

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: August 17, 2023**

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance:

Judith Tonseth, Judy Gladden, Kathleen Miller, Roy and Lois Fraticelli, Dean and Ellen Warren, Eloise Hurst, Kay Williams, Ivan Schultz and Barbara Berry.

AACCW Staff:

Ken Sterner, Tammy Harvey, Diane Tribble, Debbie Peterson, Josh Hamilton and Christine Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Kathleen Miller moved to accept the meeting minutes from the May, 2023, meeting. Kay Williams seconded and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBER: Judith Tonseth told the Advisory Committee about a new member applicant from Chelan County. Judith read some of the applicant's previous work history to the committee, and said that she thought the applicant would be a beneficial member. Kay Williams voted to approve the new applicant. Ellen Warren seconded, and the motion passed.

QUARTERLY REPORTS: Quarterly Reports for April – June, 2023 were provided by each department.

Christine Johnson reported that the Agency has a new contractor providing family caregiver counseling services. That person is Joan Acres, who has also contracted with AACCW to provide the Powerful Tools seminars.

Ken Sterner reported that AACCW purchased and distributed nearly 3,000 buckets of emergency meals (a 30-day supply) to households around the six-county region. These buckets were purchased with Nutrition Services Hunger Relief funding, which had a very short timeframe in which to be spent.

Debbie Peterson reported that AACCW nurses have been receiving a high amount of referrals in the last quarter. Of the 360 assessments performed in the 2nd quarter, 82 of them resulted in a nursing services referral – most commonly due to skin issues. Debbie reported that nursing referrals have nearly doubled in the Moses Lake area. Because of this, AACCW is still trying to hire an LPN under a state pilot program, and recently hired a new nurse that will work mainly in the Moses Lake office, but will also help in the East Wenatchee and Omak offices when needed.

Kathleen Miller asked if we have bilingual staff to assist with our clients – mainly the Spanish and Russian-speaking clients. Debbie said that we do employ bilingual staff in both those languages, and we also contract for an interpreter service if needed. Staff can also have family members of the client assist with interpreting, with the consent of the client.

Debbie said a lot of new people are moving to the region from the West side of the state, and that her Case Management staff has been busy connecting these new clients to local services.

Diane Tribble said that the Information & Assistance Program has been emphasizing outreach in our service area. Because of this, I&A is now a more integral part of the hospital discharge process for clients. I&A now oversees a new program, called Care Transitions, that assists clients transitioning from hospitalizations back to their home, focusing more on making sure those clients fully understand their discharge instructions and are keeping up on their medications, so that they don't end up going back into the hospital.

Diane reported that participation in our support groups is increasing. AACCW currently has family caregiver support groups being conducted in East Wenatchee, Davenport, Moses Lake and Chelan.

Diane also reported that I&A staff are now being able to take part in more public events. In September, I&A is taking part in a Fall Prevention/Senior Health Fair. There are 5 venues for the seminars – Twisp, Okanogan, Chelan, Leavenworth and Wenatchee. I&A plans to attend all five events.

Christine Johnson reported that there are two Discretionary Funds applications in process at this time – one in Okanogan County and one in Lincoln County. Christine also reported that only 34% of the Client Specific Funds had been expended to-date. Kathleen Miller asked why a

baby monitor would be purchased through Client Specific funding. Debbie Peterson reported that a baby monitor is more efficient and easy to use to keep an eye on an elderly family member than a nanny-cam.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AREA PLAN FINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Tammy Harvey gave a short powerpoint presentation to remind the Advisory Committee what the recommended priorities should be for the 2024 – 2027 Discretionary funds. These recommendations came out of the results of the surveys that were distributed and collected during the planning process. A public hearing was held on August 8th for final public input, but no public attended, so no change was made to the priorities that came out of the survey process. Kathleen Miller moved to approve the draft 2024 – 2027 Area Plan as presented. Ellen Warren seconded, and the motion passed.

Kay Williams asked if there were any programs that provided Adult Day Care for memory care clients, such as one that would allow for clients and their caregivers to attend a congregate setting outside the home so that the client could benefit from activities and socialization. Debbie Peterson said that the State does provide for this type of program to be conducted, but that finding qualified people to staff it is difficult due to the varied needs of clients who may take part in it. Debbie said that the State is discussing an online version of adult day care, but that it would not provide the socialization aspect being discussed. There are some similar community-run programs, such as 'Tender Loving Care' in Manson and 'Guardian Angel' in Methow, but AACCW does not currently fund such a program. Diane Tribble said that she would like to see AACCW look into trying to provide this type of program.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.