

Update with Lewis County Seniors

June 9, 2021

2:01 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Ron Averill, Carol Brock, Glenda Forga, Nora Davis, Becky Butler, Dr. Zora DeGrandpre, Robin Saline, Meja Handlen

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Frank Corbin, Susan DeLaire, Joy McBride, Elizabeth Hicker

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Glenda reminded the Board that the FEMA contract is scheduled to end in June 2021. 63% of costs are currently billed to FEMA. 37% is funded by Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMTAAA).

With congregate activities resuming and in-person meals services, Ron Averill stated the need to ask for the second half installment of monies previously awarded in January 2021 to the Lewis County Seniors. They are currently delivering meals to 98 seniors and the rest are pick-ups. Any future delivery of Meals-on-Wheels will have to qualify for that service, and meals will be distributed through Catholic Community Services.

Robin Saline said she is in the process of submitting documentation to the State Emergency Management. More information is needed. The Washington State Department of Agriculture did studies on food insecurities for the state of Washington and this information will be used to support meal projects. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has funding for efforts to help food services.

Becky said through the ARP act there will be funding to the Washington State Area Agency on Aging. Some of these programs will also run through non-profit organizations.

The Lewis County Seniors are figuring out how long the senior centers can provide support for trunk meals and when the centers will go back to congregate meals. Ron figures the centers will need to be open and in service for approximately six months before there will be enough funds to pay for services by the centers.

Glenda Forga said the Senior Centers have been working on a safe start opening plan based on guidance from the Older Americans Act. This is a phased approach to re-opening. The buildings need cleaning. There will be a schedule for each site one day a week from 9 a.m. to 12p.m. Deliveries will still be available. Phase II will have 2 days a week openings to include an enrichment lunch one day and a social day for the other. Extra pick-up sites for meals will no longer be available during this phase. The meals-to-trunk program will only be available at the senior center locations and there will no longer be door-to-door services.

Glenda provided information regarding the CDBG grant the Senior Centers applied for. This grant has not been received yet and is still waiting approval. This grant was for food insecurity to provide additional support in the amount of \$78,000. This will provide staff support in the form of a nutritional assistant and an administrative assistant.

Zora DeGrandpre has received a companion grant totaling \$97,500. This provides companionship for older adults. This will collaborate with Hope Alliance and Cascade Community Health. Training for the companions will include detection of prescription misuse or under use and substance use disorder issues and elder abuse or neglect.

Elizabeth Hicker of Winlock was in the audience and provided public comment. She feels the centers should be open. She is also a LMTAAA council member. She is suggesting the Winlock Center would like to break away from the Lewis County Seniors Board and become independent. The Winlock Center does not want to be a part of the group anymore. Commissioner Stamper suggested attending a Lewis County Senior Board meeting to express the concerns of the Winlock Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.