



LEWIS-MASON-THURSTON
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting Date: November 5, 2025

In Person and via Zoom

AC Members Attendance:

Lewis	Mason	Thurston
<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Aust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glenn Harper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathleen (Cat) McGaffigan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Buswell	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<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; Carrie Petit, Chief of Contracts & Planning; Donna Feddern, Chief of Program and Services; Valerie Aubertin, Community Supports Director; Chrissy Franklin, Office Manager; Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison; Kathy Howard, Family Caregiver Services Supervisor; Jenny McIntyre, Family Caregiver Specialist

Guest Attendance: Darlene Atkins

Minutes prepared by: Lisa Bachmann

Meeting Minutes		
Land Acknowledgement – read by Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
Approval of draft agenda and previous month draft minutes		
The November 5, 2025, Draft Agenda and October 1, 2025, Draft Minutes were approved with the following changes: Correct the spelling of the word ‘veted’ to ‘vetted’ in the Executive Director Report on page 2 and remove the word ‘have’ in the Socialization & Engagement report on page 4.	Motion	Glenn
	Approved	yes
	Second	Tim
Topic: Nominating Committee - Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
Cat McGaffigan shared Heidi Buswell volunteered to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee: Nikki Storms will assist. Glenn Harper is interested in being considered for Chair and Tim Wood for Vice-Chair. Heidi will send an email to members early December to see if there are other members interested in being considered. Cat		

shared the process of the election that will occur in the December meeting.		
Topic: Bylaws - Cat McGaffigan, Chair		
Cat explained that most of the suggested changes to the Bylaws are to make them compliant due to updated Older Americans Act (OAA) regulations. The members were all provided copies of the current and draft revised Bylaws as well as the revised version of Chapter 4 in the Federal Code of Regulations. Cat read all portions of the Bylaws that were highlighted. Anything highlighted in yellow is to bring the Bylaws into compliance for the Chapter 4 update. If the area highlighted has a strike through, it will be removed. Most wording marked for removal has been incorporated in other portions. If the section is highlighted in blue, it is a suggested revision. No concerns for these changes were expressed. There were two suggested corrections, both in Article VI, section J. Virtual Attendance. "Videoconferencing" should be two words and "one other" should be changed to "one another". The second reading of the revised Bylaws will be at the December 15 meeting. If the committee votes to pass the revised version, it will be brought to the County Commissioners at their January 28 meeting for a vote.	Motion	NA
Topic: Community Events – Out of Order		
<p>Glenn Harper shared that the Death Café events continue. November 14 will be the first Elder Event at the Olympia library from 3-5 pm. Valerie Aubertin will attend and share about agency resources. Glenn is also planning an event at the Shelton Senior center, December 12 at 3:00, to help increase community engagement and promote the benefits of senior centers and the agency. It will include aging and end of life community roundtables.</p> <p>Nikki Storms shared that at the Hampton, on the 4th Thursdays, there is a support group for families which is open to the community. In January there will be a caregiver café for caregivers of people with dementia and Alzheimer's.</p> <p>Heidi Buswell shared that in her role as a SHIBA volunteer, she has been at four of the Lewis county centers so far. Every Tuesday into January she will be at one of the Lewis County centers.</p> <p>Cat McGaffigan shared she is getting trained to be a Dementia Friend Champion. This entails becoming more informed and pledging to be more aware in situations. Donna Feddern added that the agency's Family Caregiver Support Program staff are signed up with the University of Washington to be Dementia Friend Champion Trainers.</p>		
Topic: Updates – Lisa Bachmann, Government Affairs Program Liaison – Out of Order		
Lisa Bachmann reminded the members that the December meeting will be on the 15 th , not the first Wednesday of the month. They		

should all have meeting invitations for the Council on Government (COG) Meetings for December 18 and 2026.

Topic: Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) - Kathy Howard, Family Caregiver Services Supervisor and Jenny McIntyre, Family Caregiver Specialist

Kathy Howard shared that November is National Family Caregiver Month. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has provided a document that states there are currently 1 million family givers in Washington state. Most of the funding our agency uses to support unpaid caregivers in the home is through the Older Americans Act (OAA). Kathy and Jenny shared a power point with the group. They discussed that most caregivers do not take very good care of themselves and so they work with them on finding ways to do this. Usually, this process starts with a call to the agency’s Information and Assistance line. The caller has realized that they need help caring for their loved one due to a new diagnosis or progression of a current one . This could be for help with respite, or a family member was just diagnosed, and they don’t know what to do. They also receive calls from people in the Home Health program who have been referred to them. There are currently virtual Dementia support groups in all three counties. More people have access to join when they are virtual. Each session includes a monthly topic, with half of the time for discussion. Anyone in the community can attend. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is also open to anyone in the community. Participants receive a workbook and commit to attending all sessions, which are virtual. There is no cost and no income requirements for FCSP unless the person needs in-home services or respite and then it is income based. The Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) program was discussed. TSOA is for those 55+ that need assistance. For this service, there is a financial determination that is higher than the Medicaid threshold. The program helps stabilize people so that they don’t need more services. Some people have a caregiver, but not all. It also provides services like Personal Emergency Response Systems. The FCSP provides up to eight Caregiver Counseling sessions per year for caregivers on topics such as grief or difficult behavior. There is also STAR-C Coaching for caregivers of anyone with a type of cognitive issues that is on either the FCSP or TSOA program. It helps the caregiver learn how to understand and respond to brain changes.

Topic: Executive Director Report, Nicole Kiddoo

Nicole thanked the group for their time and support. She shared that even with the Case Management cuts we are under our 76:1 ratio due to the hard work of the Case Management Supervisors. The Agency is working on preparing the annual budget for approval in December and implementation in January. Nicole is putting together a briefing on the major initiatives we will be working on for the State Legislative Session. Due to reductions and changes to some services in the federal budget, we wonder how our state legislators will respond since the state has to match these funds.

<p>She will be briefing the Governor’s Staff as the Washington Area on Agencies (W4A) representative, along with stakeholders from AARP, the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC), and other key organizations in Washington state to help ensure that residents have the options and supports in place to be able to remain in place. They will explain what the services are and what happens if these services are cut. She will provide a recap in the December meeting on the Governor’s meeting.</p> <p>For the state legislative session, we will be targeting Senators Bateman and Braun due to their leadership positions and will try to meet with them before the legislative session. We are waiting for the fall revenue forecast to hit for the state to see what the impact will be.</p>		
<p>Topic: Housing Committee - Anna Schlecht and Donna Feddern</p>		
<p>Anna and Donna shared that the committee has not been able to meet with the Lewis County partners yet due to their busy schedules. For now, they have been focusing on the details of the when, where, who, and why’s of the event; getting this established before moving forward. The committee is meeting this afternoon and has been gathering information on data like population and income which will help explain the issue and the needs. Hoping for a Spring date.</p>		
<p>Topic: State Council on Aging (SCOA) Report – Glenn Harper</p>		
<p>Glenn Harper shared that one of the main goals for next year is to increase support for family caregivers and increase the number of paid caregivers. He will have Lisa share the SCoA 2026 Legislative Priorities with the council members. This lays out all of the priorities.</p>		
<p>Topic: Socialization, Glenn</p>		
<p>Twosdays @ Tumwater Falls are at 11:00 on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month. The Elderhood Roundtables will rotate through the library system to different locations. There will be a speaker at each event, but most of the time will be allotted for Q & A and discussion.</p>		
<p>Topic: Adjournment</p>		
<p>A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 PM</p>	<p>Motion Approved Second Follow-up</p>	<p>Glenn yes Nikki</p>