

# AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MINUTES | January 8, 2026 | 1:30 pm



### Options to Participate

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

Webinar Link provided to members

### Attendees

Kendall Crittenden, Chair, Wasatch County Councilmember  
Gena Bertelsen, Vice Chair, Orem Senior Center  
Cara Moody, Utah County Senior Volunteers  
Carla Merrill, Alpine Mayor  
Claudia Barillas, Utah County Human Services  
Gale Pace, Retired Senior Volunteer Program  
Jamie Jensen, Lindon Senior Center  
Jan Jonsson-Kirkham, Lehi Senior Center  
Kena J. Mathews, Community Action Housing Director  
Mike Winward, Wasatch Senior Center  
Nancy Madsen, Caregiver Coalition  
Tonja B. Hanson, Summit County Councilmember

### MAG Staff

Linda Cole, MAG Aging Co-Director  
Jimmy Golding, MAG Aging Co-Director  
Stephanie Benson, Communications Coordinator  
Tanya Macdonald, Community Education Specialist  
Katie Chase, Information and Outreach Specialist  
Dana Bowman, Aging Advisory Records Officer

### Guest:

Megan Schmidt, Adult Protective Services Training Manager

**Meeting was called to order at 1:31pm by Kendall Crittenden, Chair.**

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from November 13, 2025 by Gena Bertelsen . Motion was seconded by Mike Winward and unanimously approved.

### Guest Speaker

***Megan Schmidt, Adult Protective Services Training Manager***

Linda introduced guest speaker Megan Schmidt as the Adult Protective Services Training Manager for the state of Utah. Megan expressed that Adult Protective Services (APS) is often confused with other agencies and that their purpose is often misunderstood. She emphasized that the goal of APS is to help the vulnerable adult population to age in an environment that they choose. For clarification, she provided detailed information regarding what APS does and does not have the authority to do such as no forced removals of an individual. Megan provided investigation statistics noting that the highest number of reports involve self-neglect, financial exploitation, as well as scams and fraud. She also provided a regional breakdown of statistics for Summit, Wasatch, and Utah Counties' 746 completed investigations in 2025. Lastly, she reminded everyone that Utah is a mandatory reporting state and therefore anyone who suspects that a vulnerable adult is being mistreated must report it.

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## MAG Aging Department Directors' Update

*Linda Cole, MAG Aging Co-Director*

Linda introduced Katie Chase as MAG's new Information and Outreach Specialist. Katie will be working to share information with the community regarding services that help older adults including dementia navigation. Linda also shared that ideally the council will be composed of a minimum 50% members over the age of 60 and is therefore looking for additional members. She requested that members share information about the council with others, particularly those associated with Senior Centers. Gena Bertelsen suggested that MAG send a representative to Senior Centers to answer questions and provide more detailed information about council involvement.

*Jimmy Golding, MAG Aging Co-Director*

Jimmy shared the success of the 2025 Socks for Seniors drive, highlighting that over 500 seniors received multiple socks during the holiday season. The next campaign coming up is March for Meals where elected officials participate in meal deliveries to the community's seniors, providing them a first-hand look at the impact of Meals on Wheels. Target dates for this event are the last two full weeks of March. Jimmy then shared that though the Governor's budget proposed \$1.8 million statewide for Meals on Wheels programs, it will still require significantly more to meet the program's current needs. Along with this, MAG will have a weekly presence during the upcoming legislative session to advocate for senior services and maintain visibility with budget decision-makers. Lastly, Jimmy shared the unfortunate news that, due to severe funding constraints, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be discontinued effective at the end of March. He thanked Katie and Essen for their phenomenal work with this program.

## New Senior Education Series

*Tanya Macdonald, MAG Community Education Coordinator*

Tanya shared the new classes that MAG will be offering virtually in the upcoming year. In January MAG is partnering with cybersecurity firm Arctic Wolf to host a scam prevention class focusing on financial scams that target seniors. February's class focuses on navigating assisted living and skilled nursing facilities while March's class offers information on hospice and funeral planning. Gena asked if these classes will be recorded and available for later viewing for those that are unable to attend the live event. Linda confirmed that is an eventual goal but wants to ensure privacy is maintained for participants that share personal information during the class. The meeting was then opened for suggestions of other classes that would be valuable. Suggestions provided include: an intermediate level Medicare class that provides more details than the Medicare 101 class; a class detailing legal services including definitions, rights, and responsibilities; as well as health and wellness classes including sleep regulation, administering Naloxone, or a pharmacist-led class discussing medication and drug interactions. Members were encouraged to reach out to Tanya if they have additional class ideas or know someone that may be interested in teaching a class.

## Councilmember Roundtable

Nancy Madsen shared that the Caregiver Coalition is still looking for a new location in American Fork to hold a caregiver support group since the previous location is no longer available.

Gena shared that the second annual OSFC Golden Years Pageant is scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2026. Seniors who wish to participate must be a current member of the Orem City Senior Center.

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## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026 in Heber.

**Adjourned at 3:07pm.**