

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 16, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**OPENING**

Members in Attendance

Judith Tonseth, Shanon Davis, Marilyn Fisher, Roy Fraticelli, Lois Fraticelli, Eloise Hurst, Kathleen Miller, Ivan Schultz, Dean Warren, Ellen Warren and Kay Williams. Linda Jahn attended via Zoom.

AACCW Staff

Bruce Buckles, Ken Sterner, Tammy Harvey, Erin Nelson, Debbie Peterson, Diane Tribble, Josh Hamilton and Christine Johnson.

Guests: Deb Murphy, SCOA

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Kathleen Miller moved to accept the minutes from the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ellen Warren seconded and the motion carried.

**SCOA**

Deb Murphy is on the State Council on Aging. Deb said that it had been decided that future SCOA meetings will all be held virtually via zoom. Kathleen Miller asked if anyone can attend since they will be virtual, to which Deb said that all SCOA meetings are open to the public.

Deb reported that SCOA is going to be emphasizing a focus on long-term care facilities, encouraging more people to become certified caregivers and teaching people to be better advocates for themselves.

Deb asked for a listing of all senior center meal sites located in AACCW's 6-county region, and the volume of meals that are served through those sites. Christine Johnson will provide that information to Deb at the first of the year, so that she has a current number of all meals served in 2023.

## REPORTS

Quarterly Reports: Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Reports were provided and discussed. Monitoring reports for three (3) contractors were provided – one nutrition provider and 2 homecare agencies. All of the contractors are currently in good standing with AACCW. One contractor had some corrective actions, but was able to provide correction to those issues prior to the deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Erin Nelson reported that new equipment recently purchased for senior centers in our region included banquet chairs, folding tables, a freezer and a commercial refrigerator.

Debbie Peterson gave some examples of the complex cases that the nursing staff have to contend with. Debbie said that the Case Management caseload is currently averaging about 1-92 right now, where 1-80 is a more manageable level. Debbie also provided discussion on the importance of bringing attention to the negative impacts ageism has on our older population.

Diane Tribble reported that the MAC/TSOA program is seeing an increase in client participation. Diane said that this is largely due to the increase in the client income eligibility – a client can earn more monthly and still qualify for the program, as opposed to Medicaid. Also, clients' eligibility for participation in MAC/TSOA are not affected by their spouse's income.

Diane also reported on the Care Transitions program, which is designed to help patients discharge home successfully from a hospital or skilled care setting. Diane said that this program needs to be promoted more to the hospitals, but there is not enough funding for a full-time person at this time. It is currently being staffed part-time in East Wenatchee and Moses Lake.

Ken Sterner reported that the State recently attempted to develop the Kinship program into an evidence-based program in an attempt to receive Federal funding. However, the attempt failed, but the State is going to try again. Ken said that the State is also discussing the possibility of opening up "Kinship" to include people not related by blood. This is both good and bad – more people may receive help that need it, however, funding for the original program of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren may suffer due to those funds being stretched too far.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Shanon Davis moved that a Discretionary Fund request for approximately \$970.00 for a new freezer for the Ritzville Senior Center be approved. Kay Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

There was some discussion surrounding the dissemination of the meeting packets. Due to the holiday, many Advisory Committee members only received their packets 1 or 2 days prior to the meeting, and didn't have enough time to spend reading them. Some had not received the packet at all. Some members do not have the ability to print the electronic version that is sent out prior to the meeting. The packets will need to be mailed out earlier, so that members receive them and have time to review them.

Ken Sterner reported that it has become a priority in Olympia for funding to be made available to the AAA's to fund a Tribal Kinship program. AL TSA is also planning to advocate via the State Legislature for additional Case Management funding.

To avoid the need for winter travel, the next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on the third Thursday in February.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00.