



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2019

Members Present

Lewis County: Cindy Mund, Lynn Ford, Elizabeth Hicker

Mason County: Glenn Harper, Ida Sevier, Carroll Raether, Debra Jamerson

Thurston County: Howard Burton, Dave Hughes, Mike Robbins, Walter Sulskis

Members Absent – Excused

Lewis County: Deb Mizner, Lanette Scapillato, Charlene Woodring

Mason County: Beth Gizzi

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry

Members Absent – Unexcused

None

Staff Present

Valerie Aubertin-Lamb, Mikle Yow, Nicole Kiddoo, Joy McBride

Guests

Paul Tosch

Welcome & Introductions

Cindy Mund, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31am and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Council Chair, Cindy Mund asked if there were any changes to the April agenda as published. Vice-Chair, Ida Sevier, recommended removing the Council of Governments report as there was no meeting in March. Lynn Ford moved to approve the agenda with the recommended changes. Walter Sulskis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as there were no changes made.

Comments from the Council Chair

Cindy Mund, Chair, stated that she was looking forward to the continued discussion about the Council's goals.

Community Updates & Announcements

Glenn Harper shared that the Mason County Activities Center is partnering with Mason General Hospital to host their first week of A Matter of Balance classes on April 17th. There is a limit of 12 people per class and they already have 15 that have signed up for the class. Glenn will be one of three lead instructors for the classes. To receive a certificate of completion, the attendees cannot miss more than three of the eight total classes. Glenn recommended that any other Council members interested in leading these classes speak with Contracts Manager, Alice Cunningham Kane to get more information. The hope is that if this class is successful, it will be started in the other counties as well.

Lynn Ford shared a flyer with the Council that she received from her local library for '1-Click Trip Resource' which is a program for seniors 65 and older, veterans, disabled adults and those on Washington State Medicaid to access free transportation for Grays Harbor, Lewis and Pacific counties.

Walter Sulskis shared with the Council that he read that Thurston County is very concerned about the current local homelessness issue. On April 20th there will be a workshop held at Olympia High School from 9:30am-11:00am to get community response on how to handle some of these problems. He also shared that the Olympia Senior Center will be hosting a Dementia 101 workshop on April 24th from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

Howard Burton reported that he has been attempting to find someone who is more knowledgeable about manufactured homes as they seem to be a more affordable option for seniors. He encouraged the Council to inform him if they know of anyone experienced in that field. Council members discussed challenges that seniors are facing with homelessness and limited access to affordable housing options. Lynn Ford reported that Representative Andrew Barkis with the 2nd District is wanting to change regulations so there are more housing options for the aging population.

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, shared brochures regarding Long-Term Care Residents and Decision Making and Long-Term Care Residents and their families who have been victims of crimes. This led to a discussion about the State Council on Aging materials that were shared by email with the Council in regard to guardianship.

Lynn Ford reported that there have been issues recently with Audiologists and the older population in regard to receiving hearing aids. Professionals seem to be forcing people to use what products they feel are best for the consumer instead of letting them know what options are available for improving their hearing. Discussion continued regarding guardianship and person-centered options for the older population.

State Council on Aging (SCOA) Meeting Report

Lynn Ford gave a report on the March SCoA meeting and reviewed the materials that were shared in her email to the Council. The Washington State Legislature recently passed a law that creates a new entity to manage the administrative functions of the

Individual Provider workforce which is called the Consumer Directed Employer (CDE). The Council discussed how CDE may affect the agency's Case Management process once it goes into effect when a qualified and affordable entity is selected.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Nicole Kiddoo, shared that Mikle Yow, Administrative Secretary, will be moving into a Case Aide position within the agency on the Case Management team. The Executive Leadership team will be continuing to focus on the agency's infrastructure and is moving forward with hiring additional administrative support with an Executive Assistant, Community Supports Director and Administrative Secretary. Mikle will be emailing the Council members a list of the eight positions currently open for the agency so that information can be shared externally.

Nicole reported on her trip in March to Washington D.C. where she and her colleagues were advocating for older adults with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A). Their focus was the reauthorization of the Older American's Act (OAA) as it is the foundation of the services the agency provides. Materials from the event were ordered and will be shared with the Council once they arrive. Nicole is working on inviting a representative of N4A to have a conference call with the Council to assist them with advocacy and outreach.

Valerie Aubertin-Lamb shared her positive experience working with Bob Blancato, Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP). He recently visited the Lewis County and Thurston County meal sites at the local senior centers. He is currently working to collect data from the entire nation to advocate for the necessity of the OAA funding for senior nutrition programs.

Lynn Ford reported to the Council that she will soon be writing a proclamation letter for Older Americans month in May and encouraged the Council to use hers as an example to draft their own version to share in their local communities and on social media. Nicole explained the many structural differences of AAAs across the nation.

Website Committee Update

This item was taken out of order. Mikle Yow gave the Council a brief update on the current status of the new LMTAAA website. The website committee had a meeting with Hemisphere, the website developer, at their office in Tacoma to discuss the website sitemap, which is the basic structure of what the new site is expected to look like. The committee was very pleased with the initial draft. Discussion within the committee and with the Executive Leadership team will be taking place shortly to decide how they would like to respond to Hemisphere before the next steps are taken in the process. Council member, Glenn Harper, will be working with the committee as more of the website content is being developed.

Review of Draft Action Plan

This item was taken out of order. Council Chair, Cindy Mund, shared a list of the

current outreach and advocacy efforts already being covered by the LMTAAA Information and Assistance team. The Council discussed how their outreach efforts can blend with those done by staff. Suggestions were shared on how to best track what materials are being shared at which location locally. The Council agreed that wherever information is distributed, the members would report back to the Council so the agency staff is aware and can assist with tracking the information. The importance of both paper brochures and information online was discussed so people are reached in all stages of life regardless of their demographic.

Executive Director, Nicole Kiddoo, will be sharing a PowerPoint with the Council to help the members get more comfortable with informing others about the agency and the services that are offered. Lynn Ford reported that she will soon be finishing a tool kit for the State Council on Aging and will share it with the Council to help them with their outreach strategies. The Council discussed ways to make it easier to share information about the agency without having to present the information by only public speaking, such as using YouTube to create videos that can be shared through social media or at events. The Council brainstormed about their ideas on how to best spread the word within each member's local communities and how to measure their successes.

The Council agreed that each member would select a few places locally where they will commit to share materials and will report back at the June meeting whether they reached their goals. Council Chair, Cindy Mund, will send an email to the Council on what goals each member has committed to and where they will be sharing materials and/or presenting. The Council was encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and were reminded that the more they share the information with others, the more comfortable it will be to have those discussions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Mikle Yow

Submitted by: Mikle Yow, Administrative Secretary