



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

June 9, 2023

Advisory Council Members

<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"/> Tom Minty	<input type="checkbox"/> CM Tammy Morales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex O'Reilly (pending)	<input 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"/> Barb Williams
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Woo		

Others present:

Guests: Laura Loe, J Wong

AAA Partners: Esther Lee, Hali Willis, Caren Goldenberg

HSD Staff: Mary Mitchell, Maria Langlais, Dinah Stephens, Karen Winston, Sue Siegenthaler, Eldad Mekuria, Andrea Yip

I. Find a Ride, a One-Call/One-Click System – Laura Loe (she/her), Program Manager, Hopelink

- Find a Ride's [One-Call/One-Click](#) System seeks to connect community members to transportation services that meet their needs through a centralized trip planning and ride requesting service that is just “one call or one click away”.
- Project partners include the King County Mobility Coalition, WSDOT, Sound Transit, King County Metro, and Aging and Disability Services, plus fantastic leaders in Pierce and Snohomish County.
- See presentation slides following meeting notes. Councilmember and participant feedback included:
 - Conduct user testing with people experiencing homelessness and mental health mobility access barriers, and Community Living Connections agencies staff.
 - For booking trips, how might the trip planner account or display information for round-trip trip planning?
 - Suggest Hopelink convene specialized transportation service providers related to eliminating or streamlining barriers to eligibility for different systems.
 - PHSKC interested in making sure people can get to vaccine appointments, often held at community centers and senior centers.

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- Interested in joining the King County Mobility Coalition?
 - Learn more: www.kcmobility.org
 - Contact: Bree Boyce, Senior Manager of Coalitions; bboyce@hopelink.org; 425-943-6751
- Interested in user testing for the new Find a Ride Trip Planner?
 - Contact: Laura Loe, Program Manager, Find a Ride; LLoe@hopelink.org; (425) 941-6791
 - 30-40 minute sessions, in-person or virtual.
- Learn more about the One-Call/One-Click system: <https://www.kcmobility.org/ococ>
- Every Ride Counts Pilot Program from National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) <https://www.nadtc.org/everyridecounts/>

II. RSJ Moment

In recognition of Pride Month, the council reflected on the following articles:

- [Health Disparities Affecting the LGBTQ+ Community](#)
- [Black LGBTQ Individuals Experience Heightened Levels of Discrimination - Center for American Progress](#)

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve March meeting minutes passed unanimously among council members.

IV. Committee Updates

Advocacy, Maria Langlais (for Larry Low)

- Motion for Advisory Council to endorse renewal of VSHSL Levy unanimously approved.
- Reminded members to send messages to their respective state legislators thanking them for supporting aging priorities in the 2023 session.
- Mary Mitchell will share additional updates in her director's report.

Planning & Allocations Committee, Lorna Stone

- Area Plan – Council will hear more in next month's report. P&A Committee will host three public hearings in August.
- Area Plan budget ready in October. Do not anticipate the need for discretionary funding decisions this year.
- Draft plan will be available for review on August 14.

Veterans, Seniors, Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Board, Dick Woo

- Will be on August ballot; current levy expires Dec. 31, 2023
- Renewing at current level for another 6 years.

Universal Design Council (NWUDC), Tom Minty

- Thanks to ADS staff for sending out email blasts and building momentum.

- Proposal for Seattle Design Festival accepted – focus on promoting inclusivity in our homes and neighborhoods.
- Excited to see seeds that were planted years ago starting to grow, e.g., Bellevue Design Commission exploring UD policies.
- NWUDC focuses on built environment but encompasses everything including technology and software interfaces.

Mayor’s Council on African American Elders (MCAAE), Karen Winston

- Mayor Harrell attended the May meeting and participated in a wonderful discussion and Q&A session with participants.
- Council presented three requests: 1) Ensure Black elders at St. Martin de Porres shelter continue to receive services; 2) Dedicate staff to support council; and 3) Support raising visibility of Council. Mayor committed to staff support and elevating the council’s work.
- Five new members formally appointed by the Mayor.

Age Friendly Seattle, Dinah Stephens

- Echoed NWUDC updates – she is also on KC mobility coalition.
- Discount Directory – working with Seattle Dept of neighborhoods to expand reach; BNOA/KSC interested in growing; UW capstone students working on GIS system to support.
- Piloting older adult lifeguard training program with Seattle Parks and Recs Dept; create more opportunities for 50+ employment and intergenerational engagement—a proven strategy to counter ageism.
- Anti-ageism training is almost ready -- Phase 1 will be city staff.

V. Partners Report

King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Esther Lee

- Training on property tax exemption application support in process
- Hosted 10th open house on levy renewal – great opportunity for community and providers to connect on local level.
- Partnering with ADS on distributing emergency preparedness kits through a national grant from John T Hartford Foundation. Complete by end of June.
- Home repair support for suburban cities and nonprofits – 1x opportunity for accessibility related needs, e.g., clean-out yard.
- Partnering with Hopelink and Metro to convene an older transportation summit this fall focusing on older adults and people with disabilities.

Public Health Seattle/King County, Caren Goldenberg

- COVID
 - Positive test rates, death rates, hospitalizations are at 4-month low; Racial and geographic disparities continue but are harder to see given lower #s.
 - Focus on offering boosters and preparing for fall and winter surges.

- Many COVID-response programs ending or transitioning.
- Booster language has shifted to “may” from “should”.
 - People over 65 **may** receive a booster if it has been 4 months since their last vaccine – any dose.
 - Folks who are immune compromised may consider booster within 2 months of last vaccine, any dose.
 - If haven’t rec’d any dose, only need to get the one bivalent booster.
- In-home vaccination program still available thru March 2024.
- Flu / RSV
 - Flu season is over, but will be back in Sept/Oct. 2022 was a rough flu year- ~5x as many deaths than in 2021.
 - RSV not just for kids. Symptoms range from sniffles to pneumonia.
 - 2 new RSV vaccines coming out for older adults and pregnant woman. Will be covered under Medicare as it is recommended.
- See presentation slides following the meeting notes for more details.

Sound Cities Association - No updates

VI. Director’s Report

- Legislative Updates
 - Candidates for governor declaring – three so far. Will be monitoring and looking to engage on aging issues.
 - Hunger Relief Bill resulted in additional funding for senior meal programs. ADS was able to share some of our funding with tribal AAAs.
 - Senior Lobby and State Council on Aging meetings are set for October 18-19.
 - Debt ceiling negotiations don’t impact current funding for AAAs but will impact ability to increase funding in near future.
 - Shout out to Karen Winston for fabulous work on the successful MCAAE event with the Mayor.
- AAA operations
 - State auditors at next week. next week will focus on Medicaid and aging cluster grants.
 - Three new leadership positions onboarding – Naisha Williams, Care Coordination Program Director started in late May. Jessica Gardner, Budget Advisor, will start June 14. Tiffany Johnson, Deputy Director, will start July 5.
 - Will be hiring a temporary recruiter to support outreach and hiring care coordinators/case managers for our Medicaid LTSS program. We are reducing vacancies, but still have 12+ spots to fill.
- WA Cares is working with AAAs to do outreach and promote benefits of the program. Invite advisory council to participate in development of video and social media (e.g., Tik Tok) in collaboration with youth interns. Will also look at ads in community newspapers and ethnic media. Focus on adults currently in the workforce.

**ADS Advisory Council
Advocacy Committee Meeting Notes
June 9, 2023**

Attending

- Advisory Council Members: Larry Low, Joe Hailey, Barb Williams, Diana Thompson, Zelda Foxhall, Alex O'Reilly
- Guests: Teri Cleveland
- Staff: Maria Langlais

Agenda Items

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Approved.

Advisory Council Check-in

Members shared information on their individual advocacy and partnership activities, and emerging issues. As a result, members are aware of the committee's collective work and can identify connections that support their advocacy priorities.

- Barb
 - Senior Lobby, presentation from League of Women Voters, Cynthia Stewart always fabulous.
 - PSARA webinar on privatization of Medicare, "[Pulling Back the Curtain: Lies, Fraud, and Naked Profiteering in Medicare Privatization Schemes](#)," featuring Wendell Potter.
 - Alliance for Gun Responsibility presentation on legislation that was passed restricting purchases of automatic weapons.
- Zelda Foxhall
 - Thanked Adam Smith for supporting debt ceiling resolution.
 - Concerned about work reporting requirements for older adults, specifically impact of ageism on 50+ job seekers. submitted an op-ed to South Seattle Emerald and will continue to shop if they decline.
 - Participated in 24-hour "teach-in" on zoom with Common Power. Took place in FL, professors from all over the country talking about harms in banning books.
 - Extends hellos from June Michel – doing very well, still in CA.
- Diana Thompson
 - BNOA and KSC interested in Gold Card expansion to eastside businesses and other opportunities.
 - BNOA has a table at the farmers markets - one day will include "seniors' day at market" – suggested ADS might be interested in similar tabling events.
 - Hearing Loss Assn Presentation – Diana and Cheri can present at upcoming Advisory Council meeting. Will work with Maria on scheduling.
- Alex O'Reilly
 - Property tax exemption - Assessor welcomes volunteers to do outreach and assistance with applications. Will provide training. Greenwood Senior Center

- planning to do this in September. Takes 4 months from application to approval, and retroactive for 4 years. Homeowners have 2 months to appeal valuation.
- Legislative tracking sheets were very helpful - used by her MSW student from Seattle U.
 - KC Mobility Coalition – willing to let us advertise for advisory council openings in their newsletter. Waiting to hear from them about copy deadlines.
 - **The Swimmers**, by Julie Otsuka, is the 2023 [Seattle Reads](#) book; available for free at Memory Hub. About dementia journey, highly recommend.
 - Interested in attending [Senior Lobby](#) meetings. Confirmed that these are open to anyone. Maria will forward meeting announcement emails to advocacy committee.
- **Larry Low**
 - VSHSL and Housing Levy - concerned about ability to pass both in same year.
 - Gun violence - recent shootings on Beacon Hill have prompted public safety concerns. Anticipate this will be big issue in City Council race.
 - Joined his local senior center, Southeast Seattle Senior Center. In addition to activities, he learned they deliver meals on wheels. Operate largely on volunteers - only 2 paid staff. Sliding scale membership – a bargain. Centers operate differently, most have meals on suggested donation, but other activities and costs vary.
 - Pride parade - his church will be participating.
 - South Beacon Hill - hoping to reach out and make connections in this community.
 - **Teri Cleveland**
 - Manages 10 [Senior Affordable Apartment Communities](#) in the region.
 - Usually have 2-7 vacancies per community - contact Teri if you know folks looking for housing.
 - Pricing varies between community and is based on median income in the area, and % of resident income.
 - **Joe Hailey**
 - Arrowhead Gardens – Unauthorized RV encampment established in nearby greenspace has sparked concern from community members.
 - [Raising Wages for Saving Lives](#) campaign - signed in support.
 - Thanked his legislators for their support of W4A priorities.
 - Rep. Fitzgibbon thanked him for supporting dental care bill.
 - King County Alliance for Human Services ([KCAHS](#)) – attended their April meeting and will probably stay engaged.
 - [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) - participated in session that addressed work requirements with debt ceiling negotiations. Doesn't impact Medicaid, but does impact SNAP.
 - About My Father, funny movie with Robert DeNiro
 - Dean Barnes - retired HR director for SHA, interested in joining AC in 2024
 - [Being Mortal](#), by Atul Gawande, was eye opening; recommend for everyone in medical profession.

Advocacy Issues

Federal

- Debt ceiling negotiations
 - ARPA money for aging not impacted – allocated funds can be spent.
 - No increases to discretionary budget for next few years, anticipate gov't will operate on continuing resolutions. Flat funding is effectively a decrease given growing costs and demand for services.
 - Connection to wage equity campaign, will be difficult to increase human services wages with flat federal funding. Would need to come from state local sources (e.g., Housing Levy includes funding for wage increases for staff in that sector).

State

- Legislative session follow-up
 - Thanking legislators for wins. Several committee members have already sent individual thank you messages; encourage everyone to send their own. Agreed agency thank you email should come from Mary. Maria will coordinate – Barb stated importance to identify and recognize legislators who were sponsors for any of our priorities.
 - Hunger relief bill
 - Provided \$6M for statewide senior meal programs. Several legislators have indicated interest in making this ongoing.
 - AL TSA and W4A are preparing thank you package to send to legislators. If you have impact stories, please share with Maria before end of the month.
 - Related, committee would be interested in hearing more about hunger in our communities – e.g., presentation from Food Lifeline that focuses on food insecurity and older adults.
- 2024 session prep
 - Senior Lobby and State Council on Aging meetings are scheduled for October 18-19
 - Majority of committee members present are interested in attending and willing to stay at hotel.
- WA Cares outreach
 - AAAs will contract with WA Cares to raise awareness of importance of this program; hope to counter anticipated pushback as folks see \$ withdrawn from paycheck.
 - ADS will engage council in this work – trusted messengers and advocates – to speak on the need to be prepared for long-term care.
 - Committee members supportive.

Local

- VSHSL
 - KCAHS solicited endorsement from Council. Motion to endorse VSHSL renewal was approved. Will bring motion to full council.
 - Support in coordination with promoting tax relief (property tax exemption); selling point – no increase, county-wide.

- Levy will be on August ballot.
- Affordable Housing Levy
 - Will support increased wages for housing sector staff.
 - Planned for November ballot.
- Wage equity – Seattle Human Services Coalition ([SHSC](#)) Advocacy
 - Shared [UW study](#) and SHSC advocacy request with committee via email.
 - Committee interested in learning more and would like to invite SHSC to present at upcoming advocacy committee meeting. Maria will follow up.

Action Items

- ✓ Follow-up on Hearing Loss Assn presentation timing (Maria, Diana)
- ✓ Draft/send thank you letters for 2023 Leg session (Maria/Mary for ADS; AC members for own legislators)
- ✓ Invite SHSC rep to upcoming committee meeting to talk about wage equity study and campaign (Maria)