



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

SLTC-1100 N. LAST CHANCE GULCH
MINUTES for July 29, 2020

ATTENDANCE. Al Ward, Gayle Carlson, Ryan Clark, Laurie Glover, Joe Gilboy, Bob Myers, Peggy Tombre, Jim Optiz

Aging Staff: Freddi Haab-Fiedler, Kerrie Reidelbach and Kimme Evermann

Absent: Jim "Curly" Burns, Gerald Pease, Roberta Bigback, Marianne Roose

Welcome and Introductions:

Kerrie called meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Kerrie welcomed everyone and turned over the meeting to our new Chair, Laurie Glover. Introductions were made, and a rollcall was taken and recorded of members attending the meeting.

Laurie Glover, new chair had everyone introduce themselves to our newest member, Jim Optiz. Welcome Jim!

Program Reports:

Kimme Everman addressed Senior and Long-Term Care's Facebook page and shared the new logo. The Facebook page is titled "Aging in the 406" and the logo shows the background of mountains and individuals in different stages of their lives. The words below read Action, Advocacy and Adventure. This Facebook page is to assist us in changing the conversation on aging, ensuring we include all individuals and share the message to younger adults and the need to plan for their future. Many younger individuals do not have a plan in place, and when they find themselves in need of services, often when we are helping, we are reacting to a crisis.

Freddi and other members of the committee will be taking a training class on how to post to Facebook, what should be included or not included, etc. Senior and Long-Term Care's Adult Protective Service program officer, Trevor Tangen will be providing the training.

Alex Ward wanted to know if we could post videos that are being produced by the Eastern Montana Elder Justice group on elder abuse. Joe Gilboy, M4A Director asked if we could put Medicare 101 on the page. Janet Stellmon and Kimme will get in touch with Joe to see what we need to do to get a video produced for this. If you have a request to have something posted to this Facebook site, please contact Freddi at fhaab-fiedler@mt.gov or Kimme Evermann at kevermann@mt.gov.



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We are hoping to have this page up and running by the end of next week. Here is the link:
<https://www.facebook.com/Aging-in-the-406-100426468353362/>

Adrienne Cotton – M4A Director gave a brief talk about what this organization is doing and potentially going to be doing. M4A stands for Montana Area Agencies on Aging Association. She represents the interest of Area Agencies on Aging Directors and individuals receiving or needing services. She is their voice during the legislative session. There are currently nine out of ten Area Agencies on Aging who belong to M4A. She is working with Area X and will be meeting with the county commissioners to educate them on the importance and benefits of this association in hopes that we can bring this area on.

Adrienne recently facilitated a zoom call with Senior Centers as we have received several inquiries from directors of senior centers across the state wondering how and if they can resume activities and services. Guest speakers were Ed Evanson, food and consumer safety section supervisor and registered sanitarian and Erica Araos, healthcare associated infections program manager and communicable disease epidemiologist for the state. These two gave the senior centers ideas on how to successfully integrate their clients back. This included social distancing, sanitization, food containers, etc. They also explained the Governor's mandates. They are hoping to have more calls of this type as there was a lot of dialogue and sharing between peers. They are planning on a second call in the Missoula in the future.

Adrienne spoke about the \$300,000 ADRC grant the association received through the State Office on Aging. Their proposal is three-fold: 1) Public Awareness Campaign: While we've seen an increase in demand for services and information, many older adults, people with disabilities, and their families, are unaware of the help available to them via ADRCs. 2) Statewide Assessment: A thorough and expedited analysis of needs will ensure federal funds and donations are spent on validated short-term needs. It will support planning for post-crisis challenges and preparation for an extended crisis response should COVID-19 restrictions continue or be reinstated at a future date. Additionally, an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each ADRC and will be paired with the needs assessment to model location-specific responses. And 3) Utilization of funds to meet immediate needs that are easily identifiable during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to addressing immediate needs, ADRCs will invest in internal resources that will best prepare us to meet demands as a "new normal" unfolds. This opportunity will provide a basis for continual learning regarding new ways of thinking about and implementing services that may require new or updated technology or other tools, redesigning service delivery models, different staffing patterns and realignment of program priorities (*this paragraph was taken from the ADRC grant narrative*).



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With this funding M4A has hired a specialist to assist them in gathering information from the Area Agencies on Aging directors and managers, interview residents 55 and older along with caregivers. They held a virtual Tele-Town Hall call with individuals in Flathead County in May to ask what residence needs are in order to maintain their independence and how do we get the word out for the services Area Agencies on Aging offer. Guests on this call included Lisa Sheppard, Director of Area IX Agency on Aging and Tim Fox, Attorney General. The next Tele-Town hall will cover Missoula. They are going to have more tele-townhall meetings, at least one in each area.

Freddi Haab-Fiedler reported on the House Journal 50 Senior and Long-Term Care study by the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee. The committee met June 22nd and the following is a summary of what was shared.

1. Presentation on Aging Services was done by Alzheimer's Association, AARP and M4A.
2. Majority of focus was on the Big Sky Waiver. There was little discussion about improvements in any other area.
3. Four proposed bills:
 - a. Big Sky Policy going to Administrative Review
 - b. Additional time to resolve issues prior to discharge (i.e. Discharge due to not using services, etc.)
 - c. Addressing spend down availability for BSW rather than cash option (Cash option is like paying a premium and members us eligible day 1, using spend down means you incur the amount of spend down in medical bills. Spend down requires documentation of services/equipment/supplies costs to meet the amount and members are not eligible until the document is process and may or may not be retroactive to the first of the month.)
 - d. Big Sky Waiver services must prevent, delay institutionalization and improve community integration.
4. DPHHS – a&b above are in the process of being added to administrative rule, hoping to by-pass legislation.
5. Next Committee meeting – August 27 & 28 – discussion of bills, and wrap-up of report.



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Other Discussion and Wrap Up

Al Ward discussed the Eastern Montana Justice Council that was appointed by the Governor. Their hope is to get a council in each section of the state. They currently have three functioning sub-committees:

1. Education and Prevention of elder abuse;
2. Intervention or response to elder abuse; and
3. Prosecution

Michael Hagenlock, Bureau Chief for Adult Protective Services is on the committee. Kimme was recently invited and will be representing the Aging Office. Mike Larson of Alliance Resource Center is the co-chair with Chuck Monson from MT Dept. of Justice Office of Consumer Protection.

Kerrie Reidelbach gave a brief demonstration of the Resource Directory, which is now through our new software Capstone. The website needs some serious updates. The council has been asked to review the website www.Montana-ADRC.org and let Kerrie or Freddi know what they are seeing that needs updated and/or if they feel its user friendly. Any feedback, good or bad is appreciated!

Kerrie mentioned a question that came in about senior centers continuing grab and go meals post-COVID. These meals cannot be counted as congregate meals as there is no socialization involved. Currently, we have some flexibility with the COVID-19 funds that is allowing this. Kerrie shared a handout showing the two COVID-19 funding resources received. Families First coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) funding was for congregate meals and home delivered meals. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding was for supportive services, nutrition services, caregiver support and ombudsman funding. This spreadsheet is attached. We have until September 30, 2021 to spend out these funds, if it lasts that long. There may be another financial award in the future. ACL is keeping an eye on how quickly the funding received by states is being spent.

Jan Engan was hired in May 2020 as the state contract ombudsman. She recently moved from Alaska, but has worked in Minnesota, North Dakota and Arizona. Her career of 30 years in the Health and Human Services world include being an Area Agency on Aging director and a CEO for the same, ombudsman, and a direct service provider.



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She has been training new ombudsmen through Zoom which puts a new spin on how to train and to get to know these individuals. There are five in the current class, four are new and one is re-certifying. The next training will include guest speakers from other divisions or agencies and two new topics have been added: infection control and working with Disability Rights of Montana.

Jan has been busy learning the data system, and budgeting. Kerrie reminded all that there was a maintenance of effort that we are held accountable for. Basically, we cannot go below what we normally spend or put into the program.

COVID-19 has made it very difficult for ombudsmen to do their job. The ombudsman is using modern technology (Facetime, Zoom, etc.) to speak with residents and/or their family members.

ACL has sent a letter asking for ombudsmen and adult protective service staff to be classified as essential workers. If this recommendation comes to fruition, they will be able to get personal protective equipment and be able to go inside the facilities to visit with the residents.

Update: Unfortunately, on Monday August 3rd, Jan put her notice in and is no longer our state Ombudsman.

Wrap Up

Jim Opitz said this meeting was very informative and is looking forward to being on the council.

Kerrie said that we have asked for a no-cost extension for the current Alzheimer's grant and the Lifespan Respite grant.

We have applied for a \$500,000 Alzheimer's expansion grant and should hear on our application soon.

Update: We just received word this morning that Montana was awarded this grant!

Next meeting October 14.

Meeting adjourned: 11:58 AM

Next Meeting dates:

October 14, 2020