

Aging & Disability Resources: Draft 2022-2023 Area Plan Update

Pierce County Human Services

Public Hearing

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021

10:00 to 11:00 am

Via Zoom link

Attendance

- ADR Advisory Board members = 11
- Community members / guests = 4
- HS/ADR staff = 9

Meeting Summary

Pat McIntyre, ADR Advisory Board Chair opened the Advisory Board meeting and introduced ADR Social Service Supervisor Connie Kline to lead the public hearing on the draft 2022-2023 Area Plan Update. The public hearing included a presentation providing an overview / summary of the draft Area Plan Update, including the proposed 2022 budget, and was followed by the opportunity for discussion, questions and public comment / testimony. The following questions and comments were addressed:

Questions

- **The plan includes a requirement to coordinate with Tribes, which has historically been a challenge. Has anything changed in this area? How will ADR be addressing this requirement?**
 - Under DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, ADR is required to collaborate with Tribes in our service area to plan for and address emerging issues affecting tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities. The Puyallup Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe whose lands are located within Pierce County. The Puyallup Tribe receives federal Older Americans' Act funding directly to provide a number of essential community-based long term services and supports to their tribal members. ADR continues to share relevant information regarding long term services and supports and funding opportunities with the Puyallup Tribe. Over the next two years, ADR plans to consult with Pierce County's Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations and the DSHS Office of Indian Policy to engage in government-to-government communication and to engage in formal planning meetings, as outlined in Policy 7.01. Additional strategies for coordinating with the Puyallup Tribe are outlined in the Area Plan Update on page 40.
- **Related to COVID-19 vaccine access assistance, has the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. provided any insight or guidance on the future of COVID-19, including promoting booster vaccines?**
 - Representatives of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. are participating in ADR's Vaccine Access Planning workgroup to coordinate on vaccine outreach / education and access activities. The Health Dept. also shares updated COVID-19 statistics for Pierce County on a weekly basis.

Comments / Discussion

- **A challenge moving forward will be the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 related to delayed health care, etc. It will be important for ADR to keep this in mind and make efforts to address these issues upstream before it creates another crisis.**
- **There is a continued concern about the lack of dedicated funding to serve younger adults with disabilities.**
 - Although not specifically designated, it was noted that most funding budgeted under the Aging and Disability Resource Center umbrella is available to provide outreach, education, information, referral and program access to younger adults with disabilities. Family Caregiver Support and Medicaid Transformation Demonstration programs may also touch individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. In addition, Medicaid case management services are provided to adults age 18 and older who are functionally and financially eligible for in-home long-term services and supports.
- **Kudos were provided to ADR staff on the development of the Area Plan Update. The creativity and innovation demonstrated by ADR over the past year to continue to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic was also noted.**

There were no additional comments, discussion or testimony submitted by public hearing participants.

Written Comments

Written comments on the draft Area Plan Update were accepted from the date of publication on Sept. 7, 2021 through the conclusion of the public hearing held on Sept. 21, 2021. No written comments were received prior to or up through the public hearing.