

Aging Advisory Council



MINUTES | November 13, 2025 | 1:30 pm

Options for Participation

MAG Office: 586 E. 800 N., Orem, UT 84097

Webinar Link was given to members

Attending:

Kendall Crittenden, Chair, Wasatch County Councilmember
Cara Moody, Utah County Senior Volunteers
Carla Merrill, Alpine Mayor
Claudia Barillas, Utah County Human Services
Jamie Jensen, Lindon Senior Center
Jan Jonsson-Kirkham, Lehi Senior Center
Jessica Wilde, Summit County Senior Services
Kena J. Mathews, Community Action Housing Director
Nancy Madsen, Caregiver Coalition

MAG Staff:

Linda Cole, MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director
Jimmy Golding, MAG Aging Co-Deputy Director
Ann Humphreys, Ombudsman Program Manager
Geri Lehnhardt, Case Manager
Shelly Leavitt, Administrative Assistant
Shelley Stutz, MOW Development Coordinator
Maurny Grande, MOW Operations Coordinator
Dana Bowman, Aging Administrative Assistant

Guest:

Kristy Russell, State Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program Manager

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Kendall Crittenden, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from September 4, 2025 by Cara Moody. Motion was seconded by Jessica Wilde and unanimously approved.

Guest Speaker

Linda introduced guest speaker Kristy Russell as the Utah State Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program Manager. Kristy provided information regarding the GUIDE model which was created by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to provide resources and support for those diagnosed with dementia and reduce the overall strain on the healthcare system. She noted the crossover from other programs providing similar services and the challenges associated with navigation of these programs. Kristy highlighted that, to qualify for the Guide program, participants must be on traditional Medicare and can be at any stage or have any type of dementia, including those not yet diagnosed. Kristy provided a handout listing current Utah-based providers and a link to locate telehealth providers. Linda followed up with a discussion regarding overlap with these providers and the Area Agencies for Aging in relation to funding for education and training.

MAG Aging Department Directors' Update; *Linda Cole, MAG Aging Co-Director*

Linda provided an update regarding the Federal Government shutdown noting that the HEAT program was paused during the shutdown, however, State funding has provided temporary stabilization. An upcoming challenge includes the dissolution of the Administration for Community Living and what that means for the organization.

Next the proposed 2026 Aging Advisory Council schedule was shared. The floor was opened for potential conflicts though none were voiced.

Linda then shared that MAG has purchased a new building which will allow for the consolidation of all MAG services into one building. The move-in date has not been determined and will be shared at a later date.

All were reminded that there are new resource guides available if anyone needs them. It was noted that Utah County has been separated from the Summit and Wasatch guide to improve portability. Linda also shared that there are still incontinence briefs available for pickup at the Orem office.

Shelley Stutz provided updates on recent and upcoming fundraising efforts for the non-profit arm of Meals on Wheels:

- Live PC, Give PC: This annual Park City giving day was very successful. \$27,000 in donations were received which is nearly double the \$14,000 raised the previous year. They ranked 7th out of 27 organizations in their category and 39th out of all 148 participating organizations.
- Giving Tuesday: This worldwide giving day is coming up on December 2nd. The team will be pushing out content on social media and emails, and ask for help in sharing that information.

Information was shared regarding this year's Socks for Seniors drive. New, unopened socks will be collected at donation boxes throughout Utah, Summit, and Wasatch counties through November 28th.

Ombudsman Program Update; Ann Humpherys, LTC Ombudsman Program Manager

Ann provided an update on the Ombudsman program, which advocates for individuals in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities across Utah, Summit, and Wasatch counties. The program oversees 62 facilities with nearly 4,000 beds and is federally mandated to provide a visit to every facility every quarter. Additionally, it was noted that the program's funding has decreased over the last two years due to less grant funding and increased competition for SSBG funds, leading to a reduction in Ombudsman program hours alongside an increase in workload. Ann highlighted that the Ombudsman program is the only entity that conducts proactive, preventative visits.

Annual Caregiver Conference & Upcoming Movie Event; Geri Lehnardt, Caregiver Support Program & Caregiver Coalition

Geri provided a highly positive wrap-up of the recent Annual Caregiver Conference, held on November 1st in recognition of Utah Caregiver Month. This year's theme was, "Thriving Together: Finding the Light in Caregiving" with a focus on combating the natural isolation and loneliness caregivers experience, helping them connect, and encouraging a mindset change to see the positive aspects amidst the stress of caregiving. Highlights include:

- The conference raised \$18,000 in funds, up from \$13,000 the previous year.
- Total Sponsorships & Donations included \$1,869 in in-kind donations, the total financial support was approximately \$20,000.
- There were a total of 297 unique attendees (in-person and online), indicating the conference is growing in popularity and is one of the best-attended caregiver events in the state.
- The conference received 4.8 out of 5 stars from surveys. Attendees expressed gratitude for the support, particularly new caregivers, noting the learned principles could "lighten our loads and feel more joy."

Geri also shared that the next event is in the spring which will be a movie for caregivers and their families.

Council Member Roundtable

Jessica Wilde shared that Summit County will be having their annual senior luncheon in Colville at the Ledges Event Center on December 4th at 12pm.

Claudia Barrillas shared that Utah County will be opening their warming center on November 17th at the Red Building in Provo. Volunteers can sign-up on the Community Actions website.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2026 at the MAG Orem Conference Room

Adjourned at 3:04pm.