

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Green, Amy Gross, Linda O'Leary, and Larry Smith

Absent: Marian Anderson, Ali Caley, Marjorie Ledell, Donna Roberge

Staff: Jenna Kay, Jacqui Kamp

1. January 15 COA work session notes

Due to low attendance, this discussion was delayed until the May work session.

2. March 20 COA work session notes

Due to low attendance, this discussion was delayed until the May work session.

3. Debrief February 21 Transportation Summit

Due to low attendance, this discussion was delayed until the May work session.

4. Debrief of March 20 meeting

- The following topics stood out to Linda:
 - Great speaker
 - Definition of a healthy community based on Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research
 - Definition of healthy aging based on World Health Organization report
 - Healthy aging has replaced active aging as an underlying age-friendly framework. Just because we have a disease, doesn't mean we can't live an active and full life.
 - The World Health Organization seeks to advance healthy aging by:
 - Emphasizing that action is urgent. Many baby boomers are retired or about to retire.
 - Acknowledging the great diversity of health and experience in older age and the need for policy responses to reflect these differences
 - Shifting understanding of healthy aging from the absence of disease to functional ability (note: individuals & environments can advance functional ability)
- Longer lives depend on individual and community health. Less education strongly correlates with lower life expectancy. Education is a proxy measure for other positive life details.



5. Presentation debrief process

The group discussed the current presentation debrief process of reviewing meeting notes the following month. During the discussion of how that approach is working, COA members noted:

- We need to make sure we come to each work session with an idea of what to conclude from the previous presentation.
- There was a request to cut the speaker time down a bit, and have more time in the regular meeting for discussion, ie could we allow a 10-minute discussion with speaker after the Q&A?
- We need to make sure we ask each speaker: if the county could advance this topic in some way, what would it be?
- In COA work sessions, when we have the follow-up discussion on the previous month's speaker, let's also make sure we're more substantive in our discussion and that we are not just reviewing the notes. Are there 4-5 prompting questions to ask ourselves during each speaker debrief?

6. Human Services Council requests

Colleen Kuhn, Executive Director of the Human Services Council, visited COA and made three requests to the group, as follows:

1. Ask #1: the Human Services Council manages the Accessible Transportation Coalition and is interested in having representation from the Commission on Aging on the Accessible Transportation Coalition. If no COA representation on the coalition is not feasible, could the Accessible Transportation Coalition periodically present to COA? More details about the coalition include:
 - a. The group formed in 2012 and is funded through an Easter Seals grant.
 - b. The group meets quarterly in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct on the second Friday of the month, 10am-noon.
 - c. They both advise and implement projects.
 - d. Sometimes there are presentations, such as a recent presentation on a county sidewalk inventory project.
 - e. The group works closely with C-Tran and distribution of 5310 federal funds. (Tri-met receives these funds and C-Tran gets a portion of them. C-Tran's role is to develop programs to meet community needs and to filter some of those funds to non-profits to provide service and augment C-Tran services.) These funds help with some of Human Services Council program like providing transportation for critical medical appointments. The funds have also helped Catholic Community Services recruit more drivers. The funds have also been used to reimburse for fuel and mileage expenses. The group is always looking for additional project ideas that C-Tran can help support through 5310 dollars.
2. Ask #2: would COA be willing to partner/participate/support/sponsor a transportation summit. A portion of the event would be for community members serving people with disabilities, and another portion of the event would be open to the community to find out about transportation options and resources. The Accessible Transportation Coalition brought up this idea as a project C-Tran could help fund.
3. Ask #3: would COA be willing to participate or provide ideas regarding the coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan? It was just updated in 2018 and the Human Services Council is hopeful that we can expand and have a better reach with more input from the Commission on Aging. The Accessible Transportation Coalition serves an advisory role and helps rank projects for the Human Services Transportation Plan development.

Q&A with Colleen:

- Question: If a COA member joined the Accessible Transportation Coalition, could that person serve as a liaison between COA and the Coalition regarding the other items? Response: yes.
- Question: has the Accessible Transportation Coalition talked about mobility as a service? Response: Yes, some. Some healthcare providers are talking about having kiosks in health centers for transportation.
- Question: who is on the Human Services Council board? Response: Linda, ridership community, City of Vancouver, retired business, financial. Looking for legal community representative.

Action item: COA to discuss the requests from the Human Services Council and decide on next steps. Staff will then circle back to Colleen.

C-Tran route and service changes:

The group also asked Colleen if the Human Services Council had any thoughts on C-Tran's proposed service and route changes. Colleen noted that the biggest pressure point is canceling route 39 on the Fourth Plain corridor. C-Tran is considering to back-fill this route with a connector, on-demand service (reservation-based). The reservations won't be needed 24-hours in advance. The C-Tran Board will take official action at their May meeting. There is also an opportunity for other organizations to help provide service in this area.

7. By-laws update

- The by-laws subcommittee reviewed proposed changes
- Discussion included:
 - Article 4 – Membership, non-voting partners: these are the partners listed in the Commission on Aging founding document. Group thought it made sense to leave as is.
 - Article 7 – Vacancy of Members: the wording is a bit confusing. Suggestion to make more clear.
 - Articles 8, 9 and 10: the group discussed the new proposed language regarding electronic meeting attendance. There was some concern about the importance of in-person interaction and that a call-in option could be abused. Liked the provisions that limit the frequency of use and need to submit notice ahead of time. Chuck has references regarding electronic participation in other jurisdictions and from the state's local government resource center (MRSC) and agreed with the concerns raised. Present COA members seemed ok with proposal. Staff is working to confirm logistics of getting phone set-up in hearing room. Discussed possibility of using a cell phone for the work sessions so that the conference phone doesn't need to be moved.

Action item: COA to revisit proposed by-law changes at future meeting when quorum present.

8. Report to city councils update

- Vancouver City Council – supportive. Most of the councilors made comments. Making sure thinking about COA recommendations in their work.
- Ridgefield City council – supportive. The Mayor expressed appreciation for COA's annual visits and the work the commission is doing. Identified what he thought Ridgefield was doing well and that they need to keep working on these issues further.

- Camas City council – supportive. Good discussion. Talked about the north part of the city where development is occurring and where there is not much infrastructure, connection, or C-Tran service.

9. Update on 2019 speakers

Staff provided an update on speaker scheduling for the year. We switched two topics due to scheduling challenges: Urban forestry will now be the May topic. Complete communities will now be the September topic. Staff has confirmed most speakers and is close on confirming the rest.

10. Prep for May meeting speakers – Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities

The group would like to hear about:

- How to protect sidewalks from tree root damage.
- What is the process for deciding where trees are planted? It seems like some trees have more plantings than others. How does tree allocation work?
- At a high level, could we learn about different types of trees and their advantages and disadvantages, and what makes a good tree choice?
- How do trees connect to aging in place?
- How do local jurisdictions address neighbor responsibility for tree growth, overgrowth, etc?
- There are some concerns from people who lose their scenic view because of trees that are planted. How can these types of concerns and the balance between planting trees and preserving views addressed?

11. Commission appointment process update

Fifteen applications were received. The subcommittee reviewed the applications and selected six for interviews.

12. July 16 retreat planning

Due to low attendance, this discussion was delayed until the May work session.

13. Next Meeting: May 15, 2019 – healthy trees, healthy communities

14. Adjournment: The work session adjourned at 4:15 pm.

The Clark County Commission on Aging provides leadership in community engagement and advocacy of Clark County's Aging Readiness Plan, especially for those 65 and over who plan to age in place.