



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, June 1, 2022
9:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Via [ZOOM](#)

Minutes

Members Present

Lewis County: **Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Heidi Buswell; Tim Wood; Carolyn (Carol) Brock**, Cynthia Clark;

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

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

Members Absent

Lewis County: Tim Wood, 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; Jessica Hodges Executive Assistant, Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager

Guests

Welcome & Introductions

Eileen called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM, followed by introductions.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve the June 1, 2022 draft meeting minutes and July 6, 2022 draft Agenda.

Comments from Council Chair – Eileen McKenzieSullivan

Anti-Boredom Month

Tracking Volunteer Time – Timesheets to Jessica Hodges

- Questions regarding claiming time without claiming mileage were discussed.

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

Add OMBUDS and LEGAL to their own line items, remove Goal 4, Incorporate goal 5 into number 3. Remove goal 6. Create new goal (7th goal) to read: Identify socially isolated people, discover what their wants/needs are and direct them to resources/programs. Utilizing flyers to help and adding verbiage to the next flyer regarding sharing the flyer with someone that may be isolated.

- Housing Committee come back with some key action steps to work on over the next 18 months to add to goal statement.

Community Updates & Announcements – Liz Hicker

Angela reported no mask mandates and Covid protocols implemented at centers.

Counties are recommending masks indoors.

Eileen questioned if vaccine requirements to enter centers might impact attendance at senior centers. Bill included that Shelton Senior Center held a vote at last meeting regarding non vaccinated allowed back in center. Those unvaccinated were not allowed to go into the center to vote so the outcome was skewed.

Glenn added that Friday fun night this Friday at Shelton Senior Center

Carol Brock reported upcoming celebrations such as cheese days, egg days etc. as well as a county wide fundraiser for seniors, including a poker run.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney

Michele Horaney reported questions around State Council on Aging and giving approval to study the state plan along with another effort to pull together all the resources.

This month's speaker was Janet Heimbauch with the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW). She expressed the Association's interest in representing and protecting builders/employees as well as talks about residential building to accommodate older people. Everyone is in favor of aging in place, but it can be expensive as it oftentimes involves remodeling, plumbing, hot water heater, specific components of the home among other things. BIAW is in favor of fewer regulations, while questions come up regarding new housing. We were hoping they were working harder for older people, but they are not. W4A, Senior Lobby and ALISA information is light as we are in between sessions. Breakouts on legislative group wants aging summit. SCoA does not meet in July or August, back in September.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper / Angela Hock

Glenn reported distributing the rest of the flyers today. Discussions on public outreach BBQ event – Donna was going to check with them. Hospital Transitions program as a resource to get people that required more socialization.

Angela reported action on goals in distributing flyers to those that need them; meals on wheels flyers were returned.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

W4A reported issues around dementia care. Informing the world on what AAA's do? While we are not going to contact sitting legislators about issues until November, (election) it is a great time to sit in on candidate forums and listen closely to what they are saying about senior issues and funding and asking hard questions. Implementing hospital transitions program and piloting using success stories to expand to most AAA regions covered in this state. The thought is, will it be ready to expand in January when we go into session? We will always get one FTE based on current trends and ask for more support in relation to inflation and other factors. Would like to have data on how many have been moved from hospital, how many have gone back to the hospital etc. We will know more in the fall at the October Fall Conference. Question from Carol regarding moving from home to a convalescent center were discussed.

Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht

Anna Schlecht reported on Providence's presentation on their proposed 76-unit senior housing project – a placeholder for this project in Regional Housing Councils' allocations budget has been put in place and will work with staff at AAA and Senior Services in downtown Olympia. This project will begin housing people in 2023. Habitat for Humanity won a pre-development option from City of Olympia to take city owned property to develop 110 homes and owner-occupied rural houses and cottages. 46 will be senior housing as they need ADA certified homes. Thurston County Seniors are 18% of the population and in less than 20 years will be 25% of population. The building industry does not match that growth.

Executive Director Report – Nicole Kiddoo

Updates and Announcements: White House Conference on Hunger Nutrition and Health. AAA's might have opportunity to contribute feedback on how to construct next plans, with NANASP hosting some of this work. Part of the hopes to accomplish is to talk about the nutrition component on older adults, and funding that hasn't kept pace with OAA on USAging's approach nationally and on a local level. We are a recipient of a National Innovations award related to the Leadership Academy we host – the award is received by those who put out innovative ideas to be replicated by other AAA's. We are excited to be accepting an innovations award. If we are top 3, we get a check of \$500-\$1000 to put back into the agency somewhere. Hospital Transitions program is having a lot of internal meetings, shooting for September to have a staff person on board to do development and work with hospitals in different counties (may focus on just one county to begin). Focus on implementing services that are complimentary. Same thing looking at Health Home program to be up and running in August or September. Part of that program is supporting current clients. Once we have a scope of work and statement of work clear, we will launch and begin informing others on these new programs. We will have more to report on in our August meeting. Last year we hosted an Engaged Socialization Summit – This year the summit lands on August 2 and 3 (virtual) will send the link – free to participate, welcome to attend .1-330 EST. Plan to host a short AC meeting to facilitate the attendance of the Summit. Current lift for 2023 to get our Area Plan developed and approved for 2024. Focus on interstate funding formula for allocations. It is a big year of discussion.

Nicole called attention to an email she will be sending on Federal Appropriations and where some of those USAging would appreciate support from OAA. Some news is not great – for the last two years, we received some raises. We have gone through a few sequesters, such as inflation and other things that are not helping. Now is the time to raise your voices and support the legislation USAging is supporting. Review where things are at a federal level; templates to speak with legislators will be available in a few weeks. Nicole Kiddoo was asked to sit on a committee industry survey like area plan, trends for older adults, disabilities etc. developing what that survey looks like.

Upcoming meetings:

- Socialization and Engagement – last Monday in July the 25th
- Advocacy and Legislative Committee – Monday July 25th
- Housing Committee (Anna) – 3rd Friday's at 2pm via zoom. Next meeting on the 15th at 2pm.

Adjournment

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Heidi Buswell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:58 a.m.

Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant