



Clark County Commission on Aging  
Webex Remote Meeting  
Vancouver, Washington

## MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chuck Green (Chair), Franklin Johnson (Vice Chair), Cass Freedland, Amy Gross, Meghan McCarthy, Larry Smith, Pamela Wheeler

**Absent:** Nancy Dong, Tanya Stewart

**County Councilors:** Chair Bowerman, Councilor Lentz, Councilor Medvigy

**Absent:** Councilor Olson

**County Manager:** Kathleen Otto

### 1. Welcome and call to order

Chair Green opened the meeting. The County Council members introduced themselves and Chair Green completed a roll call of the Commission members.

#### Approval of agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

#### Approval of Nov. 17, 2021 work session and meeting notes

#### Approval of Jan. 19, 2022 work session notes

#### Approval of Feb. 16, 2022 work session notes

The notes were unanimously approved.

### 2. Presentation: Clark County Commission on Aging 2021 Annual Report

The Commission presented their annual report to the County Council. Details on the presentation are available in the CVTV video recording and presentation slides posted on the Commission website. The Commission's annual report is also available on their webpage:

<https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/commission-aging-meetings>

#### Q&A/Discussion with County Council

- Chair Bowerman made a few comments including:
  - Commenting on the engaging presentation and thanking the Commission for their work.
  - Innovation through Connection: there are a number of groups that are doing work on a similar topic.



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- Workforce development – An example of another group that is working on a similar topic is Workforce Southwest Washington (<https://workforcesw.org/>). There is difficulty in finding workers for caregiving positions for all ages from infants through older adults. Many workers have left the profession. It is not surprising to hear that 83% of caregivers were under increased stress since the start of the pandemic.
- Recommends the Commission liaise with Miriam Halliday and the local workforce development board. The workforce shortage is a serious problem that won't be remedied quickly.
- Chair Green acknowledged the need to coordinate with the workforce development board and noted that the topic could be a monthly program focus at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Smith commented on the severity of the workforce shortage.
- Councilor Medvigy made a few comments including:
  - Thanking the Commission members for their volunteerism.
  - Lessons learned from the pandemic: the county has a high percentage of older adults, including many in elder care facilities. There was difficulty getting mobile vaccination services to all of these facilities and the residents that wanted to be vaccinated. In the future, we need to consider how to mobilize the assets to be able to do this kind of work.
  - Social interaction – positive COVID tests increased the length of restrictions on social gathering and varied at different facilities which was very difficult for isolated residents.
- Chair Green commented that as a part of the Aging Readiness Plan update, there will be the addition of an emergency preparedness chapter. He also outlined that in-person communication and connection was favored in the Commission's survey, which will be a focus of the April meeting.
- Commissioner Franklin discussed the need for adequate supplies and also improved distribution strategies in the event of future emergencies.
- Commissioner Smith commented on the challenges of COVID at congregate facilities.
- Councilor Lentz made a few comments including:
  - Thanking and appreciating the work of the Commission and noted that the breadth and specificity of the recommendations has grown significantly since her time on the Commission.
  - She outlined her familiarity with the CARES pilot program and encouraged the Commission to report back to the Council on how we can bring similar services to our community.
- Commissioner Johnson commented on the importance of connecting with local news outlets regarding the Commission's work, which occurred with the recent survey.
- County Manager Otto expressed her thanks for the services that the commission provides to the community.

### 3. Public Comment:

- There were no public comments this month.

### 4. Announcements

- Commissioner Smith commented how important it is to keep older adults involved in volunteering in the community and provided an example of the reading programs with the schools.

- Chair Green thanked the Council for joining the Commission on Aging and once the vacant Council position is filed, extended an invitation to have the new Councilor meet with the Commission.
- The possibility and timing of going to in-person or hybrid meetings was discussed.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.