



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 July 10, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Minty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edna Daigre	<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Winters
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Others present:

Guests: Nora Menkin, Amanda Stock, Marvin Eng, Cathy McAvoy, Jon Rudicil, Libby Brittain

AAA Staff: Cathy Knight, Maria Langlais, Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty, Irene Stewart, Karen Winston, MaryPat O’Leary, Jane Crum, Brent Butler, Sue Siegenthaler, Lenny Orlov, Lorraine Sanford, Sariga Santhosh

Partners: Traci Adair, Alexis Rinck

I. **Deathcare Advocacy:** Amanda Stock and Nora Menkin - People's Memorial Association

Nora and Amanda discussed funeral planning basics, PMA’s advocacy focus, and recent opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- PMA was founded in 1939 in Seattle. Lifetime membership fee is \$50
- Oldest and largest memorial society in the United States and only nonprofit in state focused on funeral education and advocacy with 70,000 living members.
- PMA screens and negotiates discounts for members on cremation and burial services and advocates for price transparency and consumer rights on the state level.
- Body disposition options in WA state: burial, cremation, full body donation, alkaline hydrolysis, and recomposition (last 2 were recently legalized in state)

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In partnership with:



II. Meeting Motions

- Motion to approve May meeting minutes
 - Ava: move to modify or accept minutes
 - Moved by Cindy
 - Seconded by Lorna
 - Passed unanimously among council members
- Motion to send Seattle City Council members letter in support of Resolution 31956 (“Internet for All” legislation)
 - Ava: move to accept motion
 - Moved by June
 - Seconded by Dick
 - Passed unanimously among council members

III. Committee Updates

Executive

- Will meet briefly after AC meeting.

Advocacy

- Lots of conversations about race. For anyone interested, ACLU has a great video on America’s racist past: [The Truth About the Confederacy in the United States](#)
- Andrea Sawczuk is moving back to Canada and leaving us in the fall 😞
- Cathy and June will present at next week’s Coffee Hour to discuss advocacy efforts.
- Motion discussed to send letter to City Council in support of Resolution 31956 (“Internet for All” legislation), which supports affordable and high-quality broadband services.

P&A Committee

- Committee met on 6/1 and Jon Morrison Winters presented on social connectivity work
- Cathy discussed impacts in city revenue (hiring freeze, COLA, etc.) and programs that support older adults.
- Seattle is looking at a \$200 to \$300M budget shortfall and all departments are being asked to perform a 15% budget reduction exercise. HSD, because of its role in COVID-19 response, is at 10%.
- There may be some movement on the next stimulus package re support for cities and states; Senate needs to act.

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

- Board met June 18.
- Levy funds are based on property tax and less susceptible to economic fluctuations than sales tax collection. Each year, the levy collects \$50-\$60M in revenue and is evenly distributed among the veteran, seniors, and vulnerable population buckets. Levy funds are flexible and may be reappropriated to fill in revenue gaps left by city/state shortfall.

- List of recently announced Levy awards can be found here:
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/levy/funding/awards.aspx>

State Council on Aging

- Bea Rector covered the state's budget reduction exercise and impact of furloughs.
- There is lots of pressure to open senior centers, but state needs to work on guidelines to inform those decisions.

Northwest Universal Design

- Presented at the Close to Home series about universal design last week.

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

- Council cancelled June 19 meeting for Juneteenth.

IV. Partners Report

Department of Community and Human Services (Traci Adair)

- Older Adults team is still connecting with levy-funded senior centers; shifted from weekly calls to every other week. At this point, conversations are about if/when/how should senior centers start opening up. State and federal guidelines do not cover senior center operations.
- Most senior centers reaching more people during the pandemic than before.
- Kinship Care RFP is going out in the coming weeks.

Sound Cities Association (Alexis Rinck)

- Working with member cities to address budget issues and loss of programs
- Collaborating with partners to expand racial equity work and provide guidance to cities interested in exploring this work.

V. Director's Report: Cathy Knight

- Lots of conversations around racial equity and budgeting in City of Seattle. MCAAE sent Mayor Durkan a letter about health disparities among communities of color in May.
- King County declared racism a public health crisis, which is stimulating lots of discussions about diverting funds to community resiliency work like HealthOne program in ADS.
- Lots of advocacy messaging coming from partners like n4a and NCOA to keep pressure on federal government to approve the next stimulus package.
- On a local scale, our advocacy will need to focus more on budget and progressive revenue structure.
- W4A has revamped its website and advocates can sign up for regular updates. There is also a dedicated line that W4A is using to collect stories that will then be catalogued by legislative district ahead of the next session.