



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for July 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); Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Cindy Mund; Deb Mizner

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

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney

Members Absent

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring

Mason County: Ida Sevier

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 9:39 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the June 3, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the amended draft agenda for the July 1, 2020. The agenda was revised to reflect that the meeting was not occurring in the Olympia office, large conference room, but rather via teleconference through ZOOM. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the June 3, 2020 meeting minutes, as well as the revised draft agenda for the July 1, 2020 meeting. Elizabeth Hicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford shared that her exercise class was going to resume, starting today. Unfortunately she is unable to attend, due to a conflict with the Advisory Council meeting. She added that there would be new safety protocol for classes, but she was unsure what they are at this time.

Community Reports

Thurston County had no updates or announcements.

In Mason County, Bill Bezanson commented that the Senior Centers will be opening on the 6th of July. They will have additional rules to follow in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: masks must be worn at all times and no food or drink will be allowed.

In Lewis County, Liz Hicker shared that nutritional meals are being dispersed at Senior Centers, on specific days through the use of drive-thru lines. They are unsure as to when the centers plan on re-opening.

Glenn Harper, on behalf of the Socialization & Engagement Committee reported that the committee submitted their GrandPad proposal and request to purchase GrandPads to LMTAAA. Originally the proposal was for a quantity of six (6) GrandPads, but the number was modified to 15 for the pilot project.

Nicole Kiddoo shared that the Socialization & Engagement Committee submitted a great proposal and thanked them for their hard work. The agency had set aside money for this pilot project, in support of helping reduce the effects of social isolation due to COVID-19. The committee is still working ways to manage testing and distribute the GrandPads once they are received.

Lynn Ford added to the Socialization & Engagement Committee updates, in that they are creating an informational flyer, and hope to send this one-page, double-sided flyer with meal deliveries, with the help of Senior Center representatives from Lewis County Seniors. The flyer has information about LMTAAA and a survey to help the committee gather information from those we serve regarding how they are coping during the COVID-19 Pandemic and resulting isolation.

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

Lynn Ford reported that the recent discussion of State budget reductions is frightening. Although these reductions haven't been approved, or started yet, the potential for massive impacts on those we serve does not look good. She reported that *In-Home Care* and *Assisted Living* numbers could sustain 30% cuts. She reiterated that in the very near future the Advocacy and Legislative Committee will be called to action to advocate for our clients.

Fall Conference & Senior Lobby Updates – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo expressed how happy she was to see the council. She stated that many updates will be focused on legislative issues, to include budget cuts and advocacy work. She shared that w4a is working on a few different events this fall, and more information will be coming out soon. There was a recent legislative committee meeting and they will be offering training from 12pm-1pm on July 14 via ZOOM. This training will assist with messaging and advocacy plans for the future.

It has been decided that this year, the AAA Advisory Council Fall Conference will be held virtually, on Wednesday, October 21. In addition, Senior Lobby will hold their conference virtually the following day. The Fall Conference will be held from 10-2 p.m. and more information will be coming out in the near future. It is with great pleasure that we will once again welcome Bob Blancato from the National Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs, (NANASP).

By-Laws Revisions (second read) by Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford, Chair, read the entire proposed By-Laws document, as revised by the By-Laws Committee. At the completion of the reading, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the revised By-Laws. Carroll Raether made a motion to approve the revised By-Laws document, as presented. Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This proposed By-Laws document will be placed on the agenda for the upcoming July 23, 2020 Council of Governments (CoG) meeting.

Budget Updates & Advocacy Efforts – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo shared with the council members that the shift in discussions has been around State budget reductions. Based on multiple meetings, the best way to share the impact of these reductions is by starting with the number 20K. This is the potential impact of clients and people should the budget reduction exercise come to fruition. The Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA), as well as other State agencies, were asked to present a 15% budget reduction proposal, as an exercise. The Office of Financial Management (OFM's) website has a 4-6 page document outlining these potential cuts. In short, there is about a \$9B shortfall in revenue, which has many implications. We continue to have discussions and will be focusing on this over the next six months. We have been informed that there may be a special session in November. We will update the council members, once we have more information. The agency is having internal management and strategic discussions, in order to prepare for how this could impact service delivery. The need for Grass Roots Advocacy and education is crucial.

Nicole explained that this reduction would change eligibility across many areas in the long-term care system. The need for Grass Roots Advocacy and education is crucial.

In order to help support our Advocacy and Legislative Committee, as well as our Advisory Council, LMTAAA is hoping to work with a professional company to help create outreach materials. Our need is to have the agency and our committees send and speak the same message. A recent phrase is: *"This is a marathon, and not a sprint"*.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – appointments (Lynn Ford)

Lynn Ford, appointed Howard Burton as the Advocacy and Legislative Chair, and Michele Horaney was appointed as Co-Chair. Lynn asked that anyone interested in being part of this committee, to contact Chair, Howard Burton. The committee will be working hard on setting up (virtual) meetings and making phone calls.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on August 5, 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 10:56 a.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant