

**IDAHO COMMISSION ON AGING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 22, 2025
BOISE, IDAHO**

Commissioner Members: Chair Morley, Vice-Chair Ohrtman, Commissioner Magera, Commissioner Bundy, Commissioner Marquette, Commissioner Milliken

ICOA Staff: Judy Taylor, Bettina Briscoe, Birgit Luebeck, Brandi Waseleski, Deedra Hunt, Erin Olsen, Fanny Rodriguez-Melnikovsky, Janet Miller, Jenny Hill, Lisa Johnson, Lynn Fyans, Michelle Russell, Scott Carpenter, Susan Bradley

I4A Members: Director Stoddard, Director Holcomb, Director Kaminsky, Director Thompson, Director Hirschi, Director Arnold

Guests: Bill Benson, Jamie Freschi, Courtney Hoskins

Excused: Vicki Yanzuk, Rachel Kessinger

Open and Welcome Quorum – Chair Morley

- Chair Morley called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 8:00AM.
- Opening remarks.
- Motion was made and carried to approve May 22, 2025 agenda.
- Motion was made and carried to approve February 20, 2025 minutes.

Director's Report – Judy Taylor

- Discussed new Idaho State laws:
 - HB 135 - Confirming legal status when applying for public benefits.
 - HB 14 – Statute Cleanup.
 - Health and Welfare budget intent language.
- Reviewed the leaked Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Passback document.
- Summarized President Trump's Skinny Budget document and the programs eliminated in this document:
 - SCSEP
 - CSFP
- Shared program and funding unknowns at this time.
- Noted that the Older American's Act (OAA) is up for re-authorization and what it may mean for ICOA in

the future.

- Touched on expectations moving forward:
 - Stay engaged.
 - Stay positive.
 - Stay the course.
- Presented Commissioner Magera with a certificate of service and thanked her for her time serving on the ICOA Board of Commissioners.
- Susan will email out presentations, and any additional meeting materials.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Healthy: Congregate Meals – Birgit Luebeck

- Presented the 2024-2028 State Plan for Congregate Meal Program goals:
 - Serving people at highest risk.
 - Meal provider survey.
 - Meal quality assurance.
 - Education on malnutrition.
- Discussed Congregate Meal objectives:
 - To prevent malnutrition.
 - Support senior centers through ongoing education and engagement.
 - Maintain or increase client satisfaction with meals.
- Highlighted the Congregate Nutrition Program Quality review toolkit.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Healthy: Disease Prevention/Health Promotion, and Falls Prevention – Erin Olsen

- Presented Idaho Needs Assessment data regarding Health Promotion/Disease Prevention.
- Discussed Disease Prevention/Health Promotion objectives:
 - Identify the most effective model for service delivery and test across the State of Idaho.
 - Increase access to evidence-based programs to promote health, well-being, and aging in place.
 - Increase knowledge about the importance of immunizations.
 - AAAs will identify partners to provide workshop accessibility to accommodate people with special needs.
 - Increase confidence in the use of technology as a tool to live well in their community of choice.
- Discussed Falls Prevention objectives:
 - Promote prevention and early identification of fall related traumatic brain injury.
 - Improve health outcomes through falls prevention of community dwelling older Idahoans.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Connected: Idaho Connects Loneliness Reduction – Janet Miller

- Highlighted the outcomes of the Loneliness Awareness Month campaign.
- Discussed Loneliness Reduction objectives:
 - Improve health and quality of life through social interaction and connection.
 - Research, create and implement awareness, and educational campaigns on the negative health effects associated with social isolation and loneliness.
 - Address the concerns uncovered in the Idaho Needs Assessment.
 - Capitalize on senior centers as a hub for loneliness reduction.
- Shared on partnering with a non-profit to provide intergenerational activities based in the arts.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Home: Homemaker, Chore, Transportation – Janet Miller

- Discussed the main Transportation program objective:
 - Increase transportation options through new strategic partnerships, projects, or programs with a focus on rural and underserved areas.
- Discussed the main Chore and Home Modification program objective:
 - Identify and implement new partnerships, resources, or programs that support client needs for home modification and heavy housework and yardwork.
- Discussed the main Homemaker program objective:
 - Expand the number of consumer-directed clients with an emphasis on high risk and underserved populations.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Home: Home Delivered Meals (HDM), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) – Birgit Luebeck

- Presented the 2024-2028 State Plan for HDM and CSFP goals:
 - Dual participation.
 - Onsite Review Toolkit.
 - Emergency Operations Plan.
 - Meal Satisfaction Survey.
 - Increasing CSFP participation.
- HDM and CSFP program objectives:
 - Increase ability to respond to the demand to serve more clients through elimination of dual participation clients receiving both OAA HDM and Medicaid HDM.
 - Decrease variability across the state in the implementation of the HDM program.
 - AAAs plan and facilitate uninterrupted service of HDM during emergency situations.
 - Maintain or increase client satisfaction with HDM including meal modification for medical or cultural considerations.

- Prevent malnutrition through CSFP by sustaining or increasing the number of eligible clients served.
- Highlighted the Idaho Needs Assessment survey questions.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Home: Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) – Brandi Waselewski

- Discussed the MIPPA goals:
 - Enhance outreach efforts to beneficiaries likely to be eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy program (LIS), Medicare Savings Program (MSP), Medicare Drug Coverage Part D, and assist beneficiaries to apply for benefits.
 - Partnership with Department of Insurance, Idaho SHIBA.
- Reviewed MIPPA objectives:
 - Establish strategic partnerships to enhance outreach efforts with an emphasis on high risk and underserved populations.
 - Establish six new partnerships quarterly.
- Discussed the SMP goal:
 - Empower Medicare beneficiaries to prevent healthcare fraud through outreach, counseling, and education.
- Reviewed SMP objectives:
 - Expand the ability of the current program to serve Idahoans across the state.
 - Plan, formalize and implement a volunteer program that supports SMP.
 - Maintain six active volunteers.
 - Maximize available financial resources for older Idahoans to age in place.
- Reviewed SCSEP objectives:
 - Ensure the most effective use of resources to serve the most clients.
 - Identify and test the most effective model for service delivery across the state.
- Touched on gap analysis.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Public Transportation Success Story – Mike Hirschi

- Shared a Pocatello Regional Transit video highlighting a success story of an individual effectively navigating and utilizing public transportation services to aid in his quality of life.
- Discussion followed.

Quarterly Quality of Life Education: Music and Movement – Janet Miller

- Presented on the benefits of listening to music and getting some movement in:
 - Reduction on cortisol levels.
 - Release of endorphins.

- Improvement in mood.
- Increase in serotonin.
- Discussion followed.

Enhanced Quality, Effectiveness, and Advocacy: Idaho's Updated Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) Policies, Procedures, and New Monitoring Toolkit – Bill Benson, Jamie Freschi, and Courtney Hoskins

- Presented on the collaboration between Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA) and Health Benefits ABCs (HBABC) to do the following:
 - Assess the current policies and procedures in the ICOA Operations Manual for the LTCOP.
 - Rewrite the policies and procedures for the implementation of the State LTCOP to meet the Federal OAA and regulations (45 CFR 1321 and 1324) requirements.
 - Develop an assessment and monitoring toolkit in the ICOA standardized format for the LTCOP.
- Demonstrated the assessment and monitoring toolkit.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Home: Idaho Family Caregiver Support, Dementia Capability, Idaho's Community Care Program (CCP) – Lynn Fyanes

- Presented on the Family Caregiver Support, Dementia Capability, and CCP goal:
- Idahoans are supported to live independent and healthy lives in the communities of their choice.
- Reviewed Family Caregiver Support objectives:
 - Develop Management Information System infrastructure and internal workflows to support person centered evidence-based assessments to uncover and respond to comprehensive caregiver needs.
 - To increase coordination of caregiver support efforts across the state will participate as member of Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare (IDHW) Lifespan Respite Care Coalition Advisory Board.
 - Facilitate the successful implementation of the Idaho Alzheimer's and Related Dementia's (ADRD) State Plan, including initiatives related to brain health and traumatic brain injury reduction and recognition.
 - Align with RAISE Act goal to promote financial and workplace security for family caregivers.
 - Establish coordination with the IDHW Family and Community Services Grand and Kinship Families "Bridging Systems" initiative.
 - In partnership with IDHW, Medicaid, and guidance from Advancing States cross-state collaboration, new strategies for the recruitment, retention or advancement of direct care workers will be developed and implemented.
 - Align with RAISE Act goal to increase caregiver self-identification, to facilitate appropriate support.

- Increase family caregiver recognition and support through new strategic partnerships and projects with an emphasis technology to increase access and reduce social isolation or loneliness.
- Reviewed Family Caregiver Support objectives:
 - Increase Dementia Capability across the aging network with an emphasis on competence in working with underserved and at-risk populations.
 - Strengthen the direct care workforce in Idaho through evidence-based, research informed, free dementia training.
- Touched on Family Caregiver projects.

Stay Safe: Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) – Fanny Rodriguez-Melnikovsky

- Updated on the LTCOP outreach opportunities:
- Conducted statewide Ombudsman survey.
- Long-Term Care facility shadow visits with Ombudsman.
- Reviewed AAA Annual Plan related to the Ombudsman program.
- Shared SWOT analysis outcome.
- Discussed identified Ombudsman program gaps.
- Reviewed LTCOP objectives:
 - Decrease variability across the State in the delivery of Ombudsman services.
 - Increase consistency in documentation across the State.
 - Create and implement a statewide infrastructure to support & promote LTC family councils.
 - Expand Ombudsman support to new settings and projects.
 - Revamp Volunteer Program.
- Shared data on nursing facilities and residential care communities for Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2024.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Stay Safe: Adult Protective Services (APS) – Deedra Hunt

- Presented on the APS goal:
 - Idahoans promote resilience, self-determination, and dignity for older and vulnerable adults.
- Reviewed APS objectives:
 - To promote equity in service to clients across the state, decrease variability across the state in the delivery of APS.
 - Expand awareness of vulnerable adult maltreatment to promote early identification and appropriate reporting.
 - Increase awareness and knowledge of the APS program with multiple audiences including mandated reporters.
 - Establish Integrated Mission Team (IMT) built of trusted agencies and specialized professional staff that have like purpose and focus to protect vulnerable adults, investigate maltreatment, recover lost assets, and prosecute perpetrators.

- Shared the statewide Action Plan regarding Elder Abuse Awareness Month in June 2025.
- Questions and discussion followed.

AAA Dialogue – AAA Directors

- Roundtable discussion of highlights from reports, events, and challenges in their areas.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Commissioners' Reports – ICOA Commissioners

- Roundtable discussion of highlights from reports, events, and challenges in their areas.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Closing Business/Meeting Adjourns – Chair Ohrtman

- Meeting adjourned 3:39pm