

**Minutes for the
Snohomish County Council on Aging**



June 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Snohomish County Council on Aging was held via Zoom on June 23, 2021. The meeting convened at 9:00 am with Mindy Taylor, Vice Chair, presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bobbie Constantine	✓	Sunny Strong	✓
Dennis Wheeler	✓	Mindy Taylor	✓
Keith Smith	✓	Nixon Opondo	AB

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Ron Vivian, State Council on Aging; and Michele Blythe, Councilmember for the City of Arlington.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Janet Gant, Wanda Staples, Christie Lee Kamka, Cole Caplan, Linda Vizmanos, Michal Glauner, April Fugate and Laura White

MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION DEMONSTRATION (MTD) – Cole Caplan

Cole Caplan shared a presentation on the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration (MTD) program. This is a primary program that LTCA supports in a direct service capacity. Case management staff support clients in a case coordination capacity by completing the initial functional and financial assessment with the client and/or unpaid family caregiver. Case managers then assist eligible clients with access to services. The primary goals for this program are to provide in-home supports to both clients and unpaid caregivers to allow older adults to age in place; thus, delaying or preventing placement in a facility.

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP) – Linda Vizmanos

Linda Vizmanos provided a brief update on the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. She reported that over 1,600 sets of vouchers (10 - \$4 vouchers) have been distributed to qualified recipients that met the June 4 application deadline. There are apx. 200 sets of vouchers remaining. Both online and paper applications will continue to be accepted.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

*A motion was made by Dennis Wheeler and seconded by Bobbie Constantine to approve the Council on Aging meeting minutes for May 25, 2021 as presented. **Motion carried***

COA Executive Committee – Mindy Taylor

There are no updates and nothing to be reported at this time. Any updates are incorporated in the agenda for the COA Executive Committee.

Advocacy, Diversity & Outreach – Mindy Taylor

Mindy Taylor reported that the Advocacy, Diversity and Outreach Committee did not meet in the month of June. Mindy Taylor and Sonny Strong will be meeting on July 7, 2021 at 1pm and will have an update for the Board in July.

Senior Centers – Dennis Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Senior Center Committee met virtually on June 10, 2021 with 10 senior centers participating. He reported that ongoing closures have been devastating for the centers. Many centers have been providing limited services during COVID including virtual events, online classes and drive thru meals. Dennis stated that the Waterfront Center (Edmonds Senior Center) has been serving lunches and been involved in the vaccination effort. Other centers have had a difficult time wrestling with local municipalities and cities that have their own set of regulations and restrictions on opening the facilities.

Dennis reported that the Carl Gipson Senior Center in Everett has closed indefinitely due to social distancing, health risks and the economic and budgetary impacts of COVID-19.

Janet Gant stated that she has communicated with staff at the City of Everett regarding reopening of the Carl Gipson Senior Center. The City issued an RFP late last year and will possibly be able to open later in the year with funds they have available.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Chemical Dependency/Mental Health (CDMH) Advisory Board – Dennis Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Chemical Dependency/Mental Health Advisory (CDMH) Board met on June 16, 2021 via Zoom. As reported last meeting, the dreaded potential budget deficit and shortfalls that were anticipated has not happened. Expenses were reduced greatly during COVID, but services were also reduced. As a result, the committee has reviewed the 2022 budget. An ad hoc committee was established, programs were evaluated, priorities were established, needs identified for treatment and crisis centers, mental health facilities and housing. The committee considered additional spending and a five-year projection. The Board evaluated reserves on hand and agreed to pursue additional funding. A proposal will be submitted to the County Executive who will submit it to the County Council for approval.

Ron Vivion added that the size of the reserve fund today is nearly 40% of revenues. The total proposal would bring the reserve down to our projected request in a 4 to 5-year period. This has gone to the County Executive and he will decide whether it is included in the budget proposal.

Dennis Wheeler reported on the Legislative Agenda, the items advocated were passed in the legislature, including the Housing Trust Funding.

The next CDMH Advisory Board meeting will be on August 18, 2021 for 3pm to 5pm

State Council on Aging – Ron Vivion

The State Council on Aging met virtually on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Ron reported that his term with the State Council on Aging Board ends in September 2021. There are five additional Council members that will be leaving.

The State Council on Aging has begun working on the 2022 Short Session Legislative priorities. The Council has heard from W4A about their potential priorities.

STAFF UPDATES

Janet Gant reported the following:

- LTCA hired James Hanson to fill the vacant Human Services Specialist I Position. He is new to the human services field. His first day is July 1, 2021.
- LTCA contract staff continue to monitor agencies for contractual compliance. Monitoring has been conducted virtually the past 18 months. There are new contract renewals coming up on July 1, 2021 and several RFPs that will be issued for some of the programs this year.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

State Council on Aging Recruitment for Snohomish County

Laura White provided the following information regarding the State Council on Aging (SCOA) recruitment process for appointment of a member representing Snohomish County.

- State Council members are appointed to a three-year term and may serve a maximum of two terms. In 2011, legislation passed that mandated changes to the appointment/reappointment process resulting in AAA advisory councils having responsibility in the nomination process.
- Three months before the term expires or reappointment is sought, the council is tasked with nominating two individuals for the open position. Nominees will then complete an application and submit it to Laura White. Laura will work with the State Unit on Aging (SUA) to determine that the nominees meet the requirements for membership and pass a background check. Once a nominee is confirmed by the State Council on Aging, Laura and the SUA will be notified of the confirmation.
- Anyone may apply for this position. Laura encouraged Council members to actively recruit for this position. Please contact Linda if you would like a copy of the application.
- The Outreach Committee can discuss possible outreach at the meeting on July 7, 2021 at 1pm. Suggestions can be made at that time for recruitment. If members have ideas, you are welcome to attend or you can send your ideas to Mindy Taylor, Sonny Strong or April Fugate.

State Council on Aging Member Responsibilities

Michele Blythe and Ron Vivion reported on the State Council on Aging member responsibilities.

- The Council meets once a month from 9am to 12pm;
- There are 20 voting members on the State Council; and
- State Council on Aging is an advisory council, which gives council members the opportunity to advise the state and the Governor on issues that need attention and require action.

Legislative Issues that the council takes a stand on are:

- Supporting the Dementia Action Collaborative;
- Supporting the Long Term Care Ombudsman program; and
- Supporting low cost housing for older adults.

Please contact Michele Blythe or Ron Vivion if you have any questions about the State Council on Aging process.

OPEN FLOOR

Application for Snohomish County Council on Aging Board Member

Linda Vizmanos reported that an application for the COA was received recently. An interview will be scheduled the week of June 28, 2021. Please contact Linda Vizmanos if interested in participating on the panel.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 am. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on July 28, 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am