



AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEM

DATE: 2024-07-22

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: County Manager Dan Reyes

ITEM TITLE: **DISCUSSION ITEM – Update from Upper Valley Board of Guardians (UVBOG)**

County representative Carol Taylor

Summary:

County representative on UVBOG to describe her experiences and give update.

The Upper Valley Board of Guardians (UVBOG) is a five county board consisting of Teton, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Fremont Counties. Established by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the UVBOG works within the court system, according to IC.15-5-601 to provide court appointed guardianship for individuals. Guardians provide a number of benefits for wards, to include advocacy and help navigating different aspects of their lives ensuring the greatest amount of independence and self-determination.

The Board is comprised of an oversight committee and a guardianship committee. The oversight committee is primarily responsible for appointing guardians and volunteer companions to the board. According to the JPA, the volunteer companions were to be designated as the actual individuals that spent time with wards; however, due to lack of volunteers, the board members have been doing a lot of this work.

Carol Taylor is the County's representative on the Upper Valley Board of Guardians. As a medical social worker for over 40 years, Carol has worked in hospitals, home health, hospice and long-term care settings as well as mental health clinics and assisted living facilities. She is a consultant and trainer and has collaborated with countless professionals, organizations and lay persons exploring the joy of working with elders, aging well, understanding difficult end-of-life issues, memory loss, cognitive decline and self-care issues for family care partners and professionals care providers.

Carol's passion is working with elders suffering from neuro-degenerative conditions, cognitive impairment and memory loss. Throughout her career, she has developed and facilitated support groups for those suffering from persistent memory loss as well as family support sessions. Carol has spearheaded community education events and activities to increase awareness of the needs of elders with cognitive deficits and memory loss, while focusing on "aging in place", community engagement and creating circles of care for elders and their families.

She has served on the Idaho Commission on Aging, by Governor appointment and was a legislative appointee to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. She co-authored an end-of-life graduate course for Boston University's Institute for Geriatric Social Work. She served as consultant and resource specialist for those with dementia and cognitive impairment through St. John's Institute for Cognitive Health in Jackson,

Wyoming. She frequently appears both participating in educational forums, activities and conference sessions.



regionally and nationally directing and keynote addresses, community awareness

Carol was nominated for Robert Wood been Chairperson and board member of

Johnson Community Service Award and has the Idaho Area Health Education Center.

Carol currently serves as the Chairperson for the University of Wyoming's Center on Aging. Carol received the prestigious 2013 Social Worker of the Year award for the State of Wyoming, National Association of Social Workers. Carol has dedicated her professional career to the various aspects of elder issues and understands the unique challenges faced by spouses, partners, and adult children of aging loved ones. She prides herself on superior outcomes. Her direct and inclusive style of communication, gentle humor and deep compassion shepherd clients and families through the maze of elder care.

Carol will be describing her experiences as a member of the UVBOG to the Board of County Commissioners.