

## Meeting Minutes

### April 25, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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**In Attendance:** In-person – Bob Meyers, Jerry Thex, Jr., Alex Ward, Gayle Carlson, Kerrie Reidelbach. Virtual – Lori Brengle, and Peggy Tombre  
**Guests:** Barb Smith, SLTC Administrator and Patrick Kelley, ADRC Program Manager  
**Absent:** Ryan Clark, Curly Burns, and Roberta Bigback

Warm welcome to our newest member Jerry Thex, Jr. from Ashland, who is the Administrator of the Heritage Living Center. We are so happy to have you on the council!

The group reviewed which members will need to update their terms on the council prior to expiring on July 1, 2023. Members due are Bob, Curly, Ryan, and Peggy. Here is the link to renew your membership: [https://gov.mt.gov/boards\\_appointments/BoardOpenings](https://gov.mt.gov/boards_appointments/BoardOpenings) The sooner the better as it takes time to get these processed. We still have three openings on the council, please let me know if you have suggestions as we can reach out to potential members.

**State Plan on Aging** - Kerrie reported the progress on the state plan on aging which is due in the mid-June to the DPHHS Director's office and the Governor's Office for signatures to make the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to the ACL Regional Office. Along with the Executive Summary (3-pages), Context, Quality Management, Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Outcomes it is required that we address the following five key topic areas: 1) OAA Core Programs, 2) COVID-19, 3) Equity, 4) Expanding Access to HCBS and 5) Caregiving.

**Governor's Conference on Aging** - the DRAFT Agenda is now available on the website and since the meeting we have added the hotel information, \$98.00 + tax. Please let me know if you will be attending and I will set up your rooms for direct billing.

**Mini grants** – Gayle reported that she is working on an evaluation tool for scoring the mini grants, which are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. We could extend for an extra week if needed. Kerrie reported that the ACL Workforce Investment grant could not cover some of the requests from the Senior Center mini grant requests. Two of them are appropriate for our mini grant program and those were shared with the group. I will reach out to them and let them both know that we will roll those over to the Conference mini grant program. One is from Charlo Moiese Senior Citizens and the other is from Mission Valley Senior Center, both from Lake County.

**50/50 Tickets** – Lori asked about the 50/50 drawing and we can do that during breaks, and lunch, we will need to decide if we want to sell tickets for the day and a half with one drawing or sell tickets both days and have a winner both days. We may be able to use a 4H group to help, as we may be able to get them to help seat guests for the Centenarian Luncheon.

**Silent Auction** - Lori reported that she has sent out a request to the AAAs to participate in donating items for the silent auction. She has heard from Area I who will commit to 2 – 4 baskets and Area IX will be donating their emergency preparedness kits once again.

Local Conference Planning Committee – In early May, I will schedule a kickoff meeting for the local committee to help promote the conference, help with silent auction items, and sponsorships, etc.

Other information: Dementia Education in Your Community - \$2,000 Grants available through the Montana Geriatric Education Center. Applications due June 30, 2023. This has been shared with the AAAs.

We are working on a New ARPA Workforce Investment Grant Opportunity for AAAs and ILC's. This will be posted on the website soon and will be up to \$10,000 grants to hire or contract with someone to help make a difference within public health.

Patrick Kelley - Shared the grant opportunity and partnership with DPHHS Public Health to submit a BOLD Grant through CDC. This grant helps Montana to build a public health infrastructure focusing on increasing: Early detection and diagnosis, risk reduction, prevention of avoidable hospitalizations and supporting dementia caregivers. I have attached the document Patrick shared that gives more details about the grant activities we can expect. We will find out if Montana is selected for one of these awards by the end of September and if we are, it will be a nice announcement at the conference.

Legislative and other updates-Barb Smith – Barb reported that it has been a busy session watching several bills that she reviewed with us.

- 1) SB 34 – APS Red Tape Relief – Cleanup Bill – Signed!
- 2) SB 45 – ASB Red Tape Relief – Cleanup Bill – Signed!
- 3) SB 282 – ASB – Review of AAA Designation Process – No Appropriation – TABLED
- 4) SB 296 – Assisted Living Rate with personal needs allowance, move to Community First Choice (CFC), which would then be an entitlement. This was returned to Senate for 2026 and is in question if CMS would even approve. More investigation to be done.
- 5) SB 559 – Revise adult guardianship laws – H Judiciary – TABLED
- 6) HB 29 – Transfer of Alzheimer's and Dementia out of MSH – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Senate – TABLED – this would have required the establishment of a temporary transition review committee of 16 members.
- 7) HB 65 – Cost Reporting for Home and Community Based Services – Signed! This reporting will help provider rates keep pace with changing costs.
- 8) HB 264 – Study of Long-term Care Needs for Veterans – Signed! This study must determine the demographics of the Montana veteran population, including the number and age in each county and the type of LTC needs of the population.
- 9) HB 449 – Complexed Care Attendants certification for parents Returned to House with AMENDMENTS
- 10) HB 891 – Provide one-time emergency Stability fund to NH, timing restriction – TABLED
- 11) HB 922 – Updated Olmstead Plan – Enrolling (last written in 2000, will be contracted out). This ensures that state-funded services and supports for Montanans with disabilities



are, to the greatest extent possible, provided in the community rather than in an institutional setting .

12) HJ 28 – Interim Study of LTC Services

For more information on the above here is the site to look up bills -

[LAWS Detailed Bill Information Page \(mt.gov\)](#)

Overall, Barb is pleased with how the session is ending for Senior and Long Term Care division. We managed to get a small provider rate increase for the AAAs and additional base funding for the Ombudsman program!

**Next meeting scheduled for August 8, 2023, 9:30 – 12:00 in person with the option to join by zoom.**

**Council Priorities:**

**Social Determinants of Health:** Special emphasis on *Access to Nutritious Food Choices, Transportation, Housing, and Social Support/Community Inclusion.*

**Elder Justice and Fraud Prevention:** Special emphasis on *Crime/Fraud/Scam Prevention*

**Age-Friendly Health Systems:** Special emphasis on *Dementia Care and Caregiver Workforce/Family Caregiver*

