



**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Meeting

July 29, 2025, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: SLTC Division Conference Room
2550 Prospect Ave., Suite 500, Helena, MT 59601

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions – Bob Meyers, Chair, MT State News Bureau
Interviews were cancelled and put on hold at this time. Only Susan Lubke and Brian LaMoure connected with the journalist.

In Attendance:

- Bob Meyers
- Nancy Anderson,
- Becky Bird
- Gayle Carlson
- Susan Lubke
- Brian LaMoure
- Audrey Finlayson
- Jerry Thex, Jr.
- Kerrie Reidelbach
- Tessa Bailly
- Lindsey Carter

2025 Governor's Conference on Aging – Tessa Bailly, Conference Coordinator

- September 16-17 in Helena at the Great Northern Best Western Hotel
- Draft agenda was shared with the group. A discussion about the older adults panel and potential panel members. We have two who have committed, Chuck Butler and Georgia Burns. Interested parties should give their contact information to Tessa, and she will contact them.
- Only one centenarian is planning to attend the luncheon, and still no word from the Governor's office about the Governor attending.
- Becky reported her efforts in search of centenarians.
- Tessa will reach out to the Area IV director about the Livingston Senior Center participating in the Senior Center panel.
- August 15 is the deadline for both the conference program and the centenarian booklet for print services.

- Gayle did some research and found the National Threshold Choir for hospice patients. She found a new chapter starting in Missoula, though nothing came up for the Helena area. This may be something to look into for next year.
- Conference dinner meeting will be held on Monday evening, September 15, at 6 p.m. in the SLTC Conference room.

Post Legislative impact for SLTC Div. Administrator – Lindsey Carter

- Shared the [AARP 2025 Session Snapshot](#) handout.
- [HB 743: Create reporting requirements for elder exploitation](#): Mercer led efforts around this topic as it is proven to be a high risk for this population. Once APS investigators determine a report is credible, the department will forward evidence to the county attorney where the alleged victim resides for further investigation or the prosecution of a case. This bill also requires an annual report to the attorney general regarding referrals made, charges filed, and whether a conviction was made.
- [SB 296: Enhance penalty for crime against a vulnerable person](#): Yakawich. This bill requires that an offender found guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony offense while employed or volunteering in a caregiving facility be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state prison.
- [SB 524: Revise laws relating to category D assisted living facilities](#): Lenz. This bill provides alternatives to diversion from the Montana State Hospital. The Community Services Bureau is working on a process to commit an individual to a category D assisted living facility. This is a complex ask due to conflicts with Medicaid requirements.
- The Area Agencies on Aging were allocated \$2 million in general funds, which was incorporated into the base budget. Medicaid providers also received a 3% provider rate increase.
- [HB 341: Revise laws relating to brain injuries](#): Buttrey. This bill changes the contribution to an automatic donation with an opt-out provision. The budget for the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council is expected to increase, to be used for activities that educate and support recovery of individuals and families – including military service personnel living with traumatic brain injuries – and to promote brain injury prevention.
- [HJ 26: Study guardianships and conservatorships](#). This study will include researching other states and cover issues such as training, licensing, certification, and auditing of guardians and conservators. Currently, APS takes on court-ordered guardianships, and they do not have the resources or capacity to keep up with the demand.
- Lindsey brought up the Department of Commerce, as they have several grant opportunities for non-profits. The group agreed it would be good to invite them to our next meeting to speak on this. Gayle offered to do some grant training for AAAs and senior centers.

One Big Beautiful Bill Act - Impacts on Older Adults – Gayle Carlson - See attached PowerPoint

Aging Services Bureau updates – Kerrie Reidelbach

- All OAA programs moved to the Administration for Children, Families, and Communities (ACFC). ACL will continue to exist under this agency.
- FY2026 President's Budget Handout
- State general fund increase and allocation – [Projected SFY26 Summary for OAA allocation to the AAAs](#). Work was completed with the AAAs to develop a fair methodology for the allocation of this funding.

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