



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

February 9, 2024

Members: Cynthia Snyder, Diana Thompson, Dick Woo, Tom Minty, Alex O'Reilly, CM Kim-Khánh Vãn (Renton), CM Marli Larimer (Kent), Zelda Foxall, Lorna Stone, Barb Williams, Joe Hailey, Zelda Foxall, CM Cathy Moore (Seattle).

Pending Members: Dr. Joel Domingo, Dolores Wiens

Partner Liaisons: Mariel Torres Mehdipour, Public Health Seattle-King County; Andi Parnell, Sound Cities Association; Pamela Williams, Mayor's Council on African American Elders.

Guests: Rachel Nemhauser, Reem Al-Dossary, Sandra Urite, Sara Sisco, Meghan Means, Terri Cleveland, Kirstine Kim, Jae Kim, Nanda Tewari, Ariele Belo, Henry Tea, Gertrude Pullen, Charlotte Jacobs, Angela Theriault

Interpreters: Heidi Cooke, Sienna Geal, Karen Philo-House, Ronise Barreras

HSD Staff: Allison Boll, Maria Langlais, Irene Stewart, Andrea Yip, Michael Adusah, Karen Winston, Waing Waing, Sarah Demas, Sue Siegenthaler, Naisha Williams, Dinah Stephens, Kevin Mundt, Mary Mitchell

WELCOME

The newly elected 2024 slate of Advisory Council Members were introduced:

- **Chair:** Alex O'Reilly
- **Vice Chair:** Lorna Stone
- **At Large:** Zelda Foxall
- **Secretary:** Barb Williams

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

In partnership with:



Community Living Connections Investment Process – Engagement Opportunity – Allison Boll

Allison Boll, ADS Planner, provided an overview of the service area and planned investment process for Community Living Connections. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion in which councilmember shared their initial feedback on the proposed process. Related highlights:

- ADS continues to work with service providers to ensure our logic re data and measures is sound and that we're not making assumptions.
 - Options Counseling will be integrated into Information and Assistance, and Care Coordination will continue to be delivered as it is today.
 - ADS acknowledges there are real barriers to the grant application processes and welcomes feedback on how the process can be made more equitable and accessible.
- ACTION:** Allison Boll will follow up with Henry Tea (Dhammacakkara) on accessible ways for them to partner with the community.
- Official information on the current Human Services funding opportunities is available through the [HSD Funding Opportunities](#) webpage in accordance with funding process policies.

Please see the attached presentation for more details.

Race and Social Justice Moment: I Have a Dream – Michael Adusah

A link to the video [I Have a Dream: Students from Martin Luther King Jr's Former School Recite Speech](#) was sent out prior to the start of the meeting and a discussion was held during the meeting with major takeaways being:

- We're far from that "I have a Dream" arrival; we're nowhere near that, especially today
- It's good to hear the entire speech repeated by young folks.
- I'm pessimistic based on what's happening in the past recent days and this past year.
- I have never heard the complete speech and I was blown away by how moving it was.
- I wish I lived at the time of the original speech.
- The movie [Rustin](#) is a whole different side to this (Baynard Rustin helped organize that march.)
- It was the idea that every generation has a responsibility to live that dream and to work for it, because that dream is so aspirational, and we may never see it in our lifetime but that does not advocate us from the responsibility to do something today and help the next generation; to empower them to take this mantel up and if we do not, that dream will end up dying.
- I tend to feel depressed about the progress that's been made.
- In December I was in Roanoke Virginia where there's a statue of MLK with benches where people can push a button to listen to his many different speeches, and that would never have happened when I was growing up in that town, so there's some progress.
- When I was a kid, and learning about MLK, I thought it was hundreds of years ago but the older I get I realize how recent it is compared to history overall. We've made steps, but there's still more to take to make his dream come true, like making sure the generation coming behind us can learn about this type of history and that lawmakers in charge, who are systematically trying to erase his history, are unsuccessful.

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

I. ACCEPTANCE OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – Alex O’Reilly

MOTION: A vote was taken to approve minutes from the meeting held January 12, 2024. The minutes were accepted as written without added comment.

Move to Accept: Lorna Stone

Seconded: Joe Hailey

Outcome: The January 12, 2024, approved minutes will be posted as written.

II. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Advocacy Committee - Diana Thompson, Advocacy Chair

- House Bill 1859, which was a priority for the LTC Ombudsman, is not moving forward this year.
- Senior Lobby Day is February 22 and it will be a virtual event.

Planning and Allocations Committee - Lorna Stone, P&A Chair

- Reviewed the 2024 Work Plan, RFP schedule, Service Areas, Nutrition, and budget.
- The hiring freeze is affecting investments, programs, and RFPs in ADS and a question was raised on whether the Mayor’s Office is considering the Racial Equity Lense in decisions.
- Providers feel there’s been a large cut to Congregate Dining and Home Delivered Meals compared to pandemic monies, and it’s a problem for those services.

VSHSL Board Seniors Committee - Cindy Snyder, AAA representative

- No updates were provided during the meeting.

NW Universal Design Council - Tom Minty, NWUDC Liaison

- Thanks to Dinah Stephens and her Fathima Garcia for updating and refreshing the website.
- The City of Redmond, Eastside for All, and the Disability Empowerment Center are hosting a [workshop](#) on February 17, 2024.
- Presenting the South King County Housing and Homeless Partners Priority to the Advisory Council on March 7, 2024.
- The next Advisory Steering Committee meeting is February 13, 2024.

Mayor’s Council on African American Elders - Pamela Williams, MCAAE/Advisory Council Liaison

- New officers were elected at our annual planning retreat in January 2024:
 - **Chair:** Rita Howard
 - **Vice Chair:** Charlotte Antoine
 - **Representative:** Pamela Williams will stand for MCAAE at the Advisory Meetings.

- Reached an agreement on our 2024 advocacy focus area, which includes Low-Income Housing, Financial Literacy, Fraud Prevention, Social Isolation, Digital Access and MCAAE World Support Outreach and Education efforts among BIPOC in King County for WACares.
- The February 16, 2024, [MCAAE meeting](#) will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in honor of Black History Month. The meeting will include a [panel discussion](#) with three organizations serving African Americans in King County – Heart and Soul Hospice, African-American Elders Program, and the Tubman Center for Health and Freedom.

Age-Friendly Seattle - Dinah Stephens, AFS Program Manager

- Continuing the roll out of Anti-Ageism Training and incorporating invaluable feedback from the Advisory Council. Preparing to launch the public version of the training this spring.
- Our next [Civic Coffee](#) is on February 23, 2024, focusing on “Digital Navigation and Privacy.”
- Launching a social connectivity network this March.

III. REPORTS FROM AAA PARTNERS

King County Department of Community and Human Services

- No updates were provided during the meeting.

Public Health Seattle-King County - Mariel Torres Mehdipour

- Mariel Torres Mehdipour attended the Advocacy Committee Meeting.
- PHSKC is tracking [HB-1670](#) as a potential revenue source for community clinics, which are facing potential closure due to revenue shortfalls.

Sound Cities Association - Andi Parnell, SCA Liaison

- Tracking priorities for Behavior Health, Public Safety, Economic Development and Affordable Housing.
- Attended Association for Washington Cities Action Day in Olympia and will have first 2024 Public Issue Committee meeting next week.

IV. DISCUSSION OF MEETING CADENCE – Alex O’Reilly

In-Person Retreat

- Alex O’Reilly suggested holding the annual retreat on April 12, 2024, in place of the monthly meeting.
- A suggestion was made to push the date out until we have more members. Three applications have been resubmitted (Joel Domingo, Dolores Wiens, and Patricia Schrempf), which leaves five vacancies for 2024.

- Pending members can fully take part except for voting. According to Advisory Committee Bi-Laws, once a perspective member is cleared through the Mayor's Office and sent to the Council Clerk, they may take part in voting.
- Michael Adusah and Traci Adair worked on a proposal with King County that will significantly speed up how long it takes for them to approve/appoint people who live or work outside of Seattle.
- There's consensus on having an in-person meeting in either April or May.

ACTION: Maria Langlais and Michael Adusah to discuss delaying the retreat to be sure we have more participants.

In-Person Quarterly Meetings

- The Executive Committee proposed that one meeting each quarter be in-person (hybrid).
- The in-person retreat and Senior Lobby Day in Olympia would count as in-person meetings.
- Consensus that there is still a need to keep an eye on the uptick of COVID-19 and recommend that people wear masks.

ACTION: Council members to consider when they would like to hold the in-person meetings and share their feedback with Michael Adusah.

V. ADS DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mary Mitchell, Director ADS

- An exception process is in place for the Mayor's Hiring Freeze, which gives ADS the ability to articulate priorities, funding sources, and community impacts.
- The Snoqualmie Indian Tribes are working with ADS to develop their 7.01 Plans and would like ADS to collaborate with the other AAAs in which their tribal members reside.
- On May 22, the governor is hosting the Aging Summit in partnership with AARP.
- The 30th Annual US Aging Policy Briefing is March 12-13, 2024, in Washington, DC. Staff from ADS will participate as part of the W4A delegation.
- A nationwide survey went out seeking information on updates needed to be included in the OOA Regulations. The AAA Directors are reviewing the regulations to assess impact and identify areas for clarification. Guidelines take effect on March 15, 2024, and agencies have until October 2025 to comply.
- The [State Council on Aging](#) is seeking a representative from ADS Advisory Council. Contact Michael Adusah if you are interested.
- W4A's two priorities, \$2.5 million for Case Management and \$15.2 million for Senior Nutrition, have champions in the House and Senate.
- ADS continues to coordinate outreach efforts with WACares and working with the state on the role AAAs will play.

CLOSING

Advisory Council Check-in (Alex O'Reilly)

- Alex O'Reilly shared the Advocacy Committee's practice of beginning meetings with members sharing their advocacy efforts from the previous month. She would like to add this to the full Council agenda for March as an opportunity to get to know and build relationships with each other. Some concern expressed about the time this would require. Agreed to try this as optional practice and evaluate.

ACTION: Michael Adusah to add Advisory Council Check-in to the March meeting agenda.

Upcoming Advisory Council Meetings and Other Advocacy Events

- The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned