



Montana Association of Counties

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MEETING MINUTES

MACo HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Billings, MT | Billings Hotel & Convention Center | February 28, 2022

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Co-chair Seilstad called the meeting to order, and roll call was conducted. A quorum was present (see last page). Commissioners Fitzpatrick and Moore voiced after roll call that they would like to be on the committee.

2. MACo President Jason Strouf

President Strouf updated the committee on the new format of co-chairs, the reason being to attract new folks into leadership roles.

3. Montana Area Services on Aging & Long-term Care Issues Across Montana

Adrienne Cotton, Association Director of the Montana Area Services on Aging; Rose Hughes with the Montana Health Care Association; and Barb Smith, Administrator of the Senior and Long-term Care Division at DPHHS spoke about revenue loss due to Covid-19 and employee numbers fading. The expenses to run long-term care or aging facilities is inflated and hard to get supplies. Due to the amount of critical care access Montana's county-run facilities are facing these challenges, and they felt it was important to talk to counties and give them some tips on how to best manage these struggling facilities. Without funding the facilities will close, and the elderly are shuffled to places with which they are not familiar nor can afford.

Associate Director Cotton then gave a presentation on the aging population in Montana, with over 290,000 over the age of 60. She mentioned over 21 senior centers that offer services such as health/wellness and meals on wheels.

4. Public Health Update

Shawn Hinz, Board Chair of Confluence Public Health Alliance, and their Executive Director, Lisa provided the committee with an update on public health. They are looking to get the Public Health Officials control over their own board instead of non-health professionals making local health decisions. They also talked about the turnover in public health departments and the need for more nurses and sanitarians.

5. Review/Update Committee Policy Statements

The Committee reviewed their policy statements. A suggestion for policy statement #12 was made to add that MACo supports state funding for long-term care facilities.

A State Senator from Billings who was present explained that there is plenty of money out there, just to start asking for it.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MACo HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl Seilstad, Co-chair, Fergus | <input type="checkbox"/> Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark | <input type="checkbox"/> Melanie Roe, Sweet Grass |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joette Woods, Co-chair, Liberty | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Huotte, Anaconda-DL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rolfe, Lewis & Clark |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Armstrong, Valley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott MacFarlane, Gallatin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Ryan, Cascade |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deanna Bockness, Prairie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Moore, Judith Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Jake Strissel, Hill |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sidney Fitzpatrick, Big Horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Mullen, Jefferson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juanita Vero, Missoula |