Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties
Policy 7.01 Collaboration Meeting
April 22, 2011

held at Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMTAAA)

In attendance

Diane Gouley, Skokomish Tribe
Stacy Gouley, Nisqually Tribe
Jim Sherrill, Cowlitz Tribe
Dennis Mahar, Director, LMTAAA
Tracy Gunter, Projects Coordinator, LMTAAA
Heather Ligtenberg, Projects Coordinator, LMTAAA
Carrie Petit, Projects Coordinator, LMTAAA

Guests:
Lynn Urvina, Kinship Navigator, Family Education and Support Services
Debbie Cool, Family Caregiver Resource Manager, LMTAAA
John McBride, Supervisor, LMTAAA

The meeting was hosted by the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging.

Services for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Lynn Urvina gave a presentation on the issues faced by grandparents and other relatives raising children and the services offered to these families by Family Education and Support Services. She additionally distributed the 2010 Voices of Children booklet, written exclusively by children in kinship families.

Stacy Gouley expressed interest in establishing a kinship support group at the Nisqually Tribe. Lynn Urvina offered to provide technical assistance; Dennis Mahar offered to provide funds for related child care expenses as needed.

2010-11 Regional Policy 7.01 Plan

Carrie Petit led a discussion on the regional Policy 7.01 Plan. A new plan is due to Aging and Disabilities Services Administration (ADSA) on October 1, 2011. Each objective in the plan was discussed and updated.

Highlights included:

- Diane Gouley reported the Elders Workgroup is no longer meeting regularly.

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- Remove pandemic influenza planning, and instead focus on general seasonal influenza and pneumonia education. Dennis Mahar offered to assist Tribes with increasing public health awareness as needed.
- Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) and Kinship Care issues will be separated into two goals in the new plan.
- Delete the "Share information about the new TCARE unpaid caregiver assessment…" goal. This goal was met at the June 2010 Policy 7.01 meeting.
- Maintain the "Increase LMTAAA staff awareness of culturally sensitive issues…" goal, with training/education to occur at least every two years.
- Delete the "Increase awareness of and potentially access Federal stimulus funding" goal. Most Federal stimulus funding came to an end in late 2010.
- Although it was previously discussed and identified as not needed, it was otherwise decided to maintain the "Increase Tribal awareness of and access to transportation funding available through the Medicaid Brokerage program" goal. It was suggested this be a highlighted topic for discussion at the next meeting with representatives from Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) and the Medicaid Broker as possible speakers.
- Delete the "Increase awareness and knowledge of Elder abuse issues…" goal. This goal was met at the September 2010 7.01 meeting. Additionally, Jim Sherrill noted that Kathy Morgan, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Home & Community Services (HCS) Region 6 Administrator, and her staff have followed up by making appointments with Tribes to discuss Memorandums of Understanding regarding Adult Protective Services. Dennis Mahar also distributed a current legislative Bill (SB5042/HB1104) that specifically addresses this type of coordination.

Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA)

Jim Sherrill provided an overview of IHCIA. Overall, there was an increase in funding for Tribes, but each Tribe is impacted differently based on the Indian Health Services (HIS) funding formula and "level of need." Long Term Care was included/authorized in IHCIA, but no additional funding was attached to it.

Discussion took place regarding a newly formed health care integration group, in both the Southwest Washington and Spokane regions. Both Jim Sherrill and Dennis Mahar have participated.

2011 Legislative Session Update

Dennis Mahar gave an update on Legislative bills of interest and the state budget.

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LMTAAA Updates

Debbie Cool and John McBride gave an overview of the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) services offered by LMTAAA including various training opportunities for unpaid family caregivers including the Alzheimer's Brain Tour, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Stress Reduction for Caregivers. All are offered and available in Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties, including at specific Tribes as requested. Debbie encouraged Tribes to contact her if interested in specific trainings or presentations for Tribal members.

Dennis Mahar discussed the Washington Elder Economic Security Initiative. In a partnership between Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A), a report was produced and published. It can be accessed on line at: http://www.wowonline.org/ourprograms/eesi/state-resources/washington.asp.

Tracy Gunter gave a brief update on the 2011 SFMNP. With the combination of Federal, State and carryover local funds, the total funding for the program is only slightly reduced from 2010. LMTAAA and its Subcontractors will again work specifically with the Tribes to target native Elders.

Tribal Program Updates and Announcements

Statewide Tribal/AAA meeting – June 3, 2011 from 10am to 3pm, hosted by Upper Skagit Tribe in Sedro Wooley, WA.

Cowlitz Tribe – An open house is scheduled for June 24 to showcase the new Health Clinic at 1055 9th Avenue in Longview.

Cowlitz Tribe – Two residents are living in their senior housing apartments at St. Mary's.

Nisqually Tribe – A health fair is scheduled in August.

Skokomish Tribe – A health fair is scheduled in June.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the fall of 2011, the date and location still to be determined.

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