



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Senior and Long Term Care Division ♦ 2030 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59604-4210  
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**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Richard H. Opper, Director**

## Governor's Advisory Council on Aging January 30, 2013 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Secretary JoLynn Yenne at 1:10PM  
The meeting was a conference call due to weather and road conditions.

Attending in person: JoLynn Yenne and Al Ward

Attending by phone: Betty Aye, Beverly Barnhart, C.A. Buckley, Marvin Carter,  
Jessie James Howley and Lauren Kippen

Absent: Connie Bremner – excused

We were all informed that Gladys Considine, Chairman of the Council, sent a letter of resignation to the Governor resigning from the Council due to personal and health reasons. The Governor will have to appoint someone to fill her term, which ends in July 2015, as well as appoint someone as chairman.

This year, the following council members' terms expire in July 2013: Betty Aye, Connie Bremner, C.A Buckley and Al Ward. If current council members wish to be reappointed, they need to go out on the Governor's website <http://governor.mt.gov/boardscomm.aspx> for boards and commissions to reapply and follow-up with a letter to Governor Bullock at the following address:

Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

The Senior and Long Term Care Division's budget hearing was January 22<sup>nd</sup> and public testimony was January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The sub-committee was very relaxed and Kelly Williams did a very good job presenting the Division's overview and budget requests in House Bill 2. Also, the public testimony for aging was the best it has ever been. Everyone presented a different aspect of the services provided and the benefits from the funds we receive. The sub-committee took executive action on parts of the Division's budget on January 28<sup>th</sup>. They removed the one-time-only language on the \$1.5 million that has had that designation since 2007. They also voted to give aging a 2% provider rate increase. While this was passed in the sub-committee, it still has a long way to go before it is finalized. It has to go to full appropriations committee then to the floor of the House. If it makes it that far, then the process starts over on the Senate side.

A couple of bills you may wish to keep an eye one are:

- House Bill 12, introduced by Rep. C. Pease-Lopez by request of the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee, to appropriate funds for provider payments.
- House Bill 272, introduced by Rep. Brian Hover, to revise elderly homeowner/rental tax credit.
- Senate Bill 134, introduced by Senator John Brenden, to revise elder abuse laws.

Also, we were informed by the Elder Montana Advocacy group, formally the Silver Haired Legislature, that Senator Roger Webb is considering drafting a bill to take what is left in the Older Montanan's Trust Fund and do a legislative sponsored initiative to ask the voters to make it a Constitutional Trust fund which means it would take three quarters vote of both the House and the Senate to use the principle or abolish it.

Al Ward informed the members of the Elder Abuse Conference to be held in Billings on March 21<sup>st</sup>. This conference is being sponsored by Partners in Elder Abuse. Paul Greenwood, director of San Diego Elder Abuse will be the main speaker. For more information, contact Al.

The theme for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Aging to be held May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Glasgow at the Cottonwood Inn and May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn will be  
**“AGING IN THE LAST BEST PLACE”**.

The opening sessions will be presentation of the flag, an opening prayer and an introduction of the Advisory Council members followed by the community achievement award and the first general session.

We are looking at the following as possible workshops at the conference:

Project 2030: Montana's Ageing Population which is a look at the impacts of Montana's aging population which includes state and local finances, taxes, education, corrections and employment.

Alzheimer's – the National Alzheimer's Association would like to have a workshop on planning for the future and bring together state and local stakeholders as well as have input from the general public. We think this might be a good pre-conference event because it could take 4 to 6 hours. Charlie will check with them to see what they want to do.

History of Aging in Montana – this would cover the aging process and be an upbeat presentation. Lauren Kippen suggested Jane Baker who was the director of the school of nursing at Montana Tech.

Mental Health – this has been a hot topic and suicide is a major issue.

Wildflower Reflections: Families, Legacies, and Estate Planning – a presentation by Marsha Goetting Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist

Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Economics at MSU. This will cover financial planning.

Sleep Pattern Disorders – not sure who would do this at this time.

Native Americans - will come up with a topic or presentation

Affordable Care Act – topics could include frequent fliers (1 in 5 return to hospital), update on what is happening – timelines etc, and wellness

Poet Laureate – suggested by Beverly Barnhart and Al Ward

Mini-Grants for this year. It was noted that we have about \$1,500 so far for grants. In order to raise funds this year, there was talk about doing a silent auction. Al would provide some of his pictures again and will send some around for members to help select. C.A will provide some jewelry and Jessie will get some baskets made up.

Jessie asked for an updated list of council members with contact information on it. Charlie will provide it when he sends out the minutes.

Luncheon on May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Centenarian Luncheon. Charlie will invite the Governor to be the luncheon speaker and make the presentations.

It was recommended that the Council members be able to attend both conferences if possible. If the budget won't allow it, it was suggested that Betty, Mary Lou, Beverly and Marvin attend the Glasgow conference and Jessie, Connie, JoLynn, CA and Lauren attend the Great Falls conference. Al will not be able to attend due to a previous commitment.

Next Council meeting will be March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Council members needing name badges are CA, Jessie and Beverly. Charlie will get them ordered.

It was suggested that we do a Who is Who in Aging for the conference program. Beverly and Jessie are willing to work on this with Charlie.

We will be sending out the request for names of centenarians by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February.

JoLynn and Al will be doing an interview on January 31<sup>st</sup> for Aging Horizons on the Big Sky Channel with Kimme Evermann. They will be giving information about the Council as well as discussing past and upcoming conferences.

Meeting was adjourned.