

Advisory Council
Wednesday, September 7, 2022
9:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Via [ZOOM](#)

Minutes

Members Present

Lewis County: Elizabeth (Liz) Hicker; Tim Wood; Carolyn (Carol) Brock, Heidi Buswell
Mason County: Glenn Harper; William (Bill Bezanson); Diane McLean; Tamra Ingwaldson; Jamie Queen
Thurston County: Michele Horaney; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Angela Hock; Cat McGaffigan; Amy Turnbull, Ellen Wendt

Members Absent

Lewis County:
Mason County:
Thurston County: Anna Schlecht

Staff Present

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant, Dan Speigle, CFO, Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director, Val Aubertin, Contracts Manager.

Guests: Stephanie Penland, Olympia Senior Center

Welcome & Introductions

Eileen called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM, followed by introductions. Motion to accept the Draft Agenda with the recommended amendment to move Michele Horaney's Advocacy and Legislative report to directly after guest speaker was made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Carol Brock. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker Stephanie Penland with the Olympia Senior Center presented upcoming events:

- September 21st - Medicare bingo at Olympia Senior Center
- September 23rd - Oktoberfest bingo at Lacey Senior Center
- October 15th – Lights Camera Auction.

Stephanie reported the Home Share Program is back in full swing. Rebecca Hutchinson is running the program with hopes to expand. Other programs and activities are doing well, such as Lifelong Learning and the Nutrition Program. The Senior Center has partnered with Shelton United Methodist Church to pick up for frozen meals every other Tuesday from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. The Senior Center has taken over Mason Transit for the Transportation Program and are looking for volunteer drivers as we reimburse drivers for mileage. Glenn Harper posed the question, what would you say is the

percentage of in person attendance at your Senior Center as opposed to pre pandemic. Stephanie responded “Depends on which site – Lacey is back up to par – Olympia is at 80%. Yelm is down. Shelton has been taking up 100’s of meals and running out. Tables packed with folks eating lunches.” Valerie Aubertin asked Stephanie to expand on the Home Share program. Stephanie elaborated on the application fee of \$35 for the home seeker and home provider. Post applicant vetting, teams meet with those interested and are matched based on personalities. With rising costs of housing, seniors who need help and those who can offer in a home setting, this is a wonderful way to facilitate and bridge that gap. Tamra Ingwaldson requested expanded information on the driver program, who qualifies as a driver, who qualifies to be transported and service area parameters. Stephanie confirmed anyone over age 60 and out of range of public transportation. All rides provided for people with essential errands. The project is supported by donation and is not income based. Program contact information:

- Shel Barber, 360-586-6181 ext.128 transportation@southsoundseniors.org
- Theresa Z, Volunteer Manager theresaz@southsoundseniors.org

Michele Horaney inquired about resources and ways to promote the Shared Housing Program as the need is widespread. Stephanie suggested the promotion of South Sound Seniors referencing the information at southsoundseniors.org. SHIBA program is meeting face to face as well as virtually.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Liz Hicker made a motion to approve the August 3, 2022, draft meeting minutes and was seconded by Tim Wood. A vote was taken and carried unanimously

Community Updates & Announcements – Liz Hicker

Glenn – Shelton Senior Center hosts music by request, socialization beer and wine on 2nd Fridays of the month. The previous event had 52 present.

Lewis County Seniors hired a new site leader. Nora Davis left the organization and Nicole Barr stepped into that role. To replace Nicole, hired Rochelle Ireton. Rochelle’s skills in fundraising encourages growth with the organization. Additionally, the Site Leader from Toledo retired. Lewis County Senior Center is hosting a night of magic on October 22nd; \$80/person and \$700/table including a live auction and raffle auction. Angela Hock reported for Thurston County, that Stephanie covered everything.

Donna Feddern reported that September 18-24 is Falls Prevention Awareness Week. September 21st - Twin Cities Senior Center. Thurston County Senior Action Living Well Living Long and partnering with for risk assessments for falls. If you want to help by way of flyers and materials, Donna will send those dates. Carol proposed a concern that everything happens at Twin Cities Center and other sites feel forgotten as we have 4 other centers. Tim Wood posed the question as to whether there is a way to record the happenings at centers and present to the other centers.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney

SCoA Did not meet last month – nothing to report

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper / Angela Hock

Glenn Harper reported the response level to our flyers was less than expected. Those that did respond, Angela fielded. While there is no way to gauge whether the flyers were useful and advice was followed, we learned of other tools available to us during the Summit we attended in August. The option to use the flyer as an insert in Senior News was proposed.

Cat McGaffigan added that in her experience, there needs to be a continuous program effort. The key will be finding a way to keep reminding people of this service. As we approach the darker colder months, it may be the trigger they need at that time. Finding a way to repeat the information to keep it in front of people to help build the network. Carol Brock added that as winter approaches, and seniors are inside more, depression hits. Recommendation that the flyer needs to be recirculated monthly, or bi-monthly with the option of utilizing newspapers to facilitate the circulation. Heidi Buswell added that while the flyer was a comprehensive well-manicured document, it could be overwhelming with the amount of information included. Heidi suggested breaking the information up and featuring highlighted programs etc. Tim Wood suggested recirculating the current flyer and post it to the LMTAAA website and Facebook.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

Michele Horaney reported Advocacy Committee is taking light approach on agendas through the election in November. Suggestion to keep tabs on candidates in our areas, check out their platforms and show up to their townhalls. Get to know who is running and post-election, really get to know them on every level as they have power over budgets and programs. Call to action to inform the Advisory Council on what they are discussing to prepare for future work.

Senior News front page features a huge article regarding violent crime and officer issues. The cover of the paper is very partisan and because Senior News is a 501C3, this proves problematic. Questions regarding AAA's financial obligations to the newspaper and terms of the contract, Senior News' journalism ethics and standards, and an Editorial Board were discussed. Changes to the Board for Senior News were annotated. The desire to take a formal action as the Advisory Council vs Private Citizens was discussed. Eileen suggested the need for a formal stand as an Advisory Council concerned with the inflammatory nature of articles that could upset seniors. Concern of favoritism in terms of placement of articles pointing out they are a 501c3 and their perceived need for an editorial board to not get into these situations again.

Motion to prepare a document addressing Senior News bipartisanship for the Council to review and edit at next meeting was made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Glenn Harper. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht

No Report

Executive Director Report – Nicole Kiddoo

No Report

Adjournment

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

Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant