



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

3603 Mud Bay Rd. W
Olympia, WA 98502-2539

Phone: (360) 664-2168 • Fax: (360) 664-0791 • www.lmtaaa.org

ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2010

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Pat Lisoskie, Tracey Lowrey, and Bill Rothchild

Staff Present

Julie Dasso Moore, Tracy Gunter, Heather Ligtenberg, Dennis Mahar, Joy McBride, and Carrie Petit

Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman; Patti Kleist, Faith In Action; Diane Gouley, Skokomish Tribe; Perry Carrington, Skokomish Tribe; Ray Dingfield, Mason County; Ross Gallagher, Mason County Commissioner

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 April 7, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted. The agenda for the May 5, 2010 meeting was approved as submitted.

Announcements

RG announced that the "Focus on Healing" exercise program she had introduced to the Advisory Council in previous years has been changed from "Focus on Healing" to "Healthy Steps" and is offered in Thurston County at the Women's Club to cancer survivors.

Tracy Gunter, Projects Coordinator, reported that the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers will again be distributed this year. Current distribution schedules are posted online at www.LMTAAA.org/seniorfarmersmarket.php. There will also be an option to receive the checks via the postal service to those who qualify.

State Council on Aging Report

Mary Lou Pearson reported on the State Council on Aging meeting in March. There was a report on increasing gang violence, prominence of drugs, and suicides on some Tribal reservations. Director Mahar reported on the State Council on Aging meeting in April where the state budget was discussed. Some materials from the meeting were distributed.

Director's Report

Fiscal Manager Hiring Update – Director Mahar announced that Kennedy Weza has joined the LMTAAA as the Fiscal Manager. Director Mahar thanked Barry Diseth for all of his work with the Agency's fiscal responsibilities.

Capitol Hill Day in Washington DC – Director Mahar announced that he and Mason County Commissioner Ross Gallagher attended the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) Capitol Hill Day 2010 in Washington DC in April. There is an effort to increase the Older Americans Act by approximately 12%, including the Family Caregiver Support Program, and to fund Title VI Native American programs.

W4A Listening Session – Director Mahar announced that the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A), in association with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), will be hosting a listening session on June 10, 2010 at the Red Lion hotel in Olympia to discuss the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Home Care Training Transition – The Home Care Training Partnership is now responsible for training Individual Providers to provide care for Medicaid clients. Director Mahar reported that he attended a meeting with the Training Partnership regarding the certification process for Individual Providers. There is still discussion on the fee schedule and the testing languages available.

Senior Games – Director Mahar reminded the Council that the Senior Games are July 23 - 25, 2010 and there is still time to sign up at www.pugetsoundgames.com

Construction around Olympia Office – The construction to the parking lot around the Olympia office is complete, with landscaping work to begin soon, and the widening on Mud Bay Road is ongoing.

Postal Food Drive – Director Mahar announced that May 8, 2010 is the Postal Food Drive, which is an easy way of donating food to your local food bank.

Aging Readiness Forum Report

Director Mahar distributed a copy of the Aging Readiness Forum invitation letter that was distributed to community and civic organizations in the three counties. The Mason County forum will be on May 18 at the Mason County Public Works building, the Lewis County forum on May 20 at Centralia College, and the Thurston County forum on June 3 at the Panorama City Auditorium.

Small Projects/Health Promotion Report

Director Mahar reported that there is \$5,000 available for Small Projects and Health Promotion projects. Approximately \$1,000 of the funds may go to the fall prevention calendar which provides monthly exercise tips to increase awareness of falls prevention. Other ideas to focus on include ongoing fall prevention activities and/or literature.

Long Term Care Partnership: Discussion

The Advisory Council discussed the Long Term Care (LTC) Partnership. The Partnership is an incentive program for increasing participation in purchasing long term care insurance. Through the Partnership program, states promote the purchase of private LTC insurance by offering consumers access to Medicaid under special eligibility rules should additional LTC coverage (beyond what the policies provide) be needed. Medicaid, in turn, benefits by having individuals take responsibility for the initial phase of their long-term care through the use of private insurance.

CLASS Act: Discussion

The Advisory Council discussed the CLASS Act. The CLASS Act (Community Living Assistance Services and Support Act) is a voluntary, federally administered, consumer-financed insurance plan. It became law through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Although not yet implemented, the intent of the CLASS Act is to provide those who participate with cash to help pay for needed assistance, if they become functionally limited, where they reside.

Community Needs: Discussion

The Advisory Council discussed community needs. Dental assistance, transportation, food banks, and generational issues were the most talked about community needs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at **Valley View Health Center, 2690 NE Kresky Ave, Chehalis, WA.**

Submitted by: Julie Dasso-Moore