



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, September 6, 2023 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. Via ZOOM

Members Present

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

Mason County: Glenn Harper, Vice-Chair,

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

Members Absent

Lewis County:

Mason County: Becky Cronquist, Tamra Ingwaldson

Thurston County: Cat McGaffigan

Staff Present

Jessica Hodges, Senior Executive Assistant, Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Community Supports Director; Sabrina Dean, CFO

Guests: *Lark Church, Senior Action Network*

Welcome & Introductions

Eileen McKenzie Sullivan, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM, followed by introductions.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Motion to approve the minutes, with edits to the attendance, and proposed agenda was made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Tim Wood.

Guest Speaker: Glenn Harper, Elderhood Senior Village

Glenn reported that the mission of Elderhood Senior Village is to promote and implement sustainable and affordable senior housing projects to facilitate people aging in place in their own communities. The idea with this non-profit proposal is to implement an emotional and physical support component to combat social isolation and provide a sense of purpose to seniors living in the Elderhood. A few years ago, the priority for senior housing was

escalated along with social isolation. Senior villages are organizations of neighbors helping neighbors, working in conjunction to support senior centers and AAAs alike. Glenn added that at the beginning of October there is a 2-day webinar from Village-to-Village Network. Many on the council expressed interest in attending the webinar. Glenn added that LMTAAA will not officially be involved in this but hopes to partner with Senior Services of South Sound, AAA, Panorama, churches, and other community organizations such as Senior Action Network and Master Gardeners. All desired partners may have ways to provide people with ways to be impactful in their community. Open for discussion. Questions regarding Glenn's passion for senior housing were discussed. The cost to retrofit a unit of fitting housing for a senior is approximately \$250K. Legislatures realize this is a big problem and Seniors are a great demographic. The hope is to get council from Senior Services of South sound as there is a natural partnership to develop there to include a dynamic web of mutually supportive organizations in the space of aging. Questions regarding LMTAAA sponsorship, specific location, resident ownership, PR efforts and membership requirements were discussed.

Motion to cancel October meeting was made by Heidi Buswell and seconded by Glenn Harper. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Lark Church, Senior Action Network

Living well living long event was highlighted with emphasis on the guest speakers, vendors, and resources the event provides. If you know of a family member with mental health concerns present for seniors, make an appt with Vulnerable Adults to help fund sessions with Aging Redefined.

Reports

Community Updates & Announcements – Glenn Harper, Vice Chair

Glenn reported Shelton Friday Fun Night is held on the second Friday of every month to include beer, wine, pizza, and music by request. 1:30 PM that same afternoon is another Death Café at Shelton Senior Center as well as next Wednesday at 2:00 PM in Olympia and October 28th at 2:00 PM at Lacey Senior Center. Questions around Lewis County Death Café schedule were discussed.

Eileen reported that Senior Services having big gala on October 7th celebrating their 50th anniversary with Former Senator Karen Frasier as the guest speaker. Donna reported a partnership with the libraries in Olympia Wednesday Sept 13 1:30-3:00 PM highlighting Next Chapter: A Series on Aging which offers free services for people who have some sort of vision issue and mobility issues can be helped with their resources as well as helping with long-term care planning and Medicare Open Enrollment. Also, with Board Games and distributing those to Senior Centers soon. Lacey Timberland Library is hosting an intergenerational boardgame play date with more info to be shared on this later. The Hub doing scrabble day. Senior Services will be getting copies of the games.

Anna Schlecht reported on a mosaic project featuring butterflies on the back wall of Lloyd's Automotive.

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

Senior Housing Public Comments Script – participating via zoom is an option. Debbie added the list previously discussed is in progress. Eileen highlighted the need for Advisory Council members to speak for their respective counties at commissioner meetings on what is important to their residents. The expectation is to speak up in support of Seniors and be someone recognizable. Heidi volunteered to speak in the Toledo Council meetings. Lewis County Commissioners meetings will be represented by Debbie Aust. Please contact LMTAAA staff, and relay to Anna – or reach out to Anna directly. Keep the needs for Senior Housing upfront and central. Questions regarding those not on the Council addressing the government as an advocate, and distribution of highlights from these meetings were discussed.

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

Donna Feddern reported that Mon Ami is making its way through the security process. Snug Safety Act Program was discussed – an app that checks in with the senior on a daily basis – if the senior doesn't check in, an appointed caretaker is notified to check in on the Senior. Donna will send information on SNUG to send to Council. Sequoia Senior Housing Project located on Littlerock Road is focused on finding ways to get people connecting and socializing.

Advocacy & Legislative Committee – Michele Horaney

Michele reported that as we creep closer to the new session more information will be available to report on. DSHS has a small group looking at the WACARES program. They convene once a month with various people to discuss the status of WACARES. Cathy Knight from W4A was on discussing information spreading to different demographics.

Executive Director's Report – Jessica Hodges on behalf of Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director

Area Plan Update – Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director

Jemma Williamson reported that the Area Plan survey responses received were at 280 last counted. This is a record number.

Jemma reported looking through trends, major issues and concerns with housing, nutrition, transportation costs becoming barriers for people. 35% of respondents are unpaid caregivers. 33% talked about feeling social isolation. Responses from all important categories over the last year. Jemma will be meeting with Donna and a few others next week looking at those trends with a focus on identifying goals and tasks on the 3 issue areas as well as looking at including supporting LGBTQ+ and BIPOC and COVID 19 inclusions. The goal is to get that draft out in November for Advisory Council's review. Questions regarding the rescheduling of the Lewis County Forum were discussed.

Adjournment

Debbie Aust motioned to adjourn the meeting; Heidi Buswell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 11:59 AM