



**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**  
**August 14, 2020**

**Advisory Council Members**

<input type="checkbox"/> CM Sofia Aragon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Becker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diana Thompson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ava Frisinger	<input 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 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:** Jon Ehrenfeld, Doug (Fire Dept), Greg (Fire Dept), Vincent (Fire Dept), Cassidy Giampetro, Riley DeHoog, Jessica J

**AAA Staff:** Cathy Knight, Maria Langlais, Irene Stewart, Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty, Karen Winston, Karen Heeney, Ashley Clayton, Jane Crum, Jeff Sakuma, Brent Butler, Sue Siegenthaler, Sariga Santhosh

**Partners:** Traci Adair, Mary Snodgrass, Alexis Rinck

**I. Health One Program: Karen Heeney (Sr. Human Services Supervisor – ADS) and Jon Ehrenfeld (Mobile Integrated Health Program Manager – Seattle Fire Department)**

*Karen and Jon presented on the Health One Program, a mobile integrated health approach to address non-urgent 911 calls in the city’s downtown core. They covered how this collaboration between first responders and social workers benefits people with diverse needs and discussed potential expansion of the program.*

**II. Meeting Motions**

- Motion to approve July meeting minutes

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- Ava: move to modify or accept minutes
- Cindy: include correction that I was present at the July meeting
- Moved by Cindy with corrections listed
- Seconded by Dick
- Passed unanimously among council members
- Motion to send Congress a letter in support of emergency bailout of the Postal Services
  - Ava: move to accept motion
  - Moved by June
  - Seconded by Cindy
  - Passed unanimously among council members
- Motion to create ad-hoc revenue committee to address the upcoming budget shortfall
  - Ava: move to accept motion
  - Moved by June
  - Seconded by Larry
  - Passed unanimously among council members

### III. Committee Updates

#### Executive

- Will meet briefly after AC meeting.

#### Advocacy

- Motion discussed to send letter to Congress to bail out Postal Services. Many older adults and people in rural communities rely on mail to access medications.
- Motion discussed to form an ad-hoc committee to identify alternate revenue sources in light of budget shortfall and the need to address current regressive tax structure. Lorna, Dick, Larry and Zelda volunteered to serve on this committee.

#### P&A Committee

- Committee met on 8/3 and Mary Pat O'Leary presented on health promotion work.
- Since COVID-19 hit, there has been no in-person classes, but programs have evolved to meet the needs online. D4 Councilman Alex Pedersen introduced the 'Internet for All' legislation, which passed in Council and should help older adults who do not have the internet or technology to access online resources.
- Andrea S's last meeting will be September. We need to recruit members for committee.
- City and county still coordinating around senior centers on how to safely reopen. There is concern about what how they'll operate as part of COVID-19 recovery.

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

- Missed board meeting on 7/16, but did attend the one on 8/6.
- Steven Knipp, ED of Generations Aging with Pride and VSHSL Senior Committee member, will present the senior hub model to the full VSHSL Board on 8/18.

- VSHSL has a services and awards database - user friendly and accessible to the public.
- State Council on Aging
- September meeting will focus on member nominations for the year 2021.

Northwest Universal Design

- No updates

Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE)

- Council continues to meet virtually on Zoom
- MCAAE had a special engagement session with the Mayor's office on 8/7 to learn about the proposed budget for the Police Department in 2021. Eight MCAAE Commissioners and Joe Hailey from the AC participated and gave feedback. There were concerns about public safety and the need for real change, especially in the treatment of African American men and recruitment, training, and retention of officers who support anti-racist policies and practices. A report will be generated for City Council at the end of September when Mayor Durkan presents her 2021 budget.
- Prior to this meeting, MCAAE also submitted a letter to City Council about their concerns in defunding the Police department.
- MCAAE is also working in partnership with AARP and the Northwest African American Museum on the second annual Grandparents Day event. This year's event will be held virtually on Sunday, September 14, from 12 to 2pm.

**IV. Partners Report**

**Seattle King County Public Health Department (Mary Snodgrass)**

- COVID-19 case counts have been relatively stable since July 20. When King County moved to Phase 2, there was a spike in cases, but that has since gone down and stabilized over the past few weeks. Younger residents under 40 years old are among the largest proportion of cases and have the highest rates of infection.
- COVID-19 deaths are almost exclusively from long term care facilities.
- Communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Infection rates are 3-5X higher than white communities and the positive test rates are much higher in South King County and along the I-5 S corridor in the past two weeks. 8.5% of the tests have been positive in South King County and along the I-5 S corridor compared to less than 2% in Seattle and less than 3% on the East side.
- Free testing sites have been filling up quickly, often days in advance. New sites are being added in Seattle, including a site at Rainier Beach this week. A top priority is adding two new testing sites in South King County that will be operational by the end of the month.
- Public Health continues to conduct testing visits at homeless service sites. We distributed a new toolkit to community partners who conduct outreach with the homeless population and are evaluating options to increase availability of hygiene centers close to where people are living unsheltered. Public Health is also inspecting restaurants to make sure they are in compliance with safe start guidelines.

- There is a lot of early work happening to coordinate and contextualize messaging for seasonal flu with COVID-19. Large gatherings in summer have resulted in outbreaks.
- State and federal authorities do not recommend routine testing for asymptomatic individuals, but many employers have been requiring testing for asymptomatic employees. Public Health has six positions to support this work for approximately five months (may could longer) and unnecessary testing will overwhelm the response work.
- Public Health has lots of information available on its website with data dashboards on economic, social and overall health impacts by race and ethnicity, long term care facilities, homelessness status, etc.

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

- Kinship Care RFP launched a few weeks ago and will close end of August or early Sept.
- The county just announced the 14 evidence-based health promotion awardees, who are in the contracting process right now. Sound Generations will work with the Health Promotion Research Center at the University of Washington to support the 14 programs as they grow their evidence-based programming.
- GRAT program is officially launched and had a virtual launch party earlier this week with over 100 attendees on the call. The team started slowly with internal referrals through Sound Generations network, and now they are opening up services to the community.
- Older Adults team is still connecting with levy-funded senior centers every other week to share best practices and experiences. We're currently recruiting a temporary position to support this coordination for senior hubs programming.

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

- Attended W4A AAA Director's meeting this week and learned about the impact of COVID-19 on the behavioral health system. Cases of mental illness and isolation are on the rise and are expected to worsen in fall and winter.
- ALSTA is running alternate budget scenarios for 2021. The initial 15% across the board cuts would have kicked 20,000 long term care-eligible beneficiaries off Medicaid, but they are considering other projections that are not so severe.
- No updates from Congress on the next economic relief bill, but help for local governments is not likely. We need to continue reaching out to members of Congress and look at alternate revenue sources at the state level.
- City Council added \$120,000 to the ADS 2020 budget for a pilot project to address social isolation. The Mayor needs to accept the Council proposals before this funding would become available. Traci's team is already testing the "Stay Connected" pilot with the University of Washington and 4 King County senior centers. Jon Morrison Winters (ADS) is currently working on a similar plan to use resources that Seattle City Council has allocated to human services (a small fund shift away from the Police department) that has to be spent by the end of 2020.
- Mayor will be releasing 2021 budget in September. Council will deliberate the next two months and release their budget proposal by Thanksgiving.
- ADS staff are still serving on regional advisory boards and committees with Public Health and continue to raise issues impacting older adults during the pandemic like isolation.