

Advisory Council on Aging
March 10, 2011
Mountainland Association of Governments
586 East 800 North
Orem, UT

CONDUCTING: Mayor James Hadfield

ATTENDING:

Lyndia Carter	Marianne Christensen	Heidi DeMarco
Steve Farrell	Doug Hardy	Melanie Haws
Stephen Mahoney	Scott McBeth	Jay Dee Nielsen
Judy Seegmiller	Brian Smith	Ted Strong
Commissioner Doug Witney		

GUESTS: Jean Hatch Casey Allen Maurine Lindsay

Mayor James Hadfield welcomed the members of the Advisory Council on Aging to the meeting. Mayor Hadfield offered the opening prayer remarks. Ralph Horne led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 10, 2011 meeting. Steve Farrell motioned to accept the minutes as they were presented. Ralph Horne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION AGENDA

Four-Year Area Plan

Heidi DeMarco gave the Council a handout titled *Area Agency on Aging Four-Year Plan: Fiscal Years 2012-2015*. She said that the format has changed to meet state guidelines, which includes a new section for Area Plan Description and Assurances. The language used in this section is from the Older American Act and will only show in the first year of the plan. Heidi briefly reviewed the progress report on goals and objectives, and accomplishments of the past year as much of the material was reviewed at prior meetings.

Heidi stated that the specific goals and objectives discussed in previous meetings were organized to meet the criteria required by the state. The goals determined by the state are as follows:

1. Focusing on most vulnerable target populations.
2. Efficiencies and initiatives for best practices in service delivery.
3. Empowering seniors in maintaining health, safety and independence.
4. Develop and strengthen community partnerships.

On April 14, 2011, the Four-Year Area Plan will be presented to the Advisory Council on Aging for final approval. Heidi asked the Council for their input and suggestions.

Stephen Mahoney expressed concern that the office specialist at the Wasatch County Senior Citizens is spending more time entering information in the database for the meal program. Heidi stated that the information entered is crucial for funding. MAG recognizes that it is a burden and has been working to streamline the process to make it easier.

Maurine Lindsay said the computer they use at the Pleasant Grove Senior Center to enter information on the database is very slow. Heidi said MAG would work with her to upgrade their computer.

Ralph Horne expressed concern that there is a 5% decline in congregate meals. Scott stated that nationally the numbers are going down at senior centers.

Financial Exploitation of Seniors

Commissioner Doug Witney presented a Power Point presentation to the Council titled *Know the Signs of Elder Abuse and Be a Part of the Solution*. He said that he is working with the Senior Companion Program to educate their volunteers to be aware of signs of abuse and financial exploitation.

Commissioner Witney stated that Utah Code 62A-3-301 ET SEQ. authorizes Adult Protective Services (APS) to investigate allegations of abuse for disabled or elder adults in need of protection. He would like to encourage legislation to change the law so it will allow prosecution on a local level, therefore speeding up the process of prosecuting persons committing crimes against seniors.

Commissioner Witney reviewed the signs of abuse and exploitation. He said seniors are a target for financial exploitation because most have good credit and own their own home. Seniors are less likely to report a crime against them because they are ashamed and do not want their family to think they no longer have the mental capacity to take care of themselves.

Commissioner Witney said the goal of the presentation is to educate and empower seniors and their caregivers about the signs of abuse and how it can be prevented. The presentation will be condensed into a brief outline and used to train volunteers.

RSVP Grant and 2011 Recognition Events

Jean Hatch gave the Council the 2011 Medicare calendar that lists important dates pertaining to Medicare enrollment and helpful contact numbers. She also gave the Council the March 2011 RSVP Newsletter, 2011 RSVP Recognition Event invitation and a listing of the RSVP volunteer statistics for April 1, 2010 to March 10, 2011.

Jean reported that currently MAG sponsors RSVP, but the program will be up for re-competition in three years. At that time, MAG will have to compete with other agencies to continue to sponsor the program. In an effort to make sure RSVP is in compliance with the requirements established for re-competition by the Corporation for National Community Services, the RSVP Advisory Council has been conducting their own internal evaluation of the program. Areas of the program being evaluated are community participation, partnerships, communication, outreach, and project impact.

Legislature Budget Status

Scott reported that legislature ends tonight at midnight. Because of increased state revenues, funding will remain the same for senior services, Meals-on-Wheels and senior centers.

In-the-News

Heidi Demarco gave the Council a newspaper article from The Salt Lake Tribune published February 10, 2011 discussing senior service budget cuts, and a newspaper article from The Payson Chronicles published March 2, 2011 discussing the Meals-on-Wheels Volunteer Program. Heidi also gave the Council the winter 2011 caregiver newsletter, caregiver support group flier, and UCARE class schedule.

Other

Scott said he received a call from Commissioner Witney regarding a senior concerned that the food pantry is closing down. He spoke with Mila Dutton at Community Action Services and Food Bank who reported that eight outreach workers that assist with the HEAT applications have been terminated. She assured Scott that all the programs that Community Action Services and Food Bank provide would stay in place, with the exception of the Circuit Breaker Program. Mila asked MAG if they would be willing to take over the responsibility of the Circuit Breaker Program.

Mayor Hadfield asked the Council to give a report for their area.

Doug Hardy said he has had seniors ask why they go so late in the year to Senior Day at the Legislature.

Maurine Lindsay said she appreciates today's discussion.

Jay Dee Nielsen would like the elder abuse program directed to both seniors and caregivers.

Jean Hatch said she would like to help with the elder abuse presentation.

Lyndia Carter said she is looking forward to creating a partnership to better educate the senior population.

Melanie Haws gave each Council member a copy of the recently published Community Resource Guide for Senior Citizens book.

Commissioner Witney said he would look at the possibility of having a worker present to provide documentation with assessors regarding Circuit Breaker Program.

A motion was entertained to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held April 14, 2011 at the Mountainland office in Orem.