



# Lewis - Mason - Thurston Area Agency on Aging

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Area Agency on Aging

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**Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**  
**9:30 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Via ZOOM**

## Minutes

### ***Members Present***

**Lewis County:** *Tim Wood, Carolyn (Carol) Brock; Liz Hicker*

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

**Thurston County:** *Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Cat McGaffigan; Ellen Wendt; Anna Schlecht; Michele Horaney; Angela Hock*

### ***Members Absent***

Lewis County: Heidi Buswell, Amy Turnbull

Mason County: Jamie Queen

Thurston County:

### ***Staff Present***

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant, Carrie Petit, Contracts Director, Caren Paintner, Contracts Manager

### ***Guests:***

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

Eileen called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM, followed by introductions.

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

Motion to accept the Draft Agenda was made by Bill Bezanson and seconded by Liz Hicker. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

### ***Comments from the Chair:***

The Council recognized the successes of our committees, meetings with elected officials that lead to state legislature being passed, goal setting for 2023, advocating and prioritizing Senior needs, and education of our Council.

As the agency grows and evolves, so does the role of Advisory Council Members. A desire to define the role of Advisory Council members was expressed.

**Elections:** The Nominating Committee reported a lack of volunteers for the Chair position. Eileen McKenzieSullivan was asked to serve another term as chair, to which she accepted. The floor was opened for nominations of Vice-Chair.

Glenn Harper nominated Cathleen McGaffigan to serve as Vice-Chair and was seconded by Tim Wood. Angela Hock nominated Glenn Harper to serve as Vice-Chair and was seconded by Bill Bezanson. A vote was taken and carried in favor of Glenn Harper serving as Vice-Chair.

***Community Updates & Announcements – Liz Hicker, Glenn Harper***

Glenn Harper reported Friday fun night at Shelton Senior Center in full swing. A new bartender was recruited which doubled the tip donations to the center. Eileen McKenzieSullivan reported that bingo is back at the Olympia senior center. Carol Brock reported the Lewis County's travelling bunko night has experienced 3 events in 2022 with plans of starting bingo after the new year with growth and organization being the main focus for the Center. Carol informed the committee of the Night of Magic that will be held in March in Chehalis at The Loft Event Center.

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

*Michele Horaney informed the Council of the SCoA's top 4 concerns, one of which being Senior Center financial support across the state. Additional focuses for 2023 are housing for seniors and older persons, rent and availability/support low-cost housing, maintaining caseload ratios for Case Managers, and funding to allow for those ratios. SCoA identified 3 subsidiary issues that are ongoing – joint leg ex comm on planning on legislative issues. Support to longterm care ombudsman program. Committee MH chairs has created a PR plan for each of those priorities such as OPED, legislature convos, emails. Question from Tamra regarding messaging and leveraging those resources were discussed. Question Carol – approached legislators regarding funding senior centers as its imperative for leg's to fund businesses supporting seniors through their years.*

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

Grandpads are enjoyable by those who received them for surfing the web but are not ideal for socialization. Donna is moving toward a phone reassurance program as next step. Consumer Cellular billing issues reported. Experiments done on the Socialization committee and reported issues have been harassment outside the programs. Questions regarding LMTAAA's liability under the Grandpads were discussed.

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

Michele reported priorities for once legislature reconvenes – Lobby Day – in person vs virtual is still being decided with dates being announced soon, and calendar invites impending from there. It is most important that we show up to these meetings, and ensure legislatures are seeing our faces on screen/in person. Nicole shared legislative priorities around Case Management, dementia, and Health Homes program. Nicole noted that W4A hired a consultant to work on the Case Management issues. Questions regarding budgetary shortfall anticipations were discussed

***Housing Committee – Anna Schlecht***

Anna departed the meeting and was unable to report. Additional support on this committee would be effective. Anna has done a great job reaching out and attending events supporting housing initiatives.

**Executive Director's Report – Nicole Kiddoo**

Nicole expressed gratitude for the Council and all the work the Council is committed to. AAA's will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year being founded and mandated. Over those 50 years, we have evolved with clients we help; Title 19 allows us to help 18+ age group. The OAA is up for reauthorization in 2024, so 2023 is very important for advocacy; in particular around meals administration for community living, and other federal programs. The National Board for AAA's held a board meeting last week, with OAA appropriations being the biggest topic. There are a number of funding sources that fall under OAA that are of concern of falling short with the rate of inflation.

2023 will be a big legislative year with Advisory Council. We have the opportunity to get COVID tests out, reviewing the Area Plan Budget in January as well. Questions regarding Health Homes were discussed.

***Adjournment***

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tim Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 12:19 p.m.

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*Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Executive Assistant*