

Advisory Council on Aging

The Advisory Council on Aging meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Members Present: Cheryl Anagnopoulos, Eric Kunzweiler, Jacqueline Sly, James Severson, Erik Gaikowski, Jenna Douglas, and Michele Juffer, Gale Walker, Cody Seehafer

Members Absent: Brett Hoffman

Public Participants: None

Welcome (Heather Krzmarzick)

Heather welcomed the council and turned the meeting over to Chairman Anagnopoulos. Chairman Cheryl Anagnopoulos called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM CST.

Approval of Agenda (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)

Erik G. made a motion to approve the agenda, Jacqueline S. seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Cheryl Anagnopoulos)

Meeting Minutes from the October 2025 meeting were attached to the invite for members to review. Motion for approval by Michele J., seconded by Cody S. Motion passed.

Long Term Services and Supports Updates:

Heather discussed updates for the Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) as follows:

2026 Legislative Session Updates

- LTSS providers will receive a 1.4% rate increase effective July 1, 2026. Provider communications are expected by the end of April.
- House Bill 1138 (licensure of non-medical in-home agencies) was vetoed. Concerns included overly broad definitions, limited consumer protection due to minimal enforcement authority, and potential reductions in service access. Appreciation was expressed for the Governor's direction for the Department of Health to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a more effective framework.

State Plan on Aging Updates

- The State Plan on Aging includes support for the Human Services Transportation Plan and continues the partnership with the South Dakota Department of Transportation to maximize funding and transportation opportunities for older adults. These transportation services are funded through the Older Americans Act and are designed to offset a portion of transportation costs. Participants typically have a suggested donation, though services are not denied based on ability to contribute.

- DOT invited LTSS to present to transportation providers in early March. The meeting went very well, with strong discussion and productive idea-sharing. Several follow-up items were identified, and work will continue over the next year to improve reporting processes and increase provider engagement around how funds are allocated.
- Increasing respite options in rural, underserved communities is another State Plan goal. LTSS has contracted with SDFMC to conduct outreach in seven counties to provide volunteer respite training using the National Respite Care Provider Training Toolkit. This training will equip local individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver high-quality respite care. LTSS believes this will positively impact both caregivers and care recipients and strengthen community support. The selected communities—Murdo, White River, Philip, Eagle Butte, Winner, Wagner, and Bison—were chosen based on their underserved status, significant Native American populations, higher poverty rates, rural characteristics, and overall need for trained respite providers. The hope is that this effort will increase the number of informal individuals available to provide respite when needed.

Grant Applications on [LTSS Provider Portal](#) page under forms

- Grant applications for Title III services and the SHIINE program were released March 23, 2026, and are available on the LTSS Provider Portal (Forms section).
- Funding categories include nutrition, adult day services, legal assistance, caregiver outreach and education (e.g., Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Savvy Caregiver, memory cafés), evidence-based health programs, and SHIINE regional coordinator roles.
- Applications are due May 11.

Alzheimer’s Disease Program Initiative grant

- A community needs assessment survey and related meetings were held March 30–31 in Aberdeen, the pilot community for the grant. LTSS anticipates partnering with organizations to deliver Dementia Dialogues, utilize the TCare caregiver assessment administered by case management specialists to develop caregiver-specific plans, and distribute [A Guide to Navigating Dementia](#) in pilot communities.
- LTSS is partnering with DOH on statewide distribution of A Guide to Navigating Dementia and, after securing additional funding, is planning to print more copies than initially expected.

HOPE Waiver Renewal

The public comment period is open from March 25 to April 24. There are no changes to eligibility, available services, or how participants access services. Minor changes and clarifications include:

- Updated Structured Family Caregiving (SFC) requirements to clarify home visit expectations and additional monitoring for higher-risk participants.
- Provider enrollment processes were updated to align with Medicaid, though these changes are administrative only.

- Service definitions were clarified to specify how needs are assessed and to reinforce that waiver services address needs not met by other supports.
- A financial accountability measure was also updated to ensure consistent rate-methodology review practices.

Council Input: Strategies to Increase SHIINE Volunteers Statewide

Heather facilitated a discussion with the council about ideas to recruit SHIINE volunteers. The SHIINE programs saves South Dakotans millions of dollars each year; however, with more Medicare beneficiaries, more volunteers are needed.

- Eric K. discussed the Vita Program that ICAP administers for tax assistance. They utilized state universities and have had good luck utilizing university students, so that could be an option.
- Jacqueline asked about training needs. Heather explained volunteers receive training and roles may include outreach or other opportunities, not just advising. Computer skills are helpful; healthcare experience is not required.
- Erik G. asked about volunteer site locations. Heather shared that Active Generations (Sioux Falls), Mateo (Aberdeen), and Western SD CAP (West River/Pierre) serve as regional partners, though volunteers do not need to be on-site. Erik noted similar volunteer shortages in tax-aid programs and expressed interest in collaborative recruitment efforts.
- Cheryl A. reported that Black Hills State University also hosts a VITA program and offered to help connect with potential volunteers.
- Jacqueline suggested targeting retired teachers and presenting at local service clubs such as Rotary. Heather thanked her and noted outreach presentations could themselves be volunteer activities.

Advisory Council on Aging Membership

Judy Gano has resigned her position, Heather is working on submitting nominations for a replacement.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

October 20, 2026, 1pm

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Erik G. Second by Jenna D. All in favor to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1: 43 PM