

TOOELE COUNTY
Council on Aging
Tooele Senior Center 59 E. Vine Street, Tooele Utah
Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2017 1:30 pm

Present: Anne Smith, Joyce Tate, Dianne Johnson, Karyl Maynard, Elaine Breitweiser,
Commissioner Bateman

Staff Present: Sherrie Ahlstrom, Ericka Jordt, Jamie Zwerin, Bella Colovich

Absent: Emily Johnson, Doris Fidler, Patty Guerrero, Linda McBeth

1. **Welcome** – Joyce called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. **Approval of May 2017 meeting minutes-** Dianne motioned to approve the minutes from the May 2017 meeting, Elaine seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

3. **Aging Services Report - Sherrie**
 - Sherrie noted that she applied for and received a grant called the PET grant that will assist low income, homebound seniors with the cost associated to having a pet that they normally couldn't afford. The grant will help purchase pet food, supplies, veterinary services etc. Elaine has a contact that she will send to Jamie that may be able to assist seniors to adopt pets at a free or reduced cost.
 - Sherrie has not been notified yet if she will receive funding for the RSVP Volunteer Coordinator grant that she applied for.
 - The Aging Services staff held a strategic planning meeting last week to review the 5 year goals and next year priorities which are:
 1. Marketing Services- staff will focus on updating the Seniors Matter in Tooele County services brochure. Staff will also focus more on advertising on social media and the website.
 2. Volunteer Program- more advertising will be done to recruit volunteers. Staff will create a menu type list of services and skills to match volunteers to areas in which they may have knowledge and experience. Diane will send Sherrie the volunteer application she uses which asks the volunteer to list their interests, want, needs etc. Elaine thought it would be helpful to attach the volunteer form to the NAPIS form, this may help in reaching out to more people.
 3. Outreach- staff will continue to work on ways to reach seniors in the county who do not already visit the senior centers. Dianne said she can forward the names of new Healthy Circle members to Bella so they can be mailed a newsletter.

4. Falls Prevention- staff will continue to offer Stepping On classes and work on promoting more falls prevention type of services. Staff will work on collaborating with ambulance services, hospital and dispatch services to educate seniors on services available to them if they fall. Staff will also work on providing information to ADT clients that are using the life alert system.
 5. Alzheimer's/Dementia- staff will continue to focus on how we can be prepared to handle the upcoming influx of seniors affected by these diseases.
- Sherrie noted that the council position for a Wendover representative is still open. She has received an application but was told that all board positions are on hold until the county commissioners approve the by-laws of each board. Myron asked Sherrie to send him the by-laws. Sherrie also noted that Tooele City has not sent anyone to the council meetings, Commissioner Bitner did send a formal letter asking for representation from them. Commissioner Bateman will talk to the Mayor Dunlavy and let Sherrie know.

4. Senior Centers Supervisor Report- Bella Colovich

Upcoming events include: See newsletter for a complete list of activities offered or speak to an activity specialist for details.

July 11th @ 9 am- tour of the Hill Air Force Base Museum.

July 13th @ 10:30- Chest Pain Coordinator will present on symptoms and what to do

July 20th @ 9 am- tour of the museum in Ophir, drinks and a snack will be provided

July 25th- Senior Media is offering a free trip with transportation to the Living Planet Aquarium, this will include a Senior Expo

July 26th @ 1:30- bowling at All Star Lanes in Tooele, sponsored by Grantsville center

Aug. 16th @ 3 pm- picnic at the Tooele City park on Vine street, Dianne will check into donating food items

Sept. 21st @ noon- luau lunch and entertainment at the Tooele center

Bella noted that about 10 seniors attended the dinner last week at the Wendover center, they are working on trying to get more seniors to attend. The dutch oven dinner last week at the Grantsville center went well. Grantsville mayor, police and fire dept. staff served the meal. In the future, more volunteers are needed in order to sustain this event. A shuffle board game was recently purchased with funds raised from fundraisers for the Tooele center, seniors have been using it and are wanting to have a tournament. Grantsville is looking at purchasing a shuffle board game as well. Bella noted that volunteers are needed for the chest pain presentation, Dianne noted they have had this in the past at and it was well attended. She will forward some names to Bella for possible volunteers. Activity Specialists from both centers are working together to plan more

activities, seniors have been encouraged to write ideas down on the wall board that was hung up, two ideas have already been submitted by seniors; a pet show and speed dating.

5. In-Home Services Report- Jamie Zwerin

Jamie reported that her staff have been very busy assisting seniors through the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). At this time last year, they assisted 55 seniors and so this year they have assisted 102 seniors. This is in addition to their regular client case load and without an increase in staffing or hours. The marketing her staff has done is working well for reaching seniors who need help with billing issues with providers, enrolling in Medicare, choosing prescription drug plans etc. The SHIP program is being reviewed by the government to be cut or having a reduction in funding. If the program is cut instead of having SHIP counselors to assist them, seniors would have to contact 1-800-medicare for assistance. Jamie and staff are going to start tracking trying how they are saving people money with their counseling on Part D prescription drug program during open enrollment. They will forward this information as well as success stories from seniors who have worked with SHIP counselors in hopes to keep the SHIP program from being cut.

Jamie handed out a brochure from MIPPA (Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act). Jamie explained that this program helps low income seniors get signed up for prescription drug assistance, assistance in paying for their Medicare Part B premiums, deductible and copays. The current financial guideline to qualify for assistance is \$1,508 for a single person and \$1,900 for a couple. Sarah is going to work on creating a different brochure. The application for this service can also assist in seeing if the applicant can qualify for other services and apply for Medicaid without having to go through as much of the paperwork, it assigns them a case manager to help them walk through the process. Karyl asked Jamie to present this program at the senior centers, Jamie agreed.

Jamie noted that volunteers are always needed to attend expos, to hand out brochures to the community, data entry etc., all volunteers do not have to be trained to be SHIP counselors. Hopefully we will receive the RSVP grant that will help with coordinating volunteers. Elaine offered to ask the Next Chapter participants for volunteers. Jamie is working on creating a list of different programs and areas where volunteers are needed. Once the list is created Ericka will forward to this group.

Jamie reminded the group that the Senior Expo will be held on Oct. 7th, 2017 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Tooele Applied Technology College. Let Jamie know if you would like to volunteer to help with the event. There will be free health screenings, free document shredding, prescription drug drop off for proper disposal, inflatable colon and other services.

The Next Chapter group will be changing their dates from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Sarah will be making new flyers with changes, Jamie will have more information to share at the

next council meeting. Upcoming events will continue to be posted on the tooelehealth.org website and in the senior newsletter.

Roundtable-

- Flower beds in the front of the Tooele center need to be weeded, a work order for maintenance has been submitted. Sherrie will talk to Linden and the USU Extension Office to see if the Master Gardner's can take care of this as part of a project for volunteer hours. This would be a good volunteer project for seniors too.
- Dianne shared upcoming events: Aug. 5th they will travel to Garden City for a play, Aug. 9th at 6 pm Mountain West Medical Center will hold a summer party for Healthy Circle members at the Tooele High School, there will be entertainment and food, Sept. 9th at 9 am MWMC will host a Community Health Event.

Meeting Adjourn- the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday August 22nd, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tooele Senior Center
