



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

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Holdridge, Kiersten Ware, Chuck Frayer, Karin Woll, Gary Beagle, Randy Scheel

Absent: Patti Gray, Kathy McLaughlin, Lisa Rasmussen

Community Partner Attendees: Klaus Micheel, Walt Gordon, David Kelly, Tammy Haas, Charlie Mitchell

Staff: Bill Barron, Oliver Orjiako, Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Welcome and Call to Order

- Meeting agenda approved; minutes from 09/18/12 and the retreat on 10/12/12 approved as submitted.
- Chair Kiersten Ware's report:
 - Calendar created as new tool to track all work committee meetings. Copy of November and December distributed.
 - Kiersten and other COA members attended the Oregon Gerontological Association conference for age friendly cities in Portland, along with SWAAD and other representatives from agencies in Clark County. Gave 20 minute presentation.
 - Met with Commissioner Boldt on 10/16 to update status of COA and the work committees.
 - Discussed endorsements and he agreed the COA should not be endorsing any political initiatives, referendums, or private companies. Letters of support to non-profits or other community groups are acceptable so long as they're within the values of the COA.
 - Commissioner Boldt suggested the COA keep funding options in mind for implementing strategies. Consider partnering with local organizations. Oliver will assist with information on funding requests to state legislature.
 - There will be a change on the BOCC beginning in January and at this time it is unknown how that will affect the COA. Steve Stuart will be the chair in 2013. Kiersten will circulate a thank you card at next month's meeting for Commissioner Boldt.

Work Committee Reports

- Benchmark – Kiersten
 - Identified and discussed data sources
 - Researched and selected a template for annual report
 - Developed a matrix for collected data points
 - Working on finding additional members for committee
 - Biggest challenge is finding county-specific data points. As other committees identify specific strategies, that will inform the measurements being looked at.
 - Next meeting January 9th. Many action items to work on.

- Transportation – Chuck
 - Work program will be reviewed later in the meeting.

- Engagement – Colete for Kathy
 - Since Kathy could not be here, she sent a link to a You Tube video relating to time banking. The audio portion was not functioning. Colete asked members to view it on their own time for valuable information. Time banking is one of the major strategies of this group.
 - Third meeting will be the first week of December.

- Housing – Bob
 - Work program draft will be reviewed later in the meeting.
 - Once approved, committee members will choose one or more action plan to follow up on. Will consider whether additional members are needed based on work load.
 - Program is work in progress and may be altered as time goes on.

- Communications – Jacqui
 - Split into sub-groups: event planning, speakers' bureau.
 - Speakers' bureau: reviewing general presentation of the COA; will have a long and a short version including materials. Training will be provided probably beginning of February. Think about topic of interest to you and let staff know. Contact information to schedule speaking engagements will eventually be posted on county website.
 - Event planning: Piggy-backing on other community organizations i.e. SWAAD will share information about COA when they go out to speak. COA will have physical presence at 50+ Expo in May 2013. Space has been reserved, partnering with county Community Development department. Will ask in future for volunteers from COA.

- Healthy – Karin
 - Focus on 3 major topics: complete neighborhoods, access to parks and open spaces, and healthful foods and nutrition.
 - Challenge is the subject is non-specific, encompasses lots of partners. Karin meeting monthly with Healthy Neighborhoods Coalition and later this month with

- Food Council, also Elder Care Alliance and a faith-based coffee group. Looking to partner with groups that are already in place so as not to reinvent the wheel.
- Next meeting on complete neighborhoods (December 13), talking about CPU energy/weatherization program. Includes Burton Ridge, Marrion and Forest Ridge neighborhoods, selected as census showed highest ratio of elders. Part of a grant received by CPU and falls within strategy of weatherization for elder people's homes.
 - Supportive Services – Randy
 - Work divided into 2 parts. Randy involved in initiative to use technology to keep people healthier and in their homes. Related areas are telemedicine which is developing in hospitals and clinics, and telehealth.
 - Meeting for stakeholders on November 29th. Will focus on what is telehealth program, is it right for Clark County, are there efforts already underway, and what can this commission do to help? Obstacles: how much interest is out there and there is much vested interest that can work for or against it.

Open Issues:

1. Business cards: in production
2. Retreat meeting: make it an annual event; hold at anniversary date of member's rotation; maybe September. Good time to check in and review how things are going, review goals for new year.
3. Endorsements: covered under chair report, meeting with Commissioner Boldt. **Action item: Draft into COA policy and procedures (Jacqui and Colete).**
4. Strategy parking lot: being developed. When the public makes suggestions they cannot always be incorporated right away into the strategies. A parking lot keeps those thoughts on paper until they can be worked on and not forgotten. Gary suggested utilizing this information at the retreat to be worked into the coming year's strategies and goals, a good working tool.

New Business:

1. Attendance: reminder of by-laws, do not miss more than 3 consecutive meetings, or 4 meetings during a 12 month period. Poll of members on holding a December meeting showed majority in favor of having the meeting.
2. Mission, vision, guiding principles: Colete and Jacqui compiled information gathered at the retreat into a draft mission statement. Discussion followed and some edits were agreed on. **Action item: Distribute revised copy when complete. (Jacqui)**
3. Housing work plan: Bob reviewed the content of the plan which the group had received previously. On the topic of "shared housing", a group from Portland will come to the next committee meeting (November 30) to talk about what they are and how they work. A motion to approve the Housing work plan was unanimously approved by the commission.
4. Transportation work plan: Chuck reported that the committee followed documentation and information from the Aging Readiness Plan (ARP) to incorporate into their work plan.

Document will become a living, working document each year that will always go back to the ARP as the base to work from. Motion to approve the Transportation work plan was unanimously approved by the commission.

Public Comment:

- Lilly Longshore, attended area aging presentation in Ohio on Medicare and navigating the system, etc. Will the COA address this? Charlie Mitchell, attorney for NW Justice Project in the audience, responded. The organization provides free civil legal aide to low income people and seniors regardless of income. There's an event here in October, the "Medicare Forum" by SHIBA, statewide health benefits advisors. He participated in one of the Aging Readiness workshops and wanted to make the COA aware of their services. They have 6 attorneys in Vancouver, use a statewide toll free intake line to get cases and an internet website. He gave his card to Colete for reference.
- Steve Madsen, government affairs director for Clark County Association of Realtors. Asked for a copy of the housing work plan. He suggested developing a concept to help make the plan easy to translate to his constituency on how to become involved and what has the most value to work on. He asked for benchmarks to help understand level of service for elderly in community to allow people who don't have time to come to monthly meetings; target levels of services to understand the value of the activity that's being undertaken. Bob Holdridge commented that the housing committee would like to make a presentation to the real estate association and that might help define some of these things. It might be appropriate to have someone from the real estate board on the housing committee as well. **Action item: Follow up with Steve. (Bob Holdridge)**
- Jim Wilson, architect, served on Aging Readiness Task Force. Excited about a new brand of living opportunities involving a mixed level of age in one developed parcel; redefining living spaces. Seniors have much to give back as well as receive. Environment benefits both seniors, being walking distance to their grandchildren, and their children having complete freedom and privacy. He's planning to be involved on the housing committee and be a spokesperson for these designs.
- Gail Haskett, Aging Resources Inc., wants to be involved and come to meetings in the future. She would like to do a presentation update on the role of the state council and their legislative priorities for 2013. She'll come to the December meeting.
- Bob commented on two newspaper articles, one about revenue problems in WA state over the next 4-5 years. The sales tax is also going to be a problem as the population changes to more retired people who aren't making as much income and therefore spending less. He thinks the commission should develop a strategy to deal with revenue. Secondly, homelessness and hunger. Local agencies (Share, Food Bank, etc) coming together to talk about needs now and in the future. The commission should become aligned with these agencies as many retirees in the future won't have enough money to sustain them and will become homeless. **Action item: Kiersten suggested adding this to the parking lot.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.