

Aging & Family Services Advisory Council Meeting

Mountainland Association of Governments

Thursday, January 10, 2019

1:30 pm

MINUTES

Conducting: Chairman Glenn Wright, Summit County Council Member

Attending:

Gena Bertelsen, Orem Friendship Senior Center
Lyndia Carter, Springville Senior Center
Steve Farrell, Wasatch County Councilmember
Ashley Fish, Wasatch Senior Center
Maralie Nordfelt, representing Patty Cross, Utah County Health Dept
Grant Parker, American Fork Senior Center
Randall Probst, Wasatch County Health Department
Judy Seegmiller, Caregiver Representative
Cheri Tuckett, Utah County Senior Services
Dennis Wilson, RSVP Advisory Board Representative
Andrew Jackson, Executive Director, MAG
Heidi DeMarco, Aging & Family Services Director, MAG
Karen Rodgers, Information & Program Support, MAG

Excused:

Patty Cross, Utah County Health Dept
Jessica Wilde, Summit County Senior Services

Guests:

Stephanie Benson, Public Relations & New Projects, MAG

Council Member Wright called the meeting to order. Steve Farrell offered the opening prayer and Council Member Wright led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Wright welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2019 and suggested everyone go around the room and make introductions, which was done.

Minutes

Council Member Wright asked if there were any comments to the minutes of the November 1, 2018 meeting, copy provided with the agenda.

Lyndia Carter moved that the minutes of the November 1st meeting stand approved. Gena Bertelsen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION & ACTION AGENDA:

Ratify Members – Heidi DeMarco

Heidi presented the members of the Advisory Council for ratification as it was known on January 1st. She noted a change that Utah County Commissioner's office has a new commissioner appointed to the Committee. Commissioner Ainge will be our new representative. We are also working on finding a representative from the Summit County Health Department as well as someone from more of a community-based organization such as Community Action, or perhaps a housing organization to broaden our base.

We also wanted to introduce Cheri Tuckett as the representative to replace Marianne Christensen on the Advisory Council, who has retired. Cheri Tuckett is with the Foster Grandparent program and has great experience in senior services and we're excited to have her on the council.

Gena Bertelsen made the motion to ratify Advisory Council Membership, Chairman Wright accepted the motion to ratify and Steve Farrell seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Ratify Meeting Schedule – Heidi DeMarco

A copy of the meeting schedule was made available to all members. It includes one meeting in Summit County and two meetings in Wasatch County. Heidi asked if this schedule was acceptable to everyone and also stated that Wasatch County was more of a midway point for travel. Several Council Members responded that the schedule as proposed was fine. Heidi reminded the group that last year the council changed its schedule to meet every other month, still meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30. The proposed meeting schedule follows that same format.

Gena Bertelsen moved that we ratify the meeting schedule as proposed, the motion was seconded by Ashley Fish. The motion was carried unanimously.

Legislative Update – Heidi DeMarco

Heidi stated the 2019 Utah Legislative season will begin January 28, and wants us to be informed and aware of what the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) of Utah are asking for from the Legislature. Last year we received \$750,000 in one-time money that went to support four programs – 1. Alternatives Program; 2. Caregiver Program; 3. Aging Medicaid Waiver Program; and 4. Ombudsman Program.

For this year, we will be working with community partners on a request for \$750,000 in ongoing funds. This funding will continue to support our efforts to allow seniors to live independently at home, in a safe setting for as long as possible. Three of these programs provide in-home support, and the Ombudsman program provides advocacy and representation for seniors who are in an assisted living or long-term care setting. Last year the Alzheimer's Association worked hard for this funding. The Utah Area Agencies on Aging, the Utah State Health Department and

the Alzheimer's Association will work together to support this request. We just want you to be aware and talk with those around you about the on-going need for these services. We are very hopeful that these funds will be provided to continue service clients at the current levels, and it's important to let our representatives know how important these programs are to the welfare of seniors in our region. The State Department of Aging did get a request listed on the Governor's Budget for additional funding for the Adult Protective Services program and we are also supporting that initiative.

Two questions were then raised: Who in particular should we be talking to about this and how do we know who represents who in our counties? A discussion followed about the representatives and committee members who represent the different areas of Summit, Wasatch and Utah Counties and how to contact them. Heidi offered to provide lists of senators and representatives for the MAG region as well as the Executive Appropriations and Social Services Committee members. (These lists were emailed or mailed to Aging Advisory Council Members on January 22, along with a link to the MAG website showing how the mapped counties are divided and the representatives of those areas.)

Andrew Jackson suggested making our emails to our representatives more personal, and to list Constituent in the subject line. Heidi also suggested sending individual emails to representatives instead of to a group. All representatives get bombarded with information and emails, many of which are identified as "spam." Making emails more personal and unique in the title and body will give it a better chance of being viewed.

Presentations at Senior Centers – Stephanie Benson

Stephanie thanked the council for allowing her to be here and stated that MAG is looking to visit the senior centers with two goals in mind:

1. Continue with the message of positive aging and Love Your Later Life. MAG would like to ask seniors what they love about their lives, what they look forward to, and any advice they have for younger generations about aging. At the Senior Health Fair last October, a large poster of the new MAG logo LOVE YOUR LATER LIFE was hung on a wall. As seniors entered the fair they were asked to write on the poster what they loved about growing older. Stephanie showed the actual poster to the council and read some of the responses. They were very sweet and heart-felt. MAG would like to continue this message at the senior centers.

2. MAG also wants to get input from older adults to help shape our new four-year plan by engaging with seniors at each center about their concerns, gaps in service, what they look forward to and what worries them. This feedback will help MAG develop services that will be of the most benefit to seniors in our community.

Stephanie asked the council members in general and council members representing senior centers specifically what they felt would be the best way to go about doing this. A discussion followed with ideas such as filling out a survey or questionnaire, having MAG do a presentation about services with a question and answer period afterward, MAG staff having lunch with seniors in smaller groups and which days were the busiest at the centers. Stephanie then asked the Senior Center representatives present which they thought would get the most response from their seniors. The general consensus seemed to be for MAG to come and do a

presentation right before lunch and then have MAG staff sit at tables with seniors and have a dialogue with them about their concerns and needs. The best days to come seemed to depend on what was on the lunch menu.

After talking about these ideas, Heidi asked Stephanie to talk about March for Meals, which is planned for March 25 – March 29. This event provides an opportunity for elected officials to deliver meals to clients in their area, and is enjoyed by both elected officials and those seniors who receive a visit from the Mayor!

Stephanie reported that one of our MOW volunteers was spotlighted in the news by saving a life of senior when they brought their meal and found the client unresponsive. By calling 911 immediately, they were able to save his life. This made local and national MOW news.

Other Business

Heidi mentioned MAG is sponsoring the Elder Justice Conference (formerly called Elder Abuse Conference). The event will be held in Park City on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Park City Marriott. This is a one-day conference for all residents on Utah. We have invited the Lt. Governor to open the session.

Chairman Wright mentioned that the Golden Spike Celebration is also scheduled that day but should be over by 9 am.

Ashley made the Council aware of the Domestic Violence Coalition in Summit County of which he is a member. Heidi pointed out that many of the issues we focus on for seniors overlap with domestic violence. Summit and Wasatch counties have several programs focusing on mental health and wellness for seniors.

Roundtable Discussion, with emphasis on known needs of Seniors – Group

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be March 14, 2019, 1:30 pm at the Wasatch County Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.