



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON AREA AGENCY ON AGING

 LMTAAA.org

 (360) 664-0791

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Advisory Council

Draft Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 6, 2025

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

In Person & Via Zoom

Members Present:

Lewis County: Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair; Tim Wood; Nikki Storms.

Mason County: Glenn Harper.

Thurston County: Cat McGaffigan, Chair; Michele Horaney; Eileen McKenzieSullivan;
Anna Schlecht

Members Absent:

Debbie Aust; Becky Cronquist; Greg Rohr; Willie Merryman.

Staff Present:

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs and Services; Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison; Chrissy Franklin, Office Manager; WinDi Sanchez Soler, Administrative Secretary; Kyle Sanchez, Planning Director; Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director.

Visitors Present:

Carol Brock, Timber River Board Chair; Darleen Atkins, Resident of Thunderbird Retirement Community

Tribal Land Acknowledgement, *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

Welcome and Introductions, *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

Cat McGaffigan, Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Approval of the August 6, 2025, Draft Agenda and June 4, 2025, Draft Minutes

A motion was entertained to approve the August draft agenda and June draft minutes by Cat McGaffigan, Chair. It was noted that LMTAAA was misspelled as LMTAAAA in the June draft minutes. A motion was made by Tim Wood to approve the August 6, 2025, draft agenda and June 4, 2025, draft minutes with that correction. The motion was seconded by Eileen McKenzieSullivan and passed unanimously.

Advisory Council By-Laws, *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

Cat McGaffigan, Chair stated that the first By-Laws Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. This meeting will focus on reviewing all By-Laws, especially those outlining Committee Member terms and renewals protocol.

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Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program & Community Outreach Presentations, Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director

Valerine Aubertin, Community Supports Director, reviewed the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) noting that it is an annual program funded by both the USDA and the State. It is offered to people 65 or older who meet additional criteria such as income in relation to the poverty level. Valerie explained that recipients receive a preloaded card they can use with approved vendors at farmers markets or farm stands. The card is mailed out with a list of the local authorized vendors, including information on if these stands will match the card funds, recipes, and general information about the program. There is also a smart phone application for people to keep track of funds as they use them. Valerie explained that this year, LMTAAA was allocated 2,563 vouchers and, for the first time, LMTAAA ran out of the cards in June. This was due to better upfront marketing by LMTAAA'S Communication Manager, Becca Frisch, grater community need due to decrease in food benefits and increase in prices, and ease of application access through LMTAAA's website. The Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA) will send an Annual Redemption Report at the beginning of next year with how many cards were sent out and how much of the funds were used. A report showing the use of this year's cards supports the allotment for the next year. The goal for each AAA is to have at least 80% redeemed, which has been rare in the past.

Valerie referred to a handout that listed all presentations LMTAAA staff offer that can be requested in the community and noted that presentations can be created and tailored for different community needs.

Community Announcements & Updates

Glenn Harper reported that the Aging and End of Life event is tonight; Wednesday, August 6th from 6pm to 8pm at South Sound Manor Event Center in Tumwater.

Glenn Harper noted that August is National Make Your Will Month.

Glenn Harper reported that on August 11th at 4pm the Death Café will be held at the newly refurbished Tumwater Library.

Darleen Atkins, guest, reported that the comedian Susan Rice will be performing on October 3, 2025, at Swantown Inn and will have another performance in Chehalis.

Michele Horaney reported that Olympia Area Villages has 61 paying members and dues are now on a sliding scale between \$60-\$120 a year. Full membership dues are \$200 a year. One Village

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group is working on six basic services, and fifteen people will be testers for the services. Michele added that the Villages first annual picnic at the park happened and asked that Advisory Council Members and staff keep the villages in mind for people living in Thurston County who are living at home but would like socialization.

Anna Schlecht reported that Lacey Parks measure Proposition 1 is failing. Anna and Cat explained the proposition included an expansion at the Lacey Senior Center and traditional parks, which affect all community members.

Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht & Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs and Services

Anna Schlecht and Donna Feddern reported that they met with the Community Development Director in Lewis County. This helped the committee set clear goals for the housing forum by defining how to bring the right people together. Results will be taken to local elected officials at the Lewis County Commissioners' Meeting or a written letter sent to Commissioner's offices. Advisory Council Members noted they would like to know when the Committee is giving a presentation so they can attend as support. Advisory Council Members highlighted that Lewis County is unique in its geography, and it would be beneficial to hold a roundtable discussion with the goal of outlining the housing and nutrition differences between the three counties.

Updates - Chrissy Franklin, Office Manager

Chrissy Franklin reported that the Agency All-Staff meeting is Friday, August 15th at the Lacey Community Center. Advisory Council Members are invited to attend in the morning for guest presentations by Cathy Knight, State Director at Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A), and Bob Blancato, Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs.

Chrissy also reported that Commissioner Grant found community members to fill the two open spots for Thurston County. Glen joined the last Council of Governors (CoG) meeting as a representative of Mason County and shared that we are still looking for more members to be involved from that county.

Socialization & Engagement Committee - Glenn Harper

Glen Harper proposed that meetings be held at 11am on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meeting schedule is now pending approval from all council and staff members on the committee. Meetings are open to anyone, and a professional Zoom account will be set up for scheduling purposes.

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SCoA Meeting Report - Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper reported that WA Hospice and Palliative Care gave a presentation at the last meeting. It highlighted the use of palliative care before hospice and the challenges of a proposed rural palliative care initiative. Glenn reported that they shared a Dementia legal planning toolkit and that link will be shared after this meeting.

Glenn also shared that Advisory Council Members should be advocating for the Health Home program. This program, which helps people become actively involved in their health, is set to expire in 2026. Valerie Aubertin explained that clients must meet criteria for eligibility for the program. LMTAAA staff members meet with them monthly for coaching and skill building to empower them to help themselves. The program provides education on palliative care and hospice, which are currently experiencing waitlists in the city and have less resources in rural counties.

Lewis County SHIBA – Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair

Heidi Buswell reported that Lewis County SHIBA signed a contract with Lewis County Timber River Connections Senior Center (TRCSC) for \$30,000 in mid-July 2025. Heidi has completed all eight weeks of required volunteer training and is working on getting a meeting with staff from TRCSC to see how to get this program set up and how to serve all seniors. LMTAAA offered support and will train staff on calls regarding SHEBA referrals.

Executive Director Report, Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director & Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Liaison

Nicole Kiddoo reported that the agency has been diligent in building capacity on advocacy work and has made changes to staff infrastructure by creating a Government Affairs Program Liaison position to assist with this. Lisa Bachmann has transitioned into this role and will cover public meetings and additional legislative and advocacy support. She will also be the liaison for the Advisory Council, providing Chrissy Franklin the opportunity to focus more on her new role as Office Manager.

Nicole reported that the Health Home program was up for elimination earlier this year, however, through advocacy, it has been extended through 2026. The Health Care Authority is working on a package to hopefully extend the program beyond the 2026 deadline. W4A paired with our state Associations will step in to provide strategic support by speaking to legislators about the program.

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Lisa Bachmann reported that the Dementia Catalyst Program has two sites in Washington and received a funding request to expand to three sites. The program received a 2/3 reduction in funding for all three sites and LMTAAA is providing ongoing advocacy for this program as it connects the community with people living with family members diagnosed with dementia. The Senior Nutrition program received funding of \$27.9 million dollars, and the Care Transition Program funding was not cut. For Case Management, there was a 2% cut funding and the ratio of Case Managers to clients was shifted from 75:1 to 76:1. Nicole added that LMTAAA has been proactive in their contingency planning and made crucial decisions for staff ahead of time so that they absorbed the 2% (\$250,000) cut to prioritize retention of staff. The AAA Nursing contract received a cut in the budget as well, however, LMTAAA is not impacted by this.

Lisa reported that the Senate passed a version of the 2026 budget that included funding for some programs that did not receive funding under the President's budget. Both budgets proposed level funding for the 2026 for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP), however, the amount allotted is 57% lower than in the 2024 budget. Nicole added that the agency will be advocating to help ensure NSIP fund cuts will not be passed to the community.

Lisa commented that a key point to bring up while advocating is the need for In-Home Services to support caregivers and increase socialization since the longer someone can stay in their home, the less cost for the state overall. Nicole added that LMTAAA is collecting data from clients and callers to bring these stories to decision makers. It was suggested that location information be added to the forms staff fill out.

Lisa noted that as the 2026 budget is going back and forth, we could end up with a Continuing Resolution if a decision is not made by Oct 1st. Nicole encouraged members to attend Bob Blancato's presentation at the All-Staff meeting as he will talk about being approachable and uplifting during these hard times.

USAgging Conference, Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director

Nicole Kiddoo reported that LMTAAA has been awarded National recognition for Achievement and Innovation Awards for the fourth year in a row at the conference. Kyle Sanchez, Planning Manager, reported that the agency's Information and Assistance program won an Innovation Award for a new outreach presentation. This award came with a \$1,500 check. Nicole shared an Achievement Award submitted by Becca Frisch, Communications Manager, for how LMTAAA connects the community with the agency through social media and advertisements. Tim Wood proposed that LMTAAA create a certificate for Advisory Council members to sign that and be added to staff members personal files and can be presented to LMTAAA staff who won these

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awards along with a letter of appreciation written by Cat McGaffigan, Chair. The motion was approved by Glenn Harper, seconded by Heidi Buswell, Vice Chair and passed unanimously

Adjournment

A motion was entertained by Glenn Harper to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tim Wood, and it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be on September 3, 2025.

Minutes taken by

Chrissy Franklin, Advisory Council Liaison

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