



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
May 8, 2020

Advisory Council Members

<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 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

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

Guests: Anne Shields

AAA Staff: Cathy Knight, Maria Langlais, Andrea Yip, Irene Stewart, Karen Winston, Brent Butler, Sue Siegenthaler, 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 updates and discuss Public Health’s work to flatten the curve.

- On 5/11, the Mayor’s and Executive’s offices will release statement on new directive to wear face coverings in public. No penalties yet and there are exceptions for those who can’t wear face coverings safely, but this is intended to slow the spread of the virus.
- Cloth coverings should be cleaned everyday. Do not reuse disposable masks.
- Other municipalities, especially in the East Coast, are already enforcing a face covering requirement. This is harder to enforce in King County because face coverings are not as widely available (mostly homemade and donated)

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- Some businesses like Costco and Whole Foods have strict face covering requirements for entry. For anyone who can't find non-medical grade coverings, there are plenty of sewing templates online to make your own.
- COVID-19 testing is picking up and the state has a defined process around follow-ups when positive diagnoses are identified.
- There are 9 contact tracers in King County, each with a caseload of around 30 people. The statewide goal is filling 1600 contact tracing positions.
- If you are contacted by a contact tracer from county or state, the recommended quarantine period is 7-10 days if you are asymptomatic.
- Contact tracers do their work primarily over the phone. AARP identified fraud as a possible concern with this approach and Public Health will use feedback to mitigate fear.
- Other countries have successfully leveraged technology in the fight against COVID-19, but there are privacy concerns we need to navigate.
- Drive-thru testing is available in King County and your primary care provider would be the best point of contact for a referral.
- Value of antibody tests are unclear since there isn't a lot of FDA review at this time. Since we still don't know if COVID-19 can be contracted again, antibody tests do not help us understand the rate of infection.

II. Meeting Motions

- Motion to approve April meeting minutes
 - Ava: move to modify or correct minutes
 - Moved by June
 - Seconded by Lorna
 - Passed unanimously among council members

III. Committee Updates

Executive:

- Will meet briefly after AC meeting.

Advocacy:

- Attended call with Congressman Smith earlier in the week to discuss increasing need for more testing sites and personal protective equipment.
- Census participation is lagging – more outreach needed to engage people.
- Motions discussed at meeting include writing letters to legislators with n4a policy priorities about funding older adults programs through the pandemic and supporting any future advocacy from AARP to increase representation of older adults in the Governor's three 'Safe Start' taskforces.

P&A Committee:

- Discussed Area Plan Report Card, ADS's emergency food planning work in response to COVID- and budget updates in the federal, state and city level.
- ADS received ~\$5M in federal emergency nutrition funding for congregate meal programs across 56 sites that had to suddenly pivot to a food delivery model in March. Funds are flexible to accommodate infrastructure support and provider needs as the pandemic continues.
- City of Seattle is looking ahead and preparing the 2021 budget.

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

- Levy Board met last week to discuss the 2019 Annual Report and final versions will be available to the public soon.

Northwest Universal Design:

- No updates

Mayor's Council of African American Elders:

- Discussed AARP's fraud work targeting older adults at last month's meeting.
- Group also discussed race-based health disparities and voted to write letter to local policymakers about need to track and address equity concerns.
- Next week's meeting (5/15) will include presentation from a Public Health speaker to better understand data being tracked.

IV. Partners Report

Department of Community and Human Services (Traci Adair)

- Older Adults team is coordinating weekly 1.5 hour long calls with city- and county-funded senior centers to discuss how they're supporting both clients who are homebound and older adults who have never used their services before. This was the goal of senior hubs, but the pandemic has unexpectedly accelerated processes and broadened existing reach of many senior centers.
- Senior centers continue to step up during this crisis and DCHS is working with VSHSL contracts to modify services to fit community needs.
- RFP status:
 - Identified 8 winning proposals for senior virtual villages RFP. 6 organizations serve cultural or ethnic groups. Awards announcement will come from Executive's office.
 - Just closed Evidence Based Health Promotion RFP. There are many robust proposals and some Advisory Council members are on review panel.
- This month, County was also able to divert some VSHSL funds to levy-contracted senior centers, where need for meal delivery service outweighed capacity.

Sound Cities Association (Alexis Rinck)

- Sound Cities is coordinating with all 38 member cities and providing updates thrice a week on COVID-19 response. Staff is also tracking CARES Act updates to understand allocation for funding that would impact member cities.

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

- City Council was briefed on early economic forecast prediction of \$300M. CM Morales is focused on economic recovery, eviction moratorium, rental assistance, and small business support.
- CM Morales was part of nationwide press conference with nine other cities last month to advocate for rental and mortgage moratorium. Spokane, Bellingham and Burien introduced similar resolutions. CM supports Rep. Jayapal's push on the federal level.
- Council is also increasing funding for Fresh Bucks program for food assistance.
- As Chair of the Community Economic Development Committee, CM Morales is working with an economic recovery work group comprised of small business owners, community development groups, labor, and policy experts to mitigate economic impacts and identify opportunities to collaborate across sectors.
- CMs Sawant and Morales recently joint-sponsored legislation on progressive revenue that would impact large employers. Due to stipulations under the Open Public Meetings Act, conversations on the topic are stalled, but could resume after it lapses on May 31. There is parallel work at the state level: Sens. Billings, Rolfes, Dhingra and Saldana are on an economic recovery Senate sub-committee that will start meeting in June.

V. Director's Report: Cathy Knight

- ADS staff are essential workers during the pandemic. For example, over a three-week period in April, case management and partners checked in with 14,000 clients.
- ADS staff was also working with staff to lower hospitalizations and expedite discharges.
- Funding through CARES Act is crucial in keeping up with growing demand on services like congregate meals, keeping the network alive and supporting community providers.
- Our AAA is not as reliant on city general funds, so we should be in a better shape than other departments that need to do a 15% budget reduction exercises.
- There will be need for combined advocacy so state understands the need for flexible funding and how vital AAAs and home and community based systems are in disasters.