

Governor's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

SLTC – 1100 North Last Chance Gulch

August 8, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Attendance: In-person: Bob Meyers, Audrey Finlayson, Gayle Carlson, Peggy Tombre, Mary Lou Grossman, Jerry Thex, Roberta Bigback, Becky Bird, Kerrie Reidelbach
Virtually: Ryan Clark

Guests: Tessa Bailly, Patrick Kelley and Barb Smith

Members Absent: Lori Brengle and Al Ward

Welcome and Introductions – Bob Meyers, Chair - A warm welcome to our three new council members, Becky Bird, Audrey Finlayson and Mary Lou Grossman, we are so thrilled to have you all join the council along with your expertise!

Governor's Conference on Aging Planning Report – Tessa Bailly

Tessa reported that she, Kerrie and Bob met with the Local Conference Planning Committee in Great Falls on July 17th. This committee is helping to connect us with the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, as we would like to make it into their newsletter, setting up the flag ceremony and doing local outreach. We also discussed advertising in the Senior Newsletter, the Great Falls Senior Center and Area VIII Agency on Aging has a contact list of about 200 older adults they will send conference information to. A DPHHS Press Release will also come out for the conference, and I will share the press release for the Centenarian search for any social posting. Previous council chair, Laurie Glover is arranging volunteers to help from her nursing students. Kerrie will work with Laurie on the details.

Menu options were discussed, and it was agreed by the council to serve meatloaf, garlic mashed potatoes and a veggie as a plated meal for the Centenarian Luncheon. And on day two the taco bar was the preference.

Centenarian Luncheon – As of the date of the meeting we only have one centenarian registered to attend the luncheon and she is bringing a couple of guests. We only have 11 that have requested certificates from the Governor since January of this year. No worries, this is early and we are planning two more press releases to find more centenarians. The Ombudsman program staff are also on the lookout for centenarians in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. As of this date (August 16th) we now have 17 centenarians on the list. Tessa has started working on the centenarian stories for the booklet.

Sponsorship update – Tessa shared some of the sponsorships acquired and let everyone know if they have ideas to send them her way and she will take action. She reported that we have collected \$15,500 and to date we are at \$17,000.



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Mini grants – Gayle put together a scoring sheet for reviewing the grant proposals to ensure fairness. Thank you, Gayle, this will be very helpful! We have received very little proposals for the mini grants, so the council agreed to extend the due date to September 8th. A reminder email will be sent out to the AAAs to forward on to their eligible Senior Centers. A committee was formed to review the grant proposals which include: Audrey, Becky, Gayle and Ryan. Kerrie will send out the proposals with the scoring sheet after September 8th.

Other:

Kerrie announced that DPHHS now has a new logo and passed out new cover sheets for the council binders.

BOLD Grant Award submitted by Public Health – Last time we met we talked about this grant application, and this meeting we announced that the grant was successfully awarded to Public Health. Patrick shared an overview of the grant. This is a five-year grant, \$250,000 for each of the first two years and for years three to five \$450,000 each year. As Patrick stated, this is a big deal for Montana as Alzheimer’s disease and dementias will finally have a public health approach. Both Becky and Mary Lou volunteered to work on this grant however they can. Thank you both! See attachment provided by Patrick.

State Plan on Aging – Kerrie reported that we are still waiting for the approval from ACL.

SLTC Division Administrator Update - Barb reported on legislative outcomes. The Medicaid rate setting was delayed due to the Senate President not signing HB2. HB29 was vetoed and later was overridden by a poll of the legislature. As of July 1, 2025, anyone with a prominent diagnosis or needs related to Alzheimer’s / dementia will no longer be able to be placed at Warm Springs. 28 people will need to be moved and there are no nursing homes that are fully staffed or have the expertise to serve these individuals. A committee is being formed to help guide the department. Some are in Warm Springs for medicine management and basic ADL’s. Facilities will be surveyed for readiness to serve this population. Currently, the daily rate for Skilled Nursing Facilities is \$261.26 and for Assisted Living Facilities its \$118.75. It was reiterated that SLTC came out positive with new funding for the Ombudsman Program and a small provider rate increase for the AAAs.

Next meeting: Monday, October 2nd in Great Falls at 6:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center and then Tuesday October 17th at 10:00 AM. – This will be a zoom call to follow up following the conference.

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*