



Area Agency on Aging

# Lewis - Mason - Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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**Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**  
**9:30 – 12:00 p.m.**  
Via [ZOOM](#)

## Agenda

### ***Members Present***

Lewis County: Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Heidi Buswell; Amy Turnbull; Cynthia Clark; Tim Wood; Carolyn (Carol) Brock

Mason County: Glenn Harper; William (Bill Bezanson); Diane McLean

Thurston County: Howard Burton; Michele Horaney; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Angela Hock;

### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Amy Turnbull, Cynthia Clark

Mason County: Jamie Queen

Thurston County:

### ***Staff Present***

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Carrie Petit, Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Dan Spiegel, Chief Financial Officer; Mary Beth Mercer, H.R. Director; Alice Cunningham Kane, Manfay Chan, Buong Le, and Jessica Hodges Executive Assistant

### ***Guests***

Bob Blancato

Amy Knight

Irene Garavido

Margot Connolle

Anna Schlecht

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

Eileen called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

### ***Approval of Minutes and Agenda***

Bill Benzenen made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022, February 2, 2022 draft meeting minutes and March 2, 2022 draft Agenda. Glenn Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Comments from Council Chair – Eileen McKenzieSullivan***

Connect to Purpose Story: Eileen McKenzieSullivan referenced the Connect to Purpose story and how the work the LMTAAA connects to the community

### ***The State of the State, Federal Legislative Updates - Bob Blancato, NANASP, Executive Director***

Presentation with emphasis on 3 ring approach to funding, Build Back Better bill supporting Elder Justice Act, OAA programs, key Medicare issues. Concerns presented regarding privatizing information and referral companies disrupting AIRS, USAging, and Advancing States. Questions regarding strategy in encouraging congress members to support needs of seniors, modernization of nutrition program, how to get nutrition pieces in place, Defeat Malnutrition Today, as well as wellness and reassurance programs were discussed.

### ***Community Updates & Announcements***

#### ***State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney***

Information shared about Dr Lindquist's participation in the SCoA meetings. Michele referenced the attached report.

#### ***Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper / Angela Hock***

The Committee reviewed Get Set Up program referencing online activities. Of the 25,000 licenses allocated by the state, 18,600 had been utilized. AARP Phone call reassurance program, include the AARP information on the flyer. Questions regarding hanging out the flyer at senior centers, quarterly newsletter options,

#### ***Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney***

The Legislative Committee suggested advocacy in other states in relation to representatives that won't take our phone call – strategy proposed to contact their district office with a phone call as opposed to email.

- ***State Legislative Session Update***

- ***W4A*** Federal priorities discussed with emphasis on AAA's funding awards, House and Senate budgets, Case Management, Personal Needs Allowances and Hospital Transition dollars to be determined.

#### ***Housing Committee – Glenn Harper***

The Committee has not had a chance to meet as the best suited Chair has yet to be appointed to the Advisory Council. Habitat proposal, as well as others, will include a goodly number of senior housing units. Senior Services for South Sound has a new staff person. Guidance requested regarding advocacy and lobbying. Goal is to move the dial and continue to encourage buying down the cost of housing. Question regarding regional based advocacy, broadening coalition of participants were discussed.

***Non-Profit Committee – Glenn Harper***

No meeting yet, awaiting appointment of Anna Schlecht.

***Executive Director Report – Nicole Kiddoo***

- Updates and Announcements. Gratitude for Advisory Council members and their commitment to their community along with excitement around Agency business and council recruitment were expressed.
- Membership Process Proposal – Advisory Council Appointment process is lengthy as by-laws require Board of County Commissioners and take public action to appoint all Advisory Council members. The Advisory Council is well equipped to own the recruitment due diligence process and burden of appointing its own members. Questions regarding COG policies as it relates to nominations and appointments were discussed.
- Motion to direct Nicole Kiddoo to investigate bringing appointment process and responsibility to LMTAAA made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Bill Bezanson. The motion carried unanimously.
- Questions regarding Advisory Council meetings moving to in person vs Zoom were discussed.

***Adjournment***

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Bill Bezanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:59 a.m.

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*Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant*