



# LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON AREA AGENCY ON AGING

 [LMTAAA.org](http://LMTAAA.org)

 (360) 664-0791

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## Advisory Council

**Draft Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

In Person & Via Teams

### Members Present:

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

Mason County: Glenn Harper.

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

### Members Absent:

Becky Cronquist; Greg Rohr.

### Staff Present:

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs & Services; Lisa Bachmann, Senior Executive Assistant; Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant; Carrie Petit, Contracts Director; Paul Madison, Care Coordination Supervisor; Kyle Sanchez, Planning Manager; Mary Beth Mercer, Chief Human Resources Officer; Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director.

### Visitors Present:

Liz Hicker, former Advisory Council member; Carol Brock, Timber River Board Chair.

### Tribal Land Acknowledgement, *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

### Welcome and Introductions, *Cat McGaffigan, Chair*

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

### Approval of the February 5, 2025 Draft Agenda and December 2, 2024 Draft Minutes

A motion was entertained to approve the February draft agenda and December draft minutes by Cat McGaffigan, Chair. The motion was approved based on two changes. The first is to correct that the next meeting date was February 5 not November 6. The second was to make a correction to the By-Laws Discussion; suggestion of members having three two-year terms and then a three-month break was presented so we give the community an opportunity to join and if we don't receive any applications for new members the member that is on a break may come back. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

### Legislative and Advocacy Updates, *Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director & Michele Horaney*

Nicole stated legislative state meetings have gone very well. She thanked Lisa Bachmann, Senior Executive Assistant for all the planning and organizing that went into scheduling the

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meetings. She also thanked Advisory Council members for joining the meetings. We received a good response regarding funding for our nutritional ask at the state meetings. At the meeting with Representative Abbarno, they stated nutrition funds may be better kept in a money market verses a checking account. We need to focus on funding services and programs we already have and not starting new programs at this time. Nicole stated legislators will focus on what they care most about. The last three weeks there have been ups and downs federally that may affect Area Agencies on Aging across the country. For example, nutrition services are under attack which will put clients at risk by not getting meals or the ability to socialize. We have a good foundation as we advocate with the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A). We need to continue to call and write to our legislators. One of the areas at risk is the Older Americans Act (OAA) as it is not reauthorized. We are feeling good about the conversations that USAging are having around advocating. Advisory Council members expressed the need to encourage younger generations to get involved. Nicole stated we are staying focused on continuing to provide current services to our communities. Carrie Petit, Contracts Director stated agency subcontracting services are a part of OAA and the Contracts Department is communicating with our providers letting them know we are monitoring the discussions and will keep them up to date. We are hosting a legislative and advocacy briefing for our providers in February. Advisory Council members asked how LMTAAA staff are doing. Nicole stated we offer legislative and advocacy briefings for the staff and we also have a Legislative and Advocacy Committee. We are working on contingency plans moving forward. The agency is focused on mission forward thinking and continuing to do what we can to provide resources and services to the community.

## **2025 SCoA Representative Discussion, Cat McGaffigan, Chair**

Cat thanked Eileen McKenzieSullivan for stepping into the State Council on Aging (SCoA) Representative Interim role over the last several months. We need an Advisory Council member to commit to the SCoA Representative role for 2025. Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair nominated Glenn Harper. This was seconded by Eileen and passed unanimously.

## **By-Laws Draft: written amendment Article III – Membership Terms, Cat McGaffigan, Chair**

Cat stated the Advisory Council will do an overview of all the By-Laws this year. First, we are discussing membership terms to present to our County Commissioners at the April meeting. As discussed in the December Advisory Council meeting there needs to be an update to Article III – Membership Terms page 3. Cat read the proposed amendment to discuss with Advisory Council. The amendment allows the respective local Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to decide when a member's term ends if they will continue to be on the council or if they will then

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ask the member to take a break to allow community members that have applied to step in. Cat stated we will do the first reading of the proposed amendment at the March Advisory Council meeting, second reading at the April meeting, and then it will go to Council of Governments (COG) for approval.

## Community Updates

Liz Hicker thanked the agency for the donation to help replace the oven at the Winlock Senior Center.

Tim Wood reported that the 2025 Night of Magic Timber River Connections' evening event is Saturday, February 8th at The Loft in Chehalis. It is a live auction to collect donations for our seniors. The \$65 tickets can be purchased on the Timber River Connections website.

Glenn Harper reported that the Death Cafés dates and locations are on The Elderhood Senior Alliance website. The First Annual Death Care & Life Transitions Expo is on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 10a – 3p at the South Sound Manor Event Center in Tumwater. You can find details on The Elderhood Senior Alliance website.

Anna Schlecht reported the Thurston County Homeless Crisis Response System and community volunteers 2025 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) is from Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Olympia and Lacey Senior Centers.

Angela Hock reported the Superhero Bingo is on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Olympia Senior Center.

**Housing Committee, Anna Schlecht** – Anna met with Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs & Services, and Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant, and discussed the Lewis County Senior Housing Forum being held in April or May.

**Review & Feedback - SCoA January Meeting, Eileen McKenzie Sullivan (Interim)** – Was unable to attend the entire meeting. Eileen provided documents from the meeting.

**Socialization & Engagement Committee, Angela Hock** – No report. Angela asked Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs & Services for an update on the Mon Ami program. Donna stated the volunteers are going through training now. Angela stated she is stepping down from

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Advisory Council and asked if another member would like to join the Socialization & Engagement Committee to report on during future monthly meetings.

**Village to Village, Ellen Wendt** – There are 43 paying members and 100 have expressed interest in Village to Village. The administrative team is working on internal strategic planning, and the board is working creating more teams internally. If you would like to sign up, go to the website [Olympiaareavillage.org](http://Olympiaareavillage.org). Ellen stated she is stepping down from Advisory Council at this time due to time needed to supporting Village to Village.

**Membership Committee, Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant** – Liz Hicker's application was received. The commissioners are accepting applications for the vacancies. Once the application deadline passes, they'll select the representatives and appoint them via resolution. We have received interest in Thurston County as well.

**Outreach Committee, Cat McGaffigan, Chair** – Discussed that all Advisory Council members should do outreach. Members decided there is not a need for a committee. Outreach discussion should be on agenda for each monthly meeting. Members discussed ideas to do more outreach. Ideas included inviting the Communications Manager to future meetings to discuss ways to advertise the need for members in each county. Members also discussed getting a list of outreach events LMTAAA staff are attending and that it is important to reach out to younger community members.

**Committees Membership Discussion, Cat McGaffigan, Chair** – Discussed the need to fill committees with members from each county. Glenn Harper was nominated to give the Socialization & Engagement Committee report in future monthly meetings due to Angela Hock stepping down.

## 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 March 5th.

Minutes taken by

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Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant

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