



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Senior and Long Term Care Division ♦ PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59604-4210
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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

November 20, 2014

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. Fourth, Suite A
Hamilton MT 59840-2853

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Ravalli County Commissioners



RE: Montana's State Aging Plan Re-designation

Dear Commissioners:

The Department of Public Health and Human Services is required, under **Section 52-3-405** of the Montana Code Annotated, to re-designate every four years the planning and services areas it utilizes for services to the aged. This process coincides with the four year planning process and requires us to inform each County's Commissioners and each Reservation's Tribal Council of options they have and to request written response unless they are going to remain in the planning and service area (PSA) they are currently part of.

In order to begin our planning process, we need to complete this part of the process by January 31, 2015 so the Area Agencies on Aging can have their plans drafted and completed by May 1, 2015.

Currently, there are ten Planning and Service Areas served by ten Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Your county is served by Area VII Agency on Aging located in Missoula, Montana and the Area VII Agency on Aging Director is Susan Kohler.

The following are the options you may consider in this re-designation process for the fiscal years 2016 through 2019:

Option #1. You may retain Area VII Agency on Aging by simply doing nothing.

Option #2. You may request to be placed in another existing Planning and Service Area, which geographically borders your County, and choose to have the agency which is serving as the Area Agency on Aging for that Planning and Service Area designated as your Area Agency on Aging.

Option #3. You may request to retain the current Planning and Service Area but would like the Department to consider a new agency or organization to serve as the Area Agency on Aging.

Option #4. You may request to have your County designated as a Planning and Service Area and select an agency or organization to be considered as the Area Agency for the Planning and Service Area. Currently, there are ten agencies designated by the Office on Aging in the Department of Public Health and Human Services' Senior and Long Term Care Division to serve as Area Agencies on Aging. State law allows for up to twelve Area Agencies on Aging.

Written responses, for any of the Options selected, need to include the rationale as to the County Commissioner's reasons for changing and your recommendation regarding the agency you would like to serve as their Area Agency on Aging for the next four year plan period which covers Federal Fiscal Years 2016 to 2019.

There is more specific information available on our website including the qualifications and financial obligation an agency must meet in order to be designated as an Area Agency on Aging. Our website address is <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/aging> and look under "What's New".

If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Rehbein with the Aging Services Bureau at crehbein@mt.gov or call him at 1-800-332-2272 or 406-444-4077.

Sincerely



Kelly Williams
Administrator