



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

SLTC-1100 N. LAST CHANCE GULCH  
MINUTES for JULY 23, 2019

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**ATTENDANCE.** Joan Taylor, Curley Burns, Marianne Roose, Peggy Tombre, Kim Gillan, Bob Meyers, Al Ward, Gerald Pease, **Aging Staff:** Jackie Stoeckel, Kerrie Reidelbach and Barb Smith

**Welcome:** group share: members shared personal summer activities and adventures. Marianne updated us on senior center offerings in Eureka. Kim joined the board of the Beartooth hospital and has used this as an avenue for information exchange about aging. Kerrie talked about some changes at ACL.

### Program reports

**Barb:** legislative update – operations stable with needed personal services. Barb summarized the legislative budget process for SLTC. Operating dollars of Vets home in Butte which SLTC- covers until certification. For the purpose of adding new waiver slots, the fund balance from the Older Montana trust was utilized. This leaves two issues 1) no income flow to fund and 2) a need to replace that funding in 2021 session as it is one-time-only.

HJ50 Child and Family Health and Human Services Interim committee will be reviewing/study of SLTC programs. Gives SLTC opportunity to tell our story. We have lost a total of seven FTEs. Difficult to keep up and advance program especially with the growing population and increase need for our services.

Bill regarding nursing home investigation was vetoed. Stays with APS. APS now sits on an executive committee in partnership with DOJ, Commissioner's Office and Governor's office to educate the public on exploitation.

Highlight: APS workers finishing national certification

July: the new veterans nursing home in Butte will be set up as cottages, will accommodate several services. A ground-breaking ceremony was held in Butte, where 220 folks attended. Many military related attendees and Federal Congressmen, Governor Bullock and local Montana Legislators.

Kerrie: State plan was submitted last month. Kerrie reviewed the three main goals and shared copies of the state plan. It is also available on the website. Shared that the implementation plan, which includes the goals and objectives for each area will be added as an addendum to the contract for area agencies. The AAAs will be expected to report annually on the outcomes.

**Ombudsman update:** Area III Agency on Aging has agreed to hire the current ombudsman and will cover Glacier, Liberty, Pondera and Toole counties. She is part time. Aging office in Havre is not housing Ombudsman thus coverage is needed for Choteau, Hill and Blaine counties. Outreach to programs in Great falls- Easter seals was pending at the time of meeting.

RFP for State Ombudsman. Vanessa has left this position. Contracting with Courtney Hoskins, from Colorado, formerly worked for the ACL Regional office, to help with Ombudsman program development.



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Patrick gave a brief Lifespan respite grant update.

**Gayle Carlson and Minkie Medora: Montana Food Bank Network.** Focus on senior hunger and access. The group has met in Ronan, Great Falls and Glendive areas. Eight of the ten area agencies were represented. Focusing on barriers that prevent seniors from taking advantage of meal programs. Updates on senior hunger.

**Handouts.** Barriers discussed included transportation, health issues, not being able to prepare meals, dehydration, and poor nutrition. Physical and social isolation due to remote location and lack of transportation, limited family members, own denial to not burden others, no education of changing needs of parents. Dangerous home environment, hoarding with senior commodity boxes, not able to take care of home. Movement to take care of seniors in home but upkeep is difficult. Mental health issues, dementia starting at the age of 50 in some. Malnutrition and social isolation cause. Increase in Kinship care, not involved in other programs. **Other issues brought up:** Home delivered and congregate meals sites: distance is a barrier. Some Senior centers are said to be cliquish, also some seniors can't afford the \$5 for meal. Home delivered to rural areas limitation to volunteers, funding and access.

Senior hunger coalition are adding questions to survey regarding nutrition and health screening. There is a direct health issue correlation related to food insecurity according to Minkie. Funding is the issue, no increase since 2002 but aging is increasing.

SNAP: 1 in 3 of eligible people participate. Hoping to simplify application. \$16 is lowest amount of benefit seen. Council asked if rural businesses accept SNAP? Education seniors on tax benefits would be helpful i.e. elderly home owner tax credit. Mail a meal is being used by approximately 150 homes. AARP volunteers supporting specific counties.

**Summit Senior hunger scheduled for May 12, 2020.** Location is the Great Northern Hotel. Encourage GAC members to attend. Asked about other Key people in the senior care arena. Kristin smith consultant with Bloom out of Bozeman will facilitate the afternoon. Suggestion to organize GAC meeting in May replacing April meeting.

**Joan:** Joan updated the council on the Census. Short time frame for gathering information. March 2020. A person from the census will come talk at the conference. Senior centers will also play a big role in getting the word out including the council getting the word out in the community. Joan passed around a handout -50 ways census data is used.

**Jackie:** Governors conference. Passed out updated agenda. Kim will contact Billings Commissioners and Mayor. Silent Auction and Raffle will end at 10AM Thursday.



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**Minigrant:** \$5150 available to disperse. 3 minigrants so far. deadline August 20<sup>th</sup>. Peggy, Kim, Bob on screening committee. Will call recipients who were awarded and not awarded or send a letter to them.

Conference: suggestion of bypassing dinner on Monday due to poor attendance. Let folks go out to eat. committee agreed. Assignments will be made Monday evening of conference.

Adjourned: 3:30PM.