

**AGING & ADULT CARE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON (AACCW)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: May 18, 2023**

MINUTES

OPENING

Members in Attendance:

Judith Tonseth, Judy Gladden, Kathleen Miller, Roy Fraticelli, Dean and Ellen Warren, Eloise Hurst, Kay Williams, Ivan Schultz and SCOA Representative Deb Murphy.

AACCW Staff:

Bruce Buckles, Ken Sterner, Tammy Harvey, Erin Nelson, 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 March, 2023, meeting. Ellen Warren seconded and the motion passed.

QUARTERLY REPORTS: Quarterly Reports for January – March, 2023 were provided by each Director.

Kathy Miller asked how often contracts are prepared for the various programs. Erin Nelson said that most programs are contracted on an annual basis, January – December. However, most Medicaid contracts are prepared on 4-year increments.

Debbie Peterson reported that the Case Management staff continue to see a lot of referrals from Home & Community Services, and that there has also been an increase in the number of DDA referrals to AACCW. Because of this, AACCW is currently advertising for another nursing position in the Moses Lake office. Debbie said that, due to the shortage of nurses, AACCW is open to hiring a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for that position, as part of a pilot project through the State.

Debbie reported that the Case Management staff recently received a 100% proficiency on their last audit. She said that the nursing services received one audit finding; however, the AACCW nurse had not received

the referral in question, and the audit finding was corrected the next day once the referral was received.

Debbie also reported that case management is almost completely back to 'business as usual' as far as home visits are concerned, and are in the process of 'unwinding' the changes to our provision of services that were made during the Covid Public Health Emergency.

Deb Murphy asked if Medical Technicians or Certified Nurses Aids can be used in the provision of service, for which Debbie Peterson responded that it typically has to be a Registered Nurse, or possibly an LPN, depending on how the pilot project goes.

Diane Tribble provided 1st quarter information on inquiries received through the Information & Assistance department. She also explained that the MAC/TSOA program is for clients who may not qualify for Medicaid, or have too many assets or income to qualify for some of the I&A programs.

Diane also gave a brief overview of the Care Transitions program, in which AACCW staff assist patients who are discharging from the hospital, in an effort to connect them with programs that will help keep them from going back. AACCW currently has 2 employees that are part-time in Care Transitions.

Erin Nelson provided a list of items purchased in the first quarter through the Client Specific funds, some of which is durable medical equipment. Kay Williams said that the local Knights of Columbus, who provide durable medical equipment free of charge on a temporary basis to citizens now has a facility in East Wenatchee, as well as Wenatchee.

Ivan Schultz said that the Alzheimer's Association also provides some durable medical equipment to assist patients.

Erin Nelson also provided graphs showing the results of the 2024-2027 Area Plan Survey, separated by County. A total of 2,035 surveys were distributed, with a return rate of approximately 24%. The priorities shown in the survey results closely mirror those of past planning cycles, with the emphasis on congregate and home-delivered meals, in-home care and transportation. A public hearing will be held at the AACCW office on August 8th to hear public comments on the plan.

New Advisory Committee Member Applications: Three new Advisory Committee applicants were discussed – one from Okanogan County (Claudia Smith), Lincoln County (Linda Jahn) and Douglas County (Lois Fraticelli). Kathy Miller moved to approve the applicants from Lincoln and Douglas County. Ellen Warren seconded, and the motion passed. It is expected that the applicant from Okanogan County will be approved at the next meeting, pending contact with that person’s personal references.

Judith Tonseth reported to the Committee that OCTN (Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition) had stopped providing the monthly bus trip directly from Twisp to Wenatchee and back. Instead, Twisp-area residents would need to take the TranGo bus to another site and change buses. Instead, the Twisp Senior Center has chartered it’s own bus trip (one/month), paying for it out of thrift store funds. The cost to local residents is \$10 for those 60 years of age and older, and \$15 for those under 60. Bruce Buckles suggested contacting Confluence Health to see if there are any transportation alternatives for residents in that area.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): Deb Murphy, SCOA Representative, reported that May is Older Americans Month, and provided a copy of a resolution for all to read. She also reported that SCOA is finally conducting hybrid meetings (in-person and virtual), for the first time since Covid began. Some of the areas of focus that SCOA is currently concentrating on are: LTC/assisted living facilities; housing; food security; the shortage of medical providers and social isolation.

With regard to the issue of Food Security, Ken Sterner reported that AACCW has purchased nearly 3,000 30-lb food buckets to be distributed to citizens 60 years of age or older within the 6-county PSA. Each bucket contains an approximately 30 days’ worth of meals, or about 900,000 meals altogether. The buckets should start arriving next week, and will be distributed through area food banks and pantrys, as well as the senior centers.

Diane Tribble provided a list of farmers markets and roadside stands in the 6 counties that will be taking part in the 2023 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Applications for the SFMNP cards were provided so that committee members could pass them out.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.