



# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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Area Agency on Aging

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Amended Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 5, 2020

Teleconference (via ZOOM) <https://zoom.us/j/487746388>

Meeting ID: 487 746 388; Call in # (253) 215-8782; or (301) 715-8592

#### ***Members Present***

Lewis County: Lynn Ford (Chair); Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Cindy Mund; Deb Mizner

Mason County: Glenn Harper (Vice-Chair); Bill Bezanson; Carroll Raether; Karen Wolf

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney

#### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring

Mason County: Debra Jamerson

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry

#### ***Staff Present***

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Dan Speigle, Fiscal Director; Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager; Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager; Lisa Bachmann, Administrative Secretary; Kathy Howard, Family Caregiver Specialist; and Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant

#### ***Guests***

Jon Rudicil, State Director, W4A (Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging)

#### ***Welcome & Introductions***

Lynn Ford called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

#### ***Approval of Minutes & Agenda***

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the September 2, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the October 5, 2020 meeting. Cindy Mund made a motion to approve both the September 2, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the October 5, 2020 meeting. Glenn Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

***Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford***

Lynn Ford shared that AARP ranked Washington State as #2 in the nation for Long-Term Services & Supports in the United States. Minnesota ranked #1.

We are happy to recognize Deb Mizner, with the Cowlitz Tribe, for their help in keeping their elders engaged during COVID-19. Their tribe has added socialization tool kits to their nutritional meals, and during the recent Socialization EnGAGED Summit, they really focused on Deb, the tribe and their efforts during COVID.

In looking toward our annual December Advisory Council Holiday party/meeting, which will be via ZOOM. Members are encouraged to participate in a fun “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest.

Lynn recently completed a class through WSU, on racism. She was surprised to find out that based on the quiz, is that she’s considered racist. Karen Wolf recommended a good book titled “White Fragility”, and Bill Bezanson recommended another book titled “Black Like Me”.

***Community Updates –***

Bill Bezanson spoke to the Executive Director of the Community Center in his county, asking if they would be willing to make reassurance calls to those who need additional checks. They are happy to make calls, but would like to hear from our Advisory Council Chair.

Carrie Petit, LMTAAA Contract Manager,, shared that Paul Tosch, our Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, has retired after 19 years. The agency has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman position. The State Long Term Care Ombudsman’s office will be taking care of referrals, in his absence. You may call the State Ombudsman’s Office at: 800-562-6028.

***Council of Governments (CoG) – Glenn Harper***

The CoG held a special meeting on September 3, 2020, and approved a revised motion on the Government Accounting Standards Board statement (GASB #54) fund balance designation.

***Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper***

Glenn Harper shared that the agency has purchased two test unit GrandPads. Cindy Mund has been reviewing over 100 surveys received from those who have been socially isolated during COVID-19, and expressed interest in some type of technology. She has identified 16 possible eligible participants from the surveys. Nicole Kiddoo will be assessing funding sources, and who we hope to target with the pilot program.

***State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Lynn Ford***

Lynn reported that she has been elected to the SCoA board. As she comes off the LMTAAA Advisory Council at the end of 2020, she will still be attending Advisory Council meetings, but as a guest, reporting out on the SCoA meetings.

***Advocacy & Legislative Committee Report – Howard Burton***

Howard shared the experience with Hemisphere's first focus group. The goal is to educate Hemisphere with what LMTAAA does, work on consistent messaging and how we connect with people.

***Executive Director Update – Nicole Kiddoo***

Nicole Kiddoo expressed her gratitude to the support and on-going efforts of our Advisory Council members.

Since the Advisory Council last met, much in regards to the budget exercise, has occurred. We are still looking at a proposed 15% budget reduction exercise (under DSHS) with NFLOC (Nursing Facility Level of Care) experiencing the greatest impact. Even though this exercise is less extreme than the previous exercise, the unfortunate part is that about 6,300 Medicaid clients could be impacted statewide. There are additional potential cuts across the Long Term Service Support System, and unknown impacts to LMTAAA.

Federal Legislation has changed over the course of the month. We started with discussions around the next COVID-19 relief package, with components of unemployment and dollars to localities and states. We are now looking for the overall number. We are happy that we are still funded for the time being, and hope to hear more during the October 21 Fall Conference. Nicole would highly recommend, Council members attend the w4a Fall Conference, if they are able. Speakers include Sandy Markwood, CEO of n4a (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging), and Bob Blancato from NANASP (National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs), who will give updates on work being done at the national level.

Nicole reported that as an agency, we continue to look at the possible budget impacts to LMTAAA and the communities we serve. The first reduction may have impacts starting January 2021, while the second exercise shifts to impacts starting around July 2021. In response to some of the proposed cuts, we are currently holding some of our vacant positions open, which can be challenging in itself. We are down five (5) staff members, which has resulted in increased caseloads.

Hemisphere, our website design team, who is working to help our Advocacy & Legislative outreach, has completed the first two focus group interviews. They will be working to gather all the talking points obtained from w4a, LMTAAA's focus groups and those provided by Kate White Tudor, w4a lobbyist, to combine into one package. We will discuss more in depth during our next Advocacy & Legislative Committee, but our messaging will remain focused on State, Local, and Advocacy/Outreach.

***Hemisphere Focus Group Participants - Lisa Bachmann, Kathy Howard & Valerie Aubertin***

Charyl Warriner provided a bit of information on the agency's work with Hemisphere on our Advocacy & Outreach collaboration. Originally, Hemisphere wanted to have two (2) focus groups. Group #1 would be geared toward our Advocacy/Outreach efforts, where we had Lynn Ford, Howard Burton and Michele Horaney from our Advisory Council, and three (3) LMTAAA staff members, Valerie Aubertin (Contracts Manager), Lisa Bachmann (Administrative Secretary) and Kathy Howard (Family Caregiver Specialist). This group met for one hour with Hemisphere, and their meeting went so well, they needed a follow-up meeting. The second focus group was geared more toward the End User, where we had Glenn Harper from a caregiver perspective, and two of our Case Managers, Liz Fitchett & Alison Lord. Hemisphere will be working their final exploration, and gathering talking points before the next legislative session.

Kathy Howard stated that this was a positive experience. Some of our main messaging is that our agency and the resources we provide saves the state money. She noted that it is such a great feeling to connect with people who are remote and don't know where to start, and help assist them with getting on a program that allows them to stay in their home.

Valerie Aubertin was pleased that our agency was able to provide more of a background of who LMTAAA is, and what services we provide to Hemisphere. Many people don't understand the scope of our reach within the community, and she believed that Hemisphere really heard the stories from the group.

Lisa Bachmann shared that it was nice to discuss our mission as a collective team. There are so many different parts within the agency, and different roles that all play into helping our community. From Lisa's experience answering phones in the front office, fielding calls from neighbors, family members, doctor's offices, law enforcement, the key question is what we can do for them.

***Upcoming Events – Lynn Ford***

Lynn shared that if anyone on the Council is interested in attending either the w4a virtual Fall Conference on 10/21/2020, or the virtual Senior Lobby Conference on 10/22/2020, to please get your names to Charyl Warriner for registration.

The next two Advisory Council meetings will be focused on the Nominating Committee and Membership Committee efforts. If you have interest in either being the Chair, or the Vice-Chair, please contact those members on Nomination Committee to express your interest.

***Next Advisory Council Meeting***

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on November 4, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via ZOOM.

***Adjournment***

Lynn Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Glenn Harper made a motion to adjourn. Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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**Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant**