



# Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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Area Agency on Aging

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 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; Cindy Clark; Ronda Crumbley; Amy Turnbull

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

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

### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Deb Mizner; Heidi Buswell

Mason County: Debra Jamerson

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***

Prospective Advisory Council member, Angela Hock, Thurston County; Lynn Ford, Chair SCoA; and Sheila Johnson Teeter, Interim Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman

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

Glenn Harper called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Attendance was taken and introductions were made. Glenn asked our new members to provide a short introduction.

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

Glenn Harper, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the January 6, 2021 draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the February 3, 2021 meeting. It was noted that a revision to the draft January 6, 2021 minutes should be made, to include Lynn Ford as a guest.

Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both the January 6, 2021 with the recommended revision, as well as the draft agenda for the February 3, 2021 meeting. Judy Stratton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

***The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 9:48. (This item was taken out of order)***

***Comments from the Chair – Glenn Harper***

Glenn apologized for getting out of sequence on the meeting and moved on to Community Announcements.

***Community Updates/Announcements – Various Council Members***

Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Thurston Co., shared that Senior Services for South Sound will be partnering with Thurston County Health Department to provide COVID-19 vaccinations. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply and all the slots for Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> have already been booked. She recommended that you check their website for future events. If you sign up for their waiting list, this will only be used for cancellations for same day appointments. Their website is: [www.southsoundseniors.org](http://www.southsoundseniors.org).

Ronda Crumbley, Lewis Co. was pleased to share with the Advisory Council that since March of 2020, the Lewis County Seniors have served, to date, over 175,000 meals in response to the pandemic.

Howard Burton, Thurston Co. shared a story about delivering meals to seniors in need, on behalf of the Thurston County Food Bank. He believes that getting the word out on services provided, whether meals, LMTAAA, etc., is necessary. He mentioned that perhaps the Socialization & Engagement Committee might have interest in looking into ways in which we can share information.

***Council of Governments (CoG) Update – Eileen McKenzieSullivan***

Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Thurston County, provided a report from the January 28, 2021 COG meeting. The Commissioners discussed the challenges with COVID-19 vaccine distributions experienced in each of their respective counties. They were provided updates on the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Advocacy Day and Advisory Councils' participation, as well as what the 2021 Legislative Priorities were during the meetings with Representatives and Senators. It was shared with the Commissioners that LMTAAA will be offering another "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" workshop and that the Socialization & Engagement Committee will be distributing GrandPads to eligible recipients for the committee's pilot project. Dan Speigle, Fiscal Director had a lengthy discussion on the current accrual based accounting system, vs. the possibility of changing to cash basis. There were no decisions made; the pros and cons of each method were outlined.

***Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Howard Burton & Nicole Kiddoo***

Howard Burton shared that the January 27<sup>th</sup> Advocacy meetings went rather well. He thanked Lynn Ford for being at as many meetings as possible, even though she is no longer on the Advisory Council. It seemed overall that the meetings with the Legislative Aides were very effective, as they could relate to our message, and they had grandparents and parents that would be affected by any reduction in services. Howard felt as though the meetings were more successful with the administrative support members, rather than the Representatives and Senators directly. Lynn Ford added that she also felt it went well, and liked the format of introducing all of those attending alphabetically by first name. During the

scheduled meetings, Glenn Harper shared a good story through his caregiving perspective.

***Executive Director Update – Nicole Kiddoo (This item was taken out of order)***

Nicole Kiddoo spoke briefly to add her gratitude and sincerest thanks to all who participated in the Advocacy Day meetings. Our preparation took a lot of time, meetings and training, and it showed during the meetings. Nicole stated how very proud she is of how our Advisory Council performed. The stories shared were meaningful and allowed good conversations. She was pleased that the time scheduled with Senator Braun's office was extended, to almost 30 minutes.

On the national level, Nicole spoke about the work toward a 5<sup>th</sup> COVID relief package. She reported that on the 4<sup>th</sup> COVID relief package, LMTAAA received a small portion of money, approximately \$230,000 and funds will be contracted out to our providers.

***Socialization & Engagement Committee – Eileen McKenzieSullivan***

Eileen thanked our guest and potential future Advisory Council member, Angela Hock, for offering to take notes for the committee. It has been decided to meet regularly on the first Monday of each month from 9-10 a.m. The GrandPads have been purchased and delivered and are currently being set up for the five eligible recipients participating in the pilot project. Eileen wanted to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Nicole Kiddoo for calling each of our potential recipients and speaking to them directly about their interest in being part of our pilot program. Lynn Ford, Cindy Mund, Glenn Harper and Eileen McKenzieSullivan have formed a group to work on the delivery, set-up, walk-through and discussion about who will be the administrator for some of the proposed GrandPad recipients. The Committee continues to discuss future topics of interest and how they can offer support within the community. Eileen was excited to share that the committee has invited the main point of contact for Senior Services for South Sound's "A Senior in Need Program" to attend the next Socialization & Engagement Committee meeting.

***The following item was taken out of order***

Sheila Johnson Teeter introduced herself as the interim Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman for Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties. Sheila had been a volunteer for the last 14 years, and shortly after Paul Tosch retired, Sheila stepped in October 15<sup>th</sup>, as the temporary Regional Ombudsman. She shared that they currently have nine (9) volunteers, and lost ten (10) volunteers in the last year. Some of the volunteers are physically going into facilities, while others check in via phone calls. They are in desperate need of additional volunteers. She shared that a flyer was supplied to LMTAAA's contract manager Carrie Petit who manages the Ombudsman contract, and that they are looking for volunteers in all three counties. Those interested in volunteering can call 360-214-9292 for more information

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

Lynn stated that the largest discussion continues to be centered on COVID-19 vaccines and the difficulty in getting them. The state is very concerned that in order to get the vaccine, that seniors have to book appointments online. There has been mounting frustration from seniors getting on the computer multiple times, and increasing frustration for those who

have no computer access or computer knowledge. It was decided that a letter needs to be written to the governor expressing these concerns.

Lynn shared that there are three committees in SCoA. One is working on legislative priorities; the second is a Public Relations committee, working letters to the editor; and the Socialization Committee. The creation of the Socialization Committee stemmed from LMTAAA's committee. Governor Inslee has put together a task force for the socialization committee as well. The largest challenge for the socialization committee is looking at techniques to engage those that require high tech vs. a low/no-tech approach.

**General Comments – Various Council Members**

Lynn Ford wanted to know if LMTAAA could help get COVID-19 vaccines out to those who are homebound. Nicole Kiddoo commented that the agency has no intention of getting involved in the distribution of vaccines, as we are not the experts. Nicole stated that we will continue to support our clients with information and resources, as applicable, through our Information and Assistance team. She asked that if you have additional information to share with the community, please send it to her directly. We continue to request updated and accurate information, to share with clients. Our current Information & Assistance call volume is about 20% related to getting the vaccine.

Sheila Johnson-Teeter shared information regarding HB1218, *Improving Health, Safety, and Quality of Life for Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities*. She mentioned that during the pandemic, the State had requested residents have emergency contacts, as part of the disaster planning. In working to gather the information, Sheila stated that she had received much pushback. Some care facilities are refusing to provide to Ombudsmen this information. She was happy to report that AARP is in support of this bill.

**2021 Goals & Action Plan – Glenn Harper**

Glenn shared with the Council that generally, when creating/reviewing annual goals for the Advisory Council, this is done in person, with breakout groups for discussion around topics prevalent in our specific counties. This year, due to the pandemic, we need to alter our way of coming up with our goals and action plan. Charyl shared the proposed 2021 Goals and Action Plan and the Council went through each of the items and updated as a group.

**Next Advisory Council Meeting**

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

**Adjournment**

Glenn Harper called for a motion to adjourn. Liz Hicker made a motion to adjourn. Howard Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.