



# 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.

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 12, 2019

### Members Present

<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor David Baker	<input type="checkbox"/> CM Marli Larimer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Snyder
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Becker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diana Thompson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zelda Foxall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston
<input type="checkbox"/> CM Debora Juarez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Sawczuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo

### Pending Members Present

<input type="checkbox"/> Connie Bown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barb Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Others present:

**Guests:** Christy Stangland, Pamela Williams, Edna Daigre, Marvin Eng, Christa Valles, Karen Koenig, Cynthia Winters, Joe Hailey

**AAA Staff:** Cathy Knight, Maria Langlais, Irene Stewart, Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty, Lenny Orlov, Brent Butler, Jeff Sakuma, Lori Sanford, Allison Boll, Sara Godinez, Dottie Hepzibah Banks, Sariga Santhosh

**King County:** Mary Snodgrass, Traci Adair

*April 7 – 13 was National Volunteer Week and HSD Interim Director, Jason Johnson, kicked off the meeting thanking Board members for their time and contributions to the council.*

**I. King County Long-Term Care Ombuds Program: Pamela Williams**

- Regional LTC Ombudsman Program is part of the Older Americans Act and ensures rights, dignity and well-being of individuals living in long-term care facilities.
- Created in the 1960s in response to neglect, abuse, and in some cases, death, happening in long term care facilities.
- Regional Ombuds make sure residents in long-term care feel represented and safe. Their work is resident-driven and confidential.
- Primary responsibilities:
  - Resolving common complaints (listed below)
  - Identify issues for older adults with legislators, agency staff/administration, and other residents.

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- Analyzing laws and protections and advocating for changes.
- Common complaints:
  - Care issues
  - Medication issues
  - Failure to provide therapies
  - Abuse/neglect
  - Poor staff attitudes
  - Personal care issues
  - Failed to exercise choice, preferences
  - Unlawful discharges/transfers
  - Bullying (staff and other residents)
- King County LTC Ombuds Program:
  - 1 regional ombudsman, 35 certified volunteers, and 4 FTE staff ombuds, including 1 victims of crime assistant (VOC Training Specialist)
  - Most have background in health and human services
  - Volunteers are screened, educated on aging issues and resident rights, and committed to minimum of 4 hours/week
  - Not mandatory reporters
  - Usually first step of intervention before DSHS is involved
- Certification Process:
  - Find the right volunteer and staff to do the work!
  - Screen for qualifications
  - Perform criminal background and history check
  - Check references/experiences and interview
  - Attend and complete trainings on aging issues, communication, data collection, legal issues, resident rights, long-term care settings and licensing regulations, etc.
  - Be recommended for certification
  - Assigned to facility
  - Ongoing: performance evaluations and training requirements
- Residents Rights Laws in Washington State (RCW 70.129) states that residents shall:
  - Receive appropriate services
  - Be treated with courtesy
  - Continue to enjoy their basic civil and legal rights
  - Have opportunities to exercise reasonable control over life decisions
  - Enjoy choice, participation, privacy
  - Have opportunities to engage in religious, political, civic, recreational, and other social activities that foster a sense of self-worth and enhance the quality of life.
- In King County, the LTC Ombuds are responsible for 21,417 beds. City of Seattle contributes \$73,354 annually or \$3.54/resident bed.

	Facility Count	Bed Count
Skilled Nursing	56	5,788
Assisted Living Facility	156	9,402
Adult Family Home	1,099	6,227
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>21,417</b>

- FY 2018 Highlights:
  - 1,364 complaints resolved
  - 3768 consultations

- 5,100 volunteer service hours
- 2,423 LTC facilities visited
- This year's goals include recruiting and training 60 volunteers and organizing three certification sessions.

## II. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes
  - Ava: move to modify or correct minutes
  - Passed unanimously among council members
- Motion to appoint Advisory Council representatives to Senior Lobby
  - Ava: move to appoint Andrea and Diana (primary) and Ava (alternate) as representatives
  - June: seconded
  - Passed unanimously among council members

## III. Committee Updates

### Executive:

- Selecting topics and venues for 2019 meetings

### Planning and Allocations:

- Levy Senior Center RFP is out. Proposal would fund 10-13 locations to encourage collaboration and avoid duplication of work.
- Some concerns addressed about proposed hub models include:
  - Feasibility of partnerships in rural communities
  - No problem with coordinating, but who decides which center is a hub?
  - Seniors are local and don't travel, how would we address that?
- VSHSL included seniors as a focus population in last iteration. Advisory Council has indicated need for better coordination between AAA and County – e.g., funds for AAA core service areas go through ADS.
- Sweetened Beverage Tax revenue discussion:
  - More revenue more than anticipated. ADS will receive additional funding for healthy food access and diabetes prevention related programs. Limited to programs serving people in Seattle city limits.
  - Last year, Seattle budget swapped General Fund for Congregate and HD meals with SBT funds. Concern about stability of this new fund source over long term.

### Advocacy:

- Legislative Updates: House proposed budget for CM has slight increase (\$1.7 million) for Case Management, and Senate had none. AC members can reach out to budget leaders (Frockt, Rolfes, Sullivan, Dhingra). As for how to prevent CM from getting lost next year -- need better coordination between allies like W4A, AARP and Senior Lobby moving forward.
- ADS Advisory Council members attend Senior Lobby, but not as representatives of the council. Andrea Sawczuk and Diana Thompson voted as representatives and Ava as alternate.

### State Council on Aging:

- Property Tax Exemption Bill: Going forward but moving with understanding that capital gains will be used to offset. Rural areas are worried that deferral would destroy their funds.

- LTCTA: Still alive, made it out of Senate Ways and Means. Now referred to Rules Committee, where sometimes, bills languish or perish.
- Asked Senate to join House in funding House Guardianship. Poised for passage, but still not on the floor.

Universal Design:

- Design Happy Hour: April 25, 4:30 – 6 pm (Best Plumbing - 4129 Stone Way N, Seattle)
- Age Friendly Coffee Hour: April 25, 10 - 12 pm (Central Building, 810 3rd Ave, Seattle)
- 'How to Plan Accessible Public Events' Event: May 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (Seattle City Hall, 600 4th Ave)

Mayor's Council of African American Elders:

- Met with Margaret Bodie to get information out about the African American Elders program.
- Still trying to meet with Mayor about the 2018 advocacy report.

Age-Friendly Coalition:

- April 26 event: Brent Butler (ADS) and Amanda Frame (AARP) will sharing walking audit results. The first audit included leaders across county and the second audit included Age-Friendly Coalition members.

**IV. Partner Report**

- County has 4 Levy-related RFPs out, one just closed. GRAT RFP closes Friday. Adaptive Devices RFP opened not long ago
- There is some chatter about special session in Olympia, but we'll wait and see.
- Public Health is tracking the following bills:
  - [HB 1497](#): Bill on Foundational Public Health concerning communicable disease, access to clinical care, etc. Bill is moving. County is asking for \$100 million, and Governor and House budget was more favorable.
  - [HB 1638](#): Bill removing exemptions for MMR. This bill is still moving, while bill concerning exemptions for all vaccines died.
  - [SB 5332](#): Bill enhancing security of vital records. Bill is still moving.
  - [HB 1873](#): Bill concerning taxation of vapor products as tobacco products to fund cancer research. Bill is not moving.
  - [HB 1587](#): Bill increasing access to fruits and vegetables for low-income individuals and families. Bill is moving.
- County supports SBT tax and will be involved in studies to gauge effectiveness. Not sure if people are buying more since revenue was greater than expected, but something County is interested in figuring out.

**V. Director's Report**

- This is Older Americans Act reauthorization year. Our asks have focused on more investments to accommodate effects of sequestration.
- ADS recently met with Senator Murray's staff to talk about reauthorization. They are concerned about proposals to move to cost-sharing. This is not a big issue for Washington state, but as we have state and local funds supporting OAA programs. Please let Cathy know if you have any questions or concern