



## **Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services**

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

Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle, WA 98124-4215  
Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, 51<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Tel: 206-684-0660 TDD Relay Service: 711 FAX: 206-684-0689  
[www.adsadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.adsadvisorycouncil.org)

### **Advisory Council Meeting June 13, 2025**

#### **Attending**

Advisory Council Members: Dr. Joel Domingo, Joe Hailey, JJ Wong, Tom Minty, Alex O'Reilly, Lorna Stone, Dolores Wiens

AAA Liaisons: Mariel Torres Mehdipour,

Staff: Michael Adusah, Stevie Elliott, Maria Langlais, Dinah Stephens, Sherry Wu

Guests: Brenda Farwell (member of the senior committee for the King County veterans, seniors and human services levy); Maria Langbauer, (WAB D8); Tanya Matthews (WAB D2)

#### **1. Presentation - King County Women's Advisory Board**

Tanya Matthews and Maria Langbauer shared draft recommendations to improve services for older adults in King County, focusing on caregiving, housing, transit, digital access, and kinship care. Key housing ideas include senior home sharing, emergency support, and tax relief. The group stressed the need to prevent homelessness among older women and address LGBTQ senior discrimination. A full report is expected by mid-fall, with plans to present it to county leaders.

#### **2. Race and Social Justice (RSJ) Moment: [What is Juneteenth, and why is it important? - Karlos K. Hill and Soraya Field Fiorio](#)**

#### **3. Advisory Council Business**

MOTION: Lorna moved to approve the April 11, 2025 minutes; seconded by Joel. The April minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

#### **4. Reports from Committees and Councils**

- Advocacy Committee – Joel

Joel is the new advocacy committee chair, and he discussed concerns about the Department of Energy's proposed changes to accessibility regulations for buildings, which could weaken Section 504 protections.

MOTION: Lorna made a motion to work with ADS staff on writing thank you letters to legislators; Joe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative advocacy and dementia services were discussed next. Alex and Joel emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with legislators during the summer months, particularly to build rapport for future sessions. Also, under discussion was incorporating language in upcoming RFPs to address the intersection of homelessness and dementia. Alex said the VSHSL Board Seniors Committee had completed Age-Friendly Seattle training and had a positive discussion about aging and its effects on their lives.

- Planning & Allocations Committee – Lorna  
Lorna discussed her meeting with Sherry Wu of ADS regarding dementia services. They agreed to shift funding focus from adult day health facilities to community organizations and prioritize primary and secondary levels of dementia care. Agreement to bring a discussion about dementia services in the broad scope to the Council as a whole in the future.
- VSHSL Board Seniors Committee – Cindy  
Alex reported in Cindy's absence, discussing the Age Friendly Seattle training and the desirability of having a layout map of services. VSHSL will be looking at mapping out or refreshing the map that Tracy had said already exists.
- NW Universal Design Council (NWUDC) – Tom  
Participated with South King housing and homeless partners to present a program on beyond barriers, creating accessible and affordable housing. One of the conversations was upgrading of the evergreen standards.
- Mayor's Council on African American Elders (MCAAE) – Pamela  
In Pamela's absence, Alex asked members how they felt about the joint meeting with MCAAE last month. Members expressed their appreciation and how helpful it was to be aware of each council, and knowing what each is working on. There was consensus to have these joint meetings on a regular basis.
- Age-Friendly Seattle – Dinah  
Dinah offered to add anyone interested to the Listserv for the Northwest Universal Design Council. That would ensure receipt of event notifications, reminders and recordings. Anyone interested should contact Dinah Stephens.

NWUDC submitted a proposal to be featured again at the Seattle Design festival. The proposal included a partnership with Woodland Park Zoo, currently engaged in several interesting designs related to accessibility.

Continued crafting of anti-ageism training that's specifically tailored towards healthcare professionals. Summer is recruitment time for businesses wanting to participate in the Gold Flashcard Discount Directory, with a goal of obtaining 60 new businesses over the summer months.

The last Civic Coffee focused on personal safety and was held at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service. Civic Coffee events are mapped out for the rest of the year.

Dinah spoke about the joint meeting with the MCAAE, and the desire of both councils to feature stories of people who have benefited from social security. As we approach the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Social Security in August, Dinah has engaged in conversations with AARP about how we might potentially work together to elevate the importance of social security to our national leaders.

## **5. Reports / Action Items from AAA Partners**

- King County, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) – Traci  
In Traci's absence, Michael will contact her for a written report.
- Public Health Seattle-King County – Mariel  
The agency is working hard to continue connecting community members of all ages to the remaining appointments that are available through the mobile caravan sponsored by the Washington Department of Health. Mariel discussed many changes when it comes to recommendations, such as for the Covid vaccine. Several staff from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have been dismissed and replaced with some who are known vaccine skeptics. Unfortunately, the available dates for the caravan are ending and because of funding changes for the State. A press release was released this week from the Governor's office with regards to the dismissal of members of the CDC. The vaccine panel and the States of California, Oregon and Washington are continuing to work together to ensure decisions are being based on science, as well as protecting the health and well-being of our people.
- Sound Cities Association – AJ  
No report.

## **6. Advisory Council in the Community**

Alex had asked Michael to display on screen the goals identified from the retreat in September for review and feedback, noting any that have been met and whether to change any of them midyear or stay the course.

## **7. ADS Director's Report – Mary**

Mary (Mitchell) Pearson, is on leave through July 15<sup>th</sup> and Maria is acting director during Mary's absence. ADS care coordination program director, Naisha Williams, is also on leave. Maria introduced Stevie Elliott, who joined the ADS Planning team for administrative support. ADS received approval for the hiring waiver to post the Deputy Division Director position. With over 240 employees in ADS, this will be a key role.

The Office for Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) is working with city departments to identify forums or visits from the Congressional delegation in August during their recess.

Mary can follow up with an email to members to solicit ideas to bring forth to OIR. Some of the ideas under consideration by OIR: a having representatives participate in a home delivered

meal ride along, visiting a senior meal program, having conversations with Medicaid providers to learn more about challenges that they face.

## **8. Executive Committee**

### **Next Advisory Council meeting is July 11, 2025**

Please contact Michael Adusah with questions or to request accommodations: (206) 471-2229 or [michael.adusah@seattle.gov](mailto:michael.adusah@seattle.gov)