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

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, September 18, 2019
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Dong, Amy Gross, Franklin Johnson, Marjorie Ledell, Megan McCarthy, Larry Smith, Pam Wheeler

Absent: Chuck Green, Linda O'Leary

Staff: Jacqui Kamp, Jenna Kay

1. **Introductory remarks and discussion**
   - Preference is to start work sessions at 3:30pm when possible. If there is a lot of material to cover, then start at 3pm.
   - Larry shared what he learned about SHED.
   - The group discussed the importance of getting older men to talk about their health issues, the impact of losing a spouse, and the sense of community that "third places" (like coffee shops) and group activities can have on someone's life.
   - Larry shared that he learned that many of the Habitat for Humanity volunteers are seniors, such as retired carpenters and plumbers, and an example of the impact volunteering and community engagement can have on seniors and other age groups.

2. **August 21 COA meetings**
   - The work session notes were approved.
   - Takeaways from August 21 meeting on advanced care planning:
     - Suggestion: could the Council acknowledge Healthcare Decision Day in April? Perhaps it could be tied to their Older Americans' day proclamation.

3. **Summit committee update**
   - The committee discussed encouraging city government staff to be sensitive and conscious of facilitating engagement and participation of the aging community.
   - The committee discussed the suicide and mental health topic as a potential focus area.
   - Discussed asking the WA Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, to be the keynote. He used to be the county's Public Health Director and was involved in development of the Aging Readiness Plan. Staff are reaching out to the Public Health Department to help with extending an invitation to the Secretary.
   - We want to make sure the summit is focused on a positive message, even if serious topics are discussed. If ends in the value of older people.
   - The group discussed how to incorporate their celebration of seniors idea. What would make sense? What would that look like? Can mayors bring someone to highlight?

Would COA honor someone? COA wants to recognize seniors' contribution to the community and let the cities decide on their process to select honorees. We would need name. **ACTION – staff to check with city staff on appetite for opportunity/process.**

- Commission on Aging could create an award, ie the Marc Boldt award.
- **ACTION - Staff to create framework for choosing honorees. Person would need to be a senior. Staff to draft and share with COA. Should be individual, not an organization.**
- State of the County idea – there could be a Commission on Aging award where annually an individual or organization is recognized.
- Senior artist idea – could we get a senior artist to design the award for the honorees. **ACTION - Staff to ask arts commission for ideas.**

4. **2020 focus update**
    - Not much progress yet since the last COA meeting.
    - Incorporated feedback from last meeting into the draft plan.
    - Staff and Larry working on making ask to Council.
    - Do to time and resource constrains, we may need to do fewer town halls.
    - The town halls need to incorporate the idea of what older adults need, younger adults want.

5. **Prep for October meeting speakers – Community Engagement/Economic Development**
    - Colleen Kuhn – could she share statistics about isolation and the importance of community engagement?

6. Announcements/Updates
    - Healthy foods update. Staff shared an email update from one of the healthy foods speakers, Nina Davenport. "During the meeting, there was interest in learning more about how much additional funding would be needed for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to serve all individuals who register for the program. After reviewing figures, it's estimated that an additional $7,240 would be needed to accomplish that goal." **ACTION – staff to forward email to Meghan.**
    - AAADSW resource directory – Jacqui sent a web link out to the group to look at this online resource directory. If you have any feedback on it, staff could help relay back to AAADSW.
    - Council for the Homeless. Jacqui provided an update on meeting with Council for the Homeless Executive Director, Kate Budd. She was willing to speak to COA next year and will keep us in the loop on senior related issues, and potential state policies related to seniors and homelessness.
    - Larry reviewed and signed the complete streets letter discussed at the last work session and it was submitted to the project manager.
    - Public health liaison update –If anyone is interested in looking at seniors and county health agency ethical issues and regulations, public health is looking for volunteers.

7. **Next Meeting:** October 16, 2019 – 3:30pm.

8. **Adjournment:** The work session adjourned at 4:10pm.

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.