

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: September 15, 2022**

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance:

Judith Tonseth, Kathleen Miller, Dean Warren and Eloise Hurst. Members attending via zoom were Judy Gladden and SCOA Rep. Deb Murphy.

AACCW Staff:

Bruce Buckles, Ken Sterner, Tammy Harvey, Erin Nelson, Diane Tribble, Melissa Scammahorn (for Debbie Peterson) and Christine Johnson.

Guests:

Ivan Schultz, a new member applicant, was in attendance.

ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR: Kathleen Miller moved that Judith Tonseth be elected the new chair, and Eloise Hurst seconded. Kathleen Miller moved that Eloise Hurst be elected Vice-Chair and Judy Gladden seconded. However, due to the lack of a quorum, the votes to accept these nominations will need to be taken at the next meeting, provided there is a quorum present.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Due to a lack of a quorum, a motion to accept the minutes from the last 2 meetings could not be made. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Judith Tonseth reported that there are two new Advisory Committee Member applicants – Ivan Schultz from Grant County and Carol Williams from Douglas County. The vote to accept these two new members will need to take place at the next meeting.

The lack of a quorum spurred the conversation on how to recruit more new members to the committee. Bruce Buckles stated that he has spoken to the County Commissioners that sit on the AACCW Council of Governments, to have them assist with recruiting new members. Bruce has also talked with attendees at the Senior Center Forum about this same subject. Diane Tribble said that she will reach out to her Senior Networking group to see if anyone is interested as well. Kathleen Miller asked that the list of AC Member qualifications be sent to current members, so that they can assist with recruitment. Kathleen also asked that a current list of AACCW employees and their phone extensions be sent to the AC members as well, to make it easier to reach certain staff members.

Ken Sterner stated that all organizations, as well as other AAA's, are having to rebuild their volunteer base after Covid, but just encouraged everyone to keep confident that the group would soon grow.

Erin Nelson provided the Advisory Committee with a list of items purchased for the senior centers through the Discretionary Fund. Of the \$6,000.00 in the fund, \$5,986.48 was spent purchasing needed items.

Erin also discussed the monitoring report for In-Home Care, a contracted homecare agency.

Kathleen Miller reported that the Chelan Senior Center was increasing the cost for it to rent out space in the center, and doing a membership drive, in an effort to revive the senior center.

Ken Sterner reported that Community Action Council will be taking over the Long Term Care Ombudsman program, starting October 1st. AACCW is going to assist with the transition of the volunteers to assist in the program, and work with the State to ease the transition of the program to CAC. The Behavioral Health Ombuds Program is going to be conducted by Peer Washington. Bruce Buckles reported that the AAA's are being put more in charge of transitioning clients through their discharge from hospitals, so having the Ombuds program in-house will be a conflict of interest.

Bruce also discussed the crisis that is occurring in long-term care in the State. Facilities are increasingly under-staffed and there is a lack of Medicaid beds available for clients. Eloise Hurst said she has heard of

instances where a lack of staff is sometimes leading to a lack of care for the clients that are currently housed in long-term care.

Upcoming Events:

The Virtual Senior Lobby (via Zoom) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th. The time is to be determined. All members of the Advisory Committee are invited to come to AACCW to attend.

The Wenatchee Alzheimer's Walk was re-scheduled for October 2nd, due to significant smoke in the air on its' original date.

Diane Tribble reported that Medicare Open Enrollment occurs this year October 15th through December 7th. The Information & Assistance Department will focus on educating consumers about the Medicare Savings Program, which is designed to help individuals save money on Medicare premiums.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.