



**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 14, 2021**

**Advisory Council Members**

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

**Friends of the Advisory Council**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edna Daigre	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Lambing	
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Others present:

**Guests:** CM Lisa Herbold, Christena Coutsobos, Cathy Knight, David Keyes, JJ Wong, Terri Cleveland, Shirin Velji

**AAA Staff:** Mary Mitchell, Maria Langlais, Irene Stewart, Jon Morrison Winters, Andrea Yip, Karen Winston, Jane Crum, Lenny Orlov, Gheeda Hamam, Meg Woolf, Lori Sanford, Sariga Santhosh

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

**I. Older Americans/Better Hearing Month Proclamations - Seattle Councilmember Herbold**

May is Older Americans and Better Hearing month! Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold joined us to share two proclamations celebrating older adults and the hearing loss community and the city’s ongoing efforts to make Seattle an inclusive place for all.

**II. Digital Equity 101 – David Keyes (Digital Equity Program Manager, Seattle IT) and Jon Morrison Winters (Senior Planner, Aging and Disability Services)**

**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)

This month, we learned about the digital divide and how it limits opportunities for people who lack access to internet and technology. We also learned about the long-term planning work already underway to close the access gap and how advocates can help achieve digital equity.

### III. Meeting Motions and Council Business

- Motion to approve April meeting minutes
  - Dick: move to modify or accept minutes
  - Moved by Cindy
  - Seconded by Barb
  - Passed unanimously among council members

### IV. Committee Updates

#### Advocacy

- Developing 2021 federal advocacy priorities for investments in Older Americans Act (OAA) and home and community-based services (HCBS).
- Mary attended meeting with Senator Cantwell's staff who expressed support for aging supports and asked for funding priorities in the American Jobs Plan. Proposal includes \$400B for HCBS, a significant increase from current funding levels.
- American Rescue Plan includes one-time doubling of OAA funds good through 2022. American Families Plan includes family leave and paid caregiver support funding.
- State legislative session ended April 28 with major victories for progressive revenue (capital gains and Working Families Tax Credit), digital equity, and housing protections (just cause evictions and funding for COVID-19 eviction prevention).

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

- Learned about 231 contracts that received federal COVID-19 grants.
- Annual Levy report is finished and was approved by the Board.
- Cindy is staying on the Board, but Dick is resigning. AC members should consider serving.

#### Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE)

- At the April meeting, members heard from Dr. Tsuang (Puget Sound VA/UW) on a 10-week study on the cognitive aging and mental health impacts for African American older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members also heard from staff at Community Health Partners of Washington on Apple Health and Medicare Advantage plans.
- At the May meeting, members will get a chance to meet and greet Mary Mitchell.

#### Age Friendly Seattle (MCAAE)

- Team is discussing long-term plans for Coffee Hours and is considering a hybrid model.
- May Coffee Hour included a better hearing panel that included Diana Thompson. The next Coffee Hour will feature Dick Woo and ADS staff.

## V. Partners Report

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

- County is seeing sharp decrease in COVID cases from the fourth wave. For people under the age of 65, incidence remains highest in South and Southeast King County.
- County is still seeing disparities in vaccine access among BIPOC elders, but it has been decreasing with ample vaccine supply and ongoing outreach efforts.
- As of May 10, 70% of county residents ages 16+ have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 52% are fully vaccinated.
- As of May 13, people aged 12 to 15 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.
- On May 13, CDC announced that anyone who is fully vaccinated (at least two weeks since their final dose) can participate in indoor and outdoor activities without masks. Governor Inslee and county leadership have expressed full alignment with CDC masking guidance. Businesses can retain the right to require customers and employees to wear masks.
- Governor Inslee recently announced a June 30 reopening date for state, which could be earlier if 70% of state population receives at least one vaccine dose.

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

- The caregiver respite and community building joint RFP with ADS is open now.

## VI. Director's Report (Mary Mitchell)

- Special thanks to ADS leadership team for helping me transition into new role and for their ongoing commitment to ensuring older adults and people with disabilities have access to the necessary services and supports.
- Have worked for the City for 29 years. Recent work focused on changing internal policies and procedures to connect and uplift people historically harmed or excluded from government practices and services.
- Attended meeting with Senator Cantwell's staff to thank her for the support during the COVID-19 pandemic and share ADS success stories (example: ADS case managers made 14,000 phone calls to assess client needs and provide resources like food and vaccine appointments)