



2026 Governor's Conference on Aging

Agenda

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Vendor Set-Up**

9:00 – 12:30 p.m. **Registration**
Registration Table

Silent Auction Opens

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. **Welcome**
Tessa Bailly, Aging Services Bureau Chief, Senior and Long-Term Care Division, DPHHS
Lindsey Carter, Senior and Long-Term Care Division Administrator, DPHHS

Presentation of Flags

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Keynote General Session: Fundraising**
Kim Phillips, Director, Portage Zhang Senior Center and President of the Michigan Association of Senior Centers

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Break-Out Sessions**

Flathead Respite Coalition
Susan Moore, RN, FCN, Dementia Navigator, Logan Health and President,
Flathead Respite Care

Engaging Aging Adults in Recreation
Tess Sneeringer, Recreation Program Manager, City of Missoula

Big Sky Waiver/Category D
Catherine Edmisten, Big Sky Waiver Section Supervisor, DPHHS

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **General Session: RTHP Update**

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

6:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Thai Chi for Arthritis Class Demonstration (Come One, Come All) Melissa and Erin
7:30 – 8:00 a.m. <i>Registration Table</i>	Registration
8:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Welcome and Updates Tessa Bailly, Aging Services Bureau Chief, Senior and Long-Term Care Division, DPHHS
8:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Keynote General Session: Rustlers, Swindlers, and Scammers: Protecting Big Sky Country from Modern-Day Outlaws Clark Flynt-Barr, Government Affairs, AARP
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45 – 11:15 p.m.	Break-Out Sessions
	Reimaging Congregate Dining with the Voucher Program Ria Overholt, Missoula Aging Services
	Beyond the Checkbox: Overcoming Pitfalls in Medicaid Eligibility, Documentation, and Maintenance Jennifer Fox, Policy Bureau Chief, DPHHS Kimberly Lamb, Specialized Medicaid Program Manager, DPHHS Thresa Broad, Medicaid Program Manager, DPHHS Jill Vessar, Client Service Supervisor, DPHHS
	A 101 Approach to Researching and Writing Grants Gayle Carlson, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Chair and former Executive Director of the Montana Food Bank Network
11:15 – 11:30 p.m.	Break
11:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Centenarian Luncheon Welcome Gayle Carlson, Chair, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Break-Out Sessions
	Subrecipient Grant Management of Federal and State Funds Nate Thomas, Senior and Long-Term Care Fiscal Bureau Chief, DPHHS Tessa Bailly, Aging Services Bureau Chief, DPHHS
	Palliative Care for All Montanans: From City Streets to Country Roads Carissa Taylor, NP-BC ACHP
	As the "Expert": An Elder Law Q&A Susan Gecho Gobbs, Former Contract Attorney, Aging and Disability Legal Assistance Program, DPHHS
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m. **General Session: Bright Minds, BOLD Ideas: Community Solutions to Dementia**
Facilitator: Kyla Rock, Alzheimer's & Dementia Program Manager, DPHHS
Jennifer Crowley, The Life Care Experts, Kalispell
Ria Overholt, Missoula Aging Services
Kathy Linton, Fireweed Human Performance, Helena
Carissa Taylor & Emily Sweeney, Music and Memory Collaborative, Helena
Sara Hammel, Mountain View of Cascadia, Eureka
Deb Lessmeier & Susan Moore, Logan Health, Kalispell
Maja Pederson & Samantha Morigeau, UM and CSKT Tribal Health

4:45 – 5:15 p.m. Awarding of Advisory Council on Aging Mini Grants

Thursday, October 8, 2026

6:30 – 7:30 a.m. **SAIL Class Demonstration (Come One, Come All)**
Melissa and Erin

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration
Registration Table

8:00 – 8:15 a.m. **Welcome and Updates**
Tessa Bailly, Aging Services Bureau Chief, Senior and Long-Term Care Division, DPHHS

8:15 – 9:45 a.m. **General Session: Awakening Possibility: A Journey Toward Better Brain Health**
Melanie Williams, Alzheimer's Association
Kyla Rock, BOLD Grant, DPHHS

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. **Silent Auction Closes** (Winners can pick up items and pay by cash, check, or credit card)

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Break-Out Sessions

Building Capacity in Montana: Long-Term Supports and Services
Denise Brunett, Community Services Bureau Chief, DPHHS

Older Americans Act Programmatic Overview
Tessa Bailly, Aging Services Bureau Chief, DPHHS
Courtney Hoskins, OAA Consultant

Exploitation in Montana
Trevor Tangen, APS Bureau Chief, DPHHS
Jeremy Alvarez, Investigator, Elder Justice, Department of Justice

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

Travel Safely!
See You Next Year in Billings