



Area Agency on Aging

# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes for April 1, 2020**

Teleconference (via ZOOM) <https://zoom.us/j/487746388>

Meeting ID: 487 746 388; Call in #(253) 215-8782; or (301) 715-8592

### ***Members Present***

Lewis County: Lynn Ford (Chair); Liz Hicker; and Cindy Mund

Mason County: Glenn Harper (Vice-Chair); Bill Bezanson; and Beth Gizzi

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; and Michele Horaney

### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring and Deb Mizner

Mason County: Debra Jamerson; Ida Sevier; and Carroll Raether

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry

### ***Staff Present***

Nicole Kiddoo; Joy McBride; Valerie Aubertin; Carrie Petit; and Charyl Warriner

### ***Guests***

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

### ***Welcome & Introductions***

Lynn Ford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

### ***Approval of Minutes & Agenda***

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the March 17, 2020 Emergency meeting minutes, and the draft agenda for the April 1, 2020 meeting. Cindy Mund made a recommendation to remove the phrase ZOOM meeting on the March 17<sup>th</sup> minutes and to replace it with Teleconference. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve the March 17<sup>th</sup> minutes with the above recommendation, as well as the draft April 1, 2020 agenda, as presented. Cindy Mund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford***

Lynn shared with the Council that the By-Laws Committee are still reviewing the agency's By-Laws. She informed the members that there is no process outlined in the current By-Laws that addresses emergency needs, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, the By-Laws have not been reviewed since 2003.

### ***Community Updates***

Liz Hicker shared that Lewis County seems to be doing well and the community is pleased that meal delivery is happening. Twin Transit has been delivering meals in partnership with Lewis County Seniors, as Senior Centers are closed.

Cindy Mund added that her neighborhood with approximately 350 seniors, are all working hard to stay connected. Some neighbors are making calls on a regular basis, to ensure everyone is well.

Bill Bezanson commented that the numbers of those in Mason County affected by COVID-19 seemed low at first, but he doesn't believe people are practicing social distancing, as he continues to see people hugging.

Howard Burton shared that Senior Services for South Sound will have a new Executive Director. Eileen McKenzie-Sullivan has retired after 46 years of service. Brian Windrope, the new Executive Director, has come on during challenging times.

Paul Tosch shared news that some nursing facilities are not allowing patients back into the building if they leave to go to the hospital, or if they leave to have lunch with family members. He has heard that they are being quarantined in their rooms for 14 days after they return. If you hear of examples like this, please contact Paul.

### ***Reports***

#### ***State Council on Aging (SCoA) Meeting Report – N/A - Lynn Ford***

The scheduled SCoA meeting was cancelled; they hope to have a teleconference next month.

#### ***Council of Governments (CoG) Meeting Report – Glenn Harper***

The Commissioners spoke briefly about how community members are adapting well to the new "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order by Governor Inslee. Discussion was held regarding unallocated funds from 2018. There was a resolution passed that allows LMTAAA's Executive Director, Nicole Kiddoo to disperse emergency funds during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ***Executive Director's Report – Nicole Kiddoo***

LMTAAA welcomes Senior Services for South Sound's new Executive Director, Brian Windrope, as Eileen McKenzie-Sullivan retires. She shared that we continue to meet virtually with our Senior Nutrition Program providers.

Nicole Kiddoo was very pleased to share with the committee that the Older American's Act (OAA) was reauthorized and signed into law. She will be sharing more information with the group later, but wanted to thank the entire committee for all their hard work in helping share the importance of this act to our government representatives.

The Agency is doing well and most employees are working remotely at this time. We

have very limited personnel coming into the office, only for essential tasks with staggered schedules. Our staff is moving mountains to address and respond to COVID-19 and we are very grateful. We continue to take calls from our clients, and encourage all to use our toll free line. Updates are posted on Facebook, and our website. Please check for periodic updates to any services that might be impacted due to the pandemic.

Funding from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was distributed (\$250M in total) across the nation. We received LMTAAA's portion, which will be used to help supplement emergency efforts in the Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Nutrition programs. Our Contract Managers are working diligently to distribute the funding as soon as possible to our nutrition providers. We are tracking projections of expenses with our partners. Nicole Kiddoo was also excited to share that the agency is expecting more emergency response funding soon.

LMTAAA has recently implemented a Reassurance Program to check in on our clients telephonically to ensure they are doing well, while staying at home. In addition, we are working on an Acute Hospital Surge program, to aid in moving people out of hospitals and back into their homes to help free up hospital beds. If you know of anyone in the community that needs services, please send them to our toll free line to be connected to one of our staff.

The Advisory Council has created an ad hoc committee, the Socialization & Engagement Committee, to help come up with ways to assist those in remote areas while under the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. The members on this committee are: Glenn Harper (Chair); Cindy Mund; Howard Burton; Beth Gizzi; Lynn Ford; Liz Hicker and Bill Bezanson.

### **General Information**

The committee shared their ways of communicating with one another, family members, and members of their communities during this pandemic.

Lynn Ford shared that Lewis County Seniors has a new site leader at one of their congregate nutrition sites, who has been great about posting on Facebook ways that those in need in the community can get resources.

Howard Burton offered his experience of having his church connect with the local food bank for needs, as well as utilizing a calling tree to check in on those within the community for any needs they might have.

Beth Gizzi sends out fun things to do to those in her community that are not COVID-19 related.

Bill Bezanson felt as though sharing emails and phone numbers with neighbors is a good way of staying connected.

Cindy Mund felt as though encouraging people not to watch a lot of television is helpful, but if they are, wondered if there are ways in which we can help put out useful public service announcements on ways to stay home and stay healthy.

There were many ideas shared on ways to stay connected while staying home. These varied from watching YouTube videos to letter writing, Genealogy, online university courses, etc.

***Next Advisory Council Meeting***

The next scheduled meeting will be on May 6, 2020.

***Adjournment***

Lynn Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Howard Burton made a motion to adjourn. Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

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**Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant**