



# 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, August 2, 2023 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. Via ZOOM

### **Members Present**

**Lewis County:** Heidi Buswell, Liz Hicker; Debbie Aust, Tim Wood, Carol Brock

**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:

Mason County: Cynthia Stang, Becky Cronquist, Tamra Ingwaldson

Thurston County: Ellen Wendt

### **Staff Present**

Jessica Hodges, Senior Executive Assistant, Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Terry Worel, RN, Emily MacFarland, Interim Case Management Director, Teresa Cooper, RN, Nhi Hoang, Case Manager, Sabrina Dean, CFO,

**Guests:** *Nhi Hoang & Teresa Cooper*

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Eileen McKenzie Sullivan, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM, followed by introductions.

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

Motion to accept the Draft Agenda for August 2023 and July Draft Meeting Minutes was made by Glenn Harper and seconded by Carol Brock. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**Guest Speaker:** Nhi Hoang, Case Manager

Nhi gave an overview report on the COPES Waiver Services with a heavy focus on in home care. COPES is a waiver service that provides a wraparound to services available to the

Community First Choice (CFC) State Plan program. Clients can receive COPES services in a residential setting or in-home. Those eligible for COPES need to be 18 or older with a disability or age 65+. The CARE algorithm determines that, when an individual meets nursing facility level of care, another qualifier is financial eligibility and must have needs that exceed what is available in CFC. COPES Services include adult day care, adult day health, client support training, community choice guide, and community support. Questions regarding environmental modifications, Community Choice Guide contracts, approaches with difficult clients, and adult daycare options were discussed.

Teresa Cooper, Registered Nurse, reported on adult vaccination information. Our tri-county service area is above state and national averages in vaccinations. While there are no required vaccinations for adults, the recommended vaccinations from the CDC are annual influenza vaccine, Tetanus, Zoster, Pneumococcal and COVID 19.

## ***Reports***

### ***Community Updates & Announcements – Glenn Harper, Vice Chair***

Glenn Harper reported that on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM he will be hosting another Death Café at the Olympia Senior Center. Friday Aug 11 is Friday Fun Night at Mason County Senior Center. Another Death Café on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lacey Senior Center at 2:00 PM. Carol Brock mentioned a poker run September 16<sup>th</sup> through Lewis County that ends in Twin Cities with a BBQ and trophies. Questions around the status of the Thurston County Medical Equipment Bank were discussed.

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

No Report as SCoA does not meet in July and August.

### ***Housing Committee & Charter – Anna Schlecht, Committee Chair***

Anna reported that the letters to County Commissioners requesting advocacy for senior housing resulted in successful meeting. Anna and Glenn attended the ribbon cutting for Quixote village for veterans in Shelton. The Director of the village is dedicated to making the next village dedicated to elders. Anna reported that Lewis and Mason counties are lacking in affordable housing. Anna requested that Advisory Council members reach out to Commissioners requesting support and attendance to City Council meetings supporting the preservation of manufactured homes, and advocating for affordable housing services to allow those to age in place. Thurston County is converting under-utilized hotels/motels into senior housing. Success has been experienced in Thurston County with 204 new housing units in the pipeline. Habitat for Humanity was looking at building 54 units, but that has shrunk to a commitment of 24 units. Tumwater Inn will be renovated and adding in a stair lift to accommodate seniors. Interface Works will be constructing a new project with 60 units for formerly homeless seniors. A large new project through the Salvation Army to build a 60-unit apartment building in which they applied for and received government funding. Housing Authority announced interest in moving forward to develop partial land in Tumwater for 36 units in manufactured housing. The goal is to encourage similar progress in Lewis and Mason Counties. Questions around Thurston County's requirements for developers around subsidized housing were discussed.

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

Angela reported progress on the Mona Mi phone call reassurance program for isolated seniors as they are working on security design review. Questions around timelines for

launching the program were discussed. Glenn reported Elderhood Senior Village as a concept combination of the Housing Committee and advocating for and initiating senior housing, along with Socialization committee for elders to step up and be volunteers with a philosophy of elders helping elders find the value in ourselves and others which empowers everyone to be a part of the solution.

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

No report.

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

Nicole reported the Executive Team attended the USAging national conference in July in Salt Lake City. LMTAAA received an award for the diversity, equity inclusion and belonging work we've been doing. One reason USAging does these awards is to share innovative practices across the network. Nicole was re-elected for a second term on the USAging board with 3 years support to USAging. Nicole reported staffing changes within the agency; Contracts team is adding a supervisor, Emily MacFarland is the interim Case Management Director, Nhi as an interim supervisor, Community Supports department has had changes as well with John McBride parting ways with the agency. We are excited to be hosting an open house on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding work around murals and the muralist facilitating belonging within the agency was shared. Programs and services are new to the OAA such as Family Caregivers – which have no part of the regulations. Nicole reported AAA's received dollars from legislatures regarding the WACARES program. We support community outreach from an information perspective. We have network development obligations that entails AAA's building long term services and support networks of community partners such as Meals on Wheels. Questions around WACARES quick guide for clarification were discussed.

***Area Plan Update – Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director***

Jemma reported that we have successfully executed 3 of the 6 scheduled community forums. We have received 180 responses to our survey thus far with the survey closing on 8/16

***Adjournment***

Glenn Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tim Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:57 AM

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*Submitted by: Jessica Hodges, Senior Executive Assist*