



Report to the Commissioners
Area IX Agency on Aging, Flathead County
March 24, 2016
Prepared by Lisa Sheppard, Director

On the last page are two tables, one for performance measures and one for workload indicators, showing:

FY 2014 actuals

FY 2015 annual targets

FY 2015 actuals

FY 2015 actuals as a percentage of annual targets

FY 2015 actuals as a percentage of FY 2014 actuals

FY 2016 actuals

FY 2016 annual targets

FY 2016 actuals as a percentage of FY 2016 annual targets

The general target is 66.66% for FY 2016, July 1, 2015-February 29, 2016, keeping in mind that some numbers will be unevenly distributed throughout the year, some will lag 30-90 days due to subcontractor billing/reporting and/or volunteer reporting and some will change during the end of the fiscal year reconciliation process. Some information is not yet available and will be reported in future months. Additional detail may be reported in the program sections below. Numbers highlighted in yellow have been revised since the last report.

Data to note:

- Adjustments to the data (in yellow) are due to the addition of January numbers that were unavailable at the time of the February report.
- Annual surveys have been completed for Nutrition and will be mailed out at the end of this week for IL Services. The results of both will be included in next month's report.
- We continue to monitor expenditures related to Independent Living services and to maintain a waiting list for services, primarily homemaker. However, we have restored a few clients to service this last month and anticipate being able to bring more people back onto service at the beginning of April due to a combination of natural attrition in the number of clients and unexpected additional federal/state funding for FY 2016.
- Transportation rides were up from January and higher than this time last year. However, overall rides continue to fall short of FY 2015 by about 2.7%.

AOA Administration

Budget and Contracts

- On 3/1/16, DPHHS submitted a Benefits Enrollment Center Sustainability grant to be implemented by us and the Area VI AOA. If awarded, it would begin in June with a budget of \$21,000 for our agency.
- We will receive an additional \$34,539 in federal funds and \$7,692 in state funds for FY 2016. Budget amendments are due to DPHHS by 4/12/16.
- We also received notification from DPPHS of our FY 2017 allocation: federal funds of \$367,724 and state funds of \$411,628 for a total of \$787,044, which is a \$23,388 increase over the original FY 2016 allocation. FY 2017 budgets are due to DPHHS by 5/11/16.

State/Legislative Issues

- Lisa represented M4A at a meeting with DPHHS Director Richard Opper on 2/19/16.
- Also on 2/19/16, Lisa represented M4A at the monthly aging issues/services meeting with Tara Veazey, Governor Bullock's Policy Advisor for Health and Families.
- On 3/10/16, M4A presented a proposal to the state Interim Committee on Children, Families, Health and Human Services requesting funding in the coming biennium for Area Agencies on Aging to support education and increased home and community-based services for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their family caregivers. The proposal was well-received by the Committee and is supported by other aging advocates, including AARP and the state Alzheimer's Association. A bill will be offered in the upcoming legislative session.
- The U.S. House passed its version of S. 192 to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. It is anticipated the Senate will endorse the House version and it will be sent to the President for signature next month.

Building

- **New building:** We are working with J2 to select dining room and lobby furniture. Also, most AOA staff have toured the new building and are excited about the coming move and all the new program possibilities the space will afford.
- **Kelly Road:** Nothing to report.

Advisory Council

- The Council did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2016.

Outreach/Education/Media

Note: Transportation related outreach will be noted in the Eagle Transit section below.

- 2/1/16, monthly interview on KGEZ, 11,000 listenership
- 2/22/16, presentation on Aging in Place at monthly meeting of Democratic Women
- Benefits Enrollment event promotion
 - Press releases in Daily Interlake, 2/9, 2/16, 14,000
 - Article Daily Interlake, 2/11, 14,000
 - KOFI radio interview, 2/12, 7500
- Benefits Enrollment events
 - 2/5/16, Centre Court Senior Housing, Kalispell, 15 participants
 - 2/10/16, Mountain View Court Senior Housing, Columbia Falls, 8 participants
 - 2/12/16, Columbia Arms, Columbia Falls, 8 participants
 - 2/17/16, Gateway Community Center, Kalispell, 30 participants
 - 2/18/16, The Gathering Place, Lakeside, 20 participants
 - 2/19/16, Whitefish Community Center, 10 participants
 - 2/23/16, North Valley Senior Center, Columbia Falls, 13 participants
 - 2/24/16, Kalispell Senior Apartments, 8 participants
 - 2/26/16, Kalispell Senior Center, 7 participants
 - 2/29/16, Stone Creek Apartments, 10 participants
- Weekly information table at Salvation Army (2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23), 60 people visited
- Ads
 - Three ads in the United Way Answer Book, AOA/ RSVP, Eagle Transit, and Benefits Check Up
 - Benefits Check Up ad in Montana Senior News Feb/March edition

Eagle Transit

- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT):
 - The Transportation Coordination Plan/5311 application and capital request was approved by Commissioners on 2/24/16 and submitted to MDT the same day.
 - Proposed rule changes limiting advertising on bus shelters would result in the loss of the majority, and possibly all, of the bus shelters in Flathead County. Lisa has submitted written comment to the MDT Commission opposing the rule changes and will attend the April, 1, 2016 rule hearing in Helena.
- Operations:
 - The new Eagle Transit bus stop signs are in production.
 - We continue to work with County IT and GIS to build a new Eagle Transit website.
 - One .75 driver position has been filled and another is posted.
- The next Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will be April 7, 2016 at 8:30 am at Heritage Place.

Nutrition

- In February we distributed nutrition education fliers to all the congregate sites and in home-delivered meals.
- We are planning the annual picnic, which will be held on Friday, June 10th at the Expo building at the Fairgrounds.

I & R/Assistance/Ombudsman

- The primary focus for February was benefits enrollment screenings – individual appointments and events.
- Data reports: of active clients assessed
 - 71% are at moderate to high risk based on physical health needs
 - 46% need assistance with transportation
 - 13% are experiencing cognitive decline
 - 23% report mental health needs
 - 13% have limited social connections
 - 73% need help with household and/or personal tasks
 - 63% live alone
 - 35% have at least one life factor rated at the highest risk category

RSVP

- Grant update:
 - We are in the process of a compliance review related to pre-hire criminal background checks on RSVP employees.
 - Staff are beginning to prepare for a full program compliance review to be scheduled later this year.
 - The quarterly program and financial reports are due at the end of April.
- The Advisory Council met on 2/24/16.
- The very successful annual Cribbage Tournament was held on 3/16/16. Forty 4th graders from 8 schools participated. Congratulations to winners from Ruters Elementary School, Emma Petioni and Ivy Salmon; 2nd place winners from Stillwater Christian School, Jake Schaefer and Parker Stimac; and 3rd place from Hedges, Traci Fainter and Elise Huekhang!

Senior Mobile Home Repair

- The Advisory Board met on 3/8/16. The next meeting will be held on 4/12/16 at 9:00 am at Flathead Electric.
- Three projects have been completed since last month's report; 23 are in progress.
- Funding: no new funds to report this month

Senior Centers - A primary AOA focus is outreach to area Senior Centers to build relationships, extend support, and explore new opportunities for partnership.

- Benefits enrollment events were held at each senior center. The Centers hosted and helped promote the events.
- CDBG grant:
 - Lead-based paint testing will occur April 5th and 6th.
 - The RFP for architectural services is in process and will be reviewed by Commissioners on April 4th. Anticipated contract in late April or early May.

Story: Cribbage – More than a Game!

Email from an RSVP Volunteer Cribbage Coach, 2/25/16:

An event occurred following Tuesday's Kid Cribbage class at Evergreen Elementary that deserves to be shared. During the class one of the youngsters was doing exceptionally well at counting hands, his and those of the other three students in the group. I complimented him on it. As the session concluded I started to exit the room when he approached me and asked that I follow him into the hallway. A teacher was nearby and indicated it was OK. He went to his back pack and brought out an individual box of Sun-Maid raisins, handed them to me and said, "I want you to have these. Thank you for helping us this morning." I attempted to refuse them, looking toward the teacher for direction. She motioned her approval and I accepted the gift.

I'll never know how significant that snack was to that lad but I do know it wasn't insignificant. One young man's spirits were elevated that morning. My spirits soared!!