



Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

2404 Heritage Court SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Area Agency on Aging

Phone: (360) 664-2168 • Fax: (360) 664-0791 • www.LMTAAA.org

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Amended Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 4, 2020

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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; Karen Wolf; Debra Jamerson

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Eileen McKenzie Sullivan

Members Absent

Lewis County: Charlene Woodring

Mason County: N/A

Thurston County: Gwen Gadberry; Michele Horaney

Staff Present

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

Guests

Jon Rudicil, State Director, W4A (Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging)

Welcome & Introductions

Lynn Ford called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. Lynn introduced our newest member, Eileen McKenzie Sullivan, from Thurston County.

Thurston County New Member – Eileen McKenzie Sullivan

Eileen McKenzie Sullivan shared with the council that her background has been in the role of Executive Director of Senior Services for South Sound, where she had worked for the last 37 years. Eileen retired in March of 2020 and has a passion for working with and supporting seniors. She continues to assist those who have had challenges since the pandemic, by helping them get groceries, or assisting with transportation to/from doctor's appointments.

Lewis County Update

Deb Mizner informed the council that they recently had to evacuate the Cowlitz Tribe St. Mary's Center, which houses the Tribal nutrition program, as well as several senior housing units, due to finding black mold in many units. The Nutrition Program is currently working from the Winlock Senior Center, and have been there for approximately two weeks. She apologized that she was unable to stay for the remainder of the meeting, due to the current situation. She shared that the residents of the St. Mary's Center have moved into temporary housing at various hotels and lodging facilities.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Lynn Ford, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the October 5, 2020 draft (amended) meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the November 4, 2020 meeting. The amended minutes reflect a change in who recommended the book *White Fragility*. It was originally stated as Deb Mizner, but was corrected to Karen Wolf. Howard Burton made a motion to approve both the October 5, 2020 draft amended meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the November 4, 2020 meeting. Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. Eileen McKenzie Sullivan abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford shared that our December Advisory Council meeting will look a bit different this year. We will continue meeting via ZOOM, but we will not be having a holiday meal. Instead, we will have an Ugly Sweater Contest with three different categories and will offer games and ways to enjoy time together as a committee. Lynn reminded the council that we will also have our election for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the New Year.

Lynn notified the council that Gwen Gadberry has resigned her position. Unfortunately, the technology challenge, due to COVID is overwhelming. Gwen had been supporting the agency for many years, as this had been her second six-year term. She will be greatly missed.

November is ***Family Caregiver Month***. Lynn will be sending a letter to the editor, as part of her State Council on Aging role, recognizing family caregivers as well as encouraging all to get involved in contacting their legislators in preparation for the upcoming session.

Lynn Ford mentioned that the election has caused interesting changes. In Lewis County, individuals who have been in their positions for long periods of time, have been replaced by new people. The Advisory Council will need to work hard in the upcoming year to build new relationships and in turn create new opportunities along the way.

In preparation for 2021, Lynn reminded the council that we have been successful in creating new committees this year, and in doing so, requested that each Advisory Council member join two committees, as part of their role. These committees are: Nomination, Membership, Area Plan, Advocacy/Legislative, Outreach & Communication as well as our new committee, the Socialization & Engagement Committee. If you are interested in sitting on a new committee, or changing committees, please email Lynn, or contact your new Chair in the New Year.

Community Updates –

Lynn Ford, of Lewis County, shared that there was a positive COVID test at the Twin Cities Senior Center. She also shared that some seniors continue to meet with one another off-site to stay connected and socialize.

Howard Burton, of Thurston County, shared that he recently met with Brian Windrope, Executive Director of Senior Services for South Sound. It was an odd experience to see the center so empty. Howard spoke to the center's *senior in need/free critical delivery program* and outlined the similarity with our Socialization & Engagement Committee.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper extended his thanks to Cindy Mund for her assistance in reviewing the surveys received, and to Lynn Ford for having the idea to use the Senior Nutrition Program to help deliver surveys to clients. He posed the question as to whether or not the committee should go forth with the seven candidates, or look for additional participants. Howard Burton interjected that Brian Windrope, Executive Director of Senior Services for South Sound, knows of additional individuals that would like to use a GrandPad for socialization.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Lynn Ford

Lynn Ford previously mentioned her upcoming Letter to the Editor, and that November is Family Caregiver Month.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee Report – Howard Burton

Howard Burton apologized for some miscommunication in scheduling, and informed the Advisory Council that the Advocacy & Legislative Committee did not meet this month. Howard shared that he did have an opportunity to meet with Rep. Andrew Barkis and they had a good discussion. Rep. Barkis, a member of SCoA, told Howard that “LMTAAA does good work and saves money”, but that this year, “funding is all about COVID”. The next Legislative Session will have challenges due to the pandemic, and our effectiveness of advocating in person will be limited. Howard reminded us that the importance remains to stay engaged: call, email, or write personal letters to your legislators.

Jon Rudicil, State Director of W4A (Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging) added that this will indeed be a difficult session. He recommended that members try to schedule meetings via virtual platforms like ZOOM, and invite people who will be personally affected if funding were to be cut. He recommended that when you meet, you record the meeting, as you'll likely meet with staff members. Once completed, you can share the recorded meeting, via email directly to your legislators.

W4A Fall Conference/Sr. Lobby Conference Debrief –

Many Advisory Council members, as well as LMTAAA staff members reported that both the Fall W4A Conference and Senior Lobby Conference were successful, even during a pandemic and being held virtually. Comments varied from: having skilled speakers; lots of good information; accessible PowerPoints; and the ability for many in remote areas who were not able to participate in the past, being able to join this year via ZOOM. There were great data points, and gathering of demographics of more diverse groups. The presentation on the history of Long Term Care in Washington State was a great overview and could be used for newly seated Advisory Council members.

Executive Director Update – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo expressed her gratitude to Lynn Ford for working so hard this year on getting our standing committees up and running. She stated that there are no new budget exercises to report at this time, and requested new Advisory Council members to reach out to her directly and she will provide background information regarding the budgets. Nicole looks forward to having us review our accomplishments during the December Advisory Council meeting, as we gear up for 2021.

Nicole was pleased to share with the council that our 2020 LMTAAA Excellence in Leadership Academy participants will be graduating this month, and extended an invitation to the Advisory Council to attend the graduation ceremony. This is the second year that the agency has offered a Leadership Academy, led by Julie Lancaster. In 2019, we had 13 graduates from the agency, and this year we have 11. Nicole is incredibly proud of those who have worked so hard in this course. This year's class will be graduating, virtually, on November 16, at 3-4 p.m. Nicole also shared that our final 2020 All-Staff meeting will be held on Friday, December 11, and would appreciate any welcoming words from our current Advisory Council members.

The Advocacy & Legislative Committee will be preparing for the upcoming January legislative session. Hemisphere is putting together our talking points and messaging and we will be acquiring material to share with soon. Nicole asked Jon Rudicil to join our Advisory Council meetings in either December or January, as we will be preparing for the next legislative session and would welcome input from w4a.

There was interest expressed in having Bob Blancato, Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), join our Advisory Council in the near future to share more Federal updates. For those of you who attended the Fall Conference, you will recall that Bob was one of the guest speakers.

Nomination Committee Report - Carroll Raether

Carroll shared with the council that the Nomination Committee has received nominations for Glenn Harper as 2021 Chair, and nominations for Eileen McKenzie Sullivan for the 2021 Vice-Chair.

Carroll called for nominations from the floor. None received. He called for nominations a second time. None received. Carroll called for floor nominations for the third time. None received. Carroll shared a wonderful story with the council of his experience as a Constable of a small township in northern Minnesota, where he had similar duties.

Membership Committee Report – Cindy Mund

Cindy Mund created a document to show the Advisory Council the current state of membership terms and vacant seats within each county. She showed that there will be three open positions in Lewis County, but that we have one strong candidate for consideration. There is also one vacancy in Mason County and we will have two vacancies in Thurston County. There was also discussion about advertising in the local papers that LMTAAA is looking for volunteers to sit on the Advisory Council, and reiterated the need for an elected official to fill one of the seats, per the Area Plan.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on December 2, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via ZOOM.

Adjournment

Lynn Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Cindy Mund made a motion to adjourn. Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Submitted by: Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant