



Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

2404 Heritage Court SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Area Agency on Aging

Phone: (360) 664-2168 • Fax: (360) 664-0791 • www.LMTAAA.org

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 3, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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: Liz Hicker; Ronda Chumbley; Amy Turnbull; Cindy Clark; Heidi Buswell

Mason County: Glenn Harper, Chair; Janeen McLaughlin; Bill Bezanson

Thurston County: Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair; Michele Horaney; Judy Stratton

Members Absent

Lewis County: N/A

Mason County: Debra Jamerson

Thurston County: Howard Burton

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Joy McBride, Contracted Services Director; Jemma Williamson, Case Management Director; Dan Speigle, Fiscal Director; Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager; Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager; Emily MacFarland, Case Management Supervisor; Lisa Bachmann, Administrative Assistant; Bethe Eichler, Case Manager; Jesse Low, Case Manager; Bonnie Cook, Case Management Supervisor; Kristina Flock, Case Manager; Deanna Warren, Case Manager; Barbara Sadlier, Accounting Specialist; Hannah Sheets, Case Manager; Laura Dreckman, Assistance Specialist; Heather Dretsch, Case Manager; Marla Lund, Assistance Specialist; Emily Palguta, Case Manager; Manfay Chan, Case Management Supervisor; Chelsea Carter, HCRR Coordinator; Caren Paintner; Case Manager; April Michal, Case Manager; Kathy Howard, Family Caregiver Specialist Lead; Lisa Jolly, Contracts Manager; Shannon Judy, Case Manager; Nhi Hoang, Case Manager; Sue Kim, Case Manager; Seini Uluibau, I&A/FSCP Case Aide; Kristine Kane, Case Management Supervisor; John McBride, Access Services Supervisor; Kate Stettler, Case Manager; Jane Owens, Case Aide; Alice Cunningham Kane, HCRR Assistant; Buong Le, Lead Case Manager; Sarah White, Case Manager; Laurie Lembke, Family Caregiver Resource Manager; Joe Murphy, Case Manager; Alison Lord, Case Manager; Laura DeVol, Case Manager; Brandon Humphries, I&A Specialist; Whitney Scott, Case Manager; and Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant

Guests

Bob Blancato, Executive Director, NANASP (National Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs); Commissioner Sharon Trask, Mason County; Prospective Advisory Council member, Angela Hock, Thurston County; Lynn Ford, Chair SCoA (State Council on

Aging); Sheila Johnson Teeter, Interim Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman; Glenda Forga, Executive Director, Lewis County Seniors; Rob Spinks, Nutrition Program Manager; Senior Services for South Sound; Natasha Fung Chen Pen, Nutrition Program Manager, Catholic Community Services.

Welcome & Introductions

Glenn Harper called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Glenn Harper, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the February 3, 2021 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the March 3, 2021 meeting.

Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the February 3, 2021 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the March 3, 2021 meeting. Eileen McKenzieSullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Guest Bob Blancato

Nicole Kiddoo introduced Bob Blancato, Executive Director, National Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs (NANASP) to the Advisory Council. She shared that Bob works on both the national and local levels, advocating for older adults and provided some background on Bob's expertise.

Bob presented about current national issues affecting older adults. He was excited with the current status of COVID-19 vaccines, and was pleased to report funding dedicated to getting more vaccines to those in need. As an overview, Bob mentioned that the relationship between elder abuse and the pandemic became clear quickly. Bob highlighted the recent \$1.9 billion plan, proposed by President Biden, called the American Rescue Plan as well as the funding stream within the plan. Additional highlights discussed were around Adult Protective Services, Elder Justice activities, increase of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits and technology assistance.

Due to the pandemic, he expects the focus to be shifted to the three I's: infrastructure, immigration and investigations. Bob explained that with the new administration, there are always new challenges. Possible issues in 2021 may include changes in Medicare, such as the possibility of lowering the age; evaluating prescription drug pricing, etc. When looking at Medicaid, this is going a different direction under President Biden. Key priorities are eliminating waiting lists for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), possibility of expansion within 12 states; expansion of telehealth services, and targeting the underserved. Social Security has also been greatly impacted since the beginning of the pandemic. The Older American's Act (OAA) is in its first year of the five-year reauthorization; however, impacts to nutrition and family caregiver programs may be forthcoming. NANASP continues to look at the funding priorities beyond COVID-19.

Bob spoke to the "*Big Reset*" needed as a result of the pandemic, where we look at lessons learned and best practices moving forward. Social isolation has played a large part in the

decline of health, and Bob shared statistics regarding its role in increased mortality numbers. OAA nutrition appears to play a large part in one's health. After conducting surveys, the main finding was that almost everyone who attended congregate programs, said that it is for the socialization. Some of the biggest resets will be within: telehealth, nursing homes, elder justice, nutrition, employment and promoting equity.

Comments from the Chair – Glenn Harper

Glenn welcomed the Advisory Council back from break.

Community Updates/Announcements – Various Council Members

Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Thurston County, shared that there will be a virtual hunger walk in both Mason and Thurston Counties. On May 2, this hunger walk will help raise money for Senior Services for South Sound's nutrition program, a community kitchen and The Thurston County Food Bank. If you would like information about the hunger walk, please email Eileen directly.

Bill Bezanson, Mason County, briefly mentioned that the Shelton senior center is open, with limited hours.

Lynn Ford, Chair SCoA (State Council on Aging) was happy to share that she was successful in helping her mom and cousin receive their COVID-19 vaccinations in Oregon.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

Michele Horaney shared that the Senate has many committee meetings scheduled for March within the Health & Long Term Care Committee. She anticipates seeing something coming out of that soon. Michele and Howard Burton have created a short and instructive PowerPoint presentation to share with the council soon. This will ensure that we are strategic in our calls and emails, as we advocate on behalf of LMTAAA.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Eileen McKenzieSullivan

Eileen shared that the committee had a great meeting. Sky Meyers, from Senior Services for South Sound was a guest speaker. Sky is part of the "Do You Know a Senior in Need" program. This program was created due to the pandemic, as they discovered that many seniors had additional needs. This program is really working well. They have even created a phone pen-pal program. Sky has been successful in getting volunteers to help support their outreach efforts.

Eileen reported that five seniors have been approved for the GrandPad pilot project, have received their GrandPads, and are very pleased. The committee is looking forward to receiving feedback from the recipients, in the form of a monthly survey.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) Report – Lynn Ford

Lynn explained that there has been recent discussion regarding a bill that would require nursing homes to have evacuation plans and improve their infection control process. The State Long Term Care Ombudsman is scheduled to speak next month at the SCoA meeting.

Lynn Ford reported that her year as chair with the State Council on Aging will be completed in September. They will be looking for a new chair as of October 1. If you are interested, please contact Lynn directly.

Executive Director Update – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole expressed her continued appreciation to the Advisory Council. She was happy to report that she recently completed an agency orientation with new Advisory Council members, providing an overview of the agency, and their positions within the council.

As Bob Blancato spoke to the federal legislation, Nicole reassured the council that she will continue to keep them informed of any changes. She recommended the importance of touching base with staff members in the State Legislature. March will be an important month, statewide. There will be another revenue forecast released around March 17th, which will be important to help make budget decisions. The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) will be looking at this in depth to see what hearings will be happening. W4A continues to meet weekly for legislative calls. The bills continue to move. Nicole shared with the council that there is a new bill, HB 1411, which addresses the home care workforce.

Nicole spoke briefly about LMTAAA's staffing needs. She shared that there are open positions at the agency. In the fall, there was a 15% budget reduction exercise that was a real threat; however, all of our advocacy and outreach has been heard and we continue to hope for little or no cuts to our long term care funding. The agency had held positions open and now we are having challenges getting new people on.

There has been much discussion around COVID-19 vaccinations and LMTAAA's involvement. We are working diligently at providing resources to our clients and working to assist those who are homebound and having difficulty in getting the vaccine. We are recommending that you direct individuals to our website, where we have toll free numbers to assist navigating through the system in getting a vaccine.

Nicole mentioned that The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) has an annual policy briefing, however due to the Pandemic, this year they will not be marching on steps, but rather will be collaborating virtually. If any of the Advisory Council members are interested in attending, please send an email to her directly.

General Comments – Various Council Members

Glenn Harper shared that Deb Mizner is no longer with the Advisory Council. LMTAAA recently entered into a Nutrition contract with the Cowlitz Tribe, and due to the Advisory Council by-laws concerning conflict of interest Deb has stepped down. Deb will be missed and her contribution over the years has been invaluable. This will leave one opening in Lewis County.

Charyl Warriner shared with the council that her family will be moving this summer. She thanked them for all of their work and advocacy, reminding them how valuable they are, and how grateful she has been to be part of their team. Her last day will be March 31, 2021.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., via ZOOM.

Adjournment

Glenn Harper called for a motion to adjourn. Eileen McKenzieSullivan made a motion to adjourn. Heidi Buswell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant