



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON AREA AGENCY ON AGING

 LMTAAA.org

 (360) 664-0791

 (360) 664-2168

Advisory Council

Draft Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 2, 2024

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

In Person & Via Teams

Members Present:

Lewis County: Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair; Tim Wood; Debbie Aust; Greg Rohr.

Mason County:

Thurston County: Cat McGaffigan, Chair; Eileen McKenzieSullivan; Ellen Wendt; Anna Schlecht; Angela Hock.

Members Absent:

Becky Cronquist; Michele Horaney.

Staff Present:

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director; Jemma Williamson, Deputy Executive Director; Donna Feddern, Chief of Programs & Services; Lisa Bachmann, Senior Executive Assistant; Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant; Carrie Petit, Contracts Director; Paul Madison, Care Coordination Supervisor; Sabrina Dean, Chief Financial Officer; Kyle Sanchez, Planning Manager.

Visitors Present:

Liz Hicker, former Advisory Council member.

Tribal Land Acknowledgement, Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair

Welcome and Introductions, Cat McGaffigan, Chair

Cat McGaffigan, Chair, welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

Approval of the December 2024 Draft Agenda and November 2024 Draft Minutes

A motion was entertained to approve the December draft agenda and November draft minutes by Cat McGaffigan, Chair. The motion was approved by Eileen McKenzieSullivan seconded by Heidi Buswell, Vice-Chair and passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2025 Slate of Officers Ballot Voting, Nominating Committee

A request to voice vote in place of ballot voting for the slate of officers by Greg Rohr and seconded by Tim Wood was passed by Cat McGaffigan, Chair. Cat McGaffigan for Chair and Heidi Buswell for Vice-Chair were voted on and passed unanimously.

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Chehalis, WA 98532

Mason County
2008 Olympic Hwy. N
Shelton, WA 98584

Thurston County (main office)
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Bob Blancato Presentation

A Power Point Presentation was shared. Bob opened the floor for questions: What can our Advisory Council do to advocate for the Older American Act (OAA) bill to pass? Bob responded that there are only three weeks to advocate; we need to contact Senators and The House of Representatives. Any sense on if the OAA will pass? Bob responded yes unless time runs out. We need to advocate this week. The Democratic Senate and Republican House are both committed to OAA so there should not be any issues. An Advisory Council Member stated when they contact elected officials, they add that they are a senior and seniors vote early and often. Bob stated that it is important to remind the elected officials as seniors are more informed about the issues and vote all the time. Exit poles showed the three highest concerns for seniors are cost of living, cost and access for healthcare, and the environment. Social security did not come up a lot. Seniors are concerned about social security for their grandchildren. We may see more on social security next year. Nicole Kiddoo suggested to Advisory Council to sign up to receive Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) newsletter. You can sign up on their website. This is a great way to stay connected to what help is needed as W4A sends out time sensitive issues that need support. Nicole is going to Washington DC tomorrow and will give an update when she returns. Bob is the Executive Director for National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) and there is good information on their website.

By-Laws Discussion, Cat McGaffigan, Chair

Cat McGaffigan, Chair, opened the floor to discuss Advisory Council membership terms in the By-Laws under Article II Role. Does there need to be a year break after members have met the two-year term. With it being difficult to get members from Lewis and Mason Counties we should discuss changing the term limits. When we have had members' terms end, we lose the motivation behind their ideas. A suggestion of having limits on the officers and not the members was presented. Should we have no limits on terms. We want to also give the community members the opportunity to join Advisory Council and if there are no limits to terms, we may not be able to welcome new ideas or have more diversity do to having the same members' long term. A suggestion of members having three two-year terms and then a three-month break was presented so we give the community an opportunity to join and if we don't receive any applications for new members the member that is on a break may come back. Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director stated we need to look over all the By-Laws not just the membership terms and explained that the process for Advisory Council will be to create a committee to work on the By-Law suggestions and bring them to the February and March

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meetings for members to discuss. Certain agency staff members will also review the By-Laws. Once everyone agrees on the suggestions given the Council of Governments (COG) will review before approving.

Budget Summary Review, Sabrina Dean, Chief Financial Officer

A Power Point Presentation was shared showing the 2025 Area Plan Budget. Sabrina Dean, Chief Financial Officer explained that the lesser amount for this year is due to money we will not receive from the American Association of Retired Person (AARP) find. Sabrina opened the floor for questions and comments. Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director stated all the revenues are currently at-risk due to OAA concerns. There is a budget shortfall and the money we receive from the federal government needs to be matched by the state. We may have less money to work with and more of the population turning 65 years old. There have been budget cuts over the last couple of years, but we received Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) from the pandemic that helped. Sabrina stated that the budget is not actuals; it is forecasting. We will be able to offer more information once our new software is ready as it provides specific reports. Nicole stated we are having discussions about funding and providers. We have about a year to keep the funding to provider's level. We are asking congress for nutrition funding to help put new people on the nutrition program now that we are no longer receiving AARP funding. We were able to start new programs with the pandemic funding we received but now we need to discuss ways to continue to receive funding for the programs.

Updates

Liz Hicker thanked the agency for the donation to help replace the oven at the Winlock Senior Center. Now they can serve more people in the community. Carrie Petit, Contracts Director stated this is a perfect example showing the need for more funding as the donation came from the AARP emergency funding that will no longer be available.

Ellen Wendt reported the meeting for all members and those that are interested on November 12, 2024, was a success. There were 54 people that attended and now they have 25 paid members. They are processing new member background checks right now and then they will be official members.

Nicole Kiddoo, Executive Director reported that we are getting ready for the legislative session. You will get information soon on legislative meetings. We will discuss caseloads but at this time nutrition is the priority.

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Adjournment

A motion was entertained by Eileen McKenzieSullivan to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Debbie Aust and unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be February 5.

Minutes taken by

Chrissy Franklin, Executive Assistant

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