



2025 Governor's 56th Conference on Aging

Flip the Script

Agenda

Monday, September 15, 2025

Meeting Montana's Long-Term Challenges Summit

(We are not able to have vendors set up this day)

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| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Introduction and Understanding the Crisis and Demographic Pressures |
| 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | Objective One: Communication
Help us explore how we can build more transparent, consistent, and collaborative systems for sharing information across agencies, providers, and communities. |
| 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Objective One (continued): Communication |
| 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Conclusion of Objective One (tangible outcomes identified) |
| 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. | Objective Two: Access to Care
Share your insights on bridging service gaps in rural and frontier areas, supporting aging in place, and using technology to connect people with the care they need. |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch on Your Own |
| 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. | Objective Two (continued): Access to Care |
| 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Conclusion of Objective Two (tangible outcomes identified) |
| 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. | Break |
| 2:15 – 3:45 p.m. | Objective Three: Funding
Join the conversation on how we can address financial barriers, improve reimbursement models, and ensure long-term sustainability for providers and consumers alike. |
| 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. | Conclusion of Objective Three (tangible outcomes identified) |
| 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. | Closing and Recap of Tangible Outcomes |
| 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. | Conclusion |

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Vendor Set-Up
7:30 – 8:00 a.m. <i>Registration Table</i>	Registration Silent Auction Opens
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome Wilmot Collins, Mayor of Helena Lindsey Carter, Senior and Long-Term Care Division Administrator, MT DPHHS Presentation of Flags
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote: Current Trends in Social Security and the Will Phillips, AARP Regional Vice President, AARP
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	The Power of Alliance: How Aging Advocates United for Legislative Success Moderator: Lisa Sheppard, CEO, Missoula Aging Services Kristin Page-Nei, Government Relations Director, AARP Montana Rose Hughes, Executive Director, Montana Health Care Association Scott Birkenbuel, CEO, Ability Montana Tyler Amundsen, Director of Mission and Development, Allies in Aging
11:45 – 12:15 p.m.	Break
12:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Centenarian Luncheon Welcome Bob Meyers, Chair, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
1:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Voices of Experience: Perspectives from Older Adults
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Break-Out Sessions Medicaid Topics Medicaid Program, MT DPHHS Understanding Hoarding in the Aging Population: Challenges and Communication Strategies Karin E. Fried, CPC, EMT-B, CTACC, Advanced Hoarding Specialist Disaster Preparedness for an Aging Population Betsy Ross, Training, Exercise, Education Section Supervisor, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

- 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **The Heart of the Community: A Senior Center Panel Discussion**
Beth Hunt, Executive Director, Meagher County Senior Center
Don DeJarnett, Nutrition Program Manager, South Side Center Senior, Billings
Gerri Backes, Board President, Kalispell Senior Center
Mindy Diehl, Senior Nutrition & Transportation Director,
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Helena
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00 – 11:30 p.m. **Break-Out Sessions**
- Staying Home, Staying Strong: A Discussion on Aging in Place**
Dan Koltz, Assistant Professor, Gerontology Specialist, MT Caregiver Respite Retreat
Program Director, and MT Kinship Navigator Program Director, MSU Extension
- Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention**
Karl Rosston, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, MT DPHHS
- Community on the Go: Collaborative Approaches to Senior Mobility**
Adam Kraft, Transit Supervisory, MT Department of Transportation
Marcy Brookie, Director, Area II Agency on Aging
Cathy Orr, Executive Director, Ravalli County Council on Aging
- 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon**
 Welcome and Awarding of Mini Grants
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
- 1:00 p.m. **Silent Auction Closes** (Winners can pick up items and pay by cash, check, or credit card)
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Break-Out Sessions**
- Common Conditions Later in Life**
Miranda Meunier, GNP-BC, Vice President of Care Services, Greater Good Health
- Planning for Peace: Legal, Emotional, and Medical Guidance for End-of-Life**
LiElla Kelly, End-of-Life Doula and Educator, Leaving Well
Heather Bassett, Community Care Coordinator, Headwaters Hospice and Palliative Care
Susan Gecho Gobbs, Contract Attorney, MT DPHHS Legal Developer Program
- Advocacy Within Your Scope: Changing Minds and Making Impact**
Moderator: Kristin Page-Nei, Government Relations Director, AARP Montana
Rob Cook, Former Legislator, Current Contract Lobbyist for AARP Montana
Cathy Orr, Executive Director, Ravalli County Council on Aging
Cassie Weightman, Ability Montana
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Engaging Volunteers for Community Connections**
Nancy Andersen, Volunteer, AARP Montana
- 4:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

Travel Safely!