



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 September 9, 2023

Advisory Council Members

x	Alex O'Reilly	x	Joe Hailey		Tammy Morales
x	Barbara Williams		Kim-Khánh Van (CM)	x	Tom Minty
x	Cindy Snyder		Larry Low		Zelda Foxall
x	Diana Thompson	x	Lorna Stone		
	Dick Woo	x	Marli Larimer (CM)		

Others Present

Guests: Pamela Williams, Patricia Hunter, George Dicks, Dale Hauer; Emily Billow; Kari-Mae Miles

HSD Staff: Andrea Yip, Dinah Stephens, Irene Stewart, Karen Winston, Maria Langlais, Mary Mitchell, Michael Adusah

AAA Partners: Caren Goldenberg, Mariel Torres-Mehdipour (PHSKC)

I. **Presentation: Washington State Long-term Care Ombudsman Program** by Patricia Hunter and Pamela Williams.

- LTC Ombuds staff provided an overview of the purpose, role, outcomes, and policy of the Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in promoting and protecting the legal rights of individuals living in long-term care was provided.
- The program protects and promotes the rights of long-term care residents, handling complaint findings and resolutions, advocating on behalf of long-term care residents, and educating others (residents, families, providers, elected officials, policy makers, media and public).
- The program is governed by federal and state laws. Staff are not mandated reporters and nationwide, a federal law exempts us from liability if we act in good faith.
- People facing Medicare discrimination are assisted, though they can't advocate for persons living in their own home or a care facility and have no authority to enter supported living.
- King County has 7 full-time staff and 23 volunteers (working 4 hours per week) handling 800 complaints with an 81% satisfaction rate. Funding for staff and volunteers was increased during the recent legislative session.
- The most common complaints:
 - ✓ Inadequate discharge planning.
 - ✓ Problem with administration.
 - ✓ Quantity, quality, and variation of foods.
 - ✓ Lack of respect for residents and dignity issues.

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In partnership with:



- ✓ Hazardous issues with equipment.
- ✓ Medication issues and roommate conflicts (in homes).
- There is an online, confidential, and encrypted complaint form available and approximately 10 inquiries are received each week.
- Re inequality between someone living in assisted living and someone in a nursing home, there is a bill in the next legislative session (HP1859) that will protect resident rights across all settings, including the right to appeal an eviction and the right to appeal a discharge.
- For more information
 - ✓ Patricia Hunter, WA State LTC Ombuds: stateombufdsd@sschelps.org 253-838-6810
 - ✓ Pamela Williams, Regional LTC Ombuds: pamela.williams@mschelps.org 253-838-6610 Ext. 197
 - ✓ Host Agency for State LTC Ombudsman Program: www.mschelps.org
 - ✓ Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: <https://www.waombudsman.org/>
 - ✓ See [presentation](#) for additional information.

II. **RSJ Learning: African American Women and the Struggle for Equality** (Michael Adusah)

- A 3-minute video titled *African American women in the Struggle for Equality* was shown <https://youtu.be/X5H80Nhm20?si=17auR2sHj2oQ9pbd>.
- A discussion taking place after focused on the following questions:
 1. What comes to mind when you hear the term intersectionality? Can you think of examples from your own life for different aspects of your identity have intersected that shape your experiences?
 2. In what ways can we promote inclusivity and equality by taking intersectionality into account in our daily lives in our communities.
 3. How can we foster a more inclusive and equitable society by acknowledging and addressing intersectional issues?
 4. How do you think intersectionality impacts the work done by Advisory Council?

Responses included:

- ✓ There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives.
- ✓ People are complex and there are many things that shape their lives and how they are in the world at any moment.
- ✓ If you are aware of intersectionality or think about it in your interactions with people or with issues, that helps you to identify areas of implicit bias you may have.
- ✓ It makes work done by the Advisory Council more complex as we look at all facets of issues to determine how they affect certain populations and what we can do in terms of advocacy and legislation.
- ✓ Poverty and stages of life, environments and communities, disabilities and discrimination are types of intersectionality not always appreciated in policy development and programs.

III. **Meeting Motions and Council Business**

Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A vote was taken to approve minutes from the meeting held August 11, 2023. The minutes were accepted as written, without additional comment.

Move to Accept: Barbara Williams **Second:** Lorna Stone

IV. Committee Updates

Advocacy (Barbara Williams)

- It was announced that Larry Low has stepped down from his position of Chair on the Advocacy Committee. Barbara Williams has agreed to step in as Interim Advocacy Committee Chair for the remainder of the term.

MOTION: A vote was taken for Barbara Williams to be accepted in the position vacated by Larry Low for the remainder of the term. All members in attendance were in favor with none opposing or abstaining.

Move to Approve: Lorna Stone **Second:** Tom Minty

- We are working on trying to formalize and help support applications for Senior Tax Exemption and she's working with the King County Assessor's Office to discuss holding workshops.
- There is an effort to get a gold card operational in Bellevue and Kirkland and recruit businesses to offer those benefits.
- The monthly Child Tax Credit could be a resource for elders raising children.
- The cohort of the greater than 65 age group is growing faster than any others; need to explore housing options such as tax-credit properties where low-income people (50-60% below median) can have housing at less than the market rate.

Planning & Allocations Committee (Lorna Stone)

- Our Zoom meeting last Monday was well attended, and comments were made by the public and other providers supporting issues around digital equity, the need for senior centers, needing more work around behavioral health and self-neglect, the need for better transportation in southeast rural King County, the issue of housing instability in kinship care, and a request for the possibility of designing housing for deaf and hard of hearing people.
- There is a need to better organize the One-Call for better transportation.
- A request is made to approve the Issue section of the Final Draft Area Plan 2024-2027 as it is currently written.

MOTION: A vote was taken to approve the current version of the Area Plan 2024-2027. All members in attendance were in favor with none opposing or abstaining.

Move to Approve: Barbara Williams **Second:** Cindy Snyder

VSHSL Board Seniors Committee (Cindy Snyder)

There were no updates to report this month.

NW Universal Design Council (Dinah Stephens)

- We had meaningful conversations about accessible design with over 700 people at our South Lake Union Design Festival boot. We partnered with Jenson Hughes for this event.
- We're doing some review and weighing in on the Seattle Comprehensive City Plan and are talking about creating a committee structure so people can get involved more in leadership positions.

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

- Guest speakers from PSARA provided information at the August meeting on Medicare Fraud and Medicare Privatization. Committee Reports were provided as well as an update by Mary Mitchell.
- A guest speaker from the Seattle Parks Department in the September 15th meeting will be talking about the CommUNITY Fund, a project to advance Park Equity.
- Grandparents Day Celebration is this Sunday, September 10th at the NW African American Museum with Joe Hailey being the Keynote speaker. Admission to the museum will be free from 2:00-4:00pm. There will be musical entertainment, lots of good food, and they will be inducting 4 members into the Elders Circle during the program. <https://www.agingkingcounty.org/grandparentsday/>

Age Friendly Seattle (Dinah Stephens)

- We have launched Anti Ageism training for all City of Seattle staff and are making it available on a separate platform for members of the Advisory Council.
- We have 4 separate forums that will be scheduled between the end of September through October for Seattle City Council candidates running for open seats.
- I want to give my team credit for continuing to evolve our Civic Coffee events. We saw over 100 people combined for the last 2 in-person events. Community members are responding to gathering again and we still offer live interaction for people who need to join virtually.

v. Partners Reports

King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) (Michael Adusah on behalf of Traci Adair)

- Once the VSHSL Implementation Plan is reviewed and voted on by the King County Council, we'll be moving forward with procurements. The timing of that is unclear.
- We met with the King County Assessor's office and created a tentative plan for us to represent the Greenwood Senior Center in a pilot to use volunteers to support seniors navigating the Tax Exemption application process. We will be meeting again next week to coordinate potential first steps.
- Emergency Planning/Coordination between our teams continues and we're wrapping up grant work.
- We're working with King County's Emergency Preparedness Teams to host 4-5 sessions at senior centers to support seniors in building emergency plans. Blogs coming out soon on the ADS/ASD coordination and the Emergency Preparedness training.

Public Health Seattle/King County (Caren Goldenberg)

- A new COVID Booster is expected to be approved in the next few weeks with recommendation for adults and people over 65 though it may not include children as there is no danger to children when infected.
- The COVID Booster should be widely available and is being commercialized meaning it will be covered by insurance including any form of Medicare coverage.
- The Flu vaccine is coming though we're not sure it'll be a good match for this season's strain. It's looking like a later flu season this year. We recommend getting both the Flu Vaccine and COVID Booster. A high-dose Flu Vaccine will be available for people over 65.

- It is dangerous for babies under 1 year old to get RSV and the risk increases for people over 65. We have a new RSV Vaccine available for people over 60 with the guideline recommending shared clinical decisions be made with the health care provider. The same vaccine is expected to be available this fall for pregnant people and a new product will be given to infants born during respiratory season.
- King County will continue to have our in-home program for people who are homebound.
- We're standing up new vaccine clinic at Kent this season.
- Community Health Services is considering cutting services due to a serious funding crisis.

Sound Cities Association

There were no updates provided.

vi. Directors Report (Mary Mitchell)

- The Advisory Council meeting will not be held in October. We want to encourage participation in the virtual State Council on Aging meeting (October 18th, 2023), and the virtual Senior Lobby meeting (October 19th, 2023). We will send out an e-mail to assess interest in attending the Senior Lobby and ADS will cover the registration fees. The State Council meeting has no charge. These are great forums to connect with advocates across the state and to hear directly from policy makers.
ACTION: Michael Adusah to send email after this meeting to assess interest in attending the Senior lobby on October 18, 2023.
- The AAAs are working on their plans, and working with the state, to assess where to provide support during the rollout of WA Cares. There are efforts out there to overturn or allow people the ability to opt-out of the WA Cares Tax.
- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference was held in Seattle and the US Special Adviser for International Disability Rights requested a meeting of local people. The Special Advisor was interested in learning about what we're doing locally regarding disability rights so she can take some of those ideas to the international level. We shared info on:
 - ✓ Flash Card / Discount Program for people with disabilities.
 - ✓ Guide for how to hold Inclusive Event
 - ✓ Universal Design Festival
 - ✓ The Puget Sound Regional Council and King County Mobility Coalition's One Click/One Call app (under development) designed to make it easier for people with mobility challenges to find and book transportation options.
 - ✓ Wheelchair Taxi's, and how all riders pay into the tax used to offset the cost of operating Wheelchair Taxi's.
 - ✓ How in Emergency Planning, disability is not in the forefront but more of an afterthought.

Upcoming Advisory Council Meetings and Other Advocacy Events

- Grandparents Day: Rooted in Community, Culture, and Love, September 10, 2023
- W4A/State Council on Aging (SCOA) and Senior Lobby Conferences, October 18-19, 2023
- ADS Advisory Council Meeting, November 3, 2023*
- ADS Advisory Council Meeting, December 8, 2023

*Note – October meeting is cancelled in lieu of statewide meetings; November meeting is a week earlier due to Veteran’s Day Holiday.

ADS Advisory Council Advocacy Committee

Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2023

Attending

- Advisory Council Members: Joe Hailey, Zelda Foxall, Barb Williams, Diana Thompson, Alex O'Reilly
- ADS Staff: Maria Langlais, Michael Adusah, Mary Mitchell
- Guests: Teri Cleveland

Item
<p>Welcome and Approval of August Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Members discussed Larry Low's Retirement from the Advocacy committee, and Barb Williams agreed to assume the role of chair temporarily.</p> <p>Diana Thompson wanted to check when the terms ended for members.</p> <p>August minutes approved.</p>
<p>Advisory Council Check-in</p> <p>Alex O'Reilly: Continuing to work on making senior property tax exemption more accessible to older adults in the community and would welcome others to join her. She is meeting with staff from the King County Assessor's office next week to talk about outreach efforts. The goal is to go to senior centers to inform them of the program.</p> <p>Joe Hailey: Sat in on two hearings on the area plan. An encampment near Joe's residence was cleared, and 80 percent placed in housing. Participated in a strategic planning event for the Center for Ethical Leadership. The CFH men's shelter recently opened in Bellevue; they provided services to single adult men experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Diana Thompson: Bellevue and Kirkland's joint advocacy committee wants to expand the age-friendly Seattle programs that provide discounts. They are doing outreach to add more business to the program to provide 10 percent discounts to seniors. Met with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene office, DelBene agreed to join the Assisted Caring Today Caucus. AARAP wants to support the earned income tax credit but questions the age limit.</p> <p>Barb Williams: Attended Senior Lobby prep meeting; monthly topic will be food insecurity. The convention center funded the proposal for putting a lid on I-5. The top will be from Marion to Denny Way, providing green space and transition opportunities to people who live on the east side of I-5. The website is lidi5.org. Attended Seattle Design Festival. Attended two of the hearings for the area plan.</p>

Item
<p>Zelda Foxall: Provided an update on the importance of child tax credit. Zelda will update the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) next month. Recommended the NY Times, “How to Prepare for Aging America,” which advocates for a national conversation on aging.</p> <p>Teri Cleveland: Wants to find a better way of getting the word out on the vacancies in Fairfield and tax credit properties.</p> <p>Mary Mitchel: Provided summary on meeting with Special Assistant to the U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights. The Area Plan is on track.</p>
<p>Advocacy Issues</p> <p><u>Federal:</u> Older Americans Act reauthorization. Provided update on the potential government shutdown; best case scenario is a continuing resolution.</p> <p><u>State:</u> 2024 legislative priorities will include ensuring that Medicaid long-term services are equitably funded; securing sustainable funding for hunger relief and other funding cliffs. AAAs are assisting in WA Cares Fund (WCF) outreach and implementation.</p> <p><u>Local:</u> The city budget will be released later this month. The final budget will be out by Thanksgiving—do not anticipate significant impact on ADS programs or services.</p>
<p>Review of Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up with on Medicare coverage for Mental Health (In progress) • Connect with AARP and United Way to help with KC property tax exemption. • Connect with Boards and Commissions to check the status of terms (in progress) •