



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2010

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mike Freeman, Tom Lerchen, Pat Lisoskie, and Tracey Lowrey

Staff Present

Julie Dasso Moore, Tracy Gunter, Dennis Mahar, and Carrie Petit

Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

Opening and Introductions

Director Mahar called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted. The agenda for the June 2, 2010 meeting was approved as submitted.

Announcements

None

State Council on Aging Report

There was no State Council on Aging meeting in May.

Director's Update

2009 Audit – Director Mahar reported that the Agency is currently undergoing an audit for 2009. No findings are anticipated.

Implementing Home Care Changes – Director Mahar reported that the Legislature has implemented a 4% reduction in the home care agency rate, but increased the funds given for administrative costs, such as provider trainings. Agency staff will be working to

implement these changes in the coming months.

Home Care Changes – Director Mahar reported that some of the home care hour reductions that occurred last year will be reversed and some clients will get those hours back. Agency staff will be working to make these changes.

Senior Foundation Fall Conference – The Senior Foundation Fall Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2010 in SeaTac at the Double Tree. The State Council on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging Advisory Councils from around the state will be meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2010.

Home Care Quality Authority Dissolution – Director Mahar reported that he had attended the final meeting of the Home Care Quality Authority (HCQA). The HCQA was created to improve the quality of long term in-home services, but was not retained in the final State budget. The Home Care Referral Registries will continue operating under the Aging and Disabilities Services Administration division of the Department of Social and Health Services.

OAA Reauthorization Forum – Director Mahar announced that the Washington, Oregon and Idaho Associations of Area Agencies on Aging, in collaboration 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.

I-1098 Ballot Issue – Director Mahar announced that the Agency will not take a position on Initiative 1098 that deals with income tax.

Veteran's Administration Cash and Counseling Program – Director Mahar announced that the Veteran's Administration is discussing the implementation of a Cash and Counseling program. The Cash and Counseling program allows disabled, frail and elderly individuals who receive Medicaid personal care services to select those services and the person who should provide them.

Ombudsman Update

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, reported that the Ombudsman program is working to evaluate the admissions agreements in Adult Family Homes. They have found that some agreements include language that violates residents' rights. The Ombudsmen attended the South Sound Alzheimer's Council annual conference. Paul will also be attending the NCCNHR (National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform) Conference again this year.

Other Reports

Tracy Gunter, Projects Coordinator, announced that the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program check distribution began on June 2. Eligible persons are provided with \$40 of checks, redeemable for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at authorized Farmers

Markets and/or Roadside Stands. More information and the distribution schedules can be found at www.LMTAAA.org/seniorfarmersmarket.php.

The next 7.01 Tribal planning meeting with the Squaxin, Skokomish, Nisqually, Cowlitz and Chehalis Confederated Tribes will be held on June 7, 2010.

The Mason County Medical Equipment Bank is in need of funds for transportation. Barney Lamb, the coordinator for the Mason County Medical Equipment Bank, has requested some assistance.

Carrie Petit, Projects Coordinator, announced that the winners of the writing contest of children raised by grandparents or other relatives have been released. There were six winners from all over Washington.

Aging Readiness Forum

Director Mahar announced that the Mason and Lewis County Aging Readiness Forums were cancelled due to low attendance. The Thurston County forum will be held on June 3, with a larger number of those who have registered. It is anticipated that the information from the forums will be taken to Mason and Lewis Counties through the Economic Development Councils or the Chambers of Commerce.

State Plan on Aging Review and Comment

The State Plan on Aging was reviewed and discussed. The State Plan was sent out to Advisory Council members prior to the meeting so that they could read and review the material for discussion during the meeting. The Advisory Council would like to see emphasis on issues related to behavioral health, Roads to Community Living, Kinship Navigator program, nursing home diversion, and Adult Protective Services.

Federally Qualified Health Clinics – Steve Clark

Steve Clark distributed the Annual Report for Valley View Health Center and gave a brief overview of the administration of the clinic, followed by a tour of the facility for those interested.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Valley View Health Center in Chehalis.

Submitted by: Julie Dasso-Moore