



**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 10, 2020**

**Advisory Council Members**

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CM Sofia Aragon             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Becker                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diana Thompson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zelda Foxall     | <input type="checkbox"/> CM Tammy Morales          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barb Williams  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Hailey       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Sawczuk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CM Marli Larimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Snyder   |  |

**Friends of the Advisory Council**

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connie Bown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edna Daigre | <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Winters |
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Others present:

**Guests:** Anne Shields, Florence Klein, Christy Strangland, Pamela Williams, Sandi Farkas  
**AAA Staff:** Cathy Knight, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Irene Stewart, Karen Winston, Brent Butler, Jon Morrison Winters, Sue Siegenthaler, Sara Godinez, Lenny Orlov, Lorraine Sanford, Sariga Santhosh  
**Partners:** Traci Adair, Alexis Rinck, Alexis Turla

I. **COVID-19 Updates:** Anne Shields - Public Health - Seattle & King County

*Anne joined us this month to provide COVID-19 taskforce updates and discuss Public Health’s work to flatten the curve.*

- Current priority for testing for long-term care facilities -- 2/3 of nursing homes in County have at least one COVID-19 case; 16 have zero cases. Next priority will be home care workers. At this time, Adult Family homes are lower risk (~2% rate of infection).
- Three Health Department taskforces to highlight:
  - **Older Adults and Disabilities Taskforce:** focusing on hospitalizations, ‘bending the curve,’ and post-acute needs for those recently treated. Washington state is still in

**Office:**  
 Seattle Municipal Tower  
 700 5th Avenue, 51st Floor  
 Seattle, WA 98124

**Mailing:**  
 Aging and Disability Services  
 PO Box 34125  
 Seattle, WA 98124

**Telephone:** (206) 684-0660  
**TTY:** (206) 684-0274  
**FAX:** (206) 684-0689  
[ADSAdvisoryCouncil.org](http://ADSAdvisoryCouncil.org)

emergency mode, despite how well the state is handling the pandemic. There are ongoing conversations about what opening the state would entail.

- **Housing Taskforce:** focusing on developing guidance for property managers and site staff to minimize contamination risk. The guide is available here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/workplaces/housing.aspx>. Taskforce is also developing educational signage on closing common areas and enforcing minimum distance requirements with special outreach to senior buildings.
- **Behavioral Health Taskforce:** focusing on organizing virtual wellness checks and other tools to help older adults address depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues exacerbated by the quarantine. There is also work underway to support tele-check ins with volunteer clinicians from groups like University of Washington's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health.
- There is still shortage of surgical masks and proper protective gear. Priority still goes to emergency responders. CDC is now recommending face coverings for everyone else.
- There are race-based inequities in COVID-19 deaths and infections nationally. Black and Native American communities are experiencing higher rates of mortality.
- The US does not have capacity to test population broadly and collect the right demographic data to understand how virus works. There is hope that as the Seattle Flu study morphs into a COVID-19 study, we'll be able to glean more information. There is also an antibody test in the works.

## II. Meeting Motions

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes
  - Ava: move to modify or correct minutes
  - Moved by Dick
  - Seconded by Cindy
  - Passed unanimously among council members

## III. Committee Updates

### Executive:

- Will meet briefly after AC meeting.

### Advocacy:

- Discussed how race-based inequities are showing up in ethnic communities.
- Many members are making masks. Will work with Irene on a future AgeWise article.
- Another important issue: COVID-19 related scams are on the rise.
- Public Health needs to collect both numerator and denominator data to understand the long-term effects of the virus.
- District 2's CM Tammy Morales is sponsoring legislation supporting emergency rental assistance support.

#### P&A Committee:

- Staff at City and County are rising to the occasion to maintain and expand community programs that support older adults, despite challenges presented by COVID-19.
- Older Americans Act was authorized and signed into law on March 25<sup>th</sup>. There is increase in program funding, which may be subject to appropriations.
- CARES stimulus checks will be dispersed next week. Older adults and others who don't file taxes will not need to file to receive their checks.
- Private sector (Amazon, Seattle Foundation, etc.) is stepping up to support nonprofits over the last few weeks. Seattle Foundation worked with Pandemic Advisory group to identify potential award recipients and will continue to engage group for future rounds of funding.
- ADS will be receiving \$3.7M in emergency nutrition funding in first relief package.

#### Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Board:

- The VSHSL Levy will be infusing an additional \$50M to priority programs – 1/3 will go towards senior programs. City and County are coordinating efforts to avoid overlap.
- County council has some ability to exercise flexibility and discretion in how funds will be spent during COVID-19 period.

#### Northwest Universal Design:

- February's Wayfinding forum was a huge success with over 120 people in attendance.
- Still hoping to have an ADA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in July, but will play by ear.

#### Mayor's Council of African American Elders:

- Last month's meeting focused on COVID-19 and community concerns.
- Next month's meeting (4/17) will be on Zoom.
- There is concern about feasibility of hosting Grandparent's Day in September, but council is developing alternate plans if in-person events are not possible by fall.

#### Age-Friendly Coalition:

- Age-Friendly Coalition Steering Committee meetings are on hold for foreseeable future.
- Coffee Hours will continue remotely. Next one is on Thursday (4/16) at 10:30 am.

## **IV. Partners Report**

### **Sound Cities (Alexis Rinck)**

- Sound Cities is coordinating with all 38 member cities and providing daily updates on COVID-19 response. Staff is also looking at CARES Act to understand where funds will go.

### **Councilmember Morales - Seattle City Council (Alexis Turla, Chief of Staff)**

- CM Morales is participating in a nationwide movement with nine other cities to advocate for rental and mortgage moratorium. Burien introduced a similar resolution and Bellevue City Council and King County Council (CM Zahilay) are working on theirs.

- Mayor proposed expanding childcare and Council is working on modifications and how money will go out the door.
- City parks are closed on Easter weekend to curb large gatherings.
- There is a Hepatitis A outbreak in the homeless population, so city is dealing with a dual outbreak. HSD is responsible for managing the Hepatitis A response.
- City council is fully virtual and only discussing routine business or COVID-related matters. Council is working on process to capture public comments.
- CMs Sawant and Morales recently joint-sponsored legislation on progressive revenue for future housing strategies.
- CM is also pulling together an economic recovery work group to address equity concerns during disasters.
- CM has a weekly newsletter and Friday office hours to connect with constituents.
- CM had a virtual town hall last Friday to discuss state, federal and local response and resources for those impacted by COVID-19. Some highlights:
  - Filers with direct deposit will receive their stimulus checks early, but next priority group is low-income adults.
  - Unemployment benefits are still being processed, but payments will be retroactive and dated to the start of the Governor's stay-in-home order in March.
  - Federal PPP funds for small businesses are first-come, first-serve.

**Department of Community and Human Services (Traci Adair)**

- VSHSL team is hosting senior center calls that are well attended.
- Senior centers have stepped up during this crisis and DCHS is allowing flexibility with contracts to modify services to fit community needs.
- RFP status:
  - Senior virtual villages RFP is in the review process.
  - Countywide I&A coordination RFP is in the review process.
  - Evidence Based Health Promotion RFP deadline has been extended to April 30.

**V. Director's Report: Cathy Knight**

- ADS is almost fully remote.
- ADS will receive federal funding through relief package, which is a lifeline in keeping the network alive and supporting strained community providers.
- There will be need for combined advocacy so Governor understands how vital AAAs and home and community based systems are as we go into tough times with the state legislature. There will be an AL TSA stakeholder meeting addressing these topics on May 16 for anyone interested.
- Governor will introduce proclamation today to outline protections for high-risk workers during this pandemic.