

Grand County Council on Aging

Grand Center, June 8, 2026, Minutes

Present

Karen Feary, Suzan Martin, Cherie Major, Kim Sherwood, Pat Hlas

Others Present

Yordy Eastwood (Director), Melodie McCandless (GCC Rep) Melisa Jeffers (GC Economic Development), Char Mates

Call to Order: 12:52 pm

General Business

Approval of minutes April 13, 2026

Suzan moved Pat second – unanimous approval - no changes

Grand Center Activities Report

Pat reported on the upcoming Salsa and table scaping event June 11, and lunch planned at the new restaurant Elsie's later this month. The regular programs continue, cards, chair yoga, Mexican train dominos as grown from one day to 3 days a week, bingo, book club, coffee and tea with excellent speakers for example Paula from AmeriCorps and coming up a talk on Wellness. The exercise programs also continue.

COA District Meeting

Karen reported that Grand County had Karen, Kim and Cherie in attendance and two people from Emery. Each reported about their center activities. Huntington's new center still has acoustic problems. They reported going to the Theater in Salt Lake and dancing with a live band.

Grand County Commission Report

Melodie reported it has been a very busy month. She will defer the Survey report to Melisa

Grand Center Report

Yordy reported June is Elder Abuse month. We will have a speaker on June 25th from the Department of Justice. The center is keeping busy with new activities and excellent attendance. They have also added Mahjong as an activity.

Action Items

This meeting had a new zoom feature to allow more people to participate in the meetings. It will include a follow-up video of the meeting that can be viewed later, on the Grand County website.

Surveys

Melisa Jeffers gave an update on the survey assessing the senior needs in Grand County. There were many surveys collected online and paper versions, over 300. The individuals who entered the surveys into the computer were thanked for their contribution. It was a big effort that also included Castle Valley and Thompson Springs. Enough surveys were collected to meet the requirement for access to grants. It was a 4.7 error rate with 95% confidence. However, still accepting more surveys as we don't want to exclude anyone. Surveys must be collected by Friday June 12, 2026. Then the final statistics will be tabulated. The survey was a great success, but the collection did not mirror the demographics of Grand County. There were more women than men, more higher income seniors than low income and very few Hispanic surveys. The county has a 4% Hispanic population, but most refused to fill out the survey being fearful of the current situation with ICE.

MAPS Project

The RFP for the building project was extended to June 30, 2026. We currently have 5 proposals submitted and are hoping for more with the extension. The July meeting will be focused on selecting a proposal. The next meeting is this Thursday, and folks have an on-going invitation to attend. Char asked about the Care Center, Melodie said the care center expansion is the 1st priority, it is in the planning process and should be accepted by the end of the year. Then the builder will be selected. The care center goal is to have it completed in 2 years. It is complicated because the hospital is now providing food and laundry which will have to be moved to the care center as part of the expansion. Char asked about regular reporting to the public about the process. Karen said that the survey assessment will provide many of the answers and will be shared with the public, including what the concerns are and what are the gaps. Melisa said a strategic plan will be developed from the results which will provide a road map for the future. There will be a 2-page spread in the Ad-Vertiser and other follow-ups planned. Melodie wants to make it a major focus with the County Commission.

Special Services District

The Special Services District receives 1% of the sales tax to be used for Fire Department, EMS and the health care district. The needs assessment/Survey will help achieve this tax money's use for senior health care. The health care Special services District meetings are the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 at the EMS building.

Char said to keep up the good work on behalf of the seniors, and she appreciated the zoom meetings that will be available after.

Melisa commented that the State Legislature will be more informed due to the needs assessment. It should bring more resources.

Suszan said the Elder Care Bill she asked about last month was a scam-fake

Char said she would forward Karen the website to learn about the District 69 candidates.

Melodie said the Federal government gave money for the rural health initiative; the county will be discussing the use and complexities. This is where the survey will help apply for the money.

Next meeting August 10, 12:30 pm, Grand Center Conference Room

Adjourned: 1:30 pm