



Clark County Commission on Aging  
1300 Franklin Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Vancouver, Washington

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## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Ritchie, Chuck Frayer, Scott Perlman, Patti Gray, Bob Holdridge, Karin Woll

Absent: Lisa Rasmussen

Community Partners:

Staff: Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

### Welcome and Call to Order

- Bill introduced Gail Haskett, Chair, Washington State Council on Aging.

### Presentation

- Gail is in her second year as chair of the council. The council was mandated by the Older Americans Act and they advise the governor and the head of DSHS. They represent all seniors.
- Each council member has a different area (20 total) they're responsible for. Updates are reported back to the whole council. There are representatives from all over the state. Gail reps Western Washington. Each council member is required to be active in between meetings to get things accomplished.
- Gail reviewed top Legislative priorities for 2015.
  - Help people age in place by strengthening existing network and pursuing opportunities for needed reinvestments.
  - Promote more secure economic future through tools that encourage workers to save for retirement and long-term support needs.
  - Make sure the LTSS system is strong enough to support and protect vulnerable adults.
- Funding support of senior programs is a major obstacle. \$2B of the state biennium budget is mandated to education and will likely come out of senior support services. The safety net is drained. Due to lack of funding, there isn't a plan to continue after Dec. 10 when the final report of JLEC is due. They're pushing to continue as a standing committee in each chamber, or an Ad Hoc committee of the Legislature.
- JLEC created a large list of recommendations from panelists during the Aging summit. They are very similar to the strategies of the Aging Readiness Plan. A note of interest is item 39, Clark County initiatives, such as Shared Housing, Universal Green Design, Timebanking, Weatherization, Land Use & Zoning, Volunteer Sidewalk and Accessible

Transportation Coalition, Telehealth, and Speakers Bureau. It's listed as "needed" under Legislation and budget item.

- Next meeting in early November to begin final report which will be presented to the Legislature on December 10.
- Meetings are available to watch at:  
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2014091002](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?com_tvwplayer&eventID=2014091002)
- JLEC information can be found on their website:  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/ADJLEC/Pages/default.aspx>

#### Questions/comments

- How long before taxes increase? Gail: Still requires 2/3 vote which won't happen until a crisis occurs. There needs to be better collaboration between programs to reduce administrative costs and provide implementation. Start thinking outside the box. There isn't a family support system to take care of elder members like there used to be.
- Chuck: he's surprised the state isn't looking into accessible housing for the aging. Gail: What is the incentive? In everything you have to look at what the incentive is. Rely more on private industry, they need to make a profit so they need an incentive.
- Fraud is tremendous, 30% in Medicaid system and more than that in social security disability. If we could identify the fraud and get rid of it, we could take care of those who are qualified to receive it.
- Are there very many senior organizations in the state? AARP has strong presence at state level. They have a full time policy person to influence what's going on up there. SEIU the union that represents home healthcare workers (not really senior themselves). WA Area Agencies on Aging covers all areas across the state. Walt Wellman heads the Senior Lobby Group and there's a senior lobby day every year. There's the Homecare Association of WA that lobbies for senior issues. But, again the bottom line is there's no money or coordination.
- Would like to see families, including the younger generation, taking care of each other. We idealize European countries that still seem to care for one another, but our country isn't like that anymore.
- State Alzheimer's Plan information can be found on their website:  
<http://www.alzwa.org/cms/waadvocacy/>
- Commissioner Barnes served on state transportation council. Everything relies on transportation. We need to have jobs to create income that supports the rest of the economy. Raise gas taxes as they've done in the past to keep the state economy running. He encouraged all to talk to the legislators that vote for the projects. They vote for the project but not for the money to support them. Gas utilization is going down so taxes needs to go up.

#### New Business

Motion to approve today's meeting agenda and minutes from September 16<sup>th</sup> was seconded and unanimously approved.

The work plan was tabled until next month's meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**The Senior Messenger article for December is to be done by Lisa Rasmussen. No topic has been agreed on.**

Public Comment

Walt Gordon: Chuck will represent the CoA at Thursday's Accessible Transportation Coalition meeting. They will identify different projects as part of the Human Services Transportation program that will be presented to the state for possible funding.

November is family caregiver month. The annual conference will be held Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Peace Health. Look for details in the Columbian and Senior Messenger.

Vancouver Housing Authority, Sherry Dickerson: she brought the video "Big idea in 4 minutes" to senior staff at VHA. They're trying to figure out where they can fit in and contribute in the future. The Shared Housing program may be something to look at. They could offer that as an option to people when they are looking for housing. Bob suggested VHA talk to Shared Housing about how they can collaborate.

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.