

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 16, 2022**

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance

Barbara Berry, Helen Casey, Eloise Hurst, Kathleen Miller, MaryLu Martin, Judith Tonseth, Dean and Ellen Warren. Members participating by Zoom: Angie Padron.

AACCW Staff

Erin Nelson, Diane Tribble, Debbie Peterson, Josh Hamilton, Christine Johnson and Laurie Miller.

Guests: Deb Murphy, SCOA

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Kathy Miller moved to accept the minutes from the May 19th meeting. Judith Tonseth seconded, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discretionary Funding: Laurie reported that she has been contacting senior centers in the PSA to remind them of the availability of Discretionary Funds to purchase items for their center. Laurie reminded the committee of the process for a senior center to apply for funds, and provided committee members with forms in case they were contacted by any of the senior centers in their counties.

NEW BUSINESS

Case Management Update: Debbie Peterson discussed several items affecting case management staff. She reported that some clients in the PSA are not getting all of their hours served due to the lack of Medicaid funded caregivers available. She reported that Adult Protective Services is handing over self-neglect referrals to the AAA's, which will result in more

necessary training for case management staff. She also reported on a nurse shortage in the State, and that AACCW is currently recruiting for another nurse at the EW office, but has so far been unsuccessful.

On the plus side, Debbie reported that the State is recognizing these staff shortages and their impacts on client care, and are working to provide funding to bring case management and nursing AAA salaries more up to standard to help with staff recruitment and retention.

Information & Assistance Update: Diane Tribble reported that I&A client caseloads are also being affected – but by a lack of homecare agency workers. I&A programs can't use Independent Providers like Case Management does, and staffing levels are low at the homecare agencies. Also, it is getting difficult to fill needed positions at Aging & Adult Care, so current staff are carrying higher case loads than they should.

Diane reported that, effective July 1st, the State is changing the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid clients. In the past, some clients have opted out of Medicaid programs because they can't afford the participation. Participation is the difference between the cost of the client's care and the Personal Needs Allowance. Currently, a client is allowed \$1,096 per month, and anything over and above that the client has to cover. In July, that amount is going up to \$2,523/month. With lower participation, more clients may take advantage of Medicaid programs, but again, that could also affect Case Manager case loads.

Volunteerism: Because Ken Sterner could not attend the meeting, this agenda item was not discussed. However, Ellen Warren discussed the need for more members on the Advisory Committee from each county.

After the agenda items, Debbie Peterson provided an excerpt from a video that she saw at the last W4A meeting. The video was about self-care, and how to manage personal trauma and being overwhelmed.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 18th, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.