



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 Holiday Party

Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**

December 13, 2024

Advisory Council Members:

HSD Staff: Michael Adusah, Jessica Gardner, Maria Langois, Mary Mitchell

1. Council Updates and Discussions

- Budget overview – Jessica Gardner
Presentation of the adopted Advisory Council Budget, which includes a general fund contribution increase of 400,000. The budget increased from \$15.4 million to \$17.3 million, with some areas experiencing decreases due to shifting funding elsewhere. The adult day program has seen a budget reduction, while the elder abuse prevention program has seen an increase of 120,000. The long-term Ombudsman program has also seen an increase of 9,000. Praise was expressed for Jessica’s work in managing the complex budget with different funding sources. The importance of the congregate nutrition program was discussed, and the need to preserve grant funding for future years.

- Bylaw updates – Maria Langois

Updates to resolve a conflict between the bylaws and the interlocal agreement were discussed. The issue arose from the bylaws indicating that the county should appoint a certain number of members, while the interlocal agreement stated that the city should be the appointing authority. This led to a roadblock in the appointment process. ADS proposed changes to the bylaws to make them more inclusive and to reflect the feedback from the previous meeting. The changes included deleting the percentage of members from Seattle and specifying that all members of the Advisory Council should be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Agreement to expedite the process and vote on the updated bylaws to resolve the issue and move forward with the appointment process.

MOTION: The Council voted to adopt the revised bylaws as submitted with abstention by Dick Woo.

- Election of new officers
Alex, Lorna, and Joel expressed interest in various positions.

MOTION: The Council voted unanimously to adopt the slate of officers as submitted:

Alex O'Reilly, Chair
Cynthia Snyder, Vice Chair
Joel Domingo, At Large Member
Lorna Stone, Chair P&A Committee
Diana Thompson, Chair – Advocacy Committee

Pending – Secretary

2. Celebration and Recognition

2024 accomplishments were reviewed including advocating for an additional \$12 million for nutrition, and meeting with the Federal Congressional delegation for King County. Outgoing members Dick and Barb were acknowledged, along with Zelda Foxall and Larry Low who left during in the past year.

Outgoing members were presented with certificates of appreciation signed by ADS Director Mary Mitchell and Mayor Bruce Harrell.

3. Closing Remarks

Mary Mitchell announced Irene Stewart's retirement and the potential takeover of her role by Illuminate. ADS needs to reassess the effectiveness of the AgeWise publication, including its cadence, readership, article length, and format. There was interest in having a new issue by the end of January or early February. Members were encouraged to share ideas for future topics and to continue advocating for their interests.

The majority of meetings will be virtual in 2025, with a few in-person meetings, the dates and locations to be determined.