



Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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Area Agency on Aging

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

AMENDED Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 6, 2021
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: Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Deb Mizner; Heidi Buswell; Deb Mizner

Mason County: Glenn Harper (Chair); Bill Bezanson;

Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Eileen McKenzieSullivan (Vice-Chair);
Michele Horaney

Members Absent

Lewis County: N/A

Mason County: Debra Jamerson

Thurston County: N/A

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Dan Speigle, Fiscal Director; Joy McBride, Contracted Services Director; Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager; and Charyl Warriner, Executive Assistant

Guests

Prospective Advisory Council member, Angela Hock, in Thurston Co.; Jon Rudicil, State Director, W4A (Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging); and Lynn Ford, Chair, SCoA (State Council on Aging)

Welcome & Introductions

Glenn Harper called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. Glenn welcomed our newest member from Lewis County, Heidi Buswell. In addition, Glenn welcomed a potential (future) Advisory Council member from Thurston County, Angela Hock.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Glenn Harper, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the December 2, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the January 6, 2021 meeting. Eileen McKenzieSullivan made a motion to approve both the December 2, 2020 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the January 6, 2021 meeting. Howard Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Chair – Glenn Harper

Glenn shared that he is very pleased to welcome Heidi Buswell as a newly appointed Advisory Council member. Although we continue to have some vacant seats on the Council, Glenn is very hopeful to have more members in the coming months. Glenn thanked Lynn Ford and other departing members for their hard work, during the hardest year on record. Glenn commended the Council for meeting the challenges we have faced. He encourage new members to ask questions, speak up, and share their new fresh perspective. Glenn stressed the importance to continue focusing on two areas of our mission: the work of both the Legislative/Advocacy Committee and the Socialization & Engagement Committee.

Community Updates/Announcements –

There were no updates from Lewis, Mason or Thurston County council members.

Council of Governments (CoG) Update – Lynn Ford

The Commissioners, during their December meeting, approved vouchers, were informed of newly appointed Advisory Council members from Lewis County, the Socialization & Engagement Committee's GrandPad pilot project, and an update on CARES Act funding. There was a brief discussion on legislative updates and announcement of the 2020 Leadership Academy graduates. The Commissioners voted to approve the 2021 Area Plan Budget. Lynn also provided a brief overview of the CoG, what their role is, and which Commissioners currently sit on the COG from each county.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Eileen McKenzieSullivan

Eileen was happy to report that she was recently appointed the Chair of this committee and will be setting up a new meeting time for the month of January. She shared that before this, she was the Executive Director of Senior Services for South Sound. Eileen is greatly looking forward to working together to help combat social isolation. She was equally happy to see Angela Hock joining our group and is hopeful to see her on our Advisory Council as a permanent member. Eileen shared her excitement in the Committee's pilot project of introducing the GrandPad, through Consumer Cellular, to those in rural areas. The list has been narrowed down, and the GrandPads are being ordered for those recipients.

General Member Comments – Glenn Harper spoke about various items. He shared that he signed up for an over-50 social network called Highway61, where folks can chat. Glenn would like to know if we could get folks in our region connected. He also recommended that we implement a pen pal program between seniors and students. He noted ongoing phone and internet challenges due to connectivity in rural areas.

There was general discussion that Senior Services for South Sound is not looking to reopen until Phase 4, and until all are vaccinated. It was mentioned that the topic of health concerns for seniors could be brought into one of our existing committees or perhaps form a new committee.

Committee Assignments 2021 – Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper shared with the council that ideally, we would like to have each council member sit on two committees. Some of the most crucial at this time are the Socialization & Engagement Committee, as well as the Advocacy & Legislative Committee. Glenn opened the floor for discussion.

The committee assignments are as follows:

- **Nominating:** Judy Stratton; Bill Bezanson
- **Membership:** Howard Burton; Cindy Mund; Judy Stratton; Glenn Harper
- **Advocacy/Legislative:** Michele Horaney (Chair); Howard Burton (Vice-Chair); Liz Hicker; Debra Jamerson; Angela Hock; Judy Stratton
- **Outreach/Communication:** Michele Horaney; Glenn Harper; Heidi Buswell
- **4-year Area Plan:** Deb Mizner; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Heidi Buswell
- **(Adhoc) Socialization & Engagement:** Eileen McKenzieSullivan (Chair); Bill Bezanson; Liz Hicker; Lynn Ford; Cindy Mund; Howard Burton; Glenn Harper; Angela Hock

Executive Director Update – Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole Kiddoo was excited to have new members on our council. In doing so, we will be scheduling an agency overview (Advisory Council orientation) for our new members.

Nicole was happy to report that our annual audit is completed and congratulated Dan Speigle, LMTAAA's Fiscal Director, and his team on a successful audit.

Nicole spoke on various LMTAAA topics, ranging from sharing the link to our 4-year Area Plan on our website, to open positions within the agency. We are recruiting for a Community Supports Director (CSD) and appreciate our Advisory Council sharing this position in your networks. This is an Executive Leadership position and we are excited to find a good fit for the agency. In addition to the CSD position, other positions that were held open due to potential budget cuts, have since been released and we are looking to fill these.

Nicole provided a recap on the budget discussion that began in early 2020. Once COVID hit in early 2020, Washington State started looking at the revenue forecast, and how the pandemic would impact our state. Our state partner, Department of Social and Health Services – Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA), participated in a 15% budget reduction exercise that had a potential impact of cutting services to approximately 20,000 of those we serve. There have since been several iterations of the exercise. In preparing for potential changes to the budget, and the upcoming Legislative Session, our advocacy and outreach with our Representatives and Senators become critical. We will be meeting with legislators towards the latter part of this month, and with the help of Jon Rudicil, W4A, we will continue to share our message advocating for services for aging and disabled adults.

Nicole shared with the Council that we will be revisiting our Strategic Plan this spring, as it was created prior to COVID.

She also recommended that the Council visit the Governor's website, to see the most recent plan for reopening the state.

Advocacy/Legislative Committee Updates – Michele Horaney/Howard Burton

Michele Horaney shared her excitement for the upcoming work the committee will be doing. She informed the council that with the upcoming session, she and Howard are working on a PowerPoint presentation to outline the steps in *how to contact your local legislature* and how to create relationships. They are calling this a 'message sandwich', where you open the conversation, deliver your message, and then wrap up the conversation. They are also writing a script, for discussions between a Representative/Aide, and an LMTAAA Advocate from the Advisory Council. Howard Burton added that continuing to speak to those you know about our messaging is equally helpful.

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

Jon Rudicil joined the Advisory Council meeting to help prepare our members for W4A Advocacy Day, set for January 27, 2021. This year we will be having virtual meetings. In preparation for our J appointments on January 27, W4A will be hosting a Pre-Advocacy Webinar, on January 25, from 12-1 p.m., where we will talk about tips for getting our message out.

Jon shared a script with the Advisory Council, and recommended we use this as a guide in preparing our personalized stories for our meetings with Representatives and Senators. Jon has heard that meetings this year will be via ZOOM meetings, and we may be put in virtual *waiting rooms*.

Jon asked that we be prepared, concise, and have a plan as to who will be speaking, and when. These are very short meetings, but we wish to convey our message well. We are fortunate that we are not facing the budget cuts, as originally proposed, which will aid in our messaging. Jon has shared information with Charyl Warriner, and she will ensure that you have the documents to assist in preparation for the meetings.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., via ZOOM.

Adjournment

Glenn Harper called for a motion to adjourn. Bill Bezanson made a motion to adjourn. Eileen McKenzieSullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 p.m.