

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**August 20, 2024**

Present: Jessica Moser, Chair; Thomas Kalamas, Vice-Chair; Vincent Nortz; Josh Leviker; and Barry Lyndaker.

Legislator Moser called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m.

Legislator Moser moved to approve the July 23, 2024, committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

**Nutrition Program follow-up – Carla Hellinger, Director of Office For the Aging**

Carla Hellinger began by thanking the legislators for their attention last month, feedback received, and their continued support. Lewis County Office For the Aging is collaborating with the Lewis County Public Transportation for picking up participants and take them to the meal site and return them home afterwards. This will eliminate the need for the current van lease, saving the county money. The Restaurant Style Dining has increased from 403 meals up to 897 ever since opening in February 2024.

Office For the Aging has implemented some changes already to help reduce costs. Participants need to now call and request their monthly vouchers whereas before they would just be mailed them every month. The number of vouchers per person has been reduced from 20 down to 8. They will monitor these changes to see the affects on the budget. Some additional changes they would consider in the future if the budget doesn't stabilize are to reduce the number of vouchers from 8 to 4 and even beyond that if necessary. They would decrease the number of days this type of dining is offered from 7 days a week to only 4. They would reduce the times you can get the meals from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. down to 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. They would also try reducing the number of meal options from 7 down to 2. They would try eliminating take out as an option. Finally, they would require participants to pick up vouchers in their office.

The goal is to meet the needs of the participants, offering supplemental services, while remaining fiscally responsible. Legislator Kalamas said he would be interested in more information on the 50+ population in Lewis County. Ryan Piche explained that modest growth is better than rapid increases. There were questions asked about whether data is collected about the income limits of the participants. An idea was thrown out to see if there would be any interest in corporate funding for this program. Ryan explained that the RFP for this program has gone out twice before and it is only one vendor who responds. There was further discussion on the future options if the current changes don't make enough impact on the budget.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Transferring funds in the amount of \$75,000.00 from Special Contingency into the Office For the Aging account line due to increased costs and utilization of Nutrition Program services.

AYE   5            NAY   0  

Motion:

1. Legislator Moser moved to authorize Public Health employees Stephanie Houser-Fouse and Mackenzie Brayman-Purcell to attend the National Conference on Emergency Preparedness in San Antonio Texas from Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, with expenses being covered by Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funding, seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn at 1:38 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kalamas, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board