

The Upside Of Aging

Volume 7, Issue 1

January, 2023

A Message from our Director

Hello and Happy New Year to our Commission on Aging clients and families! As I begin my third year as the Director of the COA, I want to reflect on some of the positive things that happened during 2022 and the exciting plans we have for 2023 and beyond!

In November of 2022, Grand Traverse County residents responded with overwhelming approval to renew the COA millage which funds most of the services we will provide to our community over the next ten years! We are so grateful to our community for this support of the work we do! We provide services to nearly 1,800 Grand Traverse County residents every month, all of which is supported and paid for by this millage.

The past two years have been a time of growth in our staffing at COA. Our management team is now complete, with the hiring of our Nursing Supervisor, Keith Guimond, in 2022. Our RN/LPN Nursing team is also complete, with the additions of RN Deb Cook, LPN Anna Leonard and LPN Beth Johns. We have also added much needed office positions and are nearly full staffed in our office as well. What a blessing all our new hires have been for all of us (and you)! Special thanks to our core team who has worked tirelessly to cover all work that needed to be done, during the times we have been short staffed.

For the first time in many years, the COA no longer has a waiting list for In-home Healthcare, Respite Care, Medication Management, or Foot Care, due to the additions of staff. Please reach out to us if you need any of these services, or if you have questions.

Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, I will be working with County Administration and other agencies on important issues facing our senior community, such as transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping, along with assistance for medical equipment needs. Lastly, I will be working with other agencies and within the COA to develop a volunteer program to connect volunteers in our community with seniors who have a need for companionship. Social isolation within our senior population has increased dramatically over the past few years and we are looking at creative ways to help.

Thank you for being a client of the Commission on Aging – all of our caring staff look forward to serving you in the future!

Lana Payne, Director



Caring for those who cared for you, since 1975



Reminder we close for lunch. Our office is open 8:00 am to Noon, **closed Noon-1:00 pm**, and open 1:00 to 5:00 pm weekdays, except holidays

Upcoming Holidays: County Wide Training Day 1/16/23. Staff will not be seeing clients until the afternoon.

The Commission on Aging Advisory Board

The Commission on Aging Board acts in an advisory role to the Director. Board Members are an diverse group of citizens consisting of Commission on Aging clients and employees, local government leaders, and members of the community who have a working knowledge of the types of services that the Commission on Aging provides. Many thanks to these very important leaders, who volunteer their time to the Commission on Aging.

Dakota Baker
Jan Bailey
Andy Hoort

Michelle Krumm
Hettie Molvang
Lana Payne

Emily Rice
Ashlea Walter
Penny Zika

County Wide Training Day

For those clients who normally would be seen Monday morning January 16th; the County has recently scheduled a mandatory in service training that day for all County employees. This schedule disruption will affect clients who are seen through noon that day. We are sorry for the short notice. If we have a worker with a cancellation that week, we will contact you to see if we can fit you in in for a make up appointment..



February Birthdays And Anniversaries



Birthdays

Beth J. 2/7
Holly W. 2/8
Patti B. 2/11
Deb C. 2/19

Anniversaries

Joan A. 2 years
Cyndie F. 14 years
Emily R. 6 years