- a. Cathy Knight
    - Funding case management, a critical service which supports safely aging in place. Area Agencies on Aging will lose dollars once funds are shifted to the Consumer Directed Employment program.
    - Housing – more must be done next legislative session
  - b. Jon Rudicil
    - Case Management
    - Long Term Care Trust Act
    - Dementia Action collaborative
  - c. Senator Saldaña
    - Address inadequate case management funding levels.
    - Work force enhancement for people caring for elders and children.
    - Address the State's Regressive tax system - Seattle has the most regressive tax system in the nation. People must pay their fair share. Those making very little have more of their income taxed.
    - Living wages for state workers.
4. What are you most proud of?
- a. Senator Saldaña
    - Passing Washington State voting Rights act which give immigrants better representation
  - b. Jon Rudicil
    - Funding Magnuson Park upgrades and accessibility.
  - c. Cathy Knight
    - The Advisory Council's important advocacy role which brought recognition of AAAs and the headway made in the long-term care trust Act.
5. In relation to Federal funding, what steps are needed to protect Washington residents as changes in funding are handed down?
- a. Senator Saldaña
    - Potential expansion of healthcare for all. The state must find a way to increase revenue and move forward.
    - Immigration protection and reform.

- Data protection.
  - Avoid placing people in harm's way.
  - Proactive Attorney General.
  - Elevate and leverage legislative voices to carry messages to congress.
  - Collaboration.
  - Political will to move causes forward such as housing and wrap around services.
  - Tell personal stories.
- b. Jon Rudicil
- Having an Attorney General willing to fight detrimental policies.
  - Backfilling key positions.
- c. Cathy Knight
- Proposals to stop potential Medicaid budget cuts which support the most vulnerable.
  - Property tax cuts for people with the lowest incomes.
6. What can the Advisory Council do to be more effective. What grass roots strategies, and collaborations might be helpful?
- a. Jon Rudicil
- Take time to visit legislators in Olympia and at home.
  - Staff report on the number of emails, calls and letters they receive on a particular topic and tally pros and cons.
  - Reach out to people you know.
- b. Senator Saldaña
- Reach out to friends and family in other parts of the state about issues.
  - The legislature is experiencing a number of retirements, suggest AC members reach out and inform candidates about aging issues.
  - Organize forums
  - Ask legislators to champion causes.
  - Letters from organizations such as the Advisory Council also carry weight ADS has cache, experience and connections.
  - Whether people reside in-home or a facility encourage them to exercise their vote.
- c. Cathy Knight
- Agewave forums to educate the candidates.
  - Testimony in Olympia.
  - Emails or letters with personal stories.
  - Aging issues are similar across the state use the state aging network.

## **Question and Answer**

*Question:* What types of revenue options are being considered?

*Answer:* Seattle has one of the most regressive tax systems in the nation. People making the least pay the highest percentage of their income in taxes. Everyone needs to pay their fair share. It's a statewide conversation. The capital gains tax increase for higher earners most likely to be implemented. Could be some interest in property taxes.

*Question:* How will the retirement of key legislators affect the democratic caucus?

*Answer:* Senator Nelson's leadership will be missed as she is handling two huge jobs.

*Question:* What can be done for Seniors on fixed incomes as the economy grows?

*Answer:* For seniors to age in place, legislators must help people on fixed incomes to avoid eviction due to rent or property tax increases. Protect the most vulnerable from being preyed upon to sell their homes at below market rates. Other strategies include education, living in multi-generational homes, building community wealth, and development of community financial resources through credit unions.

*Question:* What are the most effective forms of written communication?

*Answer:* Communication from constituents carries the most weight. Tips include:

- Form letters – place the information on your personal email. Staff separate form letters from constituents living in the district.
- Personal emails or letters should include one sentence about why the issue is important and a short story. The information should be limited to one page. If using email, generally, staffers will not scroll down the page.
- Coalition letters show a large group supports the issue.

*Question:* What was accomplished?

*Answer:*

- Support for the police policies and training for safe communities.
- Gender equity.
- Medical interpreters in rural settings in health clinics serving diverse populations.
- Marshal Island immigrants received access to the ACA. Approximately 6000 people will benefit.

## Business Meeting

**Minutes:** Approved as written.

Age Friendly introductions

### **Partner Updates:**

Marcy Kubbs, King County Department of Community and Human Services.

- The \$3.7 million Senior Center Veterans Seniors and Human Services Levy RFP will be out before the end of the April. Marcy met with 27 senior center directors applying for funding. The RFP includes four funding options:
  - Infrastructure improvements such as computer upgrades, training and consultation.
  - Capital improvements including minor facility repairs under \$25,000, for refrigerators, building modifications, vehicle repairs etc.
  - Senior programming for wellness, fitness, socialization, social work.
  - Technical assistance

Ingrid MacDonald, King County Public Health

Three public health issues

- The 2020 census form could include a question about immigration status. If included, people may become fearful about filling out the paperwork. The potential loss of data from the census will affect funds coming to communities.
- A proposal to delete the definition of “public charges” meaning people dependent on government benefits.
- A proposal to change short-term insurance from 3 to 12 months will have a detrimental effect on people receiving service. Short-term Insurance providers are not held to the same standard as regular ACA insurance policies and are not required to offer mental health care and preventative services.

Gemma Borg, City of Seattle Farmer’s Market

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides vouchers for eligible older adults to use at Farmers Markets throughout King County. Applicants must be 60 years of age and older and low income. Their application will be entered into a random selection process. Recipients will receive their checks by mail in July. There are approximately 6100 vouchers available. It is expected 80% of applicants will receive a voucher. For more information and to fill out an application click the link.

[www.agingkingcounty.org/SFMNP/](http://www.agingkingcounty.org/SFMNP/)

### **Planning and Allocations Committee:**

Dick Woo reported

#### Age-Friendly

ADS hired an Age Friendly Program Manager, two Human Services Coordinators and a data person.

#### Legal Services RFQ

The Legal Service area is a required service under the Older Americans Act. During a recent RFQ, Columbia Legal Services was selected as the King County legal service provider.

#### King County Senior Center RFQ

The King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy funds will make available up to \$3.7 million for senior centers throughout King County (including Seattle). Budget authority granted by the King County Council will be finalized April 9. The RFQ will be released mid-April. It is anticipated 40-45 centers will be eligible

#### City of Seattle Senior Center RFP

The City of Seattle will release a citywide Senior Center RFP. ADS and King county are coordinating the two senior center processes.

#### 2017 Demographic Profile

The committee received the 2017 ADS service area demographic data overview.

#### Secret Shopper

ADS is evaluating the Community Living Connections access line to find out if caregivers are connected to the family caregiver support program. The secret shopper listening sessions will begin in mid-late May. Please contact Angela Miyamoto ([angela.miyamoto@seattle.gov](mailto:angela.miyamoto@seattle.gov) or 206-684-0230) to participate.

### **3. Interlocal agreement**

The Interlocal Agreement was approved by the City of Seattle on March 13. Next the agreement heads to the King County Council for the council approval.

### **4. Advisory Council Bylaws**

- The P&A Committee discussed revisions to the Advisory Council Bylaws. Updates will be presented to the Advisory Council at the May meeting. Highlights include:
  - Replace the word “Sponsor” with partner.
  - Reduce the number of members from 27 to 21 to reflect changes in the Interlocal
  - Reduce the number of people appointed to the P & A to “at least 5”.
  - Clarify the timing of the annual election of officers.
  - Add new members become eligible to vote after the appointment is filed with the clerk of the council(s).
  - Eliminate the Communications Committee.
  - Add Instructions for filling vacated officer positions.

#### **Advocacy Committee:**

June Michel reported

- Twenty people attended the Advocacy Committee
- They agreed on a theme: *Engage for every age: midterm elections*
- Candidate forums are planned for the North Bellevue Community Center and the Tukwila SHAG building.
- Jon Rudicil gave an overview of the 13 Washington Area Agencies on Aging.
- Zelda Introduced the committee to – RESULTS an organization advocating against poverty.

#### **State Council on Aging (SCOA)**

Ava Frisinger reported she will attend the State Council on Aging April 24<sup>TH</sup> where they will discuss the 2019 Action packet, and the OAA celebration.

**NW Universal Design:**

Irene Stewart Reported the quarterly meeting will be held in May.

**Mayor’s Council of African American Elders (MCAAE):**

Karen Winston reported

- April 19 The MCAAE and Central Area Senior Center will host Jim DeMaine to bring awareness to end of life issues.

**Director’s Report:**

Cathy Knight reported:

Federal budget

- There is concern among advocates about the September Federal budget having devastating effects on State programs.

State

- The legislative session is complete. Many bills passed supporting older adults and people with disabilities.
- June Michel will accompany Cathy Knight to the April N4A policy briefing in Washington DC. Appointments are being made with Senators Cantwell, Murray and King County Congressional representatives.
- OAA received an additional \$138 million.
- Age Friendly is riding the age wave.

**Announcements**

- Don’t forget to get your feedback about the aging mastery program to N4A
- Senior Lobby April 16, 10 AM in Lacey

**Adjourn:** 2:00 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Friday, **May 11, 2018**

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