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- Locally, (Katie) informed the Whatcom County Health Department regarding the number of 1A-qualified people we have as caregivers/IP's. At the state level, a letter will be going out to inform IP's of how to get their vaccine.
- Jana Finkbonner: Tribes are taking a different approach to vaccine distribution. Tribal members can contact their clinics regarding the vaccine. Lummi clinics are currently recruiting participants for a trial.
- Discussion followed with focus on getting the information on the vaccine out to the public, as well as, the vaccine itself with hopes of eventually getting back to normal.
- NWRC Governing Board Decisions. The 2021 budget was approved at the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Legislative Update:**

Information provided by Ryan Blackwell and Dan Murphy

What we do, as advocates, will be affected by COVID-19. There is less opportunity to have face-to-face meetings. We are anticipating cautious budgeting at the state level.

- Governor's Budget.  
Refer to Bill Moss memo (page 17).  
No cuts to NWRC programs included. Dan is cautiously optimistic that cuts will not materialize.

Question by Bob Monize regarding mandating vaccines. Discussion Followed.

- Legislative Strategy and Talking Points.
- W4A – Legislative Priorities for 2021 (NWSSB members forwarded copy):
  - Preserve Long-term Care Eligibility and Funding.
  - Fix and Improve the Long-Term Care Trust Act.
  - Pass SJR 8200 to Ensure Adequate Funding for the Long-Term Care Trust Act.
  - Support Extending the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration (Waiver).  
Dan shared his concerns regarding extending the waiver.
  - Support HB1120: Long-Term Care Workforce Improvements.

Next Steps (Ryan): This will be a different type of session & agenda. Talked about engaging two members: 10<sup>th</sup> district Senator Muzzall and Representative Lenkanoff in our 40<sup>th</sup> district, regarding legislative priorities and any budget concerns.

Stephen Shubert asked how any additional Older Americans Act funds would be distributed. Dan said if there are additional funds made available, they will likely be distributed through the same process as was used in 2020. Discussions followed.

Bob Monize asked for a copy of NWRC By-Laws - Ryan will forward a copy to Bob.  
**Updates from Our Communities:**

Members shared updates from their communities.

Wendy received the second Pfizer vaccination and is feeling more protected.

Shirley shared that Bellingham meals and senior activities are continuing.

Kathleen is continuing Food Bank delivery. She stressed the importance of connecting with isolated community members when delivering meals, giving encouragement, and maintaining connection. Recipients seem grateful for both food and humanity.

Shirley is helping in Coupeville with vaccinations and is "all in" to help lobby Senator Muzzall.

**Adjourn:**

Motion put forward that there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

Motion made by: Barbara Pessola

Seconded: Marshall & Kathleen

Result: Approved.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.**

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Jerilyn (Jeri) Johansen, Receptionist/Administrative Aide

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.

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Barbara Pesola, NWSSB Chair



**NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

April 9, 2020

TO: Northwest Regional Council Governing Board

FROM: Dan Murphy, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Distribution of Additional Federal Coronavirus Response Older Americans Act Funding

**Background**

As a result of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) our region has been allotted an increase in emergency Older American’s Act (OAA) funds totaling approximately \$2 million. This is a one-time, temporary increase in our appropriation of OAA funding. It represents a second year of federal support for COVID response and recovery in addition to what was included in the NWRC 2021 budget.

CRRSA must be spent by September 2022. The expenditure period for ARP funding has yet to be specified. Portions of the new funding are earmarked by fund title for each of several categories, including nutrition supports, general social and health services and family caregiver supports. Some flexibility is provided for transfer of funding between titles/purposes depending on local needs.

The total new revenues are as follows:

<b>TABLE 1: Total New Funding</b>	
CRRSA	\$239,858
ARP (estimate)	\$1,729,742
<b>TOTAL (estimate)</b>	<b>\$1,969,600</b>

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I recommend using 10% of the funds to cover NWRC administrative costs and holding a 15% reserve for new needs that may emerge during the coming year.

<b>TABLE 2: Reserve and Administrative Funding</b>	
Total Funds	\$1,969,600
Reserve – 15%	\$ 295,440
Admin – 10%	\$ 196,960
<b>Total Funds to Allocate</b>	<b>\$1,477,200</b>

To speed distribution and provide maximum flexibility in its use, I recommend the balance of \$1,477,200 be allocated to major current providers who receive OAA funding. Current major providers are Island Senior Resources, Whatcom Council on Aging, San Juan County Public Health, Skagit County Public Health, Community Action of Skagit County, Opportunity Council, and NWRC itself. We currently have deliverables in each provider contract for how the first two rounds of COVID response funding is to be used through September 2021. We anticipate they will use the new funds to extend those services through 2022 and beyond, if possible. Providers could certainly suggest new uses as part of the contract negotiation process, particularly around helping seniors and people with disabilities to access COVID vaccinations. For its direct services, NWRCs plan would be reported to the Governing Board at the July meeting.

The advantage of this approach is it builds and extends on the work already in place to address needs that arise from the pandemic and in recovery. NWRC’s previous work to align funding as closely as possible with the proportion of older residents in each member county. The current distribution of funding is outlined below.

I recommend using the current funding distribution percentages to distribute the new COVID-19 funding, which would result in the following funding allocations per county.

<b>TABLE 4: Proposed New Funding by County</b>					
Region/County	Region	Island	Skagit	San Juan	Whatcom
% of Current Funding (Nutrition, Community Programs, Volunteer Services)	100%	22%	26%	10%	42%
<b>Proposed New Funding Allocations</b>	<b>\$1,477,200</b>	<b>\$320,700</b>	<b>\$386,303</b>	<b>\$150,822</b>	<b>\$619,375</b>

Within each county, current providers would receive funding based on their current proportionate share of OAA funding and each contract would be amended to specify its use. The dollar value of what each provider would receive is as follows:

Whatcom Council on Aging	\$209,910
Skagit County Public Health	\$142,254
Island Senior Resources	\$320,700
San Juan County	\$150,822
Community Action of Skagit	\$ 22,897
Opportunity Council	\$ 27,624
Northwest Regional Council	<u>\$602,993</u>
Total	\$1,477,200

Because of the need to move quickly I recommend the full \$1,969,600 in additional funds be added to the Disaster Relief line of the NWRC budget and the Board give me authority to amend contracts to disburse these funds immediately, including any necessary Board countersignature on contracts as required by current NWRC policy. Once specific uses have been identified by providers, any necessary NWRC budget changes would be included in the mid-year budget update that will be in front of the Board in July. The July meeting will also include a report on how the funds are being used.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** The NWRC Board authorizes acceptance of \$1,969,600 into the disaster relief line of the NWRC budget, that 10% be used to cover administrative costs, 15% be held in reserve, and the balance distributed to major providers based on their current share of Older American’s Act and volunteer services funding.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** The NWRC Board authorizes the Executive Director to review provider plans for the use of the emergency funds, amend contracts to disburse these funds immediately, and requires the Executive Director to report on progress and submit any related budget amendments to the NWRC Board at its July meeting.

**2021-23 Omnibus Operating Budget**  
**Social and Health Services - Long-Term Care (300-050)**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	House Chair (03/26/2021)	Senate Chair (03/25/2021)	Difference
	Total Budgeted	Total Budgeted	Total Budgeted
<b>2019-21 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>6,447,431</b>	<b>6,447,431</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2021-23 Carryforward Level</b>	<b>6,764,282</b>	<b>6,764,282</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Maintenance Changes</b>	<b>508,627</b>	<b>508,627</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2021-23 Maintenance Level</b>	<b>7,272,909</b>	<b>7,272,909</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><i>Policy Other Changes:</i></b>			
15. In-Home Provider PPE	0	29,844	-29,844
16. Children's SOLA	235	0	235
17. Conditionally Released SVPs	0	349	-349
18. Health Equity Continuing Ed	0	148	-148
19. Long-Term Care/Epidemics	0	254	-254
20. Rental Subsidies	-22,492	-22,492	0
21. Staff Costs	-3,730	-3,730	0
<b>22. AAA Case Management</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>-7,580</b>
23. ARPA HCBS Enhanced FMAP	0	0	0
24. Adult Family Home Award/Agreement	20,919	20,919	0
25. Agency Provider Administrative Rate	1,442	1,361	81
26. Community Living Grants	13,768	13,951	-183
27. Behavioral Health Personal Care	14,028	0	14,028
28. Agency Provider Agreement-Parity	20,444	20,444	0
29. In-Home Care Provider Agreement	63,073	63,073	0
30. CDE One-Time PTO Payout	0	11,900	-11,900
31. CDE Vendor Rate	0	5,109	-5,109
32. COVID FMAP Increase	0	0	0
33. Caregiver/Provider Training	0	1,374	-1,374
<b>34. COVID Temporary Rate Increases</b>	<b>285,667</b>	<b>142,832</b>	<b>142,835</b>
<b>35. Dementia Action Collaborative</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>-414</b>
36. Behavioral Health Transitions	16,871	14,592	2,279
37. Enhance/Expand HCBS	0	230,035	-230,035

**2021-23 Omnibus Operating Budget  
Social and Health Services - Long-Term Care (300-050)**

(Dollars in Thousands)

38. Assisted Living Facility Rates	0	4,343	-4,343
39. Nursing Home Rate Methodology	22,278	61,701	-39,423
40. TBI Council Projects	1,042	1,042	0
41. Non-Citizen Program	0	4,762	-4,762
42. Personal Needs Allowance	98	7,954	-7,856
43. MCO Personal Care	0	14,028	-14,028
44. LTSS Trust Staff/Infrastructure	8,095	8,095	0
45. Transitional Care Center of Seattle	46,220	46,220	0
46. Hospital Surge Placements	0	15,133	-15,133
47. Residential Care Services	5,718	4,230	1,488
48. Emergency Planning and Reporting	4,930	0	4,930
49. Remote Technology Support	5,704	5,704	0
50. Hospital Surge- Geriatric-Specialty	6,775	0	6,775
51. Hospital Surge-Specialized Dementia	5,254	0	5,254
52. Hospital Surge- Non-Citizens	7,866	0	7,866
53. HCBS Supports	0	4,665	-4,665
54. COVID-19 Health Data	731	0	731
55. Personal Protective Equipment	0	414	-414
56. Long-Term Care Residents	780	0	780
57. LTC Workforce Development Pilot	0	21,501	-21,501
58. Remove Indirect Staff & Lease Costs	0	-10,759	10,759
59. Specialty Dementia Care Rate Add-on	0	5,994	-5,994
60. Shared Benefit Adjustment	186,036	186,036	0
61. Fall Prevention Training	0	50	-50
62. Nursing Home Temporary Incentive	2,104	0	2,104
63. Senior Nutrition Program	19,712	19,711	1
64. Skilled Nursing Quality Improvement	40,000	3,570	36,430
65. Personal Care in Homeless Shelters	0	790	-790
66. Facility One-Time Costs	2,195	0	2,195
<b>Policy -- Other Total</b>	<b>777,263</b>	<b>944,641</b>	<b>-167,378</b>
<b>Policy Comp Changes:</b>			
67. Remove Agency Specific FSA Funding	-90	-90	0

**2021-23 Omnibus Operating Budget  
Social and Health Services - Long-Term Care (300-050)**

(Dollars in Thousands)

68. State Employee Benefits	0	217	-217
69. WFSE General Government	0	-14,959	14,959
70. Rep Employee Health Benefits	0	1,050	-1,050
71. SEIU 1199 General Government	0	-3,081	3,081
<b>Policy -- Comp Total</b>	<b>-90</b>	<b>-16,863</b>	<b>16,773</b>
<b>Total Policy Changes</b>	<b>777,173</b>	<b>927,778</b>	<b>-150,605</b>
<b>2021-23 Policy Level</b>	<b>8,050,082</b>	<b>8,200,687</b>	<b>-150,605</b>