



Area Agency on Aging

# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2010

### Members Present

Beverly Brathovde, Zane Cosby, Gwen Gadberry, Marv Faughender, Mike Freeman, Sandy Gould, Roberta 'RG' Gray, Jim Olson, and Ida Sevier

### Members Absent

Steve Clark, Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Pat Lisoskie, Tracey Lowrey, Mary Lou Pearson, and Bill Rothchild

### Staff Present

Julie Dasso Moore, Heather Ligtenberg, Dennis Mahar, and Carrie Petit

### Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

### Opening and Introductions

Sandy Gould called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and introductions were made.

### Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted. The agenda for the April 7, 2010 meeting was approved as submitted.

### Announcements

None

### State Council on Aging Report

There was no report this month.

### Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Report

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, announced that the Ombudsman Program is revamping the training procedures and requirements for volunteers. A new manual has been produced to assist with the new training. Paul has four new volunteers that he will be training.

### Director's Report

Fiscal Manager Hiring Update – Director Mahar reported that Fiscal Manager interviews will be taking place this week. There are a few candidates that look promising. There is also a

revised application process for the Fiscal Manager that consists of an Experience Questionnaire that will be completed prior to the interview.

Construction around Olympia Office – The construction to the lot around the Olympia office and the widening on Mud Bay Road is ongoing. The road widening is set to begin the week of April 12. The reception area will move to the side of the building temporarily, while the most disruptive of the construction events are taking place.

State Agency Reorganization – Director Mahar reported that Susan Dreyfus, Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, announced the move of Mental Health to the Aging and Disability Services Administration.

Capitol Hill Day in Washington DC – Director Mahar announced that he and Mason County Commissioner Ross Gallagher will be attending the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) Capitol Hill Day 2010 in Washington DC this year.

Home Care Quality Authority – Director Mahar reported that the Home Care Quality Authority is still in jeopardy of being absolved. The Home Care Referral Registry could potentially continue under the Aging and Disability Services Administration.

Home Care Referral Registry Restructuring – Director Mahar reported that the Home Care Referral Registry Coordinator position will be reclassified to a lower salary level to be commensurate with job requirements and possible budget reductions, as well as allowing an opportunity for job sharing.

Lewis County Spring Fling 2010 – The Lewis County Spring Fling will be held on May 15, 2010 to benefit the Lewis County Seniors and the Enrichment programs offered in Lewis County.

Home Care Training Transition – The Home Care Training Partnership is now responsible for training individual providers that contract with the Area Agency on Aging to provide care for Medicaid clients. The Training Initiative is in the process of requiring that home care aides be certified that they have met the training requirements and pay for the certification out-of-pocket.

Records Retention Policy – Director Mahar announced that staff will be reviewing the records retention policy and will determine how long certain records need to be kept and when they can be disposed of.

Agency Travel Policy – Director Mahar reported that staff will be reviewing the Agency's travel reimbursement policy.

### **Other Reports**

Mike Freeman voiced his concerns regarding a DSHS rules hearing.

Paul Tosch commented on an unlicensed Adult Family Home in Lewis County that was heavily fined. The Ombudsmen are authorized to enter long term care facilities even though they may be in violation of licensing requirements.

### **Health Care Reform: Review and Discussion**

The Advisory Council discussed the recently passed national health care reform bill, including the effects of the bill and what it means for the elderly and adults with disabilities. Director Mahar distributed a copy of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Act can be found at [http://dpc.senate.gov/dpcdoc-sen\\_health\\_care\\_bill.cfm](http://dpc.senate.gov/dpcdoc-sen_health_care_bill.cfm).

### **Legislative Update: Review and Discussion**

Director Mahar reported on the current Washington State budget proposals being discussed in the State Legislature. Both the House and the Senate have agreed that they would like to raise \$800 million in revenue in taxes. The specifics on the tax increases are still being debated.

### **Aging Readiness Forum Update**

The Aging Readiness Forum subcommittee met earlier in the week to discuss details on the forum. The forum is targeted to be held in May, and the committee would like to hold three forums in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties. Betsy Pozzanghera, the Aging Readiness Forum planning consultant, is researching facilities and sponsors for the Forum.

It was discussed that the Forum be aimed at employers, human resources departments and faith-based communities to focus on aging readiness in our communities and businesses.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at **Maple Glen Senior Living Community, 1700 North 13th Loop Road, Shelton, WA.**

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**Submitted by: Julie Dasso-Moore**