

Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

SLTC – 1100 North Last Chance Gulch

Meeting Minutes January 25, 2022 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Zoom

In Attendance: Bob Myers, Alex Ward, Peggy Trombe, Gayle Carlson, Ryan Clark, Roberta Bigback, Lori Brengle, Wally Melcher

State Support: Kerrie Reidelbach, State Unit on Aging, Freddi Haab-Fiedler, Project Specialist

Absent: Rita Harden, Marianne Rouse, Curly Burns

9:40 – 9:45 **Welcome and Introductions**

Bob Myers: started in 1993 and is the manager of the Great Falls Senior Center

Roberta Bigback: Director of Northern Cheyenne Elder Program (Lame Deer)

Ryan Clark: Attorney for Social Security Administration (Billings)

Alex Ward: AARP President (Billings)

Peggy Trombe: Retired in 2018 from the Area IV Agency on Aging – participating as a court visitor for seniors (Bozeman)

Wally Melcher: 40 years working with people with disabilities. Retired from Helena Industries in 2014. Active with his church, grandchildren, and great grandchild (Helena). *Welcome Wally!*

Gayle Carlson – President/CEO of Montana Food Bank Network – focusing on senior food insecurity (Missoula)

Lori Brengle – Retired from Area I AAA (4 yrs. ago), current member of the Dawson County Council on Aging and the Area I Agency on Aging Advisory Councils (Glendive).

Welcome Lori!

Election/Reappointment: Bob put a motion forward to keep the current Vice Chair (Ryan Clark) and Secretary (Gayle Carlson), Wally motioned, and Peggy seconded. It was concurred by all members.

Mentioned infographic that was sent out ahead of the meeting. Wally noted that we don't have a date on the infographic for the time period, we will add this when it is updated.

Kerrie gave a PowerPoint presentation for new members and a refresher for long-time members on the Older Americans Act (OAA).

1. History of the OAA, started in 1965 and recently amended in March of 2020.
2. Mission and vision of the Administration for Community Living (ACL)



3. Title III Grants for state and community programs on aging
4. State Unit on Aging – housed in the Department of Health and Human Services, Senior & Long-Term Care Division
 - a. Administer State Plan on Aging
 - b. Serve as advocate for older adults
 - c. Submit state plan to the Assistant Secretary every two, three or four-year period.
5. State worked with a group to come up with the 10 area agencies on aging (AAA). These are divided by geographical or single county areas. Area I, operating out of Glendive has 17 counties, due to less populated counties. Hill, Cascade and Flathead are single county AAAs and operate under their county.
6. Planning and Service Area (PSA) – AAAs prepare an area plan for services they provide or will provide during the next four years. Their success is based on performance measures.
7. Eligibility program – “older individual” means an individual who is 60 year of age or older.
8. Supportive services and senior centers – making grants to states under state plans approved. Services include, but not limited to: home chore, personal care, transportation, legal assistance, etc.
9. Nutrition services – reduce hunger, promote socialization, promote the health/well-being of older individuals.
10. Congregate meals – helps to keep older Americans healthy and prevent the need for more costly medical interventions. In addition to serving healthy meals, the program presents opportunities for – social engagement, information on healthy aging, and volunteer opportunities.
11. Home-delivered meals – Age 60 or older who is homebound by reason of a disability, isolated, or their caregivers/spouse is a person with disabilities.
12. Evidence-Based Disease Prevention and Health Promotion services – health education to reduce the need for costly medical interventions, priority is given to serving older adults living in medically-underserved areas or who are of greatest economic need.
13. National Family Caregiver Support Program – for family caregivers and older relative caregivers. Includes information to caregivers about available services, assistance to caregivers, counseling support, respite care, and supplemental services.
14. Title VII – Allotments for vulnerable elder rights protection activities. Includes the Montana Long Term Care Ombudsman program, State Legal Assistance Developer program and Adult Protective Services, which is it’s own bureau under SLTC Div.

Governor’s 52nd Conference on Aging 2021 – Bob provided an overview:

1. This was a virtual conference due to the on-going pandemic
2. Mini grants were not offered
3. We were unable to recognize centenarians with this format, normally we have a banquet & hand out certificates.
4. Presentations were well received



5. Several Senior Centers participated by receiving computers to support the platform being used. This was through a grant received by the state to M4A.
 - a. Some centers did not participate as they didn't have the equipment connected
 - b. There wasn't someone available to assist during the presentations with the equipment

Upcoming Governor's 53rd Conference on Aging 2022:

1. Scheduled for fall of 2022 in Butte
2. Beginning balance for the conference is \$22,813.17, in addition we have \$4,000 for mini grants.
3. Hoping to do a hybrid conference
 - a. In-person
 - b. Virtually
4. Looking at hiring an event planner – the committee to decide is as follows:
 - a. Kerrie Reidelbach
 - b. Al Ward
 - c. Bob Myer
 - d. With Kerrie's initial mtg. a negotiation from \$2,500 to \$2,000 was made.
 - i. This will be money well spent
 - ii. Jackie has retired and the position has slightly changed.
5. Decide whether the conference will be 3.5, 2.5, etc. days
 - a. Being hybrid might make a difference on how long the conference is
6. Working with the hotel in Butte to see if we can get the same quote as we had for the 2020 conference. The 2020 conference was cancelled due to the pandemic.

State Plan/Statewide Needs Assessment:

1. Working with Courtney Hoskins on the timeline for the Montana State Plan on Aging as well as the Area Plan guidance for the AAAs.
2. Statewide Needs assessment contract has been signed
 - a. Working with the National Resource Center
 - b. This will be the first time for a valid survey completion for the state. We will be provided a statewide report and the AAAs have the option and paying additional funds for a larger mailing to go out in their PSAs.
 - c. Survey should be sent out around March/April with the SUA receiving results in June/late July.
3. Press release to go out prior to the survey launch, sometime in March 2022.

Montana Elder Justice:

1. Three new regional councils are in the process of being developed.
 - a. Region II – The North Central Montana Elder Justice Council



- b. Region III – The Western Montana Elder Justice Council
- c. Region IV – The South-Central Montana Elder Justice Council
- 2. Region I - The Eastern Montana Elder Justice Council has been working for the last couple of years. The current members are being re-appointed to this council.
- 3. If you are interested in being on any of these councils, you will need to apply as a board member. The site is: <https://svc.mt.gov/gov/boards/openings>

It would be good to have representation for each of these councils from our group. Thanks!

Fraud Related to COVID:

Al Ward gave an interesting talk about fraud and scams that are happening right now due to the pandemic. This is in addition to the already known fraud and scams that happen continually. He included attachments and encouraged us to review this information.

Al also indicated that Fraud Friday is beginning again and will be the first Friday of every other month.

Feedback regarding virtual meeting. All prefer the two-hour time frame. We may look at meeting the staff outside of our regular meetings as part of the orientation for new members.

Next meeting: April 26, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Thanks!

