



Area Agency on Aging

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for August 5, 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;
Mason County: Glenn Harper (Vice-Chair); Bill Bezanson; Carroll Raether;
Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Michele Horaney; Gwen Gadberry

Members Absent

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring; Deb Mizner
Mason County: N/A
Thurston County: Debra Jamerson

Staff Present

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

Guests

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman; Jon Rudicil (Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging – w4a)

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 July 1, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the August 5, 2020 meeting. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the July 1, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the August 5, 2020 meeting. Judy Stratton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford attended the South Sound Alzheimer's Conference, however this year it was held virtually. Rather than an all-day event, it was one and one-half hours. She was pleased that the conference focused on ways to keep yourself positive, regardless of whether or not you know someone with Alzheimer's.

Lynn Ford also shared that the State Council on Aging (SCoA) has asked her to be Chair next year. As this is the last year Lynn will be with LMTAAA, on our Advisory Council, she will continue to attend meetings and will present on behalf of SCoA.

Community Reports

Mason County members reported that there are about 50 active cases of COVID-19 at present time. There was nothing additional to report.

In Thurston County, Michele Horaney shared that she has heard from a Senior Center that they will not be resuming in-person activities until after the first of the New Year. They are still providing nutritional meals, as well as working on a major fundraiser.

Paul Tosch, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, reported that as of August 3, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is working on re-entering licensed facilities. By the end of August, most facilities will have volunteer Ombudsmen coming back into the centers.

In Lewis County, Cindy Mund shared that the current numbers for active COVID-19 cases has reached about 200. She was excited to share that many in her area are continuing their exercise program by getting out and walking.

Liz Hicker reported that in her rural location, individuals who normally frequent the Toledo and Winlock centers had begun meeting at restaurants, wearing their masks, except when eating or drinking. This brought up a discussion to nominate different homes where individuals could meet, safely, outside to socialize and play lawn games. The groups are now meeting, rotating every two weeks, at different homes.

Council of Governments (CoG) Meeting Report – Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper reported that the Council of Governments (CoG) met briefly on July 23, 2020. The Commissioners had an abbreviated meeting, as Governor Inslee was scheduled to have a press conference at 2:30 p.m., and the Commissioners needed to be available during the meeting. The Commissioners were able to approve vouchers, as well as review and approve the newly revised Advisory Council By-Laws.

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

Lynn Ford reported that the July meeting had been cancelled.

Socialization & Engagement Committee Report – Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper, on behalf of the Socialization & Engagement Committee was excited to share that the committee was able to distribute approximately 1000 flyers through various means to those receiving senior nutrition program meals. These flyers contained information on LMTAAA's services, as well as a survey, which would help the committee gather information from those we serve on how they are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the surveys have already been returned to Cindy Mund, while others have not gone out yet in Lewis County. The committee remains hopeful to

identify those who might be able to participate in the GrandPad pilot project in the coming months.

Updates – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo expressed her gratitude to the By-Laws Committee and the Advisory Council for their work on revising the Council's By-Laws. This took a lot of work and was incredibly time consuming, but your efforts were very successful.

It was shared with the Council that our LMTAAA Staff will continue working remotely at least through the end of the calendar year. The Agency made this decision in the best interest of the health and safety of our staff. As part of our plan to continue operations, we will continue conducting our agency meetings via ZOOM, and our offices will remain closed for the time being.

Standing Committee Members – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford shared with the Advisory Council the names of those who have accepted their role/participation in our newly formed committees:

- Nominating Committee – Judy Stratton; Gwen Gadberry; Carrol Raether
- Membership Committee - Carrol Raether; Cindy Mund; Howard Burton
- 5-Year Area Plan Committee – Deb Mizner; Charlene Woodring; Gwen Gadberry
- Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Glenn Harper; Michele Horaney
- Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper; Lynn Ford; Bill Bezanson; Liz Hicker; Howard Burton; Cindy Mund

2020 Goals – all members

There was brief discussion that the most recent set of Advisory Council's Action Plans/Goals for 2020 may no longer seem relevant, or applicable. The Council members expressed interest in knowing more, perhaps from our County Representatives, as to *'what we're doing well, how it's going, and what resources we have'*. There was mention that in the past, the Council used to separate goals/tasks based on each appropriate county and work on them as a group, then share when they came back as a full Council. Lynn Ford mentioned that a few years ago, the AAA staff had information on things that the agency was already doing in support of the Advisory Council. Joy McBride state that there was a list provided recently and perhaps we should try to locate the list. Lynn Ford felt as though it would be helpful to have the Council members go through the goals this month, and revisit them in the upcoming months.

Advocacy Efforts – Nicole Kiddoo & Jon Rudicil

The Council members expressed interest in receiving the presentation material from the recent w4a Advocacy Webinar. Jon Rudicil, Executive Director, Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (w4a), mentioned it is located on their website, and Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant, will help ensure the committee members receive the link.

Nicole Kiddoo shared with the Council members that Grassroots Advocacy, as well as Outreach to our Legislators is crucial. In looking toward advocating for what the LMTAAA agency embodies, we have retained our website designer to assist with an Advocacy & Legislative Outreach page. We will be looking to have specific focus groups interviewed, where they can help tell their story through video. Our focus groups will be on the advocacy side (Advisory Council members and AAA Staff), as well as the end users (clients, caregivers, adults living with a disability). These groups will help bring light to what the agency does, and those we help support. There is limited time, and the agency does not have a dedicated social media representative at this time.

Jon Rudicil said if Council members know of someone who wants to tell their story through video, w4a has Zoom and YouTube ability to capture and share those stories. If you have ideas for advocacy that you think might be helpful, please send Jon an email at Jon.Rudicil@AgingWashington.Org. Michele Horaney and Glenn Harper expressed their interest in being part of the panel with w4a.

Howard Burton expressed his concern regarding the major budget cuts that could be happening soon in the state of Washington. He understands a coalition was formed with w4a and that this will be a challenge. Nicole Kiddoo mentioned that the coalition was formed, to have power in numbers. Jon Rudicil noted that in order to ensure balance, the coalition will be run in conjunction with AARP and SEIU, and he remains hopeful to get the attention we need. AL TSA has been a great partner with w4a since the budget exercise began. This will be a long journey, and could easily go through June 2021. Lynn Ford stated her worry about the state changing services to clients and increases in decline of those living in nursing homes.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on September 2, 2020 where we plan on inviting Senior Center Directors, in celebration of Senior Center Month.

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 11:34 a.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant