

# Advisory Council *on Aging*

April 14, 2010

Area 1 Agency on Aging, (208) 667-3179

## ATTENDEES

### ICOA:

Jackie McAvoy

### Council Members:

Bob Rogers—Benewah\*  
Rose Spencer – Benewah  
Jonnie Bradley – Bonner  
Esther Gilchrist – Bonner  
Paul Graves - Bonner  
Debra Kellerman—Bonner  
Carey Spears—Bonner  
Carol Hampton—Boundary  
Tari Yourzek—Boundary  
Joanna Adams - Kootenai  
John Albee- Kootenai  
Pete Ellers—Kootenai  
Marie Fish - Kootenai  
Marilyn MacGregor—Kootenai  
Carrie McCrite - Kootenai  
Zak Zakrajsek—Kootenai  
Julie Robbins— Shoshone  
Peggy White—Shoshone

### Service Providers:

Erma Williams - Kootenai

### Staff:

Marilyn Anders  
Barbara Bisaro  
Tamina Boonisar  
Pearl Bouchard  
Betty Bray-Baker  
Betsy Bullard  
Mary Comfort  
Bill DePew  
Fran Hunsaker  
Mary Jacobsen  
Bill Langer  
Jan Noyes  
Bobbie Sailor  
Cherie Saltness  
Darrell Swartzell  
Ann Walker  
Audrey Wilson  
Jan Young

\* new council members

The Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 1:07 by the council president, Tari Yourzek.

Carey Spears asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Zak so motioned; Marie Fish seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

## **President's Report** ..... **Tari Yourzek**

In honor of National Volunteers month the Advisory Council and members of the Area Agency on Aging staff were pleased to acknowledge the efforts of three volunteers who have made an impact in north Idaho.

First was **Darrell Swartzell** who accepted a position as a VISTA member with the Area Agency on Aging beginning October 1, 2009, driving up from Joseph, Oregon, site unseen to serve. Darrell's application for the position made it clear that he had many talents and varied experiences.

Darrell's penchant for learning has lead to additional schooling related directly to his current assignment. He completed the course with a 98% pass rate and is now sharing the wealth of information gained to help our AAA progress in its quality improvement program.

It didn't take Darrell long to see that one of our biggest challenges is having the resources to meet the needs and demands for service. He is not shy about garnering resources for the community, helping with the mundane work of stuffing envelopes or approaching friends and influential people to make the ask.

Each VISTA member provides a motivational statement on their application. Darrell's statement makes the rest of the application pale. He said: "I feel I owe my country and it's people for the many opportunities and my achievements. I would like to serve in any roll for the development and opportunities available for others."

Darrell does have much to offer and he gives of his talents freely. Thank you, Darrell, for making northern Idaho your new pet project.

Next to be recognized was **Betty Bray-Baker** who started as a VISTA Volunteer for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in September of 2009. Betty's assignment for 2009/10 is the Mentoring/Tutoring programs in the 5 northern counties of North Idaho.

Betty is a lifelong resident of Idaho, born and raised in Kellogg. Betty's local knowledge of history and people is invaluable with her work in the schools.

Betty has continued to build upon the successful she inherited from the previous VISTA. At present the two programs, tutoring and mentoring, have 103 volunteers at 23 different school sites. Betty is responsible for the recruiting, training, and assigning of these volunteers, and she helps site man-

agers in assignment and evaluation of volunteers. Betty also assists Cherie , the Volunteer Specialist for RSVP, in record keeping, volunteer and station updates, the newsletter, and the annual recognition luncheon.

In the true spirit of volunteering, Betty also does her share. She volunteers one day a week at the Hospice Thrift Store and one day as a tutor in our program. She has also volunteered at the Lake City Senior Center. She has stated many times “I like to help people and feel better when I do.” At RSVP we are looking forward to continuing our joint volunteer efforts with Betty. She is a true asset to our program.

Finally, the council and agency wanted to recognize **Brenda Henkers** who joined the Area Agency on Aging in April 1994. As a Volunteer Office Assistant she has helped on many projects. She first started by answering the telephone, greeting visitors to our office, filing and handling the mail. She continues to handle filing and mail, and has added to her responsibilities the job of verifying and purging client data records in the SAMS database. This is an extremely tedious but much needed job since our maintenance contract is billed according to active clients in this database. Also, for many years she assembled our agency brochures and now assists with the mail campaign and conference mailings.



Over the course of her tenure with the agency, her weekly work schedule has never faltered. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, no matter the weather, Brenda is at work helping staff with the many on-going projects.

She is a welcome ray of sunshine with her warm humor, and never lets any of us get out of line.

Thank you, Brenda, for the 6,000 plus hours of service you have given to keeping us (the Area Agency on Aging) on track and running smoothly.

Tari thanked all of our volunteers and expressed their importance in making a difference in north Idaho.

**Director’s Report**..... **Pearl Bouchard**

**ADRC (Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers)**

ADRC is a concept that was incorporated into the Older American Act when it was last reauthorized—about 4 years ago. Pearl reported that what we hear from the Administration on Aging is that ADRC’s are here to stay.

In 2003 Idaho was a grant recipient for one of the ADRC demonstration projects. Because of the work north Idaho was involved in an extensive planning project through a grant that was awarded from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation we were chosen to pilot the ADRC program for the state of Idaho. The pilot ran for two years and what was discovered was that a lot of one-on-one assistance was needed to meet the short term needs of north Idaho residents. At the end of the 2-year pilot period the State of Idaho found the ADRC as designed was unsustainable to use as a state-wide program.

The state has prepared a business plan focusing on what they understand would be a workable state-wide plan . They are currently determining needed equipment and training, media and marketing, and preparing targeted outreach presentations. But the state’s business plan focuses on state-wide activity. In fact, the state’s agenda will not bring the revised program to local residents until 2011.

The agency has asked if ICOA would be receptive to the idea of localized business plans. To date there has been no response. Unwilling to wait, the agency has decided to move forward. Currently, AAA is already delivering 50 percent of the services listed for an all-inclusive model.

Some differences exist between the state model and the local program development. For example the state program calls for a one-stop shop where all members of the agency would provide all services for clients. In contrast, the local model would partner the Area Agency on Aging with local service providers using memorandums of understanding to provide the best service to the community.

Although initial support has been promised from the state, a major requirement of the program is that it's continued support come from the transition of funds already received. Pearl presented a financial outline of the agency's currently budgeted programs using federal dollars. She then asked board members to vote for three programs they thought funding could come from.

**Idaho Commission on Aging Report ..... Jackie McAvoy**

Jackie reported that ,although she has made some contact with the Idaho Commission on Aging, she has yet to meet them face to face. She is looking forward to the May meeting when she will be traveling down to Boise.

Jackie encouraged anyone who would like to contact her to do so. Her e-mail address is [jmcavoy@roadrunner.com](mailto:jmcavoy@roadrunner.com).

**County Council Updates**

**Benewah ..... Marilyn Anders**

Marilyn introduced the newest member of the Benewah County Council, Bob Rogers.

**Bonner ..... Carey Spears**

The Community Assistance League of Sandpoint has awarded the agency \$2,500 to provide Home-maker services in Bonner County.

The Bonner Advisory Council has been working hard to develop a program much like the Elderhelp program in Kootenai County that assists seniors with minor home repairs. Jonnie Bradley, Debra Kellerman, and Carey Spears were recognized for their efforts in getting this program started. The program has already assisted six people with minor repairs.

**Boundary ..... Tamina Boonisar**

Boundary County Council is now working more closely with the county commissioners to re-establish a Board of Guardians in Boundary County. This has been a long-standing problem but the commissioners appear committed to finding a remedy.

Also, the Health and Welfare office in Bonners Ferry has been closed due to cutbacks. This is a major blow to a county with a higher-than-average need for its services. The added travel will increase the financial burden to already strapped residents. The closest office is now in Ponderay.

**Kootenai..... Carrie McCrite/John Albee**

Carrie reported about the meeting with the commissioners regarding the Circuit Breaker program that benefits seniors by providing a reduction on their utility bill; and George Eveon, who goes out and assist those who are homebound to access this program.

John reported the county council's request that Kootenai commissioners support senior centers with funding. Last year the senior centers received \$8,000 from county funds. The commissioners want to know that the centers are receiving community support. Since they are still working on their budget they would not commit at this time.

**Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Update** ..... **Bobbie Sailor**

Bobbie reported that ICOA had informed the agency that they would know 2010 funding by April 1st. However, that date has since been pushed to April 29th. For now the budget that was submitted in November, 2009 is the budget being worked from.

**Annual Report Highlights** ..... **Pearl Bouchard**

This years Annual Report highlighted a number of areas for development for the Area Plan resulting from group discussions with the five county councils. These will be the agencies focus for the next four years.

One area of focus is Caregiver Knowledge—*“there is a lack of awareness of what to offer that is practical support.”* The Area Agency on Aging will partner with North Idaho College (NIC) Nursing Department to develop a program designed to reach homebound seniors on the waiting list. New requirements for the nursing program, plus the need for more seniors to be seen in a timely manner, opened the door for the program. It requires student nurses to provide a series of one-on-one visits with seniors, and then submit a care plan that would help family to meet the long-term needs of seniors. The students experiences with the seniors will be instrumental in developing the practical supports needed in this program.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** The focus of this year’s annual report is partnership.

Many partnerships have already been established. Two that were spotlighted in this year’s Annual Report were the Kootenai County Elder/Vulnerable Adult Multi-Disciplinary Team which brings related agencies together to better understand, identify and successfully address abuse cases; and the teaming of SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) and AAA’s Information and Assistance program to assists seniors in enrollment in Medicare and Part D, and counseling about the benefits these programs offer.

**FUNDRAISING:** Agency fundraising was designed to increase available funds for those on the home-maker waiting list. The last few campaigns have not generated the funds needed to provide these services. The agency will now offer additional options for donations, including planned gifts through Panhandle State Bank.

**COMMENT ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT:** A summary of the input from all the county council meetings was included in today’s packet. This information has been forwarded to Administration on Aging (AOA) for incorporation into the materials they are reviewing.

**For the Good of the Order**

- Joanna Adams wanted to recognize the partnership between Panhandle Health District and AAA that has supported a couple of their programs: the Fit and Fall Proof program, and their Chronic Disease program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Approved By: Carey Spears (Via E-mail). *Respectively submitted by Fran Hunsaker*

Next Meeting: October 13th, 2010

*Our thanks to Creekside Inn for hosting our meeting.*