



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE:

**Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW) Announces New Planning and Management Council (PMC) Officers and Governing Board Chair**

ALTCEW is pleased to announce that the Whitman County Commissioner, Art Swannack, will continue to serve as Governing Board Chair. Art has served on the Governing Board since January, 2013, and also serves as Chair on the WA State Council on Aging (SCOA). Art will serve as the Governing Board Chair for one year effective February 28, 2020.

Karen Kiessling was elected as ALTCEW's new PMC Chair. The Whitman County Commissioners appointed Karen Kiessling to the PMC in early 2016 to represent Whitman County. Karen was also appointed in the fall of 2019 to serve on the SCOA. Karen will serve as the PMC Chair for one year effective February 28, 2020. As PMC Chair, Karen will also serve on the Executive Committee during her term. She succeeds Ken Smith who served as chair in 2019.

Finally, Jean Kinden was elected as PMC Vice Chair, and Chair of the Planning & Resources Committee. She will also serve on the Executive Committee during her term. Jean joined the PMC Committee in 2013, and will serve as the PMC and Planning & Resources Chair for one year effective February 28, 2020. She was appointed by the Spokane Valley City Council in February, 2019 to represent the Valley, and was also appointed in the fall of 2019 to serve on the SCOA. She succeeds Karen Kiessling as PMC Vice Chair and Planning & Resources Committee Chair.

"I am especially delighted to be working for seniors and those living with disabilities in our five county region. ALTCEW is a vital resource for all who live here and Whitman County representatives are doing all we can to keep it strong" said Karen Kiessling.

"Aging and Long Term Care is a resource for the elderly and also for family members. It is a privilege to be part of an organization representing services to Stevens, Pend Oreille, Ferry, Spokane and Whitman counties" said Jean Kindem.

**About ALTCEW:**

Aging & Long Term Care is a regional social service agency that provides programs and services that help older adults and people with disabilities stay at home as they age. Aging & Long Term Care provides services such as case management for people who need a caregiver, information

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and assistance and options counseling, and answers questions about Medicare and Medicaid. The agency cannot fulfill its mission alone so it works with local partners in the community to provide services such as home delivered meals, family caregiver support, and transportation. In 1965, Congress enacted the Older Americans Act to coordinate community-based programs for older citizens. Amendments to the Act in 1972 and 1973 added a nutrition program for the elderly and required states to establish Area Agencies on Aging, such as Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, to coordinate federal and state programs with local efforts. About 650 Area Agencies on Aging exist nationwide. Their mandate is to assist seniors in finding the services they need to remain independent and safe in their homes for as long as possible. Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington oversees the third largest planning and service area in the State of Washington, totaling approximately 8,900 square miles.

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