

## Meeting Minutes - Virtual January 24, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

---

**In Attendance:** Bob Meyers, Ryan Clark, Gayle Carlson, Lori Brengle, Peggy Tombre, Jerry Thex, Al Ward, Roberta Bigback, Kerrie Reidelbach

Welcome and Introductions: Jerry Thex, Jr., Administrator of the Heritage Living Center in Ashland was introduced and welcomed by the council members. Jerry has been with the Heritage for a total of 12 years and has been the Administrator for the past 8 years. He is a part of the Mt Healthcare Association and has a passion for working with seniors. Jerry had an overview of the Older Americans Act with Kerrie as part of his orientation on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Jerry, we are thrilled to have you on the council!

Terms and vacancies for the council was discussed. Gayle will contact the Governor's office about her status. Peggy, Ryan and Bob will need to renew prior to July of this year.

2022 Governor's Conference on Aging Summary – Handout shared. A discussion on the conference determined that this year the conference will be offered in-person only in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. This was based on the minimal number of virtual participants and the cost of the technical support needed. It was reported to the council members that the September 25<sup>th</sup> date conflicts with the AARP Livable Communities Workshop. The group was asked if we could look at the following week if the hotel is available as AARP has been one of our main sponsors for years. The counsel agreed and following the meeting the conference dates were changed to October 3-4, with our travel date and dinner meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Suicide Prevention Coordinator – Karl Rosston

Raise awareness of the issue of suicide in the elderly, some of the factors, the role of primary care, the resources available, and the need to actively promote crisis resources such as 988. Karl's handout and PowerPoint are attached for your review. The statistics for Montana are staggering compared to the national average. Some of the main takeaways from this include: Depression is treatable, knowing the warning signs, and being able to ask the question, are you suicidal?

Robert's Rules of Conduct – the state is strongly encouraging all the councils to follow these rules. The Governor's office purchased a training platform that we will have access to training modules. This was projected to be out in January, though apparently, it's not ready yet. We will carry this over to the next meeting agenda.

## Meeting Minutes - Virtual January 24, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Legislative and other updates-Barb Smith

There is a provider rate adjustment for the AAAs and an ombudsman caseload of \$500,000 over the biennium. The SLTC presentation was given on January 12<sup>th</sup> and went well. The committee is overall very supportive of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The main struggle is with the Nursing Home provider rates. The Montana Older Trust fund is empty and the removal of the report requirement has been requested. This trust fund lacks a funding stream at this time.

Older Adult Guardianships – 1x only funds to streamline the development of a statewide process to assure best intent and least restrictive manner for those served.

SB-34 – Updates Adult Protective Services (APS) language and clarifies that the Ombudsman role is not a mandatory reporter.

SB-45 – Limits number of AAAs to no more than 10 and language clean up. Senator Lenz is working on a bill to create a task force to look at the current designation of AAAs and make changes necessary to assure efficiency in service delivery. The Governor's Advisory will oversee and sign off on the work of the task force.

HB-65 – Cost reporting study for Medicaid (Waiver & CFC). This will develop a process to collect data and use it to set rates and be more transparent.

HB-264 – Decennial study for LTC needs for veterans

The budget will come out in late February then a 2<sup>nd</sup> sweep for any issues will be addressed. Such as any upcoming grants during the legislature would need to be approved in order to be able to spend the funds.

Staffing changes: Denise Brunett was hired as the new Community Services Bureau Chief (replaced Jill Sark) and while Trevor Tangen is deployed Lianna Waller is the Acting Bureau Chief for APS. There has been a huge increase in referrals to APS; for 21-22 we had an 86% increase. We have someone analyzing data and to date we know that some of this is due to isolation, and more self-neglect. We have also seen an increase in sexual assault. Interestingly, the federal government will be publishing for the first-time federal rules for APS.

Position open: Policy Analyst/research and contract management is currently being advertised (this is replacing Freddie).

A brief discussion about nursing home closures. It has to do with more than just the Medicaid provider rates. Staff shortage, management, one closure due to flooding. The culture of the facilities needs to change to be more modern with services offered. For example, we need state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care.

# Governor's Advisory Council Meeting

SLTC – 1100 North Last Chance Gulch

---

## Meeting Minutes - Virtual January 24, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

### **Next meeting dates:**

April 25, 2023	Hybrid mtg. Will send zoom invite for those unable to travel.
July 25, 2023	Tentative date - Virtual
October 2, 2023	Great Falls Conference Mtg.
October 17, 2023	Tentative date - Recap of conference mtg. – Virtual – include conference committee

### **Council Priorities:**

**Social Determinants of Health:** Special emphasis on *Access to Nutritious Food Choices, Transportation, Housing, and Social Support/Community Inclusion.*

**Elder Justice and Fraud Prevention:** Special emphasis on *Crime/Fraud/Scam Prevention*

**Age-Friendly Health Systems:** Special emphasis on *Dementia Care and Caregiver Workforce/Family Caregiver*

