



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting Date: October 1, 2025

In Person and via Zoom

AC Members Attendance:

Lewis	Mason	Thurston
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Aust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glenn Harper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathleen (Cat) McGaffigan, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Becky Cronquist	<input type="checkbox"/> Eileen McKenzie Sullivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Rohr	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anna Schlecht
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michele Horaney
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Storms	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Willie Merryman	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant

Staff Attendance: Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director; Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison; and Sarah Link, Executive Assistant.

Guests' Attendance: Carol Brock, President Timber River Connections.

Minutes prepared by: Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison

Meeting Minutes		
Land Acknowledgement – read by: Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Approval of draft agenda and previous month draft minutes		
The minutes were approved with the following correction made by Tim Wood: Maja Handlen's first name should be spelled as follows: Meja.	Motion	Tim
	Approved	Yes
	Second	Nikki
Topic: Nominating Committee, Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
Cat shared that we need at least two members to serve on this committee, preferably one from each county. Tim Wood volunteered to be on the committee for Lewis County. Glenn Harper is willing to be considered for either the Chair or Vice-Chair positions. Tim Wood is also interested on being considered for Vice-Chair. It was clarified that a member may only serve as Chair or Vice-Chair for two consecutive one-year terms and then must take one year off before being considered again, per the bylaws.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	

Bylaws, Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
<p>Cat McGaffigan shared that the Bylaw Committee met and the main focus at this time is to make our current bylaws compliant based on the new Older Americans Act regulations. There will also be a few minor changes suggested to help align with the committee's current practices, such as changing Secretary to Agency Liaison. Lisa is creating a draft for final review of the bylaw committee later this month, with the goal for the first reading to be during the November meeting; the second reading and potential vote to approve to be during the December meeting; and then the Council of Governments (COG) to vote on the changes during the January 2026 meeting.</p>	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Topic: Executive Director Report, Nicole Kiddoo		
<p>Nicole Kiddoo expressed that we are in a government shutdown. She, along with Carrie Petit and Lisa Bachmann have been working on agency communications. Not much to report yet on direct impacts. Most of our Older American Act (OAA) funds are secure until 2026, unless we hear otherwise. Until there is a Continuing Resolution (CR) there could be some stipulations on the funding, or we could see a long drawn out shut down. Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) could also be impacted by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR1). We have put effort into our contingency planning for the agency and been working with our County Commissioners to increase our resources so we can function for a while with no large affects. We are depending on our vetted resources as we look for information, not the general media. There has been no real movement on the reauthorization of the OAA. We are waiting until we get the go-ahead from USaging and others to move forward on advocating for that, but there are some positive discussions going on. Olivia Ulmoren will speak at the W4A Conference and will provide any updates at that time. There may be some visits prior to the state legislative session. Senators Braun and Bateman are our priority Senators this year. Nicole added that we have brought the immigration issue forward.</p> <p>Funds for the Dementia Catalyst Program were reduced, which is causing them to struggle. This program will be one of our priorities for 2026. Health Homes also will be a priority. Washington state is a little different than other states with less institutionalization. This is because we believe it is very important that people have choices. AAAs are not in managed care, because of programs like Health Homes. The importance of programs like Health Homes was discussed. Doctors tend to release patients to their homes without having proper support in place. It was shared that some facilities, like Garden Court, take part in programs that provide respite care. This provides an opportunity for family caregivers to have a break and helps with familiarization in case more care is needed in the future. Care can be set up full-time for a short duration of time or sometimes just a few hours each week, depending on programs.</p>	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	

Topic: USAging 2025 Policy Priorities Presentation, Lisa Bachmann, Govt. Affairs Program Liaison		
Lisa shared a power point with the group that covered the four USAging Policy Priorities for 2025. There was discussion by the group after the presentation, including challenges those in the LGBTQ+ community often times face because they may not have children that can step in as family caregivers; the value of immigrants as caregivers; and the importance of advocating for our Health Homes program.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Community Updates:		
<p>Glenn Harper shared there will be a Death Café Oct 6 at 4:00 at the Tumwater library. The October Twosdays @ Tumwater Falls will host Don Troper, who will give a history talk about the Oregon trail that goes through that area. The Arts walk will be this weekend, including death art and activities surrounding end of life.</p> <p>Carol Brock shared that the Timber River Connection is one step away from having bingo for money, RFPs were secured for congregate meals and home bound meals for Lewis County. Heidi Buswell is their new Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisor (SHIBA).</p> <p>Heidi Buswell shared that October 23 in Toledo, there will be a Clam chowder feed from 4:00-6:30 pm to raise money for operation costs for the Toledo library.</p> <p>Cat McGaffigan shared that the Walk to end Alzheimer's this weekend.</p>	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Topic: Updates, Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison		
Lisa Bachmann reminded everyone that the December Advisory Council Meeting will not be on the first Wednesday of the month, it will be on December 15 and include the appreciation luncheon. She distributed a survey which will help ensure that there is representation from all required demographics within the Advisory Council members. Reimbursement for mileage to and from the monthly meetings was also discussed, with some members wondering if their reimbursements could go towards an in-kind contribution.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Topic: Housing Committee, Anna Schlecht		
The group is in the process of scheduling a meeting.	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Topic: State Council on Aging (SCoA) Report, Glenn Harper		
<p>Glenn Harper shared that Cathy Knight, Washington Association or Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) State Director, talked with the group about potential SNAP cuts.</p> <p>He explained that Senior centers are not currently recognized as potential rural broadband locations. If they were, it could assist with the need for broadband services in technology challenged rural locations and so there is work going into that.</p> <p>At the Living Well Living Long Health and Wellness Expo, there was a 30 minute presentation of all of the services in the area including</p>	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	

<p>the resources you can access and items you can check out through libraries, like a discover pass, downloadable movies, hearing assistance and more that so many are not aware of. Glenn will look into having the speaker provide this presentation at one of the upcoming Advisory Council Meetings.</p> <p>There was discussion about funding from ToledoTel, computer that were donated to Timber River Connections when the libraries replaced theirs, and telecare funding.</p> <p>Also discussed was the need for information to be more available regarding the services available to our seniors, especially when there are so many that are free of charge.</p> <p>.</p>		
Topic: Socialization & Engagement, Glenn Harper		
<p>Glenn Harper shared there currently is not a representative for Lewis County on this committee and to let him know if you would like to join.</p> <p>The Aging and End of Life Community Roundtable will be December 14 and will provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about difficult topics people are faced with when entering their final years.</p>	Motion	
	Approved	
	Second	
Topic: Adjournment		
The meeting was adjourned at 11:41a.m.	Motion	Glenn Harper
	Approved	Unanimous
	Second	Tim Woods