AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 18, 2026

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance
Judith Tonseth, Kathleen Miller, Marylu Martin, Kay Williams, Eloise Hurst, Ivan Schultz, Joel Jahn, Linda Jahn, Roy Fraticelli and Lois Fraticelli. Marilyn Fisher joined via Zoom. Jose Garza attended as a guest.

AACCW Staff
Ken Sterner, Tammy Herring, Erin Nelson, Janey van den Broek, Diane Tribble, Colton Peterson and Christine Johnson.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by chair Judith Tonseth. Kathleen Miller moved to accept the minutes from the May 21st meeting. Kay Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Applicant:
Jose Garza, of Othello, has applied to be a member of the Advisory Committee, representing Adams County. Judith asked Jose to step out of the room while the committee discussed his application. Judith read Jose's application and qualification to the group, and said that she had called his references, both of which were positive and recommended him for the committee. Kathy Miller moved to accept Jose as a member of the Advisory Committee. Marylu Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Client Specific Fund Request:
Judith Tonseth said the Advisory Committee had received a request to accept a Client Specific Fund Request that exceeds the $250.00 per client

request maximum. The request was for the rental of a dumpster to alleviate a hoarding situation and help the client comply with Housing Authority regulations. Kay Williams moved to fund the request. Marylu Martin seconded, and the motion passed.

Video Presentation:
Bruce Buckles was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a video of Orson Welles explaining how the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" originated, in light of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

WA Cares Presentation:
Tanya Hamel, from AACCW, presented information and a powerpoint presentation to the Advisory Committee on the Washington Cares (WA Cares) Program that is set to go live on July 1st. Tanya discussed how the program started, how it's funded, how to qualify and apply, what benefits are covered and how to access them. There were many questions, and discussion ensued surrounding how someone near retirement could qualify for some or all of the maximum lifetime benefit. Tanya explained that WA Cares is self-managed long term care insurance program for mostly non-medicaid participants.

Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) Presentation:
Darla Bedard, also from AACCW, presented information on the HRSN program. Darla told the committee that, of the benefits available under HRSN, AACCW is going to concentrate on Medically – Tailored Meals and Nutrition Supports, which consists of Nutrition Education and Nutrition Counseling. HRSN is open to Apple Health (Medicaid) clients who need benefits that will help them maintain their independence longer.

There was some discussion on what constitutes a medically-tailored meal, and how the meals are obtained by the participants, since these types of meals are not offered at senior centers.

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Update:
Christine Johnson provided a pie chart showing how many applicants had applied for the SFMNP benefit, by county. All of the 1,916 cards that AACCW has received have been allocated. AACCW has started a waitlist in hopes that more cards will be received if any are turned in by other participating agencies.

Area Plan Update:
Erin Nelson provided a powerpoint presentation explaining that the focus of the Area Plan is to seek input for the allocation of Discretionary Funding and implement programs under which to spend those funds. Discretionary funding makes up approximately 13% of the overall AACCW budget. The presentation told which programs fall under Discretionary funding, and which are funded program – specific funding sources.

After all presentations were over, Joel Jahn asked how congregate meal sites control who is going to eat a meal, and how to know what amount of food to plan for. Joel's concern is that if too much food is prepared, then some may go to waste; but if not enough is fixed, then some people may go unfed. A short discussion ensued regarding how some of the congregate meal sites ask people to sign up for a meal beforehand, or how attendance is taken and then used to provide an estimate of those same meals in the future. However, there was no consensus on any method that works well.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.