



Clark County Commission on Aging
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Vancouver, Washington

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Frayer, Patricia Gray, Bob Holdridge, Kathy McLaughlin, Lisa Rasmussen, Randy Scheel, Kiersten Ware, Karin Woll

Community Partner Attendees: David Kelly, Klaus Micheel

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

Chair Kiersten Ware opened the meeting at 4:30. Meeting notes from June 19 were approved as posted. Today's agenda was approved with no changes.

The commission meeting will now be held in the Hearing Room for better visibility and interaction between members and the audience. It was acknowledged that an appointed member, Rebecca Siegler, has not attended meetings and cannot be reached. A replacement for that position is being considered.

Kiersten met with Colete prior to this meeting to discuss activities of the Commission (COA) going forward. Colete developed and posted a calendar on the FTP site to address this. Ideas for the August meeting agenda were discussed including establishing goals, guiding principles and a vision statement. Also possibly forming the "Benchmark" subcommittee as it ties into the annual report. Kiersten is scheduled to meet with Commissioner Boldt in October with updates on the COA's work.

Three opportunities for community outreach and education were reported.

- Bob Holdridge attended the Elder Care Alliance meeting to give an update.
- United Way of Columbia Willamette invited Kiersten to speak with their president along with other leaders in the community. She can't make it so has asked someone from SWAAD and Mike Riordan to go on her behalf and provide information on the aging readiness plan and what this commission is all about.
- September 25 Kiersten will attend the State Council on Aging meeting in Olympia with Colete and Jacqui.

Old Business:

- All items have been accomplished with the exception of #4, establish a communication subcommittee. This item will be addressed later in the meeting.

Colete and Jacqui reviewed a list of projects relating to the aging plan strategies. They included completed projects such as Elder Friends and MyEncoreYears.com as well as current, active projects. These are well underway and forecast to be completed by end of 2013. (For complete project list refer to FTP site, meeting file folder, CoA_Project_Update_7-17-12.pdf)

A list of pending assignments was reviewed. The list was compiled by looking at the remaining, short term strategies that hadn't been met and opportunities for combining them with projects to be worked on over the next few years. These are projects that can be taken on by the COA work committees. Commission members are welcome to suggest and discuss additions to this list.

Kiersten opened discussion for the commission to decide what projects they want to work on and how to structure the work committees. There are two subcommittees to be formed in addition to the project assignments. One is the "benchmark" committee to provide progress reports as well as the annual report, and the other is the "communication" committee.

Colete clarified that the commission is not expected to work on these projects alone. They will require partnerships with community agencies and groups. For example on "transportation", potential partners are RTC, C-Tran, and Public Works, depending on what expertise is needed.

After group discussion, the decision was made to spend more time in review of the strategies before selecting which committee(s) to work on.

Lisa said her interests are in the communication and transportation committees. Bob Holdridge is interested in the housing committee and Kiersten asked to be included on the shared housing pilot. These can be added to the matrix.

Kiersten suggested a subcommittee be called a "work committee". Lisa motioned to accept the name work committee, Karin seconded, all approved.

Kiersten reviewed her vision of what a communication work committee would look like. (For a complete description, refer to the FTP site, meeting files, 2012_07-17, communication work committee.pdf) Bob commented that it will be important to educate the public at large because they will be the ones to pay for much of implementation. This education point should be added to the process so there is an understanding by the public of what is coming and what the financial needs will be to sustain themselves in retirement.

Another important factor will be working in conjunction and partnering with other community groups and commissions. There are many committees out there that we can tag onto, for example, the Bike and Pedestrian committee. Their efforts to improve the sidewalk systems in

the county could be correlated with the COA transportation work committee. Bob suggested an initiative of the communication work committee could be to attend meetings of other committees in the area and find out more about them and tell them about who and what the COA is and how we can work together.

Kathy expressed the importance of staying in front of the local newspapers, the Messenger and the Columbian. If they are not at the meetings, at least we should get information to them so they know what we're doing. There was an article in Sunday's Columbian on aging that two committee members were interviewed for. However, there was no mention of their affiliation to the committee. When given the opportunity, give a plug to the COA and the aging plan so the community will start to see it in print and become aware of its presence.

Public comment at the meetings is important and raises issues that need to be discussed and addressed. The COA can't solve all of these issues but an idea that might help would be for the newspapers to publish an article about it and gather public comment. Perhaps this could be another task for the work committee, to reach out to the Messenger and invite them to the meetings. At the very least, the committee could respond to public comment by taking it under consideration and adding it to the list of strategies/objectives. It is recognized that the list of strategies is always open to additions and will grow over time. The public comment period is also a perfect time to invite their participation and involvement on a work committee.

Kiersten asked the COA to formalize the work committee on communication by nominating a chair and accepting volunteers. Lisa volunteered to be chair, Karin, Patricia and Randy volunteered to serve on the committee. Kiersten motioned to establish the communication work committee with Lisa as chair, Karin seconded, all approved.

Public Comment:

- Beverly Doty requested that she be copied on the information that the committee has to work from. Through an article she read in the Oregonian about a retirement center in Milwaukie that has their own community garden and grow their own produce, she has generated interest from the general manager at her living facility to start a community garden there for its residents. Many residents have experience in gardening and this will help them not only feel productive, but also provide them with better nutrition.
- Steve Madsen, Government Affairs Director of Clark County Association of Realtors.
 - He was one of the founding members of Clark County Development and Engineering Advisory board five years ago. He found one thing that worked well and might be of help to the COA is to develop an annual work plan with specific deliverables and a timeline for when they're delivered. Secondly, have a "parking lot" for anything that comes in from the public, or wherever. Those items could be prioritized and dealt with based on current conditions.
 - He views this process as an economic development strategy. From a realtors' perspective, you make money by real estate transactions. If we draw from the Portland metro area as well as Clark County, we could be very successful in our efforts to develop a thriving aging community. The additional demand for services

- could drive the creation of those services. It's not only how we how we serve the existing aging community, but how we can become the mecca for that community.
- He will attend as many meetings as possible and become engaged as needed with various committees.

Kiersten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:00, all approved.

Action items:

1. Agenda item for August: make contributions to community events listing, or send in information to be added to an ongoing list.
2. Committee members to review strategies and select their project(s) of interest. Two week deadline to email Colete and Jacqui with choices. Also include a list of other committees outside of the COA that you are involved with. Copy the committee so everyone can see what the others have selected.
3. Colete and Jacqui compile matrix of these choices for review at August meeting.