



Lewis - Mason - Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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Advisory Council

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 9:30 –12:00 p.m.

Via ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/92490327372?pwd=TIR1Y1RLNkpSdHpaZ1IGeDIJVFJldz09>

By Phone: 253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 924 9032 7372; Passcode: 019595

Members Present

Lewis County: Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Cindy Clark; Amy Turnbull; Heidi Buswell
Mason County: Glenn Harper (Chair); Bill Bezanson; Janeen McLaughlin; Jamie Queen
Thurston County: Judy Stratton; Howard Burton; Eileen McKenzie Sullivan (Vice-Chair); Michele Horaney; Angela Hock

Members Absent

Lewis County: N/A
Mason County: Debra Jamerson; Diane McLean
Thurston County: Judy Stratton

Staff Present

Dan Speigle, Chief Financial Officer; Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager; Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager; Alison Lord, Contracts Manager; Lisa Jolly, Contracts Manager; and Lisa Bachmann, Administrative Secretary

Guests

Lynn Ford, Chair SCoA; Sheila Johnson-Teeter, Interim Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman; Sharon Trask, Mason County Commissioner; Ryan Moore, Director of Oncology Operations, Providence Centralia Hospital

Welcome & Introductions

Glenn Harper called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Glenn Harper, Chair, entertained a motion to approve both the June 2, 2021, draft meeting minutes, as well as the draft agenda for the July 7, 2021 meeting. Bill Bezanson made a motion to approve both. Eileen McKenzie Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from Council Chair – Glenn Harper, Chair

Glenn Harper, Chair, Mason County, shared the link for the CaringBridge website: caringbridge.org. This is a website and phone app that allows family members or friends to coordinate care, post updates, write notes of encouragement, Zoom and more for a loved one.

Kinship Caregiver Program – Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager

Carrie Petit, Contracts Manager, gave a brief overview of the Kinship Caregiver Program. The

program was started in 2001 (?) with state funding to assist grandparents and other relatives who care for children when the parent(s) cannot. Washington State prefers that children stay with a family member whenever possible instead of entering the foster care system. The program includes Kinship Navigators, who help the family member navigate getting support through state, legal, medical, school systems. The program also provides some monetary support to help cover items like clothing, school supplies, furniture, and additional expenditures.

Cancer Awareness Month - Ryan Moore, Director of Oncology Operations Southwest Washington, Providence Centralia Hospital

Ryan Moore, Director of Oncology Operations, shared a PowerPoint. He discussed both the emotional and psychological support and the medical services Providence Oncology provides for Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor Counties, with a medical clinic in Shelton. COVID has necessitated the use of Zoom which has enhanced their services. This has allowed them to reach more homebound and people in rural areas with their support groups, which are available to the general public and help alleviate social isolation and psychological distress. Other services they provide are screenings, genetic counseling, integrative medicine, nutritional counseling, massage, acupuncture, rehabilitation, palliative care, and hospice. There is funding to assist with transportation. Several council members suggested we partner with Providence to assist patients and their caregivers and help get the word out on their support groups.

Community Updates & Announcements – Various Council Members

Bill Bezanson, Mason County shared that the Mason County Senior Centers were going to start serving meals today. Glenn Harper, Chair, Mason County, also shared the Senior Center is having their Friday Fun Night from 6:00-9:00 p.m. this Friday. There will be food, drinks, music, and dancing.

Cindy Clark, Lewis County, shared that the Lewis County Senior Centers has contracted with an infectious disease consulting firm to assist them in meeting the requirements so they can re-open. Part of this is cleaning their HVAC system. She also shared that the county was awarded a Senior Companionship grant to provide in-home companionship and are in the process of training volunteers.

Angela Hock, Thurston County, shared that Senior Services re-opened July 2. The senior centers in Lacey and Olympia will be requiring proof of vaccination and identification cards to enter. They will be open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Lunches are being served on those days. Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair, Thurston County added that the Yelm Senior Center is also open and providing food. Howard Burton, Thurston County, added that the Thurston County food banks are helping to provide food to seniors who are homebound by bringing food to them.

Council on Governments Report - Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair

Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair, reported that the Council of Governments (CoG) met June 24. Rebecca Holmes, the Vaccine Coordinator for the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMTAAA) spoke the group on some of the challenges, including reaching people who are homebound or have language barriers. They are partnering with churches and other organizations in this effort. She also shared LMTAAA is in process of deciding how and when employees will begin to phase back to working in-person. In addition, Dan Speigle, Chief Financial Officer gave a positive report on the financial status of the agency and Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director, shared that there are twelve new employees who have been hired. There was a special breakout session of the CoG to discuss the new salary schedule for union negotiations.

Socialization and Engagement Committee – Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair

Eileen McKenzieSullivan, Vice-Chair, reported the committee met on June 7. She gave an update on the GrandPads program. They are interested in expanding the program and providing more assistance to the current users. They also discussed the White Paper on socialization and engagement that was put together by SCoA.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) - Lynn Ford, Chair

Lynn Ford shared that the SCoA does not meet in July or August, so her next report to the committee will be in the fall. She will forward the minutes from the June meeting when they resume in the fall. She entertained the motion to approve Michelle Horaney, Thurston County, as the chair for the 2021-2022 year. Eileen McKenzieSullivan entertained the motion for approval and Glenn Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Michelle will attend the September meeting with Lynn and then take over as Chair in October.

Lynn also reported that SCoA is working on a work force paper on how to develop more health care workers. Part of this would be a nurse assistant program that will help train High School students become certified to assist in some health care settings upon graduation. She shared information on the Team Viewer app which allows you to access someone else's computer remotely to assist them with using their computer or join with the person to take online classes or join support groups.

Legislative Report – Michelle Horaney

Michelle Horaney, Thurston County, provided some information on the new Washington Cares Fund. People are confused that long-term care means going into a nursing home, but the goal is to help provide in-home care, which will allow people to stay in their homes longer. The Fund will provide \$36,000 towards long-term care per participant. People can opt out and purchase their own long-term care insurance. We are the first state to implement this type of program. One goal for the council is to help educate people that Medicare does not provide in-home care, this is currently only covered for people who qualify for care through Medicaid.

AARP Frauds and Scams Event – Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director

Donna introduced herself to the group and shared a little bit about her background. She shared information about AARP's free online event, Tip-offs for Rip-offs, on July 28 at 11:30 a.m. There will be various speakers and the agency is helping to sponsor the event. The goal is to help consumers learn about current scams and how they can protect themselves or those they are caring for from being targeted. She will email the information to everyone, and it will be posted on the LMTAAA website.

Executive Director Report – Given by Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager

Valerie Aubertin, Contracts Manager, shared the following report that Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director had prepared, expressing Nicole's appreciation for everyone's dedication and hard work. The Washington State Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) and Washington State Council on Aging will host their fall conference on October 20 and 21. October 20 will be for staff members of AAA's and Advisory Council members. There will be sessions and information on what the legislature will focus on next year. The 21st is open to the public. The event will be virtual. There was discussion about which sessions the council members would like to see this year, since Nicole is on the planning committee. Valerie also answered some questions from members on the process for getting the congregate meals programs open for seniors.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Advisory Council Meetings will continue via teleconferencing until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom.

Adjournment

Glen Harper called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eileen McKenzieSullivan made the motion to adjourn, and Howard Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 pm.

Submitted by: Lisa Bachmann, Administrative Secretary