



# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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## Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging **Council of Governments** Meeting Minutes via ZOOM Teleconference

**January 26, 2023, 2:00pm**

**Members Present:** Commissioner Sharon Trask, Mason County; Commissioner Sean Swope, Lewis County; and Commissioner Gary Edwards, Thurston County

**Members Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Dan Speigle, Chief Financial Officer; Carrie Petit, Contracts Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Kristine Kane, Case Management Director; Mary Beth Mercer, HR Director; Brooke Bronson, HR Assistant; Tobias Pulliam-Santos, Executive Assistant

**Guests Present:** Charlie Terry Executive Director of Senior News

**Call to order:** Commissioner *Trask* called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM

**MOTION** Commissioner Swope motioned to approve the draft agenda for January 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trask. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Commissioner Trask called for public comment and discussion. Joyce Wilmes presented and was requested by the COG to bring materials to the next meeting.

**MOTION** Commissioner Swope moved to re-elect Commissioner Trask as CoG Chair and Commissioner Edwards as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**MOTION** Commissioner Swope moved to approve the proposed 2023 meeting schedule with an amended timeframe of 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**MOTION** Based on the recommendation of the Executive Director, Commissioner Swope moved to approve the vouchers as shown on the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 through January 5, 2023 Vouchers listing, beginning with voucher number 1597762 and ending with voucher number 1661160, non-contiguous, comprised of 233 vouchers in the combined amount of \$640,247.66. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**Advisory Council Report:** Glenn Harper, Vice Chair  
Glenn reported on the upcoming Legislative week and elaborated on new Advisory Council candidates to fill open seats in Mason County.

**Executive Director's Report:** Nicole Kiddoo  
Nicole reported that The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) have identified three main legislative priorities.

1. Case Management – Advocating for a technical fix to the funding formula
2. Health Homes – Rate increase request
3. Dementia Catalyst Support Specialist – Supporting the Alzheimer's association request to fund two additional Area Agency on Aging program sites.

Nicole referenced the W4A budget for the priorities, the Case Management Fact Sheet, and Health Homes Budget Request Fact Sheet which were included in the meeting packet.

**CFO Report:** Dan Speigle

Dan Speigle reported that Case Management received a budget increase of approximately \$1.78M to support catalyst programs. Dan emphasized a funding shortfall for nursing staff. Highlights around revenue streams being more than adequate to cover Agency costs were discussed. Nicole Kiddoo added that Agency staffing has increased 44%; capacities have been built in the Case Management department with efforts being made to build Community Supports capacities.

**MOTION** to approve Area Plan Budget was made by Commissioner Swope and seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**Deputy Executive Director:** Jemma Williamson

Jemma reported the introduction to the Area Plan with the Advisory Council will commence in February with plans for Community Public Forums and surveys. Jemma shared the expectation of bringing the Area Plan to COG for final approval in the fall.

**Contracts Director's Report:** Carrie Petit

Carrie reported on Older American's Act contract renewals and amendments with services providers. The Contracts Department works closely with the Fiscal team to identify funding available through the Older American's Act, American Rescue Plan Act and Senior Citizens Services Act. The team has reviewed budgets with community partners. Carrie shared the OAA contract amendments for 2023. Carrie gave an overview of the Contracts department and structure. Questions regarding quality assurance, and maximizing dollars were discussed.

**Community Supports Director's Report:** Donna Feddern

Donna discussed the addition of Hospital Transitions Care Coordination and the hiring of team members in the first quarter of 2023. She elaborated on Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers (MIPPA) and the expanded outreach and application services to our tri-county service area. Donna shared the Mon Ami Telephone Reassurance program implementation as a catalyst to reach socially isolated seniors. The Falls Prevention resources for prevention classes and getting help with home safety modifications will be up via website soon. Outreach efforts are scheduled with fire departments to provide information to households with frequent calls needing lift assistance.

**Case Management Director's Report:** Kristine Kane

Kristine shared information on the Health Homes program that launched in 2022. As part of the Affordable Care Act we are contracted with the lead entity, O3A. The program is co-managed and monitored by DSHS and the Health Care Authority in Washington State. With such a high demand for a Health Homes program, the program goals are to establish person-centered health goals that are designed to improve health related outcomes, reduce gaps in services, increase skills for self-management of health and medical conditions as well as to reduce visits to hospitals and ER departments. LMTAAA is in contract negotiations with Managed Care Organization (MCO) and Molina because of the large demand for these services. Kristine referenced the Health Homes One Pager included in the meeting materials.

**Executive Session** under RCW 42.30.110, RCW 41.80.010 RCW, 42.30.110 (1) (g) MOTION: Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, Commissioner Swope moved to approve the proposed Addendum B- Contract wage reopener for 2023, bargained between Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging and Local 18-A of the Washington State Council of County and City Employees with the provisions to be applied to all agency employees effective January 1, 2023 and was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

MOTION: Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, Commissioner Swope moved to approve a 2.5% base wage increase, along with a 5% COLA, for unrepresented staff, excluding a 2.5% wage increase for the Senior Executive Assistant, retroactive to January 1, 2023 and seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

MOTION: In addition to any agency-wide COLA increase approved for LMTAAA represented and unrepresented staff, Commissioner Swope moved that the Executive Director's current salary be increased by an additional 3%, effective January 1, 2023 and was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Walk on agenda item regarding funding for rural counties to retain 0.1% to be allocated to Senior Services. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Swope reported

that Representative Orcutt supports getting cities on board and WASEC on board as well.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Swope and seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken and carried unanimously meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

***Submitted by:***

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