

PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) Meeting

1:00 – 2:48 p.m.

May 13, 2022

Members: Joy Cochran, Chair - excused
 Tony Hester, Vice Chair
 Julian Wheeler
 Cheri Coleman
 Jennifer Spane
 Shannon Okean
 Todd Holloway

Guests: Catherine Ushka, Deputy Mayor, City of Tacoma
 Corbin Ensminger, Election Specialist, Pierce County Elections
 Ivan Tudela, Pierce County Emergency Management
 Trisha Canzler, ADA Eligibility, Pierce Transit
 Gail Himes, ADA Coordinator, City of Tacoma
 Emily Dahl, ASL Interpreter
 Carolyn, ASL Interpreter

Staff: Anika Moran, Special Advisor to the Director
 Kris Dowling, Program Specialist 3
 Becki Foutz, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Opening	A quorum was present. Vice Chair Tony Hester presided in the absence of Chair, Joy Cochran. The meeting began at 1:07.	Thank you for coming!
Minutes and Agenda Approval	Todd moved and Julian seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Todd moved and Julian seconded to approve the agenda for this meeting.	Both passed; minutes and agenda approved.
Introductions	<p>It was acknowledged that we are meeting on native land. All introduced themselves as above. A special welcome to newest members, Shannon Okean and Jen Spane.</p> <p>Shannon works as a client advocate/case manager for Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center (HSDC); they have offices in Bellingham, Spokane, and Tacoma. She’s very excited to be here as part of the Board.</p> <p>Jen Spane works for Pierce County Parks & Recreation; she looks forward to seeing what will happen with this group over the next few years.</p>	Thanks all for being here!

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Presentation – City of Tacoma – Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor Ushka provided information about alternative calls for service. Tacoma conducted a study on alternative calls for service as part of the recommendations of CP 21 – 21st Century Policing. One recommendation was to develop an alternative calls for service or divertible calls for services plan. Three types of alternative calls for service were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH-responders related to homelessness • MH crisis response with Designated Clinical Responders • Alternative responses to law enforcement response with a civilian force that would include community service officers <p>The City hired two people for the HEAL (Homeless Encampment) team. There were also recommendations for more MH responders, specifically designated clinical responders. The positions were funded but the City has not yet hired due to a workforce shortage of qualified candidates. The City worked with a consultant on how to find people. An RFP has been released to recruit. Tacoma’s new Police Chief, Avery Moore, is working on a strategic plan on how he will manage the department; the report is anticipated in June.</p> <p>Todd said that there are organizations that can provide a lot of services for working with specific areas of the population who have experienced difficulties in the past, for example, those on the autism spectrum. The motto is, “<i>Nothing about us without us.</i>” There’s a ready group of people who’d be happy to take part in some of the planning.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Ushka expressed appreciation for the comments. She has a son with autism so the message lands squarely with her heart. She will make sure to engage Todd.</p> <p>Vice Chair Tony asked if there are plans to have the Tacoma Police trained to work with people with disabilities? Deputy Mayor Ushka doesn’t know but she will find out. A lot of different trainings are offered, but she’s not sure if any include disabilities. She will try to elevate voices for that platform.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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<p>Presentation – City of Tacoma – Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka, continued</p>	<p>Tony asked about the <i>Heal the Heart Symposium</i> on April 25. There’s a plan to execute the vision, involving community feedback. From where will the feedback come? Are certain areas earmarked, or Tacoma in general? Deputy Mayor Ushka noted that they were talking specifically about working with the Police Department on restorative justice and a lot more – how do we walk through the acknowledgment of past wrongs, how do we address those in a meaningful way, and move on? It was about working with police officers and leaders to do that. There’s no specific end goal; this is a continuous process. We can’t undo 400 years of racism in a few years of City work.</p> <p>Shannon announced that there is a new medical alert and designation for driver’s licenses and ID cards. You can have a symbol on your license to indicate that you have a disability. She added that HSDC provides training; they’ve given it to police and jail staff in the past.</p> <p>Todd said that the deaf community has been victimized when they call 911, due to confusion. He recommends that a longer conversation be had including County, Sheriff’s Dept and TACID, maybe even eventually, hopefully, face to face. What happens then is pretty organic; disabled and marginalized individuals are thought of more.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Ushka urged the group to also contact the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department and the Pierce County Council to ensure they are taking similar initiatives as the City. South Sound 911 presented at study session this week; they have a new person who’s tasked to improve 911 communications for disabled persons.</p> <p>Chair Hester thanked Deputy Mayor Ushka. They plan to contact the County as well. Everyone working together is what’s going to accomplish the greater good and he appreciates the sentiment.</p> <p>Todd thanked Deputy Mayor Ushka; she has a good reputation with this group! Chair Hester thanked her as well; he looks forward to working with her and the rest of the City Council.</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor Ushka said that she’s always willing to help and left her email: Catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org</p>

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<p>ADR Presentation- Kris Dowling</p>	<p>Kris Dowling, ADR Program Specialist, presented on Aging & Disability Resources. Human Services is one of 18 County Departments, and Aging & Disability Resources is a division of Human Services. ADR is our local Area Agency on Aging.</p> <p>ADR consists of: In-Home Long-Term Case Management, the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Developmental Disabilities (DD), Long-Term Care Ombudsmen (LTCOP), and Health Homes.</p> <p>Health Homes has 10 case managers who help set goals, coordinate medical providers, and involve family members.</p> <p>LTCOP is a diligent group of volunteers who are assigned to long-term care facilities in Pierce County to help those living in those facilities to understand their rights, and serve as advocates.</p> <p>Case Management: those receiving Title 19 services, have in-home case managers to coordinate all the services they need to safely remain in their homes.</p> <p>DD – provides employment and community access for adults, early support for infant and toddlers, and information and education.</p> <p>ADRC is the gateway to access other services. 70 case managers are dedicated to COPES, CFC and New Freedom programs, providing in-home case management.</p> <p>The mission of the ADRC is to be the gatekeeper and the entry point to the local Long-Term Support Services (LTSS) delivery system. Their goal is to present unbiased information. They hold 200 outreach and education events each year, help people access services, offer person-centered care planning and care coordination. They meet individual needs of older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers.</p> <p>Why do people contact the ADRC? Adaptation of the home to stay safe and well in the home. Addressing medication management, financial planning, technological advances, caregiving options, employment resources. Care coordination for resources, keeping people active, legal preparation, long-term care planning, placement, keeping people in the community, reclaiming sense of purpose. A big thing they do is help them navigate the complex world of insurance: Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicaid, etc.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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<p>ADR Presentation- Kris Dowling, continued</p>	<p>Dementia is a huge focus of the ADRC.</p> <p>Challenges include lack of resources for housing, transportation, Behavioral Health for Medicare clients, and issues like hoarding, self-neglect, guardianship, and bed bugs and other pests.</p> <p>The Information & Assistance line is the cornerstone of the ADRC. It's open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. at 253.798.4600. You reach an actual Case Manager! Kris encourages anyone to use this hotline. They also have an amazing website: www.PierceADRC.org .</p> <p>Case Management: for those who need more than info and assistance – free - no income or asset limit! A CM goes out to the home, sits with the family, and offers 1:1 personalized service.</p> <p>The Family Caregiver Support Program is designed to support caregivers, reducing their stress and burdens. Potential services include: caregiving supplies, lifeline services/safety bracelets, training/education, counseling, dementia training/education and respite care (24 hrs/month). All but respite care is free! Respite care is on a very generous sliding scale. This program is underutilized, so please help spread the word!</p> <p>Medicaid Alternative Care and Tailored Support for Older Adults (MAC/TSOA) MAC is “COPEs light,” with a much higher income eligibility requirement and much higher resource limit, with no estate recovery. However, it has fewer hours and no medical benefits attached.</p> <p>Hospital Care Transitions: 60-day intensive case management following a client’s hospital stay. Services include reviewing hospital discharge plan, ensuring medical follow-up is set up, reconciling meds, and a psycho-social assessment. This is a brand-new program about to roll out!</p> <p>Outreach & Education: Provides over 200 events each year. The opportunities may be found at www.PierceADRC.org</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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<p>ADR Presentation- Kris Dowling, continued</p>	<p><i>Getting help doesn't mean that you're weak. It means you're strong enough to admit you are tired of struggling.</i> – Manpreet Kaur</p> <p>Todd said if he could wave a magic wand, he would duplicate Pierce County ADR's services across the country. Todd served on the Board when the ADRC was being established; it was the model for the rest of Washington State. Some people don't reach out until it's too late. The ADRC Advisory Council meets soon, and Todd encouraged everyone to participate. He's concerned about other places. What Pierce County ADR does in the community would have prevented so many COVID deaths of people in facilities across the nation.</p> <p>Tony asked if it would be possible for ACAC to give a presentation at one of the ADRC meetings. Yes! Kris said that many times outreach events focus more on aging and less on disabilities.</p> <p>Gail loves Kris's enthusiasm and energy! Pierce County's ADRC seems like a role model for other counties. She asked what the age limit is: usually 60 and older but they serve all with disabilities. Certain funding sources are designated for those 60 and over.</p> <p>Trisha wanted to piggyback; she's a member of ADR. She went into it when COVID hit. She thanked Kris so much for her presentation.</p> <p>Kris is looking forward to moving back to in-person trainings and events. There's something magic about being in the same room together.</p> <p>Shannon asked if ADR serves those with DD. Yes! If connected with DDA, clients will be guided towards their DD case managers. If not, then ADR is happy to assist them. Kris thanked Shannon, who was interested in joining the ADR Advisory Board, as she inspired them to learn more about how to access interpreters over Zoom, which is now spreading across Pierce County!</p> <p>Tony asked, if a parent/caregiver needs respite but can't afford the sliding scale, is there a payment plan or waiver? Kris explained that the sliding scale is very generous so that rarely happens. She encouraged them to talk with a FCSP Case Manager to work around that issue if needed.</p>	<p>If there are any activities or topics you would like to see, please reach out. 253.798.4600 www.PierceADR C.org</p> <p>Kris will get Tony's contact info from Anika.</p> <p>Thank you, Kris!</p> <p>Thank you, Shannon!</p>

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<p>Check-In with Group</p>	<p><i>In what direction would you like the ACAC to go? What passions or subject matters would you like to cover?</i></p> <p>Anika explained that they're working on onboarding/orientation for new members.</p> <p>Todd feels that Anika and the group are on track. He asked Julian, historically, what onboarding has been done? Julian said that it's common practice for organizations he's participated on to have an annual retreat for planning purposes. For ACAC, the retreat's been on Zoom since COVID hit. He likes to use the SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis format. How do we measure deliverables? Number and quality of projects in the field. This group is mandated to find projects to be funded. So far, a field project in Graham has been established; Todd encouraged the others to visit it and he hopes to implement more.</p> <p>Tony asked what type of orientation materials would benefit the new members? Julian's knowledge of history is beneficial as well.</p> <p>Julian noted that he serves on the Governor's committee (GACDE) that has great onboarding materials including the law, code, and regulations that set up the framework. We could do something similar for ACAC. They put him to work right away, and it's been very effective statewide. He added that we're one of the first Counties to establish an ACAC. Julian encouraged Anika to contact Elaine Stefanowicz (sp?) because they do a great job with orientation.</p> <p>Jen said it would help her if she was teamed with a veteran member for a few months to learn the who, what, when and why of the group, nuances, etc. Julian agreed that would be helpful; he volunteered Todd to be Jen's mentor. Shannon agreed that a pairing buddy would work for her as well.</p> <p>Tony suggested planning some follow-up meetings to see who's willing to be a mentor and take a deeper dive on what the new members' needs are. He suggested some succession planning be included as well.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>

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Check-In with Group, continued	<p>Julian added that Cheri Coleman and John Ernest Berry III are great resources for ACAC. He reminded the group that Chair Cochran is not here today, and she may have some ideas as well. Todd said that he's had difficulty reaching John during the pandemic. He will reach out to him again.</p>	<p>Tony, Todd, Jen, and Shannon will meet to discuss and get "Cliff Notes" on the ACAC. Anika suggested they follow up with Bonny if they would like help arranging a meeting.</p>
Partner Reports	<p>Ivan commended the Elections office for providing non-traditional home addresses a way to register to vote. Great coordination that sparked more collaboration! Corbin will pass that along to Megan. Todd asked Corbin if there's anything coming up for mid-terms. Candidate filing is coming up. They're also offering an Observer training in July, open to anyone.</p> <p>Gail said there's a lot of development going on in Tacoma, so please choose your routes carefully. She's trying to ensure that pedestrian routes are kept open during construction. If anyone sees anything concerning, please let her know or call 311.</p> <p>Julian asked Corbin if it's possible to offer a training to help people with disabilities and lived experiences run for office? Corbin will ask around and let the group know. Julian said the ACAC could make the training a project and help Elections with it.</p>	<p>Corbin will let the group know.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Julian seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
Administrative Assistant