

Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

SLTC – 1100 North Last Chance Gulch

Meeting Agenda

January 20, 2021

9:00 AM - Noon

Zoom

In Attendance: Laurie Glover, Alex Ward, Curly Burns, Marianne Roose, Peggy Tombre, Gayle Carlson, Barb Smith, Ryan Clark, Bob Meyers, Jim Opitz

Absent: Gerald Pease, Roberta Bigback

Guests: Jackie Stoeckel, Project Manager – Governor's Council on Aging; Tim Summers, Director – MT AARP

Welcome– All

Laurie invited council members to introduce themselves and began the discussion of Council Member Priorities. The results aren't scientific and are tabulated by vote, not by rank. Attachments were sent to the group prior to the meeting. Some of the discussion included:

- Transportation in the rural parts of the state
- Elder abuse – including financial exploitation. Kerrie stated that this is a requirement to address as part of the State Plan on Aging with input from Adult Protective Services
 - Alex Ward mentioned the Elder Justice League that is currently meeting in the Eastern part of the state
- Ryan Clark shared that the state Budget Director, Kurt Alme who is a former US Attorney and has had first-hand knowledge of elder abuse. Ryan also brought up scams regarding social security fraud and the PSAs airing to inform the public
- Barb Smith brought up the lack of available and affordable housing for seniors. She also mentioned there are some guardianship issues currently being heard in the legislature. There is a hope of tightening up “loose” laws for assisted living facilities. Nursing homes are over-regulated by the federal government and this is currently being re-evaluated.
- Direct care workers – how do we attract more of these workers to meet the state's need?
- A better link for caregiving families/workers – and we shouldn't force families to be part of the caregiving for their loved ones
- It was good that the Alzheimer's and dementia were on the list of priorities

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These priorities are not final. We would like our Native American members to weigh in on this. Laurie will be sending out the information to get their input, as well as any other member who hasn't had a chance to vote. Alex noted that the reservations are under Phase 1 of public health emergency and pretty much on lock down.

Charlie Brereton was named Governor Gianforte's Health Policy Advisor.

Adam Meier is the new director for Department of Public Health and Human Services. He comes from Kentucky and has been given high reviews from peers in Kentucky and here in Montana.

Social isolation has become more prevalent with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Kerrie indicated that Area IV Agency on Aging have been assisting with those suffering from isolation with robotic pets. The Lifespan Respite Voucher has also implemented robotic pets, as well as fidget and weighted blankets to help caregivers get some respite while at home.

Adult Protective Services have indicated that self-neglect complaints are on the rise during the pandemic.

Governor's Council on Aging – Jackie Stoeckel

Jackie started her presentation indicating the conference has a beginning balance of \$19,717 after taking \$4,000 for the mini grants.

- The 2021 conference is being planned in Butte as it would have been in 2020
- Options being tossed around are:
 - In-person
 - Virtual
 - Hybrid

The conference may be downsized in attendance if we go virtual, but she was on a call with Adrienne Cotton and approximately 70 senior centers for a virtual meeting and it was quite interesting that this can be done.

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There is an idea of having the senior centers who have internet access be a host for attendees for the conference. This could assist the senior centers in re-opening and offering a lunch and socialization during the virtual conference.

The committee could look at doing only general sessions, have a silent auction and possibly celebrate the centenarians at the senior centers.

The logo Rock Your Age, Montana Gems may need to be updated as this year's theme is Community Action, Make Your Mark.

The conference is scheduled for September 14th and 15th.

The gerontology conference went virtual last April and had a fantastic turn out.

Two internet companies she has looked at are WHOVA and Video Express. The bid from WHOVA is around \$3,000 so this is something to think about. Video Express needs our format before they can give us a bid.

It was also recommended that the committee look at 100% virtual and only holding it one day.

AARP – Tim Summers

Tim introduced us to the AARP Scorecard for Long-Term Care Services and Supports. Here is the link: <https://www.longtermscorecard.org/> [[longtermscorecard.org](https://www.longtermscorecard.org/)]

This takes place every three years and was started in 2014. Each state is graded on 26 data points. Montana is in the third quartile. In 2017, Montana was in the second quartile.

These measures are used to empower state and federal policy members to see where we and all states are doing well and where we are lacking in senior long-term care services and supports.

Some of the indicators are:



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- Affordability and Access
- Choice of setting and Provider
- Quality of Life and Quality of Care
- Support for Family Caregivers
- Effective Transitions

Montana is doing great in the Nurse delegation (tasks able to be delegated) and scope of practice (nurse practitioners) ranked at #1.

Transportation Policies: we ranked at #8

A few of our areas in need of improvements include:

- ADRC – No Wrong Door support
- Increasing care providers
- Subsidizing housing opportunities
- Caregiver Support
- Increase in HCBS
- Nursing home residents with low care needs
 - This is due to MT being a rural state and at times seniors have no other place to go (lack of access)

85% of AARP members want to age in place; but nursing facilities are still needed and are vital

Hats off to Senior & Long-Term Care Division for going in the right direction of keeping seniors in their homes whenever possible.

Laurie asked what bills AARP was tracking during the session:

- HB 38 – clarifies that DPHHS looks at HCBS waiver options
- SB 33 – to give a 30-day notice if an individual is being terminated from waiver services
- SB 43 – administrative rule-making to HCBS regarding eligibility requirements.

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- LC0690 – establishes medical leave

AARP has been working from home since March 16, 2020. All state AARPs are operating this way per a mandate. Montana's AARP office has been:

- Sponsoring virtual concert series-MT PBS
 - Home Stream Helena symphony – has gained an audience from 400 to around 2,000
 - Hosted 6 in 2020 and will host another 6 in 2021
 - Fund some of the 5th and Grant concert series
- Tele-Town Hall meetings
 - Monthly meetings with subjects current in everyone's mind – COVID-19 and vaccine roll-out. Will also be covering Brain Health and Fraud
 - In February they will be hosting Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation
- Webinars
 - Health & Fitness
 - How to declutter
 - Fraud issues
 - Legacy Planning with Marsha Goetting from MSU Extension
- Trivia nights
- Nancy Anderson has established a virtual walk around the neighborhood program
 - Individuals go for walks around their neighborhood and meet virtually to discuss progress

For members that are not on-line, they are sending mailers.

Radio is another great way to get in touch with individuals.

Elections

Ryan Clark was nominated as vice-chair

- Peggy Tombre motioned



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- Marianne Roose seconded

Ryan accepted the position, thank you, Ryan!

Peggy Tombre was nominated as secretary and politely declined

Gayle Carlson was nominated as secretary

- Al Ward nominated
- Ryan Clark seconded

Gayle accepted the position, thank you, Gayle!

The advisory council will do the official election at the April meeting

Next meeting will be in April 2021 to be scheduled soon.