



Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

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Advisory Council Meeting February 14, 2025

Attending

Advisory Council Members: Dr. Joel Domingo, Joe Hailey, Tom Minty, Alex O'Reilly, Cynthia Snyder, Lorna Stone, Diana Thompson, CM Janice Zahn City of Bellevue.

Staff: Michael Adusah, Mary Mitchell, Waing Waing, Eldad Mekuria

AAA Liaisons: Traci Adair, King County Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Mariel Torres Mehdipour, Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSKC); AJ Foltz, Sound Cities Association (SCA)

Guests: Lillian Young and Danielle Friedman, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Alex welcomed everyone and introduced Bellevue City Council Member Zahn, who was recently appointed to the 41st legislative district in Bellevue and will be representing SCA on the Advisory Council. CM Zahn expressed her enthusiasm for learning from the group and her commitment to advocating for aging and disability services.

II. Presentation: Overview of the 2025 ADS-Department of Neighborhoods (DON) Partnership. By Danille Friedman and Lillian Young, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

ADS is partnering with DON to develop a strategic plan to support outreach and engagement over the next 5-6 years. The plan aims to enhance ADS's community engagement effectiveness, support programming, and cultivate lasting connections with underrepresented groups. DON staff plan to launch an internal survey, conduct listening sessions with target populations, and develop a draft plan with specific recommendations. Lillian gave an overview of DON's Community Liaison Program,

which aims to support programming and enhance coordination to support under-represented groups and cultivate lasting connections.

DON is seeking feedback from the community and other interested parties to inform the plan and invited comments from the Advisory Council and attendees. Examples of successful projects were shared, such as the Seattle Public Utilities' strategic business plan update and the electrification engagement pilot project with Seattle City Light.

Joel asked if there was a list of priorities broken down by specific neighborhoods created by DON. Danielle and Lillian emphasized the importance of trusted messengers and adapting to community needs. They also mentioned the need to address safety concerns among immigrant, refugee, and LGBTQ+ communities. Danielle and Lillian agreed to work across King County, including Seattle and suburban areas.

- Feedback and suggestions
 - Alex suggested incorporating the Advisory Council's work into their listening sessions.
 - Lorna warned against separate meetings and said adhering to an already established meetings.
 - Terri spoke on the need for increased food resources.
 - Alex suggested DON could help with AC recruitment at listening sessions.

III. Senior Center Investments

Waing Waing, ADS Planner, provided an update on ADS's investments in Senior Centers, which are community hubs where older adults can access various activities and services to improve their health, well-being, and independence. She presented client data for centers funded by the City of Seattle and shared challenges facing centers, such as staffing capacity, aging infrastructure, and the need for additional social work support. The need for additional funding for center operations was highlighted and the potential for disruption if the existing funding levels were not increased. The need for more homebound services and support for homeless seniors was also discussed.

Advisory Council members asked questions about the scope of the service area, the presence of social workers in Senior Centers, and the timeline for advocacy for additional funding.

IV. Race and Social Justice (RSJ) Moment

As part of their commitment to continue their learning on RSJ issues, Council members discussed the following article : [One More Bridge to Cross by R David Moore](#)

V. Advisory Council Business

Approval of January Minutes.

Dr. Joel noted a correction should be made to indicate that he was absent at the January meeting. Cindy Snyder moved to approve the minutes with the correction; second by Joe Hailey.

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY MINUTES PASSED.

Reports from Committees and Councils

- Advocacy Committee – Diana Thompson

Diana reported on supporting several bills and budget items that were discussed at the advocacy committee meeting. She asked for a council vote to approve the 6 bills and 2 budget items that were outlined in an email to members.

MOTION: Lorna moved to approve the bills and budget items outlined in Diana's email. Joe seconded. MOTION PASSED.

- Senior Lobby Day – February 20

The Advisory Council will be partnering with Sound Generations for a joint visit to Olympia on Senior Lobby Day. Michael will meet with Sound Generations to review the schedule with legislators and related talking points. He will send council members an updated legislative priority one-pager, which they will share with legislators.

- Planning & Allocations Committee - Lorna Stone

The committee reviewed a draft of the 2025 work plan during their meeting on February 3, along with budget updates and discussions on the Area Plan.

- VSHSL Board, Seniors Committee - Cindy Snyder

Tracy reported on the committee's last meeting, which included discussions on anti-ageism training and becoming age-friendly ambassadors.

- NW Universal Design Council - Tom Minty

Michael reported on Tom's behalf that the city of Redmond Department of Housing will be hosting a joint conference for planners and developers regarding Universal Design on February 26. Tom will send out information to members and Age Friendly Seattle staff as soon as it's available.

- Mayor's Council on African American Elders – Pamela Williams

A retreat is planned for next week at the Arts & Culture King Street Station conference room. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Eldad for details. New

officers are elected, and the council will be talking about strategic planning moving forward.

- Age-Friendly Seattle – Eldad Mekuria

The team met earlier this week to establish this year's focus areas, which include social connectivity, transportation, and housing. Additionally, efforts will center on strengthening collaboration infrastructure with SDOT and Parks, supporting the Advisory Council, and continuing engagement with underserved communities. The primary focus for the first quarter will be healthcare providers.

The next Civic Coffee will take place at the Northgate East African Community Center, with a discussion on fall prevention

Reports from AAA Partners

- DCHS: Traci reported there is a new division director for the Adult Services Division – Michael Bailey, who was formerly a deputy director with HSD. VSHSL Board members will meet him next week.

Resource fairs are scheduled from the spring, and the first will be in District 9 (Maple Valley) on March 24. More information and a full calendar will be sent as soon as available.

- PHSKC – no report
- SCA:
AJ reported that a new Executive Director was hired and will start on February 24. She encouraged anyone interested in collaborating with SCA to reach out as their new director plans to meet with partners across the county. AJ shared SCA's final [legislative agenda](#), and she hopes to attend Senior Lobby Day on February 20.

VI. Advisory Council in the Community

Alex reminded members that Barb Williams is taking a break from the AC this year, and hopefully will return in 2026. Alex, Barb, and Meg Woolf were invited to present at Heron's Key (a CC, similar to Skyline) in Gig Harbor.

VII. ADS Director's Report

Alek Puloka was recently promoted to the vacant Administrative Support Supervisor position. He's been serving in this role out-of-class since last May and has done a wonderful job.

ADS completed the move of its South County office to Triton Towers in Renton. The new office is located on the 7th floor of Tower Three, and team members were in residence as of February 5. ADS is planning an open house, and the Advisory Council will be invited. This move was a tremendous amount of work, led by Lena Tebeau, Mary's executive assistant.

WA Cares Update – Angela Miyamoto accepted an out-of-class promotional opportunity to manage ADS's role in planning for and implementing WA Cares in King County. She is working with other AAAs across the state to prepare for the program launch in July 2026.

Mary spoke about the need for additional advocacy for nutritional funding, as the state is facing a \$12 billion shortfall over 4 years.

Mary expressed her desire to leverage partnerships, such as the one with DON, to increase awareness of ADS' work.