



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2018

Members Present

Lewis County: Cindy Mund, Lynn Ford, Lanette Scapillato

Mason County: Ida Sevier, Carroll Raether, Glenn Harper, Beth Gizzi

Thurston County: Walter Sulskis, Howard Burton, Dave Hughes, Gwen Gadberry

Members Absent – Excused

Lewis County: Deb Mizner, Elizabeth Hicker

Mason County: None

Thurston County: Mike Robbins

Members Absent – Unexcused

None

Staff Present

Valerie Lamb, Carrie Petit, Bonnie Cook, Emily MacFarland, Nicole Kiddoo, Mikle Yow

Guests

Paul Tosch, Juno Whittaker, Larry Burgher

Welcome & Introductions

Cindy Mund, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Comments from the Council Chair

This item was taken out of order. Council Chair, Cindy Mund, passed around a copy of the current Council roster for everyone to review to ensure each member's contact information was correct. She then expressed her appreciation to Nicole Kiddoo, Mikle Yow, the agency staff and the Council members for their hard work and dedication to the Council throughout the year. The Council reflected on their 2018 accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

The December agenda and October minutes were accepted as written and no changes were made.

Community Updates & Announcements

Cindy Mund, Chair, encouraged the Council to attend the Flapjack Saturday fundraiser on December 15th sponsored by the Senior Action Network. The breakfast will be at the Olympia Senior Center and is \$10 per person to help support seniors in need.

Introductions were made and the Council was reminded that there will be a vote during the meeting to nominate the 2019 Chair and Vice-Chair for the Advisory Council. Members were encouraged to participate if they are interested in a position on the ballot and to reflect on their recommendations for the vote.

Lanette Scapillato informed the Council that the Lewis County Twin Cities Transit Expansion failed during the November elections. Discussion ensued on senior transportation services and what options are available for seniors in rural areas where services are limited.

Paul Tosch reported he read in The Chronicle that the Lewis County Seniors were able to raise \$100,000 for the local senior centers; Lynn Ford confirmed the report.

Lynn Ford shared that in November for Family Caregiver month she submitted a letter to the Editor to The Olympian for Thurston and Mason Counties and The Chronicle for Lewis County. It was her first time writing a proclamation for Lewis County. She reported the Lewis County Seniors participated in the Chehalis Santa Parade which was very successful. Lynn shared her excitement with the Council that the Lewis County Thrift Store is on track to supplement their budget by \$50,000. The Council was informed that Lynn will be participating in the Lighted Tractor Parade with the Master Gardeners and Master Recyclers which will be held on Saturday, December 8th at 6pm in downtown Centralia. Cindy Mund encouraged the Council to attend as it is a very successful event. Lastly, she shared that the Master Gardeners had a great time recently making homemade wreaths which she had never done before.

Walter Sulskis reported that he and Howard Burton had gone to the Lacey Senior Center for a discussion on senior homelessness. At the meeting, there was discussion on how local communities can help. There are small homes being built in Thurston County and there are opportunities to volunteer in the building of these homes. Discussion ensued on how in depth the problem of senior homelessness is in our local counties and on how the Advisory Council could advocate for those in need. Walter also shared that Harlequin Productions will be hosting a performance of 'I Ought to Be in Pictures' as a fundraiser on January 16th at 7pm for Senior Services for South Sound. The show will cost \$20 per person.

Beth Gizzi shared with the Council that the Mason County HUB center partnered with the Gig Harbor Basket Brigade in November and was able to give out 65 baskets with turkeys for seniors in need. The HUB will have a holiday open house on December 21st from 10am to 2pm. Discussion ensued on the issue of senior transportation for Mason County and potential solutions as it is very costly for volunteers to assist those in need.

Ida Sevier, Vice-Chair reported to the Council that the Mason County Christmas Parade will be held in Shelton at Railroad Avenue on Friday, December 7th at 5pm.

Juno Whittaker shared with the Council that the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) had their annual "Looking Forward Together" event which was held at the end of October and the theme was Emergency Preparedness. There were about 85 Tribal Elders in attendance from the five local tribes and it was received very well. Medication management was a big topic of discussion during the event. Next year the theme will be financial exploitation of Elders and the impact of the opioid crisis on Elders.

Gwen Gadberry reported that she attended a meeting at Cooper Point Village where a speaker from Thurston County presented about Emergency Preparedness. A DVD was shared at the meeting that was very informative.

Council of Governments (CoG) Meeting Report from Vice-Chair

Ida Sevier, Vice-Chair, was in attendance at the October Council of Governments meeting as there was no meeting in November. She was very impressed with the LMTAAA Fiscal Director and his report at the meeting in regard to the current agency budget. A major topic of discussion at the meeting was possible changes to the frequency of future meetings and if the Commissioners will start meeting bi-monthly.

State Council on Aging (SCoA)

Lynn Ford gave a report on the November SCoA meeting. She listed the top areas of focus on the 2019 legislative priorities and what the council is hoping to achieve. Some of the priorities included a large funding request from the Dementia Action Collaborative, housing and homelessness for seniors and the opioid crisis. Snohomish County was ranked #8 in the Nation for the opioid crisis, so funding was taken from their Mental Health budget to teach at local senior centers how to get rid of un-used medications.

Election of Officers

Cindy Mund and Ida Sevier expressed their interest in continuing as Advisory Council Chair and Vice-Chair in 2019. Ballots were distributed and Cindy Mund won unanimously with 10 votes for Chair. Ida Sevier won unanimously for Vice-Chair with 10 votes as well. (The 11th member attending the meeting had not arrived yet to vote)

Larry Burgher, Director of In-Home Care for Korean Women's Association, was introduced and gave an overview of the services they offer as an agency.

Feedback from Fall Conference

Council members that attended the annual Statewide Advisory Council meeting and Senior Citizens Foundation Conference on October 10th and 11th gave their feedback and shared what they learned at the conference. Cindy Mund, Council Chair, passed around materials from the conference for the Council to review. Mikle Yow will send the

Council an email with the link to the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) website with the PowerPoint presentations from each speaker at the conference. The Council was encouraged to participate in the 2019 conference on October 23rd and 24th.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Nicole Kiddoo, expressed her gratitude towards the Council for all their dedication and efforts and for their support of her position as the Director and in support of the work the agency does.

Nicole gave an update on the recent monitoring of the agency, completed by DSHS Aging and Long Term Support Administration staff, in November. She was happy to report that LMTAAA had some best practices in the contracts department, but there were also a few corrective actions programmatically and in the Fiscal department. The agency is awaiting the final report which will have specific details and should be coming soon, but overall, the initial results were positive.

The Council was informed that the agency will be hiring a new Fiscal Technician position to increase capacity of our fiscal department. She is looking forward to this change.

In March, LMTAAA will be launching a Leadership Academy for staff that are interested in participating. It will be a 6-session academy with a graduation ceremony at the completion. Nicole shared that there has already been much interest expressed from staff members within the agency. She would like the Council to participate in the review process of the applications for the academy if there is interest within the Council.

October 15th and 16th was a Staff Development Training for LMTAAA. In this training, staff worked together to establish the agency shared vision statement, which was added to the values that were identified at the collective management training in September. Facilitator, Julie Lancaster, assisted staff in developing the agency vision statement which is, "Enriching lives and empowering people to live fully and with dignity." The core values for the agency are Service, Excellence, Empowerment and Collaboration.

Discussion ensued on the 2019 goals for the Council. There will be additional time set aside at the next meeting for the Council to have further discussion about goals for the coming year. Nicole recommended that the Council help the agency with an advocacy and outreach plan and possibly form a committee to continue spreading the word of what services the agency offers to our local communities.

There were no meeting conflicts identified for the Council in 2019 as of now, so the members agreed to meet at the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Cindy Mund, chair, mentioned she was accepting help with planning the January agenda with Nicole from other council members if they were interested.

Adjournment

After taking a group photo of the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35am and was immediately followed by the holiday luncheon.

Mikle Yow

Submitted by: Mikle Yow, Administrative Secretary