



MEETING MINUTES

Aging Advisory Council

MAG Orem Conference Room

May 8, 2025

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Conducting: Kendall Crittenden, Chair, Wasatch County Councilmember

Attending:

Cara Moody, Utah County Senior Volunteers
Gale Pace, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Linda Cole, MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director
Amy Lewis, MAG Administrative Assistant
Jimmy Golding, MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director
Mard Sifuentes Rep. Utah County Human Services
Debi D'Amico, Orem City Outreach Coordinator
Angel Cortes, Rep. Ability First Utah
Jamie Jensen, Lindon Senior Center
Kena Mathews, Community Action Housing Director
Carla Merrill, Alpine Mayor
Johnathan Knaptom, MAG Dir. Public & Gov. Relations
Heather Dorius, MAG Meals on Wheels Program Manager

Excused:

Gena Bertelsen, Vice Chair, Orem Friendship SC
Jonelle Fitzgerald, Wasatch County Health Department
Tonja B. Hanson, Summit County Councilmember
Elen Holdaway, Caregiver Coalition
Jan Kirkham-Jonsson, Lehi Senior Center
Jessica Wilde, Summit County Senior Services
Claudia Barillas, Utah County Human Services
Tori Eaton, Springville Senior Center
Mike Winward, Wasatch Senior Center
Sandra Curcio, Ability First Utah
Stan Street, American Fork Senior Center
Tana Toly, Park City Senior Center

Guests:

Emily Christensen, Jewish Family Services Arts and Aging Coordinator

Discussion & Agenda Items

AGENDA ITEMS

1 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Kendall Crittenden - Aging Advisory Council Chair, Conducting
A motion to approve meeting minutes from March 13, 2025, was made by Gale Pace, seconded by Cara Moody, and unanimously approved by the council.

2 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF YEAR 3 OF MAG AREA PLAN

Linda Cole - MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director

Each Area Agency on Aging under the Older Americans Act must conduct a four-year plan to ensure compliance with the Act. When reviewing the plan overview, the MAG agency's structure was explained as having two co-deputies overseeing various programs. Jimmy is responsible for Meals on Wheels, the

	<p>Retired Senior Volunteer, the Senior Health Insurance Program, and the Friendly Callers programs. Linda is responsible for in-home services, caregiver support, long-term care ombudsmen, education programs, outreach, and referrals in the community. An overview of the work and accomplishments of MAG Aging and Family Services over the past year was presented, and a brief explanation was given regarding the 3rd year review of the plan. Gale Pace motioned to approve year three of the MAG's four-year plan, seconded by Cara Moody, and approved unanimously. The plan will be presented to the MAG Executive Council with this committee's approval.</p>
3	<p>INTRODUCTION OF PRESENTERS Linda Cole - MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director</p>
4	<p>PRESENTATION: UTAH CREATIVE AGING FESTIVAL Emily Christensen, Festival Steering Committee Member</p> <p>Emily, the Arts and Aging coordinator from the Jewish Family Service, leads the Utah Creative Aging Coalition, a coalition of healthcare, business, governmental, non-profit, and educational leaders. The coalition aims to promote creative aging in Utah, increasing opportunities for engaging in the arts, health benefits, social connections, emotional and cognitive benefits, and influencing stakeholders to prioritize creativity. The festival, a two-week statewide event in September, will kick off on August 30 at the Mid Valley Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake. The organization will advertise arts events for seniors through a registry. Participants can apply for small grants to pay instructors for their arts activities. They are also considering online classes and dementia-friendly tracks.</p>
5	<p>MAG AGING UPDATES LINDA COLE - MAG AGING CO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION ON COMMUNITY LIVING AND FUNDING STATUS UPDATE The federal aging services support entity, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) has been disbanded, potentially leaving the staff and programs to be distributed among three agencies: Child and Family Services, Centers for Medicare, and the Older Americans Act (OAA) program. The budget proposal for these programs was leaked in the press, creating concerns about the potential loss of programs and the potential disbandment of the OAA which authorizes programs. The budget proposal mentions plans to eliminate some OAA and other aging-specific programs. Proposed Medicaid funding cuts could also impact in-home services, potentially leading to the elimination of programs and reduced access to nursing homes. The situation remains uncertain, with no current, solid information about impacts to programs.</p> <p>UTAH LEGAL SERVICES UPCOMING CLINICS (May 22nd - Wasatch, June 19th - Summit) Upcoming senior legal clinics for both Wasatch and Summit Senior Centers were discussed. MAG Aging and Family Services partners with Utah Legal Services to provide free legal consultations for seniors 60 and older.</p> <p>GOVERNOR COX'S WISE INITIATIVE LISTENING SESSIONS Governor Cox's WISE initiative, which focuses on wealth, independence, security, and engagement for seniors, was introduced. The initiative includes listening sessions to gather input from seniors and professionals on their needs and experiences. The first listening session in the area will be held on May 13th at the American Fork Senior Center. An invitation to attend was extended to council members and they were encouraged to share information about the listening sessions with their networks.</p>

JUNE 12TH ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

A flyer for the free, virtual conference for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was distributed to the group to spread awareness. Senior center directors were encouraged to speak to their participants and to potentially host watch parties.

ANNUAL CAREGIVER CONFERENCE - NEED TO LOCATE NEW VENUE

Plans are ongoing to find a new location for the 2025 MAG Caregiver Conference, as the Doterra location is unavailable. MAG staff has toured a number of venues, including the BYU Harmon Conference building. The hope is to create a collaboration with the BYU Gerontology program to host the conference at the conference building.

JIMMY GOLDING - MAG AGING CO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SMITHS REWARD FUNDRAISER

Smith's fundraising campaign involves customers attaching their Smith's Food and Drug rewards card to the Meals on Wheels Summit, Utah & Wasatch nonprofit. Smith will then donate 0.5% of the participants' purchases to the nonprofit. Jimmy encouraged council members to participate in the program and to spread the word. Every bit adds up and proceeds will go to reduce the waiting list for meals.

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

Angel Cortes provided information about the Ability First Open House on May 14th at 3:00 p.m., featuring the elevator and a newly constructed accessibility ramp.

Kena Mathews explained that the warming centers are closed for the season and are expected to reopen in October 2025. Due to a lack of shelter funding in Utah County and the Wasatch Back, warming centers may need to make changes in the coming season. Information about reopening this year will be released as October approaches.

Cara Moody announced that the Foster Grandparents Senior Companion programs are preparing for tomorrow's recognition event. This event features state-level guests discussing senior issues in Utah County and Wasatch County.

Gale Pace motioned to close the meeting, Cara Moody seconded it, and the council unanimously approved it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Next meeting:

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 1:30 pm, Heber TBD