



# MEETING MINUTES

## Aging Advisory Council

Park City, Sheldon Richins Conference Room

March 13, 2025

1:30 pm

**Conducting:** Kendall Crittenden, Chair, Wasatch County Councilmember

**Attending:**

Carla Merrill, Alpine Mayor  
Tonja B. Hanson, Summit County Councilmember  
Cara Moody, Utah County Senior Volunteers  
Jessica Wilde, Summit County Senior Services  
Gale Pace, Retired Senior Volunteer Program  
Linda Cole, MAG Aging Deputy Director  
Amy Lewis, MAG Administrative Assistant  
Jimmy Golding, MAG Volunteer Operations Manager  
Gena Bertelsen, Vice Chair, Orem Friendship Senior Center  
Claudia Barillas, Utah County Human Services  
Tori Eaton, Springville Senior Center  
Debi Damico, Orem City Outreach Coordinator

**Excused:**

Mike Winward, Wasatch Senior Center  
Elen Holdaway, Caregiver Coalition  
Jamie Jensen, Lindon Senior Center  
Kena Mathews, Orem City Community Services Manager  
Jonelle Fitzgerald, Wasatch County Health Department  
Michelle Carrol, MAG Executive Director  
Jan Kirkham-Jonsson, Lehi Senior Center  
Sandra Curcio, Ability First Utah  
Stan Street, American Fork Senior Center  
Tana Toly, Park City Senior Senior Center

**Guests:**

Anne Coleman, Fuller Center  
Katie Mitchell, MAG HEAT and Housing Rehab Program Manager

## Discussion & Agenda Items

Aging Deputy Director, Linda Cole, opened the meeting at 1:35 pm and welcomed members and guests. Introductions were made and first time attendees, Claudia Barillas and Cara Moody, were welcomed to the council meeting.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES & MEMBERSHIP

Kendall Crittenden - Aging Advisory Council Chair, Conducting

Motion for the approval of meeting minutes from January 9, 2025 were made by Gale Pace and seconded by Tonja Hanson. Linda Cole, Aging Co-Deputy Director, put forward the nomination of Debi Damico of Orem City for membership on the council. Debi provided a brief introduction of herself. Kendall Crittenden made the motion to approve her participation on the council and Jessica Wilde seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION OF PRESENTERS

Linda Cole - MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director

#### 3 FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING UTAH COUNTY

Anne Coleman - Fuller Center Boardmember

Anne Coleman from the Fuller Center for Housing discussed key information about their goal to assist low-income seniors by repairing their homes. Their focus area is Utah County. In the last five years, they have successfully finished 112 projects in Utah County that enhanced the living conditions for the recipients. This effort not only improves home safety but also boosts the quality of life for those facing financial difficulties. Anne highlighted the organization's dedication to helping homeowners in Utah County by carrying out essential repairs, updates and home improvements.

They offer two types of services: the more significant "Greater Blessings Projects" and minor "Encouragement Projects." Encouragement projects focus on small tasks such as yard work, clean-up, or repairs and can be completed in just one day. Greater Blessing Projects are more significant and include repairs costing up to \$5,000 or more. Once the project is finished, the homeowners can "pay forward" the cost depending on what they feel they can afford. These "repayments" are then used to assist others in Utah County who need the same support.

If there is a crisis situation, the turnaround can often be quite fast-in as little as 24 hours. Eighty percent of the median income is used as a guideline for the low-income housing projects. Persons interested can call and leave a voicemail at 801-921-5335 or email: [Contact@fullercenterutahcounty.org](mailto:Contact@fullercenterutahcounty.org).

#### 4 MAG SINGLE FAMILY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Katie Mitchell - HEAT and Housing Rehab Program Manager

This program aims to assist homeowners in Utah, Summit and Wasatch counties who have a low income, specifically those earning up to eighty percent of the median income. Katie Mitchell shared examples of single-family homes that have benefited from the program. These homes have undergone repairs that include energy-efficiency upgrades. These improvements not only enhance energy savings but also promote better health and safety for the residents.

Providing financial support to improve and maintain safe living conditions is essential for creating healthier homes and a better environment. When residents invest in necessary repairs they not only enhance their quality of life but also contribute to the overall well-being of the community. Financial support including loans and grants is vital for making these improvements accessible to everyone.

5 MAG AGING UPDATES

**LINDA COLE - MAG AGING CO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

AAAS AND AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL ROLE

MAG Aging and Family Services operates within the framework of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Some AAAs are hosted in health departments or county governments, but in our three-county region, the AAA is housed in an entity called an Association of Governments. AAAs make it possible for older individuals to remain in their homes longer by providing various programs and supports. AAAs are administered by the Administration on Community Living (ACL) under the Older Americans Act. The Older Americans Act requires that AAAs support an advisory council.

The Advisory Council helps advise the AAAs by representing the voices of aging adults and acting as advocates for aging services in the community. The Aging Advisory Council also helps advise on the needs and priorities of seniors in the community. AAAs are required to complete a 4-year plan that is updated each year of the plan. As part of their role, council members also review the plan and then it is passed along to the MAG Executive Council for approval. MAG Aging is in the process of updating year 3 of the plan. When completed, a copy of the plan will be sent to advisory council members for review before the next meeting in May. Please watch for this email and bring any questions that you may have..

POTENTIAL FEDERAL FUNDING CUT IMPACTS

The Older Americans Act (OAA), which provides crucial federal funding for programs supporting seniors, was set to be reauthorized with bipartisan backing on December 10th, 2024. Unfortunately, the process was not completed before the new administration came into office in January and the OAA is currently not authorized. OAA programs will continue to operate at 2024 funding levels until a new comprehensive budget package is passed. This upcoming budget could introduce significant cuts or even eliminate federal funding for certain OAA programs. Medicaid-funded programs for in-home services are also at risk of funding cuts.

A slide was reviewed showing funding sources for MAG Aging Services programs. Programs receiving federal and Medicaid funds as well as Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds are currently the most vulnerable to potential cuts. The slide indicates that all of MAGs aging programs are in some way tied to federal funding with a range from 11% to 100% reliance on federal funds. Some programs are supported by Medicaid and SSBG funds as well. There is a lot of uncertainty currently about the future of aging services.

**JIMMY GOLDING - MAG AGING CO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

MARCH FOR MEALS KICKOFF, ETC.

The recent Meals on Wheels kick-off event brought vital attention to the pressing issues of social isolation and malnutrition among older adults in Utah. Utah ranks first in malnutrition-related deaths for seniors which highlights the importance of the Meals on Wheels services. The Lt. Governor, Deidre Henderson, attended the event and spoke to the fact that, by providing nutritious meals and fostering social connections, Meals on Wheels helps combat these challenges..

Bronson Kaufusi, underscored the importance of community involvement in addressing these concerns, urging local residents to participate actively in supporting their elderly neighbors. Tom Greer, a dedicated volunteer from Wasatch County, shared the experience of saving a client's life through timely intervention.

His story highlighted the impact individual actions can have. Together, these stories emphasized that Meals on Wheels is not just about delivering food; it's about nourishing both the body and spirit of older adults and bridging the gaps of social isolation, safety and poor nutrition for our seniors in the community.

The March for Meals event has begun, which involves providing elected officials with the opportunity to deliver meals to seniors. The event not only highlights the essential service that ensures seniors receive nutritious food, but also fosters awareness of the unique challenges many aging adults face. Officials are able to interact with Meals on Wheels clients to understand the impact the program has in these individuals' lives.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Meals on Wheels program, serving Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties, currently has a waitlist of nearly 500 homebound seniors. Despite the statewide AAAs request for \$4.5 million to sustain home-delivered meal services, only \$1.75 million was allocated, creating a funding gap. This funding shortfall threatens its ability to serve the most vulnerable members of the community. Meals on Wheels recipients benefit from these meals, not just for nutrition, but for connection and care. The demand for home delivery meals is expected to rise further as the population ages.

Despite the program receiving \$700,000 in donations from the community, it still has a \$550,000 deficit. The current funding, bolstered by both state resources and in-kind contributions, enables the program to maintain operations at current levels through FY 2026. The nonprofit Meals on Wheels Summit, Utah, Wasatch seeks innovative solutions to bridge the funding gap while remaining committed to its mission.

#### 6 CENTENARIANS LUNCHEON

Kendall Crittenden - Aging Advisory Council chair: If you know of any Centenarians in your area, encourage them to register for Centenarians Luncheon through the state website. The Centenarian Program recognizes individuals over 100 years old. There are 152 centenarians in Utah with the oldest being 112 years old. The celebration includes lunch, music and an opportunity to shake hands with our state's leaders.

<https://daas.utah.gov/centenarians/>

Contact: 801-538-3910 or mgregory@utah.gov

#### 7 ROUNDTABLE: PLEASE SHARE EVENTS HAPPENING AT YOUR SENIOR CENTER OR ORGANIZATIONS

Jonelle Fitzgerald was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict, but she wanted to ensure everyone was informed about this year's farmer's market program for seniors in Wasatch County. This initiative provides qualifying seniors with \$50 vouchers to purchase fresh produce, promoting healthier eating and supporting local farmers. It is evident that these vouchers in previous years have made a significant difference in the lives of seniors, allowing them to access nutritious foods while enjoying the farmers market.

A motion was made to close the meeting by Tonja Hanson and seconded by Gale Pace.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### Next meeting:

Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:30 pm, MAG Orem Conference Room