





LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

 LMTAAA.org

 (360) 664-0791

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Advisory Council
Draft Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 1, 2024
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
In Person & Via Zoom

Members Present:

Lewis County: Debbie Aust; Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair; & Tim Wood.

Mason County: Becky Cronquist; Stefanie Herman.

Thurston County: Angela Hock; Anna Schlecht; Cat McGaffigan, Chair; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Ellen Wendt; Michele Horaney.

Members Absent:

Greg Rohr, Lewis County.

Staff Present:

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director, Carrie Petit, Contracts Director, Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs & Services; Kyle Sanchez, Planning Manager; Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director; Sarah Cockrell, Senior Executive Assistant; Lisa Bachmann, Executive Assistant.

Guests Present:

Glenn Harper, former council member; Kathy McDowell, prospective council member.

Welcome and Introductions, *Cat McGaffigan*

Cat McGaffigan welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

Approval of the May 2024 Draft Agenda and April 2024 Draft Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May draft agenda and April draft minutes by Tim Wood based on one suggested edit on each document. The motion was seconded by Eileen McKenzieSullivan. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report: *Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director*

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director, shared that there are many great things to report on. The agency is growing and there are about 100 staff on the organization chart in place for planning. There has been some restructuring to support the larger staff. Some of the current staff have moved into new positions

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within the agency and we have also brought in some new staff. These changes will help make sure that there is the capacity for what is coming. We are also working on efficiency and streamlining, which has helped the budget. One of these changes is our new HR software called Bamboo HR. This program helps save time for our staff members when submitting their hours; it helps our fiscal department with payroll; and our human resources staff with onboarding. The Fiscal Department is also implementing a new program called Sage Intacct, which will streamline the agency's billing.

Nicole also shared that LMTAAA has been awarded an achievement award by USAging for our onboarding efforts and creating a workplace of belonging. She explained that the information our agency learned in the process will help us support other AAAs. This is the third national award the agency has received in the last few years. It will be presented at the USAging Conference this July which she and a small team of the agency staff will be attending.

Nicole explained that she has been working with Kyle Sanchez, Planning Manager, on WACares. AAAs around the state have been funded to provide outreach and technological support for the program. They have been attending a lot of meetings, scoping out the duties and who is involved. Kyle let the council know that his team is looking for opportunities to share with different agencies or groups in the community about the program. Please contact him if you learn of anyone who may be interested in having him provide a presentation. Nicole added that supporting the provider network is important as well. We need to figure out how to connect all of the parts. Outreach to educate potential future participants is very important too.

Nicole invited the council members to attend the Leadership Academy Graduation on Friday, June 7. It is a great program that many of our staff have completed. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the team for this year. Eileen McKenzie Sullivan commented that she appreciates the LMTAAA leadership for providing the opportunity for the staff to attend the academy and for how they utilize the strengths of the staff after they graduate.

Membership Committee: Cat McGaffigan, Chair

Cat McGaffigan encouraged the group to think about who they know that may be a good fit for the council. We currently have openings in Lewis and Mason counties. She commented that one does not have to be part of the membership committee to suggest new members. She is also hoping that at some of the upcoming events we will have more opportunity to meet prospective members. There was discussion that in general it seems like there are lots of committees in Lewis that are short members so it could be that the commissioners are focused on trying to get a few on each one instead of filling ours. Nicole Kiddoo added that we can provide informational meetings with people who are interested in joining but want to know a bit more about what we do before formally applying. Cat shared the importance of having a diverse group and not just lots of members from one county. She also mentioned it would be good for prospective members to know that they can join via Zoom and so not have to travel to the Olympia office every month.

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Elderhood: *Glenn Harper, former Advisory Council Member*

Glenn Harper shared that he had previously served three terms on the council. He is currently serving on the board of the Washington State Senior Lobby. For two years he has had the idea to start a 501(c)3 nonprofit called the Elderhood Roundtable. It is a safe place for seniors to get together to discuss challenges and support each other. He has found that compassion and listening are so important and greatly in demand. Starting May 2nd there will be regular Zoom meetings each Thursday from 10:00-2:00 that will provide the opportunity for participants to collaborate and address situations they are experiencing. He has committed to trialing this for three months. Glenn is also planning to start something called 20 Minutes. This will allow participants 20 minutes to share a story on video. It will be like a time capsule, but on video. Heidi Buswell asked if this is just for people in our three counties – Glenn said his focus is on the three but open to others. He wants the participants to be able to feel the camaraderie of living in the same area and sharing some of the same experiences. He is hoping for groups of five or more that would want to meet together. He will assist in helping set these up. They would all start together and then go into breakout rooms. He hopes to advertise through Meals on Wheels. Donna commented that the libraries usually have some training opportunities to help people if they are challenged with Zoom.

Participation for Older American's Month, Cat McGaffigan, Chair

Cat McGaffigan revisited the committee's desire to participate in Older American's Month. Lisa Bachmann, Executive Assistant, shared that the proclamations are ready to distribute, and she will email them to each county and request to have them read. Once she has their responses, she will contact the members with the dates and any other additional information. It was noted that Lewis County meets every Tuesday at 10:00, except when there is a 5th Tuesday. Thurston County also meets on Tuesdays. Additional members volunteered to attend their respective County Commissioner meetings, if approved.

Community Updates:

Lewis County: Lisa Bachmann reminded the group about the agency open house at the Lewis County office on May 16, from 4:00-6:00 pm. There will be a table set up with information about the Advisory Council and she hopes to make some connections that will lead to some additional Advisory Council members. Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs and Services, spoke about the Olympia Open House last fall and shared that it helped the agency strengthen partnerships with community members.

Mason County: There were no updates.

Thurston County

Village to Village: Ellen McKenzieSullivan shared that tomorrow she and Michele will be attending a meeting with Dorothy Gist and other members from the Olympia Area Village. They may be willing to collaborate with us. Michele added it will be great to hear from them where they are in their process and learn what helped them along the way. She added that all of the communities in Seattle are a little different on specifics like if they meet in person; if they focus on volunteer work; or if they share a

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common interest. The goal of the villages is to support each other. You can find more information on the Village-to-Village movement at www.vtvnetwork.org.

Heidi Buswell reminded the group that all of the little towns in our counties are having their special days/events this time of year. It is a great time to get out and support our local communities.

2024 Advisory Council Goals: *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

Cat McGaffigan brought the committee's attention to the 2024 Goals that the group have been working on. She asked if there was a member that would like to bring a motion to vote to approve. Tim Wood made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Heidi Buswell. After a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Reports:

Socialization & Engagement Committee, *Angela Hock*

Angela Hock shared that Donna Feddern and Kyle Sanchez are helping get the MonAmi program set up. Kyle has worked with the company before. Donna will meet with South Sound Senior Services (SSSS). It has taken a long time for the program to go through the state's SDR program. The program will provide opportunities for people to be able to call and be helped anonymously and also for people to call in that are looking for connections. The volunteers will be there to listen; not to try to solve problems. She hopes we will be at the demo stage soon and then be able to purchase it. Angela also shared that The National Summit to Increase Social Connections will be May 13 and 14. This will be a virtual meeting. Additional information will be emailed to the council.

Housing Committee & Charter, *Anna Schlecht*

Anna Schlecht reported that she, Nicole Kiddoo and Carrie Petit went to a Lewis County Commissioner meeting with Lewis County Seniors and AAA. They shared they hope to join with others in Lewis County to help with the housing issue. So far members of the Housing Committee have met about 95% of the people on the list that they wanted to meet before the first housing forum. They will organize the forum only with those who live in Lewis County to discuss their specific challenges. She believes it will be at Centralia Community College. The forum will last three hours and start with a panel presentation, followed up by community speakers. Then there will be smaller group discussions on the gaps for the need such as: construction, funding, preservation of existing housing with time to strategize solutions. The forum will conclude with a group discussion on all of the ideas. The committee hopes this will become a useful model that can be used in other areas. Anna also explained that most funding usually comes from the private sector with some from the government. They hope that a partnership can be formed between construction companies, faith-based organizations, to assist with modifications to allow aging adults stay in their current homes. Heidi Buswell commented that it is nice to see projects move forward. Anna added that right now they are building relationships and moving forward with this slowly so these ties with are strong through the process. The Housing Alliance meets the 4th Wednesday of the month. At the May 22 meeting, they hope to pick the forum date, come up with the invitee list and decide who will be on the panel.

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Advocacy & Legislative Committee, Michele Horaney

Michele Horaney explained that there is not anything new to share in this area as everything is pretty much the same as last month; quiet and peaceful. Things will start to pick up after Labor Day and it will get busy in October. Most of their work for the next session will be tied to the Older American's Act (OAA) renewal. They have not been asked to do anything specific yet towards that goal. Nicole Kiddoo added that as more information is available on the OAA renewal that she will email updates.

State Council on Aging (SCoA), Michele Horaney

Michele shared that the 2024 Washington State Age and Longevity Summit will be on May 22 in Tacoma. It is by invitation only and limited to one hundred attendees. The general sessions should be televised by TVW. Michele also shared that she has requested time to speak at the May 28 SCoA meeting. She believes that the council has been doing more advocating than advising. The council was formed so that they could review programs and then provide input on them to the Governor.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Eileen McKenzieSullivan and seconded by Debbie Aust. It was unanimously decided to adjourn. The meeting ended at 12:05 PM. The next scheduled meeting is on June 5th at 9:30 AM.

Minutes taken by

Lisa Bachmann, Executive Assistant

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