

## AREA AGENCY PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

### A-1 INTRODUCTION:

Southeast Washington Aging and Long Term Care (ALTC) is a designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA). ALTC is one of thirteen such agencies throughout the state of Washington. Starting January 1, 2015, ALTC transitioned from Yakima County as our sponsoring agency to a Council of Governments (COG) with five elected County Commissioners on its governing board. The governing board consists of one County Commissioner from Kittitas, Yakima, Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield counties.

The Area Agency on Aging continues to serve the same planning and service area and providing the same type and level of service. Several counties are choosing to not participate in the COG, stating concerns regarding a higher level of liability for their county.

ALTC is responsible for administration of the Area Plan in accordance with all requirements of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and related state policy. ALTC promotes the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services to help meet the needs of older and disabled individuals and serves as the advocacy and local focal point for older people in the Planning and Service Area.

Policy requires AAAs to provide a two-year interim update to the narrative sections of their area plan, as well as to submit their annual area plan budget. This provides an opportunity for ALTC to make necessary revisions and to provide to the public and Aging and Long Term Support

Administration (AL TSA) an update regarding goals and objectives. The area plan update narrative covers the period from October 1, 2013, through December 31, 2015. The budget and written cost allocation plan is for calendar year 2014. Persons interested in commenting on the plan may do so by contacting our administrative office in Yakima at (877) 965-2582 or (509) 965-0105.

The primary function of ALTC is to:

- **Advocate** for older Americans within Southeast Washington
- **Identify needs** of elders at the local level and **create** multi-year plans for them
- Development of **comprehensive community-based services** to meet those needs
- **Administer** Older Americans Act, state and private funds
- **Contract** with community service providers, **provide technical assistance** and **monitor** for quality within these services
- Provide directly **Aging and Disability Center (ADRC), Case Management and Nurse Services**
- **Serve as a resource** for Long Term Care (LTC) information and create awareness of LTC trends and needs.



*Pet Therapy session at the Day Break Adult Day Center in Yakima*

ALTC covers a large geographic area (11,451 square miles) encompassing eight counties: Kittitas, Yakima (except for Yakama Nation), Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties. ALTC serves thirty-seven towns/cities and all the rural areas throughout southeast Washington. ALTC has a satellite office in order to ensure that the intent of the OAA is met. Benton and Franklin counties share a satellite office located in Kennewick. The other six counties each have a satellite office located within them. Local continuum of service is available to help meet the needs of older citizens located in all areas.

We provide all counties with Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), Case Management, Nursing Services, Nutrition, Respite, Family Caregiver Support, Legal Services, Senior Employment, Medicaid Personal Care (MPC), Community Options Program Entry System (COPEs), Community First Choice (CFC), and Health Home Care Coordination services. ALTC contracts for transportation services in six of eight counties, Adult Day Services in four of the counties, and foot care in six counties.