



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2020

Members Present

Lewis County: Lynn Ford (Chair); Liz Hicker; and Cindy Mund

Mason County: Glenn Harper (Vice-Chair); Ida Sevier; Carroll Raether; and William (Bill) Bezanson

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney and Judy Stratton

Members Absent (excused) – N/A

Members Absent

Lewis County: Deb Mizner; Patricia (Patti) Craig; and Charlene Woodring

Mason County: Beth Gizzi

Thurston County: N/A

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo; Joy McBride; Valerie Aubertin-Lamb; Jemma Williamson; Carrie Petit; Bonnie Cook; Kristine Kane; Juno Whittaker; Alison Lord; Laura DeVol; Laurie Haubrick; and Charyl Warriner

Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

Welcome & Introductions

Lynn Ford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the December 4, 2019 minutes, and the draft agenda for the January 8, 2020 meeting. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the December 4, 2019 minutes as written, as well as the draft January 8, 2020 agenda, with one revision. The revision to the agenda should reflect under SCoA that there were handouts provided. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford

Family Caregiver handouts were provided to the council members, as well as additional resource information on hearing loss.

Lynn shared with the Council that it is time to review the By-Laws for the Advisory Council. She recommended the creation of a committee to discuss any revisions that should be made. The committee will meet before the next scheduled Advisory Council meeting, February 5, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Please email Lynn if you have any updates, comments or suggestions.

The Council reviewed the updated Advisory Council Roster, noting that there are two vacancies in Thurston County. Lynn informed the members that according to the Policies and Procedures for Area Agencies on Aging Operations, we are required to have at least one elected official appointed to our Advisory Council. Recommendations were made to the group to work to fill the empty seats.

In reviewing the By-Laws, the discussion of attendance was brought up. As a reminder, if a Council member is absent three (3) times during regularly scheduled meetings within the year, the Advisory Council Executive Committee may request a replacement for that member. If three meetings are missed, the Council member is considered not in compliance. This affects the monthly business and potentially the quorum status. LMTAAA be providing the Advisory Council members a call in number for future meetings, in the event a Council member is unable to attend in person.

W4A Advocacy Day Discussion

Council members have had the idea of providing legislators a small token to keep the W4A priorities in their minds. Theme options varied from: Aging Happens, We can Help; to Aging is the Future of Us All. Members shared their thoughts to having some type of swag to hand out at their meetings with Representatives and Senators including providing them with Cosmic Crisp apples. LMTAAA staff, Carrie Petit and Valerie Aubertin-Lamb offered to look into the possibility of ordering some type of swag. It was mentioned that due to timing, this may not occur by the January 30th Advocacy Day, but perhaps by Senior Lobby Day, on February 20, 2020.

Community Updates

Paul shared that Cornerstone (a corporation) who has 15 nursing homes in the state of Washington, has declared Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. There was additional discussion that the recent minimum wage increase may cause difficulties with nursing homes staying in business, as well as the current homelessness crisis. Paul shared that the Cornerstone nursing homes in our region are not closing, but he was aware that in Mason County, there are vouchers for housing being used, but unfortunately, there is a waiting list. He reported some nursing homes are accepting those with vouchers, even though they do not need nursing care.

Glenn Harper reminded the members that in Mason County, Senior Friday *Fun Night* is happening from 6-9 p.m on January 10th. They offer beer, wine, and spaghetti. Sunday, January 12th is *Spaghetti and Bingo*, starting at 11:30 a.m. Bingo commences at 1 p.m.; and you get 10 plays of bingo for \$10. So far, Friday night activities are proving to be worthwhile, netting approximately \$300-400 each time. In addition, the center offers Bingo Karaoke on the last Friday of every month.

Nicole Kiddoo reported that the Lacey Senior Center will be hosting a series of six (6) Senior Housing Forums, beginning January 24. This will be from 1:30-3 p.m., and will continue for six months.

Michele Horaney shared that she is working to connect people with LMTAAA through social media. Glenn asked to work with Michele on social media needs for continued advocacy.

Judy Stratton mentioned that AARP will have their annual “tax days”, where they assist those with tax preparation at many senior centers, libraries, etc. Dates are unknown at this time.

Cindy Mund was happy to share that she will be helping those file taxes on Monday and Tuesday at the Senior Center in the Twin Cities.

Deb Mizner shared with the council that she has written a memory café article on early onset Alzheimer’s/Dementia encouraging those who have loved ones to have that difficult discussion, and inform the younger generations about the problem with senior isolation. In addition, she was excited to share that the Cowlitz Tribe is sponsoring a Little League fundraiser on January 26th, with soul food and 70’s music!

Liz Hicker shared that the Olequa Senior Center staff had been on vacation and have recently returned.

Reports

State Council on Aging (SCoA) Meeting Report – Lynn Ford

Lynn stated that there was no SCoA report; the next meeting is scheduled for January.

Council of Governments (CoG) Meeting Report – Ida Sevier

Ida reported that a large part of the meeting was focused on the Commissioner’s voucher approval. A main concern by the CoG was that the Advisory Council was not fully staffed, due to the two vacancies in Thurston County. Ida briefed the CoG that the Advisory Council completed their annual election of officers, and that our new Chair for 2020 is Lynn Ford, while our new Vice-Chair is Glenn Harper. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation of Ida’s attendance and hope that she continues attending CoG meetings, although Glenn Harper will be attending on behalf of the Advisory Council, as Vice-Chair.

Executive Director's Report – N/A

Advisory Council Goals 2020/Action Plan Review

The Council Members broke into groups by county to discuss the Advisory Council's 2020 Goals and Action Plan. The main take-aways were:

- Lewis County – (notes will be submitted for review)
- Mason County – wants to identify our message, similar to “Aging happens, We can Help” and point people to the resources. Recommendations to have Todd Nelson (LMTAAA staff) from Shelton speak at our Senior Center; then provide a brief survey for the attendees asking, “What did you value most from this presentation? Or, “what would you like to know more about?”
- Thurston County – newly appointed members would like to know more about what we already have in place. Recommendations to consolidate the Action Plan (2020 goals); see small reports by different departments, on what they are doing; have updates on legislative issues.
- All counties recommended that they revisit the PowerPoint presentation from Fall of 2019.

Case Management Report – Jemma Williamson, CM Director & three Case Managers (PowerPoint presentation)

Jemma presented a brief overview on the average Case Manager workload, in preparation for our visit to the Capitol on January 30, 2020. This day, we will ask our Representatives and Senators to support us in funding an additional \$3.4 Million dollars to keep homecare safe. She outlined that additional funding is needed to prevent caseloads from increasing, while saving money overall.

She shared that in order to advocate for our clients, as well as coordinating services for them, we are often faced with a very limited amount of time to dedicate to each and every client. Our current ratio is approximately one Case Manager to every 85-90 Clients. Having an increased number of clients with mental health challenges comes with even more challenges, such as multiple calls per day by only one client, consuming more time than is available.

Mason and Thurston County Case Managers have seen their own set of complications ranging from homelessness, to very limited mental health, difficulty using resources, and lack of adult family homes

Next Advisory Council Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on February 5, 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant