

Aging Advisory Council Meeting

Wasatch County Senior Center

Thursday, March 8, 2018

1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Conducting: Chairman Glenn Wright, Summit County Council Member

Attending:

Steve Farrell, Vice-Chair, Wasatch County Council Member

Gena Bertelsen, Orem Senior Center

Lyndia Carter, Springville Senior Center

Alicia Christensen, Provo Senior Center

Marianne Christensen, Senior Companion Program

Ashley Fish, Wasatch Senior Center

Andrew Jackson, Executive Director, Mountainland Aging & Family Services

Heather Nalette, Summit County Senior Services

Grant Parker, American Fork Senior Center

Heidi DeMarco, Director, Mountainland Aging & Family Services

Jeremy Pehrson, Nutrition Manager, Mountainland Aging & Family Service

Joan Stradling, Information & Referral, Mountainland Aging & Family Services

Dennis Wilson, RSVP Advisory Council

Lopini Wolfgramm, United Way

Excused:

Judy Seegmiller, Caregiver Representative

Guests:

Jane Ostler, Huntsman Cancer Institute

Councilmember Wright called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. Councilmember Farrell offered the opening prayer remarks and Councilmember Wright led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Lunch was provided by the Wasatch Senior Center, with appreciation extended to Ashley Fish, Director, and his staff for hosting this meeting.

Dennis Wilson was invited to introduce himself as a new member of the Aging Advisory Council. He will represent the RSVP Board and will be a great asset to the Aging Advisory Council.

Councilmember Wright led the group in a “Moment of Silence” for Mayor Hadfield, former Aging Advisory Council Chairman, who recently passed away. Mayor Hadfield touched the lives of everyone who had the privilege to know and work with him. He dedicated his life to serving his family, community, and country. He will be dearly missed.

Minutes

Councilmember Wright asked if there were any comments to the minutes of the January 11, 2018, meeting, copy provided with the agenda.

Grant Parker moved that the minutes of the January 11th meeting stand approved. Lyndia Carter seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

DISCUSSION & ACTION AGENDA:

Huntsman Cancer Institute – Jane Ostler, Community Health Educator

Jane Ostler distributed handouts to the group and commented that the average age for a cancer diagnosis is 66, one in three women and one in two men will develop some sort of cancer in their life time. She noted that skin cancer equals 50% of all cancers and Utahns get lots of skin exposure at our high altitude. She has made a concerted effort to reach out to senior centers in the State to work with the senior population. She said that she has realized in reaching out to many seniors, cancer screenings should be particularly important in their 40s and 50s. She commented that her organization is also reaching out to the caregiver population as they shoulder most of the responsibility for caring for their aging parents. Jane emphasized that their door is always open to collaboration with other organizations to help provide information.

Summit County Meal Bid Process – Heidi DeMarco

Heidi stated that it is time to consider opening the Summit County bid process for both the congregate and HDM programs. Denise’s Home Plate has been under contract since 2005 to provide Home-Delivered Meals. In order to be good stewards, to ensure we are paying best price and to offer opportunity to other vendors, we will be opening the bid process this spring.

Heidi noted that Summit County is building a new facility in Kamas, and they are looking at whether or not they want to provide meals to their new senior center. They are willing to be part of this bid process. She invited the Council’s input.

Ashley Fish moved and Gina Bertelsen seconded a motion to open the meal bid process for Summit County. The motion carried.

New Advisory Council Member – Heidi DeMarco

Heidi formally introduced Dennis Wilson, vice-chair of the RSVP Council, as a new member of the Aging Advisory Council. She remarked that Dennis will be instrumental in relaying information to the Aging Advisory Council in behalf of RSVP.

Gina Bertelsen moved and Lyndia Carter seconded a motion to accept Dennis Wilson as a new member of the Aging Advisory Council. The motion carried.

Heidi commented that Ralph Horne asked to be excused from the Council. He served as a member of the Aging Advisory Council for 18 years. In recognition of his service, a gift and card will be dropped by his home. Heidi invited the Council members to sign the card.

Heidi mentioned that she would like to invite a representative from each of the County Health Departments to serve on the Aging Advisory Council. She will reach out to each of the Directors for a recommendation.

Lyndia Carter moved and Gina Bertelsen seconded a motion to invite representatives of our County Health Departments to participate on the Aging Advisory Council. The motion carried.

Mountainlands Area Plan – Four Year Goals – Heidi DeMarco

Heidi commented that this last year has been one of transition. With retirement of Scott McBeth and other key staff members, we have been undergoing some reorganization. We have also introduced a few new programs and have new programs coming up with the idea to fill gaps in services. We have also been doing a rebranding process and expect to launch in May. We are also looking at participating with the Mail Carrier food drive in May to help stock shelves for seniors. This food drive and the May for Meals event for elected officials will help draw attention to the Older Americans Month.

Heidi noted that it is anticipated that our senior population will grow 75% by the year 2030. As we look at goals for the upcoming four-year plan, we will be looking at prioritizing programs that will focus on serving seniors with the greatest needs. For the coming year, Heidi explained that one goal will be to establish close partnerships with other agencies. For example, this year at the Legislature, Mountainland was able to collaborate with AARP, the Alzheimer's Association, the State Aging Office and our lobbyist in addressing funding needs. We received \$550,000 in ongoing funding for the MOW program. We also received \$750,000 in one-time funding through advocacy of the Alzheimer's Association to serve the population that is developing Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their caregivers. Collaboration among agencies really helped support this funding.

Heidi also noted that, in relation to the new House Bill 263, the Long-term Ombudsman Program will be required to interview seniors who have been involuntarily discharged from assisted living facilities. This program will receive \$98,000 to implement this new requirement, representative of one additional staff member, but the funding will be divided among the AAA's based on number of AL beds.

Heidi reported that the RSVP grant has been awarded for the next three years. This program will receive approximately \$75,000 in federal money each year. One new project to meet federal requirements that RSVP will implement is a Friendly Callers Program. This will help us reach out to seniors who are isolated.

Ashley Fish moved and Gina Bertelsen seconded a motion to approve the Mountainlands Area Plan Four-Year Goals. The motion carried unanimously.

In the News – Jeremy Pehrson

Jeremy Pehrson provided a copy of a recent news article published in the Daily Herald entitled “Recipe for Rehabilitation” and noted that the Utah County Jail Culinary Arts Program prepares all of the meals for our Nutrition programs. The article states that “this program provides on the job training for inmates who prepare thousands of meals a day for the MOW program, jail staff and for the inmates themselves”.

Jeremy commented that the inmates earn a small stipend when they participate in the program. He quoted Larry Hunter, food service administrator, as stating “It is an opportunity for inmates to take something with them back in to society when they reacclimate into society”. He also quoted Lt Jeff Jones, the jail industries director, as stating, “We need to treat inmates like people. If we treat people like people, they will respond appropriately.”

Jeremy noted that the Utah Valley Rides program is offering rides to seniors in the Provo/Orem area, and Lopini has provided flyers and applications for the MOW clients. Lopini stated that they are doing all they can to provide as many rides as possible. Mountainland is doing all of the background checks and the program is running well with the volunteers.

RSVP Announcements – Dennis Wilson

Dennis Wilson announced that the RSVP recognition events have begun. The first event was held at the Wasatch Senior Center last night (March 7th), and there are four more events to go. He commented on the great success of the “Socks for Souls” project that RSVP organized in recognition of Martin Luther King.

Discussion of Next Meeting

Heidi stated that the next meeting of the Aging Advisory Council will be May 3rd. The Council will need to approve the Meal contract for Summit County and the final Area Plan & Budget. This meeting will be held at the Mountainland office.

Other Business

Ashley Fish expressed appreciation to the elected officials for all they do for the Aging Advisory Board.

Roundtable Discussions

Members present reported on activities and events in each of their respective areas as part of the round table discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting of the Aging Advisory Council will be May 3, 2018, 1:30 pm, in the Mountainland Conference Room, 586 E 800 N, Orem, Utah.