



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for May 6, 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; Cindy Mund

Mason County: Glenn Harper (Vice-Chair); Bill Bezanson; Carroll Raether

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney

Members Absent

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring; Deb Mizner

Mason County: Debra Jamerson; Ida Sevier; Beth Gizzi

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Joy McBride, Contracted Services Director; Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager; Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager; and Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant

Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

Welcome & Introductions

Lynn Ford called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. There was no quorum until 9:54 a.m.

Community Updates (taken out of order due to lack of quorum)

Glenn Harper provided an update from the Socialization & Engagement Committee and some of the “no tech” options they discussed that allow people to feel connected, in the hopes of decreasing the effects of social isolation. Glenn spoke briefly to various types of technology items that are being used to help combat social isolation, such as animatronic dolls/animals, GrandPads, and voice activated devices like the Echo Dot (Alexa).. Glenn shared that the committee has been working hard to come up with a proposal to fund a pilot project to purchase GrandPads.

Nicole Kiddoo expressed her appreciation of the Socialization & Engagement committees' dedication. They are working to narrow down ideas, create goals, and to see how they can help engage LMTAAA's clients that are struggling with feeling isolated. Nicole shared that the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) has recognized LMTAAA's work through our Socialization & Engagement Committee's efforts.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda (taken out of order)

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the April 1, 2020 meeting minutes, and the draft agenda for the May 6, 2020 meeting. Glenn Harper made a request to revise the proposed agenda, as he wished to present his portion of reporting before his 10 a.m. departure. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve the April 1, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Glenn Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Cindy Mund made a motion to approve the amended agenda for May 6, 2020 meeting, changing the order of business as stated. Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford shared with the Council that the By-Laws Committee is still in the reviewing process of LMTAAA's current By-Laws. She informed the council members that there is no process outlined in the current By-Laws that addresses emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. She also noted that the By-Laws have not been reviewed since 2003.

Council of Governments (CoG) Meeting Report – N/A

State Council on Aging (SCoA) Meeting Report – Lynn Ford

Lynn reported that the SCoA held a modified meeting where the main topic was budget cuts for next year. They are not certain that there will be a Fall Conference. At this point in time, there is a potential for the Fall Conference to be virtual. Much of this is dependent upon whether or not there will be a vaccine for COVID-19. May is Older American month, and the theme is "Make Your Mark". She will be sending a survey link via email requesting that Advisory Council members get the word out to their respective community groups for participation.

Community Reports (taken out of order)

Liz Hicker shared her excitement in a standing order she had for the sale of 50 hanging plants for Mother's Day. She was pleasantly surprised that with the help of Facebook, they were sold out before they arrived.

Paul Tosch shared that the Ombudsmen have not been allowed into facilities since the beginning of the pandemic. Many family members have shared that they are not pleased that they cannot visit their family members. Paul stated that a nursing home had emptied one wing of their facility to use for residents who leave, then come back from an excursion. Upon their return, they are being placed in the newly formed

quarantine wing, for 14-days. Many residents are upset overall and several are refusing to quarantine after being outside of the facility.

Michele Horaney shared that Senior Services for South Sound has doubled the Meals on Wheels that they are delivering. They are attempting to forecast how long this might continue.

Bill Bezanson has not left his farm in more than three weeks.

Carroll Raether has been home-bound.

Liz Hicker shared that they have been doing well, and have been having meals. Liz was curious if informational flyers could be placed with meals being delivered.

Executive Director's Report – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo provided more context in regards to the survey, on behalf of the Socialization and Engagement Committee. There was a soft launch, and the plan will be to leave the survey open, and do a hard launch. She remains hopeful that this information will assist the agency in understanding what direction we may need to go, in regard to helping with social isolation/engagement. She looks forward to the Socialization & Engagement Committee reports.

LMTAAA has placed a COVID-19 page within our website. This is a great resource, and we would appreciate you sharing this information. This page outlines any service impacts, due to the recent *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* order. She assured the members that we continue to take calls, and are all working, although not physically in the office. Nicole reiterated that we are still available for our clients, and are providing resources and service information. Please refer individuals to our toll free line for more information.

Nicole Kiddoo reminded the council, that May is *Older American's Month*, and unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are not able to celebrate this as we would like. Please look for information on the history of OAA (Older American's Month) in your email soon.

The CoG (Council of Governments) will not be having a May meeting; the next CoG meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Nicole Kiddoo outlined that there will more than likely be a special session, with discussion around budget cuts. Nicole shared that she is on the legislative committee for the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (w4a) and on the Board for the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Discussions continue on the national level. She hopes to have more to report for the next Advisory Council meeting.

The LMTAAA staff are all working from home, and plan to be for the next few months, until we can assure a safe return to the office. Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice.

By-Law Revisions (first read) by Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford, Chair, had Charyl Warriner share the current By-Laws document. Lynn explained to the council members that the By-Laws Committee has been reviewing the document, and making changes. The red lines represent the tracked changes, as this will need to go before the CoG (Council of Governments) for final approval and adoption, and the Council will want to see what changes were incorporated from the original version. Lynn read each line item to the council, so they were aware of any proposed changes.

Lynn Ford extended her enormous thanks to the By-Laws Committee for all their work on this process. Nicole Kiddoo seconded Lynn's comment, and expressed her gratitude for all the hard work. Lynn explained that the committee was very diligent, and reviewed other AAA By-Laws examples in order to ensure that LMTAAA's revisions were well documented, while complying with the requirements by the State.

The By-Laws Committee will have continued meetings, and will later bring the second reading back to the Advisory Council for final review, and a vote.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on June 3, 2020.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant