



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.

Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2024

****REVISED March 18, 2024****

Members: Joe Hailey, Diana Thompson, Barb Williams, Alex O'Reilly, Zelda Foxall, Dolores Wiens (submitted application)

Guests: Pamela Williams, Hannah Kimball, Vedrana Durakovic, Wendy Murphy, JJ Wong, Mariel Torres Mehdipour

Staff: Michael Adusah, Maria Langlais

1. ACCEPTANCE OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

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

Move to Accept: Alex O'Reilly

Seconded: Barb Williams

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

2. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHECK-IN

Diana Thompson

- A bipartisan bill was introduced in congress this week to provide a tax credit for family caregivers.
- [Bill HB-1859](#) is dead and will be introduced next year under a different number. An article from [January AgeWise](#) highlights the issue HB-1859 hoped to address.

Joe Hailey

- Attended W4A Advocacy training, the Justice in Aging Webinar (Strategies to Mitigate Bias in Legal and Aging Services), signed onto HB-2114, SB-6191, HB-1859, and sat in on 2 committee hearings.
- Gift card legislation: HB-2094 and SB-5987, HB-2095 and SB-5988 would return unclaimed funds to consumers instead of corporations.

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In partnership with:



- The Low-Income Housing Alliance is facing a \$70 million dollar shortfall across the state, and they are looking for supplemental budget to fill the gap.

Alex O'Reilly

- Signed onto bill for the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024 and HB-1541.
- Attended Retired Employee of Washington Lobby Day and wrote a letter in support of Hope Link project One Call One Click (Phase II) grant.

Barb Williams

- Attended W4A Advocacy training and signed onto HB-1541, HB-2049 and SB-6005.
- Attended a Town Hall on DEI and Belonging. [Stella Young Ted Talk](#)

Zelda Foxall

- Attended W4A Advocacy training.
- Participating in AARP Weekly Check-in calls. Top priorities for AARP are WA Cares, Social Security and Caregiving. They're watching HB-2277, SB-5986, HB-1998, HB-1969, SB-6069, and SB-2467.
- AARP is sponsoring debates this fall for the following seats: Governor, Attorney General, and the 6th Congressional District.
- Teach with TVW is a city program seeking to partner with educators to help create non-partisan lesson content and activity plans for high schools and community college students by the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Contact Zelda if you're interested in learning more or participating.

Pamela Williams

- Is a member of the Mayors Council of African American Elders (MCAAE) and a Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman for King County and will be coming to our monthly meetings.

Hannah Kimball

- Is a member of the Bellevue Network on Aging and a foodbank farmer with interest in making sure our communities recognize that older adults are 20% of the population and we should have at least 20% of the budget.

Vedrana Durakovic (Sound Generations)

- Sound Generations staff and board members are tracking bills, trying to plan a trip to Olympia, are looking at a methodical approach to advocacy and are planning for next year.

Dolores Wiens

- Concerned about COVID-19 risks to LTSS clients from caregivers not wearing masks or having had been vaccinated. King County Public Health suggests that if the caregiver is affiliated with an agency, a conversation can be had with the agency on their policies, standards, and the due diligence they require for caregivers.

ACTION: Mariel Torres Mehdipour will reach out to colleagues for information on COVID-19 and vaccination policies for homecare agencies.

ACTION: Dolores Wiens will follow up with Maria Langlais and Mariel Torres Mehdipour to share more about this issue.

JJ Wong

- Signed onto HB-1541, attended W4A Advocacy training, and is working on Senior LGBTQ Housing Rights as well as health treatments in those facilities.

Mariel Torres Mehdipour, Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSKC)

- Is keeping track of the bills previously mentioned as well as those on public health and is paying close attention to [HB-1670](#).

3. ADVOCACY ISSUES

Federal Updates

- Tracking federal [Credit for Caring Act](#), which Diana referenced earlier.
- The Advisory Council gave feedback on the [OOA Regulations](#) (guidelines on how we administer OOA funding and how we run those programs) and we're waiting for analysis from USAging, and the National Council on Aging. The regulations are due to be [reauthorized](#) but USAging has yet to state their position on policy .
- 2024 Federal Budget is funded through Continuing Resolution (CR) through early March, enabling the government to operate based on FY23 allocations.
- OAA is due to be reauthorized in 2024.

State Updates

- Draft budgets from House and Senate should be released around Presidents Day.
- [Senior Lobby Day](#), scheduled for February 22, will be a virtual event. ADS staff will check with W4A and OIR re the effectiveness of in-person meetings with legislators at this late stage in the session.
- The state is hosting an Aging Summit for Governor Inslee on May 22. The event will provide an opportunity to highlight the Governor's role in championing aging priorities and will lay a foundation for the next governor to build on.
- The event may be an opportunity to launch a state initiative to become an Age Friendly Community. Seattle became an Age Friendly Community in 2016, a designation from AARP and the World Health Organization, which commits jurisdictions to continually improve to make their communities better places for people of all ages to grow up and grow older.
- If you did not get a copy of the Bill Tracker from Michael Adusah this morning, email him.
- The [State Council on Aging](#) (SCOA) still does not have a representative from ADS Advisory Council on the board. We would like to get this seat filled in 2024 and will continue to present this

opportunity in committee and full council meetings. Time commitment is one two-hour meeting each month. The SCOA meets the third Thursday each month from 9am to Noon; meetings are currently virtual.

Local Updates

- Both City and County Councils have new members, which presents an opportunity to introduce them to the work of the Advisory Council.
- Seattle City Councilmember Cathy Moore is chair of the Human Services Committee and appointed to represent the Council on the ADS Advisory Council. She will be attending the Advisory Council this afternoon.
- HB-1670 is being closely watched by Public Health Seattle King County as this would enable counties to increase property tax limits, providing needed revenue to support community health clinics. The bill is moving forward, and any bills that have monetary impact are never dead until the session is over and the budget is signed.

4. Other Updates

Quarterly Meetings

- A proposed quarterly cadence for in-person Advisory Council meetings will be discussed this afternoon with the full council.