

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 26, 2026**

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance

Judith Tonseth, Kathleen Miller, Lois Fraticelli, Roy Fraticelli, Eloise Hurst, Ivan Schultz, Deb Murphy, Kay Williams, Marilyn Fisher, Dean Warren, Ellen Warren, Linda Jahn, Angie Padron and Judy Gladden.

AACCW Staff

Ken Sterner, Tammy Herring, Erin Nelson, Janey van den Broek, Diane Tribble, Colton Peterson, Cameron Hauff and Christine Johnson. Bruce Buckles attended via zoom.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by chair Judith Tonseth. Prior to the meeting starting, Ivan Schultz asked for prayers for the wife of our 13th Legislative District, who recently suffered a medical emergency.

After introductions, Kathleen Miller moved to accept the minutes from the November 20th, 2025 meeting. Ellen Warren seconded and the motion carried.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

FISCAL:

Tammy Herring provided the 4th Quarter Fiscal Report, detailing revenues and expenditures for all of 2025. AACCW ended 2025 with 84.9% of budgeted revenues received and an average of 74.3% of expenditures spent during the calendar year, resulting in a \$1.7 million surplus to carry forward into 2026. Only the OAA funds carry over into the new year.

CONTRACTOR:

Erin Nelson provided the 2025 Contractor report, showing all non-Medicaid contracts awarded in 2025, and explained the role of the Contracts Department staff and how contracted programs are monitored and paid on a monthly basis. Erin said that, on a quarterly basis, all contract payments are reconciled against what is billed for reimbursement to the state, just to make sure that the Contracts & Fiscal departments are keeping in line with each other.

Linda Jahn commented that the Contract Department had assisted the Davenport Senior Center in purchasing a freezer and signage, and that both had helped the center with their nutrition program.

CASE MANAGEMENT & NURSING SERVICES:

Janey van den Broek explained that the role of Case Management & Nursing Services is to keep clients healthy, safe and living independently in their homes for as long as possible. Case Management staff perform annual assessments on clients to determine the level of services needed or whether there have been any significant changes in a client's health. In the 4th quarter, 565 assessments were performed by staff. Janey said that with two recent hires in Case Management services, the current staff to client ratio is 1 to 75.4, which is just barely under the state ratio of 1 to 76.1.

AACCW currently employs 3 full-time nurses and 1 part-time nurse. The nursing staff act as "nurse consultants", and fill the gaps between being at home and visiting a medical provider. They review client files, check on client's at their homes and provide them and their caregivers, if applicable, with information and education to help them stay at home as long as possible. The nursing staff had 117 home visits this past fall.

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE/KINSHIP

Diane Tribble reported that most referrals to our Information & Assistance staff come from medical providers and service agencies (45%). The other main sources of referrals are self-referrals from prospective clients looking for a program to provide them some sort of assistance, and from adult children calling for services for their aged parents.

Diane reported that one of our most popular programs is Respite care – where a caregiver from a homecare agency provides hours of service to a client, so that the family member(s) taking care of them can have some time to themselves. The paid caregiver can actually provide services such as housework, cooking, bathing, or can simply spend time with the client. Unfortunately, due to budget limitations, AACCW is only able to provide 12 hours of respite care a month to our current clients (because we have so many), and is not taking on any new clients. We actually have a waiting list for new clients/family caregivers who want respite hours.

Another popular program offered by I & A is the Medicaid Alternative Care/Tailored Supports for Older Adults (MAC/TSOA). But, due to a state funding deficit, that program has been put on hold, and no new clients are being added to it at this time. Even as people leave the program, new clients are not added. The program currently has a statewide waitlist of approximately 480 people. The hope is that the budget issues will get straightened out this summer and the program will open back up.

Linda Jahn reported that the Davenport Senior Center collaborated with the Lincoln County Health Department on a program called “Healthy Aging”. The program provided seniors with advice on how to plan for later years, such as legal advice on estate planning, etc. Linda encouraged the other members to look into whether “Healthy Aging” programs are offered in their counties. Ken Sterner said that he would like to see that program expanded to all counties, but currently it is not, and is not conducted by all health districts in the state.

Kathleen Miller said that there is a program in Chelan called “TLC” that provides respite and meals delivered through the use of volunteers, at no cost to the family or client.

Judith Tonseth said that there is a similar program in the Methow Valley called “Methow at Home”. It provides someone to stay home with a client so that family members can take time off, and rides to medical appointments for those people who don’t have the ability to get there.

Diane said that the I&A staff had been involved in several outreach presentations this past fall, particularly in Okanogan County.

Diane provided everyone with a flyer regarding Medicare Open Enrollment.

Diane also oversees the Kinship Program, and said that Kathy Wright has been doing Kinship outreach and networking with several schools in our PSA. The Kinship program served 53 kids and 28 caregivers during the 4th quarter.

DISCRETIONARY FUND/CLIENT SPECIFIC REPORT

Christine provided the Multi-Purpose Senior Center and Client Specific Fund reports. In 2025, Multi-Purpose Senior Center funds were used to purchase an upright mini freezer and signage for the Davenport Senior Center, and a new upright freezer for the senior center in Ritzville. Christine encouraged all members to encourage their local senior centers to contact AACCW if they have specific needs for the center.

The Client Specific Fund reports shows needed supplies that have been purchased for clients that have no other resources with which to purchase them. The total budget for the Client Specific fund is \$7,000, and in 2025 items were purchased for clients totalling \$6,960.84.

MONITORING REPORTS

Erin Nelson provided reports of Homecare Agency monitorings that were conducted by Meagan Williams toward the end of 2025. During a monitoring visit, Meagan looks at client files, personnel files and reports prepared by the agency, detailing the care the company is providing to clients. Last October, Meagan monitored Allways Caring (formerly ResCare). The agency was found to be in compliance in all areas reviewed, and had no corrective actions to mitigate. Meagan also monitored Family Resource Home Care last September. FRHC purchased Beneficial In-Home Care in 2025. Beneficial's clients had the option of continuing with FRH, or moving to another Home Care Agency. FRH was found to have a corrective action in the area of client's signing off on tasks performed by the Home Care Agency in their homes. FRH wrote a corrective action plan detailing re-training on this step for the caregivers, and more thorough review by the Supervisors. Both agencies are in good standing with AACCW.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Sterner said that a current challenge for AACCW is to continue to provide the same level of service to our Case Management clients, and

maintain the client to caseworker ratio, in light of the fact that the State Legislature cut \$5 million out of Case Management Services for this year. However, Ken said that the final budget has not been set yet, and he is hopeful that those funds, or most of them, will be restored when it is.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.