



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis - Mason - Thurston Area Agency on Aging

2404 Heritage Ct. SW
Olympia, WA 98502

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

Advisory Council
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
9:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Via [ZOOM](#)

Minutes

Members Present

Lewis County: Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Heidi Buswell; Amy Turnbull; Tim Wood; Carolyn (Carol) Brock

Mason County: Glenn Harper; William (Bill) Bezanson; Diane McLean; Margot Conolle

Thurston County: Howard Burton; Michele Horaney; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Angela Hock; Anna Schlecht

Members Absent

Lewis County: Cynthia Clark

Mason County: Jamie Queen

Thurston County:

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Carrie Petit, Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Mary Beth Mercer, H.R. Director; and Jessica Hodges Executive Assistant, JennyAnn Wheeler

Guests

Ellen Wendt

Cat McGaffigan

Welcome & Introductions

Eileen called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM, followed by introductions.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Bill Benazon made a motion to approve the March 2, 2022, draft meeting minutes and April 6, 2022 draft Agenda. Heidi Buswell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from Council Chair – Eileen McKenzie Sullivan

National Stress awareness month. Tell one affective way of dealing with stress in your life. Case Management Gratitude – letter of appreciation presented.

Hybrid Meeting Options

Soft launch of return to office for LMTAAA staff with hybrid options began April 4th. Suggestions from Council included tech training for meeting facilitators, hearing and vision accommodations provided to ensure full participation for Council members.

Motion to implement hybrid meetings at earliest opportunity made by Glenn Harper and seconded by Bill Bezanson. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Community Updates & Announcements – Anna Schlecht

Housing authority attempts to purchase OYO hotel as is on edge of airport property to create senior housing as an affordable option. Mason County is facing stiff resistance from public in its attempt to build homes for homeless veterans in the area. Lewis county Senior Centers are open and numbers are growing.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney

Report presented with emphasis on W4A funding programs, improvement of personal needs allowance, active committees, Older Americans month in May, aging in place – 71% of those surveyed via AARP are reporting that they want to stay in their homes. Additional reference to refined public education and relations, template letters for Older Americans was made.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper / Angela Hock

Final draft of flyer is impending – delays with the artistic team have postponed the finalization. Efforts to create a contact form with link to submit contact info in areas of interest to compile programs to serve and a distribution list are being made.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

State Legislative Session Update – Emphasis on personal needs allowance, state caps on insulin, long term care monies, changes for salaries and wages for staff were approved. Hearing aid coverage was not approved. \$86M awarded to AAA's across the state – this is a reflection of the grass roots efforts by advocates, including Advisory Council members. Negotiations are ongoing regarding allocations of those funds. Build Back Better bill died in the House. USAging is imposing strategies around workforce development and their priorities were published last week. Discussion around 3B funding ensued.

Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht

Proposal of a senior housing alliance. Draft charter presented with an advocacy focused mission to muster a unified network of support to expand affordable and accessible

housing resources for low, and moderate income, seniors. Draft sent by email to Advisory Council for review. Further consideration will be discussed during May Advisory Council meeting. Questions regarding committee structure vs charter were discussed.

Non-Profit Committee – Glenn Harper

No updates – awaiting results of socialization survey and Housing Committee updates.

Goals for 2022 (Review pre-pandemic then and now)

- ***Focus areas – Housing & Engagement*** Tabled for May meeting – Advisory Council goals and action plan distributed via email to Advisory Council Members.

Executive Director Report – Nicole Kiddoo

Updates and Announcements. Report emphasized partnerships with national organizations like USAging and ACL put out resources to USAging and other advocate organizations to create advocates and a resource center. National group putting together partnerships in grandfamilies and kinship with funding around national caregiver strategy.

- Questions regarding in-house advisory council appointments were discussed.

Adjournment

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Heidi Buswell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:57 a.m.

Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant