



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, June 7, 2023 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. Via ZOOM

Members Present

Lewis County: Heidi Buswell, Liz Hicker; Debbie Aust

Mason County: Glenn Harper, Vice-Chair, Becky Cronquist; Tamra Ingwaldson

Thurston County: Cat McGaffigan; Michele Horaney; Angela Hock; Ellen Wendt; Anna Schlecht; Eileen McKenzie Sullivan, Chair

Members Absent

Lewis County: Tim Wood, Carolyn (Carol) Brock

Mason County: Cynthia Stang

Thurston County:

Staff Present

Jessica Hodges, Senior Executive Assistant, Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Kyle Sanchez, ADRC Supervisor

Guests: Barbara Sullivan, Village to Village Network

Welcome & Introductions

Glenn Harper, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM, followed by introductions.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Motion to accept the Draft Agenda for July 2023 and June Draft Meeting Minutes was made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Ellen Wendt. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Barbara Sullivan, Village to Village Network

Barbara Sullivan reported the beginning of villages derived from a desired alternative to downsizing and in turn, created an ideal alternative. Villages are organically grown for aging in place and are reciprocal – volunteer first, utilizing the capacity of neighbors and volunteers for things like driving, grocery shopping, and socialization. 99% of villages in the

Village-to-Village Network are 501c3's. 280 villages are open and operating with 60+ in development. As a nation, we have addressed the low-income population and are missing middle America – long term care can be unaffordable as they don't qualify for services and are unable to afford care out of pocket. Villages proved to be instrumental in the early 2000's providing an aging plan with insurance options, housing options and fulfillment on a personal level. Villages also provide caregiving needs and independence. Villages are partnering with senior centers to enhance existing services and do outreach within the community.

Monster villages have 6-8 villages with some being able to hire a care coordinator. 60% of all villages have 1-2 FTE's. To expand, we take the model and go in to underserved and marginalized communities usually through faith-based organizations where we are reaching lower income folks that need the services. The biggest and fastest growing network is called a hub and spoke – coordinated services with one main office and spokes in different parts of the city. Portland is a monster village with 1 hub and 13 spokes. We lost 2 villages during COVID and while they may have stopped services like transportation, they are still able to deliver groceries, teach older adults to do technology to do telehealth and continues to be important for some of our homebound folks. We have over 150 villages that are over 10 years old. The Village 101 toolkit being is currently being revamped.

Michele added that needs are still there on the other side of COVID, while we are working with AAA, there is interest in hearing from Barbara on a hypothetical on what would be done in an area like Olympia/Lacey/Tumwater with about 100K residents. How could that be set up to establish a village; and how would you recruit and invite organizations to come together? Would that include HOA's? What would you do to get the ball rolling. Barbara responded to Michele's inquiry that a hub and spoke model could work well. Initial steps are to establish a home office and defining a catchment area. Those areas will have their own volunteers in 3 different towns recruiting from faith-based organizations, senior centers, and HOA's where people are looking for purpose and volunteer opportunities as it is not about place, it's about community.

Michele added that there are several villages in the Seattle area, and those groups would be great resources.

Debbie asked about the membership point. Barbara suggested consult their Village Resource Guide.

Cat McGaffigan referenced NOR's (naturally occurring retirements) that occur when there is a higher concentration of older adults. There are a couple of different ideas of what a village is. Village to Village is a group committed to supporting each other and pay a small amount to support each other with an organizational structure to vote on what the priorities are. Having structure allows a more intentional delivery of support. Angela mentioned that the program meets the needs of middle-income people. AAA's serve the lower income group and that is where this is different as it's meeting the needs of a different group.

Reports

Community Updates & Announcements – Glenn Harper, Vice Chair

Thurston County - Angela Hock reported that Lacey and Olympia are celebrating their 50th anniversary. In Lacey there was a large turnout that was well supported and represented in the community. The Olympia celebration is scheduled for July 21.

Glenn hosts the Death Café in Olympia with the last session having a good turnout and positive response. Death Café is held the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of the month in

Lacey. Questions regarding Lewis County Death Café were discussed. Carol Brock was recommended to reach out to at the Senior Center to facilitate.

Lewis County – Heidi reported Toledo Cheese Days is next weekend; July 6th Parade on Saturday, Golf and Tennis tournaments with car show to follow. Primary fundraiser for the Lion's Club for the year.

Mason County – Glenn reported on Friday the 14th the Mason County Activity Center hosts an event for all.

State Council on Aging (SCoA) – Michele Horaney

July and August SCoA does not meet. During the last SCoA meeting there was discussion around certification and recertification of home healthcare workers. Additionally, discussions around spouse and domestic partner services for those who need services was held.

Michele also reminded the Council of W4A and Senior Lobby event in Tacoma in October.

Housing Committee & Charter – Anna Schlecht, Committee Chair

Anna reported the continuance of meeting with a circle of network supporters and allies in senior housing in Lewis and Mason counties. Anna met with a former elected official county auditor, Patty McGuire, who is wanting to help build stronger relationships with key public officials in Mason County. In Thurston County we have built enough awareness that there are several developers building senior housing in the area. In a few meetings, we will launch a fall promotion and advocacy network to help us in going to elected officials at county and city level for key support on specific projects to include senior housing. Thurston County Housing Authority is developing a hotel with an open air stair lift for exterior stairways to make this a viable resource for senior housing. Habitat for Humanity shrinks from 48 to 24 in their Senior Housing commitment.

Glenn met with Colleen Carmichael where they are dedicating their 3rd village in Shelton. This meeting was revolved around senior focused communities and projects. Colleen shared with Glenn the contribution of financial ask in the village and during intake they automatically apply for housing vouchers.

Anna and Glenn attended a housing round table which was encouraging as legislatures were willing to stand on this as there are concerns around housing costs for a lot of reasons.

Socialization & Engagement Committee – Glenn Harper, Vice-Chair / Angela Hock

Angela Hock reported the Greenwood Senior Center has launched a project to increase social connection in older adults and mentioned speed friending groups, and something we could do at a senior center. A lot of times social anxiety holds people back and may need someone to guide them. Eileen added that the programs this particular senior center were promoting and wondering if there is a way we could introduce those concepts to our senior centers to create impacts. Cat added that greenwood senior center is part of the Finney Neighborhood Association which is very similar to the Village Concept and sometimes these things arise with synchrony. Mona Mi is still in a holding pattern.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

No Report

Executive Director's Report – Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director

No Report

Area Plan Update – Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director

Jemma reported that six community forums have been scheduled at Senior Centers and virtually. The goal with the forums is to connect and learn what the needs of the community are. Questions regarding responses to the survey were discussed.

Adjournment

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ellen Wendt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:41 AM

Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Senior Executive Assist