



Area Agency on Aging

# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

2404 Heritage Court SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Phone: (360) 664-2168 • Fax: (360) 664-0791 • [www.LMTAAA.org](http://www.LMTAAA.org)

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes for June 3, 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; Debra Jamerson; Ida Sevier

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney; Gwen Gadberry

#### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring; Deb Mizner

Mason County: N/A

Thurston County: N/A

#### ***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

Walt Bowen, President, Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby

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

Lynn Ford called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

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

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the May 6, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the June 3, 2020, meeting as presented. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the June 3, 2020 meeting, as presented. Ida Sevier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lynn Ford shared that some counties have recently been approved for Phase 2 of the Governor's Safe Start Plan for the COVID-19 pandemic. Lynn also informed the council members that Beth Gizzi, from the HUB has resigned from the Advisory Council due to scheduling and challenges as a parent with children at home, due to COVID-19.

***Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby Update – Special Guest Walt Bowen***

Walt Bowen thanked the council for the invitation to join our meeting, and to provide the council with updates from the Senior Lobby. As expected, many regular meetings have been cancelled. Walt shared that the Senior Lobby is currently unsure as to whether or not there will be a Fall Conference.

Walt Bowen was pleased to share with the council that this spring, there was a 60-day session, which resulted in a lot of gains for seniors. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, there was no real opportunity to celebrate. Walt reported on Legislative discussions regarding budget cuts due to the state's revenue shortfall because of COVID-19. More information on proposed cuts will be available on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Walt provided a recap to the council, that state agencies had been told to come up with a 15% budget reduction plan. There is discussion that there may be a Legislative special session, where more details will be available. He added that the current health care crisis is being compounded by protests, which could cause an increase in cases.

Walt shared that 50% of people over 65 have some type of hearing loss, and that 20% of our state population is over the age of 65. In response to hearing loss, The Senior Citizen's Lobby is currently working with TVW, a state cable news channel. TVW has started offering closed captioning, and providing transcripts of press conferences and other programs offered for individuals who are hard of hearing.

At the close of his time with the Advisory Council, Walt recommended a book called "*Successful Aging*" by Daniel Levitin.

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

Lynn reported that there is a new tool on legal guidelines for people with dementia. The SCoA will be having a webinar to help explain this and she shared that the Dementia Roadmap has been translated to into Spanish.

***Community Reports***

Lynn Ford mentioned that in Lewis County, the Senior Thrift Store opened as of June 2, 2020.

Glenn Harper shared that the HUB's newsletter, has started a pen pal group. He also shared with the council, the recent proposal submitted by the Socialization & Engagement Committee to LMTAAA. Glenn expressed his appreciation to the committee for their time and efforts in putting forth this proposal. The Socialization & Engagement Committee recently submitted a proposal to purchase six (6) GrandPads, which are devices that enable video/telephonic calls, email access, etc., for those in

remote areas. These devices are geared toward those over the age of 75 years. The committee hopes that these devices will help with communication while socially isolated between family, caregivers, and friends.

Howard Burton added that in Thurston County, the seniors are being fed and the foodbanks are delivering to those in need.

Cindy Mund shared with the council that she and her husband recently purchased four animatronic pets as companions for those in Senior Centers in her county. She looks forward to reporting back the input from those who received their new pets.

Nicole Kiddoo added that a fellow board member also referenced these new animatronic pets during a recent board meeting with National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Nicole believes that they received these in large numbers, with assistance of some type of grant or donation. Nicole will follow up with the board member and share any addition information with the council.

The entire group discussed interest in creating and distributing flyers to go out with senior nutrition meals, with information on services offered by LMTAAA, as well as ways to help combat social isolation. Discussion continued as to whether or not this is a feasible request for our partners in Senior Centers, such as who can print, who would collect the survey data, etc. More discussion to occur during the next Advisory Council meeting.

### ***COVID-19 Updates – Nicole Kiddoo***

As COVID-19 has been the topic of much discussion over the last few months, Nicole Kiddoo wanted to hear about things we are hearing from within our communities. She reported that LMTAAA Staff continue to work remotely, and serve our clients. We are discussing how to plan for when the staff start coming back into the office, and wished to have an open forum with any questions or concerns that our Advisory Council is hearing about. Nicole Kiddoo outlined that we continue to be vigilant and take special precautions to keep our staff safe, as well as others who enter our office.

At this present time, we are unsure as to when we will resume our (in person) Advisory Council meetings, but are hopeful that August might be the earliest. The Executive Leadership Team is reviewing details, and addressing questions/concerns, as well as keeping social distancing a main focus, as well as increasing cleaning protocol.

Nicole spoke briefly to the importance of creating the Advocacy Committee, under the Advisory Council. The creation of this sub-committee is timely, as we are receiving COVID-19 funding and this committee could help greatly in ways we will be approaching our advocacy efforts. There will be more to report to the Advisory Council next month from n4a and w4a meetings. The importance of our advocacy efforts will be shifting into high gear.

There was general discussion about the need for Broadband service and internet accessibility for seniors. Lynn Ford offered to update the council with PUD updates and efforts in community access locations for Wi-Fi. The Washington State Department of Commerce link is provided with locations of Wi-Fi Hotspots based on your desired location.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/>

Nicole Kiddoo shared with the council that there will more than likely be a special session, with discussion around budget cuts. She reminded the members 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 and Nicole hopes to have more to report for the next Advisory Council meeting.

#### ***By-Laws Revisions (first read) by Lynn Ford***

Lynn Ford, Chair, had Charyl Warriner share the most current By-Laws document. Lynn Ford shared with the council members any edits that had taken place since the first read on May 6, 2020. She outlined that today would be the final day to gather comments from the members, as well as staff, and that a final (second read) would be placed on the agenda for the July 1, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting, for a vote, with a recommendation to be made to the Council of Governments (CoG) for the July 23, 2020 meeting.

#### ***Next Advisory Council Meeting***

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. There was brief discussion that once meetings resume in the Olympia office that we continue to physically distance ourselves and wear face masks.

The next scheduled meeting will be on July 1, 2020.

#### ***Adjournment***

Lynn Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Bill Bezanson made a motion to adjourn. Howard Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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