

**Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday, October 5, 2022**  
**9:30 – 12:00 p.m.**  
Via [ZOOM](#)

**Minutes**

***Members Present***

Lewis County: *Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker, Tim Wood,*, Heidi Buswell  
Mason County: *Glenn Harper, William (Bill Bezanson); Diane McLean; Tamra Ingwaldson;*  
Thurston County: *Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Cat McGaffigan; Amy Turnbull, Ellen Wendt; Anna Schlecht; Michele Horaney*

***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Carolyn (Carol) Brock  
Mason County: Jamie Queen  
Thurston County: Angela Hock

***Staff Present***

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant, Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director, Carrie Petit, Contracts Director. Brandon Humphries, Information Assistance Specialist, Lisa Jolly, Contracts Manager, Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager, Alison Lord, Kim Silverthorn, Laura Dreckman, Heather Dretsch, April Thomas, Laurie Lembke, Bethe Eichler, Kathy Howard

***Guests:*** Walt Bowen, Bob Blancato, Laura Borth

***Welcome & Introductions***

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

***Approval of Minutes and Agenda***

Motion to accept the Draft Agenda was made by Bill Bezanson and seconded by Ellen Wendt. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee for 2023 officers was established with Liz Hicker, Cat McGaffigan and Diane McLean volunteering to manage the recruitment effort. Questions regarding timeline were discussed.

***Guest Speaker*** *Bob Blancato* presented with emphasis on appropriated funding levels versus emergency funding levels, increased funding for low-income home emergency programs, Omnibuds FY 2023 spending bill, second signing of the IRA with focus on energy and housing issues, and Medicare changes. Bob attended the White House Conference no Hunger, Nutrition and Health which was the first since 1969. The goal to end hunger by 2030 was backed by \$8B in commitments from private sector donations

during the conference. Rest assured; older adults were not left out of the comments. The strategy did include a focus on food insecurity and malnutrition leaving it up to congress to adopt some of the strategies.

The conference was built on 5 pillars

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

Recommendations included older adult issues, increase funding for OAA nutrition programs, universal screening for food insecurity in federal health care systems, leveraging federal nutrition programs, expanded access to nutrition counseling, expanded access to the dietary guidelines, modification of a current law that inhibits SNAP retailers from stocking a variety of healthy foods as a requirement to participate in SNAP program. Additionally, modernization of the OAA regulations, expansion of meal choices and pandemic related scams as it relates to elder justice, over the counter hearing aids, APS funding were discussed. It was announced that Medicare Advantage premiums will drop 8%, Medicare Part B down by 3% as social security cost of living is expected to be above 8% increase. Election reform, gun safety legislation Ukraine support and same sex/interracial marriage protections are impending discussions at a federal level.

Questions regarding congress changes and military food insecurity were discussed. Anna Schlecht mentioned that of all demographics, Seniors vote and are a demographically growing force.

### ***Community Updates & Announcements – Liz Hicker***

Anna Schlecht on Thurston County – There was an agreement to restructure Senior Housing Alliance meetings to bi-monthly (possibly quarterly), which will allow more time to focus on Lewis and Mason counties in the future. Attending the Shelton Homeless Taskforces on Tuesday Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at Shelton Civic Center.

Mason County – Friday Fun Night 6-9PM 35-55 in attendance

Lewis County Fundraisers

Building toward future of Senior Centers needs to be done.

### ***State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney***

*Received the Sept 27 meeting notes from Michele Horaney for review. As Michele is absent from this meeting, please send questions to Michele via email or hold until our next meeting.*

### ***Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper / Angela Hock***

Glenn Harper reported that after submitting 2,000 Socialization and Engagement flyers, the response was lackluster. Ideas around next steps were implementation of a bi-monthly insert in Meals on Wheels or Senior News. Angela suggested maybe a more effective way to engage, would be social workers or case managers to ask the question on loneliness, or interest in participating in socialization programs. Makes sense that people are timid and redescent mentality on older generations being unwilling to ask for

help. Additionally, other programs in Hospital Transitions were suggested as a source for people in search of opportunities to connect. Questions regarding Case Management Supervisors meeting with the Council to discuss their intake repertoire and the ability to implement the Council's loneliness and socialization questions, engaging external organizations to better gauge the interest level received on their end were discussed. Nicole Kiddoo added that the Agency's next 4-year area plan is being worked with a push to visit communities and engage people in surveys and voice what the needs of their local communities are.

***Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney***

Michele reported that state advocacy is currently in a holding pattern. At the local level, an effort from the Council to provide the data and resources with whomever we are talking around APS funding. Including National priorities on what impact ending the PHE funding would have at a local level, state level, and those who were made eligible as a result of the PHE for services.

***Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht***

Excited to make contacts in Mason and Lewis counties.

**Letter to Senior News** – letter drafted by Eileen – opened for comment and edits.

Glenn commented that it was a well-crafted letter. Eileen suggested an addition to the letter a mention of editorial advisory committee. Diane advised adding a campaign ad mention that was also featured on the front page. Anna, suggested articles on socialization and expansion on the editorial content on senior housing. Tamra sought clarification around their ad policy. Glenn requested clarification from Nicole Kiddoo regarding the relationship between Senior News and LMTAAA. Nicole elaborated that we have an executed 6-month contract with Senior News. We are not paying to oversee the organization or operations; we are paying for ads. The contract contains language that protects the agency from any liability related to content printed in the Senior News.

**Motion** directing Eileen to edit the letter to include an Editorial Advisory Board, advising more consistent senior focused content, and the Council's willingness to assist through contacting Senior lobby was made by Tamra Ingwaldson and seconded by Glenn Harper. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

***Adjournment***

Tamra Ingwaldson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ellen Wendt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:48 a.m.

