



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting Date: September 3, 2025

In Person and via Zoom

AC Members Attendance:

Lewis	Mason	Thurston
☐ Debbie Aust	☒ Glenn Harper	☒ Cathleen (Cat) McGaffigan
☒ Heidi Buswell	☐ Becky Cronquist	☒ Eileen McKenzie Sullivan
☐ Greg Rohr	☐ Vacant	☒ Anna Schlecht
☒ Tim Wood	☐ Vacant	☐ Michele Horaney
☒ Nikki Storms	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant
☒ Willie Merryman	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant

Staff Attendance: Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs and Services; Val Aubertin, Community Supports Supervisor; Chrissy Franklin, Office Manager; Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison; & WinDi Sanchez Solar, Administrative Coordinator.

Guests' Attendance: Liz Hicker, former member; Katie Richards, CCS Home Care Aide & prospective member; & Carol Brock, President Timber River Connections.

Meeting Minutes		
Land Acknowledgement – Read by Cat McGaffigan		
	Motion	n/a
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	
Approval of draft agenda and previous month draft minutes		
The draft minutes were approved with two modifications: Adding the word 'motioned to' to "approved the agenda." Correcting the spelling of the word 'grater' to 'greater.'	Motion	Cat
	Approved	Eileen
	Second	Tim
	Follow-up	yes
Topic: Bylaws		
Cat reported that the Bylaws Committee met and took an initial look at the bylaws. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for September 8 th . Once a draft has been created, it will be brought to the entire group for comments and feedback before eventually going before the COG for approval.	Motion	n/a
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	
Topic: Community Announcements & Updates		
Glenn Harper: Glenn shared info about Twosdays @ Tumwater Falls, which is a gathering for older adults, at 11:00 am on the 2 nd	Motion	n/a
	Approved	

Tuesday of every month at Tumwater Falls Park. He will be meeting with the Mason Co. Senior Center Board to plan an event this December with a presentation on first holidays without a loved one. His Death Café at the Tumwater Library was a success and he will be able to continue to utilize that facility. Lisa Bachman reminded the group that each year, volunteer hours must be reported by the agency for the Advisory Council Members. She passed out a chart the members can use to track their hours.	Second	
	Follow-up	
Topic: Senior Housing Report, Anna Schlecht		
Anna shared that Donna is doing a great job with the group working with Lewis County partners for a series of forums. Meja Handlen, Lewis County Director of Public Health and Mindy Brooks, Community Development Director attended the last meeting. The goal is to have local experts present data on senior needs in Lewis County. They want to identify the needs and the roadblocks, strengthen networks and increase housing options. They plan to create a report that is both oral and written to present to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners. They will also video and post the forums, so they are accessible for all Lewis County leaders.	Motion	n/a
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	
Topic: State Council on Aging (SCoA) report, Glenn Harper		
Glenn shared that at the last meeting, they broke into groups and brainstormed on how to deliver services to remote rural locations. There were some great ideas but unfortunately, no money for implementation.	Motion	n/a
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	
Topic: Suicide Prevention Month		
Cat introduced the topic to the group and then shared a video called "A Conversation About Adult Suicide." This was followed by a Power Point and discussion by the group on how to watch for signs of suicide and ways we can assist. Nikki Storms shared that at the facility she works, they focus on making sure people have a purpose, even if small, like being the squirrel feeder or a greeter. Cat added that there are volunteer opportunities in our communities that also provide purpose and interaction. The Lewis County Crisis line 260-807-2440 was shared by a guest.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	Lisa will email the power point to AC members
Topic: Socialization - Glenn		
Glenn shared that the committee meets via zoom on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 pm. There is need for a Lewis County member to join the committee. Glenn would like to create gatherings called "Elder Roundtables" to share challenges and coping skills seniors are facing. These would be held in public meeting spaces, still to be determined.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	
Topic: Executive Director Report, Nicole Kiddoo		
Nicole reminded the group to start thinking about our Nominating Committee for new officers. October 15th is the Annual Advocates Conference. The conference is virtual and put on by W4A in partnership with SCoA. They have invited some folks from USAging to talk at the conference. Preparation for advocacy is starting now for the session. Let Nicole	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
	Follow-up	Lisa will email information on these events to AC Members

know if you have any information you are interested in hearing about; she is on the planning committee. October 16th is Senior Lobby Day, which is an all-day virtual event. There will be information on registration for the event as soon as we have it. Federally, Congress is back in session this week. We are on the countdown to see if there will be a continuing resolution (CR), shutdown or spending bill agreed on. Nicole shared a recap of the August All-Staff meeting. Bob Blancato spoke to the staff about advocating in these challenging times. This was followed by a panel discussion that included Bob, Nicole and Cathy Knight, chair of W4A. The staff had the opportunity to practice their letter writing to legislators. They did a great job with this, and one letter was chosen to be mailed to our members of Congress. Lisa shared that the agency's Legislative and Advocacy Team (LAT) Committee will fine-tune the letter before it goes out. Nicole explained that the agency is one of two pilot programs for WA Cares, and helping to lift the program for 2026. We have started to move some staff into that program and expect there will be seven in that group. The pilot starts in January, with the launch of the actual program in July of 2026. Nicole shared that we are starting to work on the Agency's Area Plan. As part of the process, we will need to host forums to engage with the communities. These will be scheduled starting next year. We will get the Planning Committee together to assist with the events. Once the plan is complete, we will bring it to our County Commissioners for approval. The agency has been able to mitigate the cuts to Case Management by making some structural changes, so no layoffs. Because the case loads increased from 75:1 to 76:1 we have been working hard to increase our capacity.		
Topic: Adjournment		
The meeting ended at 11:29 am <i>Meeting Minutes provided by Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison</i>	Motion	Cat
	Approved	Glenn
	Second	Tim
	Follow-up	