



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 13, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Michel	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CM Kim-Khánh Van	<input type="checkbox"/> Sue Weston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barb Williams
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo		

Others present:

Guests: Meghan King, Avelino Estrada, Terri Cleveland

AAA Staff: Mary Mitchell, Jeff Sakuma, Irene Stewart, Karen Winston, Jane Crum, Lenny Orlov, Lori Sanford, Sariga Santhosh

I. **Poisoning in Older Adults - Meghan King, Public Health Education & Communications Specialist (Washington Poison Center)**

Meghan joined us this month to discuss the most common "poisoning" in older adults: medication errors. We covered safety tips and learned more about the Washington Poison Center and how the Council can be better public health partners in improving medication management and preventing accidental overdose.

II. **Meeting Motions and Council Business**

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

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III. Committee Updates

Advocacy

- Members, as always, are busy in their respective communities and groups.
- Spent most of meeting discussing WA Cares and AARP/SEIU's public information campaign to promote benefit. Lots of negative press from insurance industry.
- W4A is waiting on numbers from AL TSA to support case management ask. W4A will share their advocacy webinar soon and Sariga will be setting up advocacy appointments with legislators for the fall.

Planning and Allocations

- Hosted Area Plan public hearing on 8/2; attendees suggested minor edits.
- The full Council will be voting on updated version at the September Advisory Council meeting.

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

- Refer to Department of Community and Human Services updates below.

Northwest Universal Design Council (NWUDC)

- Members discussed future of NWUDC and conducted a poll on listserv and social media to get feedback. Results show people overwhelmingly support the Council as is.

Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE)

- July meeting was the mid-year retreat. Not well attended, but identified advocacy items for rest of year and 2022. Top issues include supporting the African American Nurse Program and need for affordable housing. Will continue conversation next month.
- At the August meeting, we'll have Nathan Yemane (Y.B.G. Healthcare) as a guest speaker to discuss hospice needs for African American older adults.

Age Friendly Seattle

- Brent Butler has accepted a new position with Jefferson County as their Community Economic Development Director. His last day with ADS was 8/3.
- August Coffee Hour will feature Sam Zimbabwe, Director of Seattle Department of Transportation.
- Last year, the city of Renton joined the AARP network of Age-Friendly states and communities. At the moment, there is no dedicated staff, but a range of city staff are supporting aging initiatives. AARP recently funded adult exercise equipment at outdoor fitness lots in Renton and Seattle Parks and Recreation staff are connecting with them to learn more about their programming.

IV. Partners Report

Department of Community and Human Services (Traci Adair)

- At next VSHSL meeting, staff will provide presentations on different VSHSL programs.

- Caregiver Community Building and Respite RFP will expand culturally competent caregiver supports. Process closed last month, and award winner was notified. DCHS will share more information at the September Advisory Council meeting.
- The Older Adults team is continuing to work with senior centers and ADS to learn from each other and share community resources.
- Adult Services Division has new director: Leon Richardson started on 7/26.

Public Health Seattle/King County (Mary Snodgrass)

- COVID-19 case counts are lowest observed since late September 2020 and decreasing among all age groups. On week of 8/2, we saw an average of 94 cases a day.
- Still seeing disparities in case rates and vaccination levels. South King County and Black/Latinx communities are the most impacted groups.
- As demand for vaccinations has dropped over past month, Public Health will be ramping down high-volume sites and pursuing other models like community vaccination events.
- Current statewide masking guidance requires people who are not fully vaccinated to wear a face covering in indoor public settings or if they are and to maintain six feet of physical distance from others outdoors.
- King County's mask directive strongly encourages all King County residents over the age of 5 (regardless of vaccination status) to wear a mask in all indoor public areas.

V. Director's Report (Mary Mitchell)

- HSD's Interim Director, Helen Howell, accepted a new position at the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. Mayor appointed Tanya Kim to fill in as HSD hires for other open leadership positions (HSD Deputy Director, ADS Director, etc.)
- Waiting to get case management numbers from ALISA, but in the meantime, W4A has a meeting with the Governor's office and Cathy Knight is looking for compelling stories.
- State resumed home care assessments mid-July and they're going well so far. Some AAAs started their assessments, some are rolling back (Delta variant concerns), and some are still waiting. ADS is waiting for formal guidance and developing work plans, but some ADS staff have volunteered to resume assessments for vulnerable clients.
- Recently, the Governor, County Executive and Seattle Mayor issued a joint directive mandating COVID vaccines for all public employees by 10/18 as a condition of employment. There are exemptions available for religious or medical accommodations. All employees will still be required to maintain social distancing and wear masks.
- As the deadline for WA Cares opt-out approaches, we're seeing insurers withdraw from long-term care market. AARP conducted poll that found 80% of pollers support WA Cares when they have full information. Next Thursday, Speaker Jinkins and budget writers Macri and Cody, will be meeting with important stakeholders like the Insurance Commissioner to discuss legislative fixes to protect viability of the program.
- King County experienced its second heat wave this year and case managers reached out to clients to check in about heat and air quality needs. ADS is formalizing protocol for future emergency events for all case managers and contracted providers to ensure safety of community. ADS is also working with senior centers and other cooling facilities to ensure people have options during current and future inclement weather conditions.