

**Bear River Area Agency on  
Aging would like to wish you a...**





**From our Bear River Area Agency On  
Aging family to yours,**

*Happy Holidays!*

### Director's Note

***"Supporting a Lifetime of Dignity, Independence, Hope,  
and Strength "***

This mantra is what we strive each day to achieve at Bear River Area Agency on Aging (BRAAA). Our greatest desire is to reach the aging population in our Tri-county area with the education, aid, and support that is needed.

We feel it an honor and a responsibility to assist all those who are caregiving, advocating, and supporting our elderly community. The depth of knowledge we have within our Agency comes from each of our Case Mangers having at least a 4-year degree, as well as years of experience in this field.

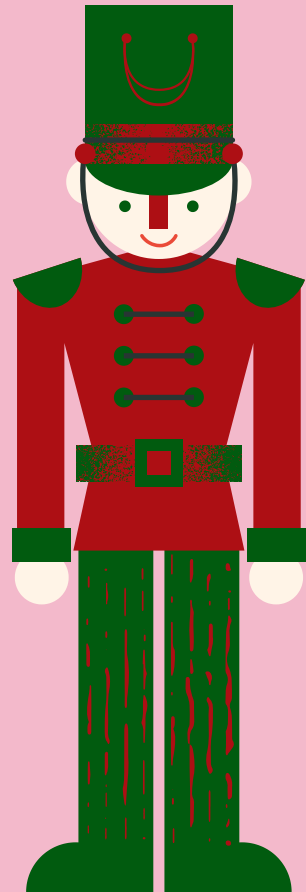
The services we provide for education, family counseling, information and referral are always free to anyone seeking advice on dealing with the issues that arise concerning the process and intricacies of aging.

BRAAA is under the umbrella of Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) where access to other County, State, and Federal programs are housed. The synergistic coordination between all the BRAG programs proves to work well in supplying the best possible outcomes for those we serve.

My name is **Carolyn Reed, I am the Director of Aging Services for BRAAA.** I am a Masters level Certified Social Worker, along with having many years of experience in Counseling, as well as being a Certified Hypnotherapist. My family are transplants to Cache Valley, which has been our home for the past 17 years. I have four children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Please feel free to contact me personally about any concerns you or your family may be having as you, or your loved ones discover the challenges that arise as we age.

Contact me through our intake specialist – Shelly Andrus @ 435-713-1467.



## Fiscal Administrator

My name is **Keirstin Meyer**. I am the Fiscal Administrator for the Bear River Area Agency on Aging. I moved to Logan in 2011 to complete my master's degree at USU and quickly fell in love with this beautiful area and the people who live here. I am fortunate that my three adult children and their families all live within 2 hours of Cache Valley, as I now consider this home.

As the Fiscal Administrator I am responsible for monitoring and reporting on the 14 funding sources and programs that serve the aging population in the Tri-county area. These programs provide essential education and services for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

These financial resources are critical for providing needed comfort and even survival for many of those we serve. Carefully established guidelines assist us in getting the required data needed to our legislators for continued funding support.

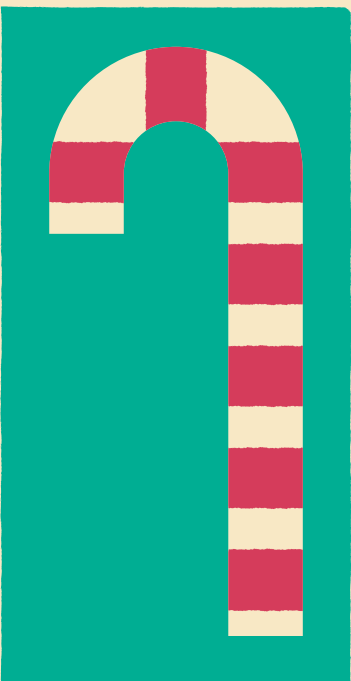


## Long-Term Care Ombudsman



My name is **Chad Fairbanks** and I am the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for Cache, Box Elder, and Rich Counties. I have been in the social services field for nearly 20 years and have had the opportunity to work with individuals of all ages. I have served my local community for the majority of that time, and for the past two years I have been working for Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) and the Aging Department. I have found my passion working with some of our more vulnerable populations as well as with their families.

As the Ombudsman, I serve anyone currently residing in a Skilled Nursing facility which includes those in Memory Care, as well as Assisted Living Facilities. I help individuals resolve issues having to do with the protection and promotion of their quality care. In my role, I advocate and promote the voice of all residents living within our local long-term care facilities. For any additional questions or information, please reach out to myself, Chad Fairbanks, at 435-713-1464.



## Alternatives Programs

My name is Shelly Andrus. I was born and raised in Richmond, UT where I live with my husband Casey. We have 6 amazing grandchildren. I have specialized in Aging Services for over 15 years. I've been a member of the Aging Department at BRAG for the past 4 years and work as the intake and referral specialist and a case manager for the Alternatives program.

All clients interested in the programs at Bear River Area Agency on Aging must go through the "Intake Specialist" – me. I will go over your needs and qualifications to determine if you are eligible and which program would serve you best. Once eligibility is established, applicants are placed on the applicant list according to their level of need.



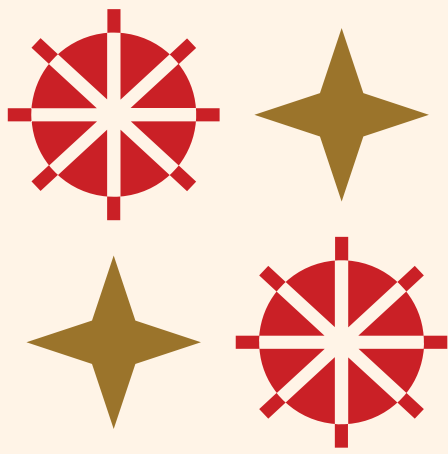
The Alternatives Programs is designed to help these older adults receive supportive services while remaining in their homes independently or with other family members.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must meet program financial eligibility
- Must have need for assistance and care, as determined by professional risk assessment
- Small fee may be required
- Services received through local home care providers

If you or your loved one are interested in finding out more about this program or how to apply, call 435-713-1467.





## Caregiver Program

My name is **Shawna Peterson**. I work at Bear River Area Agency on Aging as the Registered Nurse/Social worker. We have lived in Cache Valley for 25 years. My husband and I have 5 children and 6 grandchildren, so we are always busy going to football, soccer, and basketball games!

As the RN for the Medicaid Waiver program, I evaluate each client that is referred by the State for the program to assure eligibility requirements are met.

As the Case Manager for the Caregiver program, I assess and establish services for the many care receivers that are struggling to provide care for their loved ones. Through providing respite time for caregivers to rest and refuel, we have found that the entire family benefits greatly. The Caregiver program brings relief at critical times and makes such a difference for all involved. Support services through Caregiver groups where families can share and gain support from others in the same situation are invaluable.

Please contact our intake specialist, Shelly Andrus @ 435-713-1467 to see if you qualify.

## Aging Waiver Program

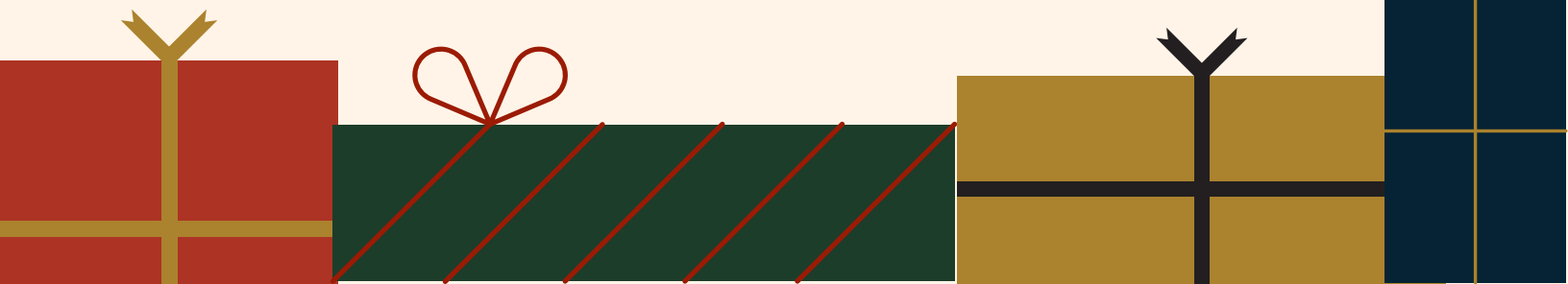
My name is **Melissa Lewis**, I'm a Social Worker. I have worked for the Bear River Area Agency on Aging the past 28 years doing the various programs. My husband and I have lived in Tremonton the past 30 years. I have two children and will be a grandma in January.

The Aging Waiver program is designed to provide services to help adults 65 and older remain in their homes or other community based settings. The goal of this program is to help Individuals live as independently as possible with supportive services.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Be 65 years of age or older
- Medically needy. An RN will determine if a client meets this requirement.
- Meet financial eligibility requirements for Medicaid

If you or your loved one are interested in finding out more about this program or how to apply, call 435-713-1467.



# Veteran Services

Hello, I am Shanna Andersen. I am a County Veterans Service Officer and social worker. Three unique things about me are... I like to stay up late. I like to walk in the rain. I like potato chips... of any kind!

I enjoy working with veterans and their families. I work with the two VA programs listed below. For more information, I would be happy to meet with you. Please call 435-713-1467

Happy Holidays and warm wishes for 2024!

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## Veterans Outreach Program

Connects veterans and their families to community and VA resources.

Services may include:

- Working with an accredited County Veterans Service Officer who can answer questions, advise, and educate concerning the benefits available from federal, state, county, and local resources
- Education on VA benefits and VA Healthcare
- Assistance with filing for military service connection compensation benefits
- Assistance with filing for VA pension benefits for the veteran and the surviving spouse
- Benefits to assist with nursing home, assisted living, in-home care costs and burial benefits

## Veteran-Directed Care Program

The VSD Program is for veterans of all ages who need support to remain independent in their homes. Services may include: Working with an accredited County Veterans Service Officer who can answer questions, advise, and educate concerning the benefits available from federal, state, county, and local resources. Education on VA benefits and VA Healthcare. Assistance with filing for military service connection compensation benefits. Assistance with filing for VA pension benefits for the veteran and the surviving spouse. Benefits to assist with nursing home, assisted living, in-home care costs and burial.



## State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

My name is **Tammy Hadley** and I am the SHIP Counselor for Box Elder County. I have worked with the senior population for the past 25 years. I have lived in Brigham City my entire life and can't imagine living anywhere else. My husband and I are the very proud parents of 8 children and we have 20 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

As the Box Elder County Health Care Counselor my job helps empower, educate, and assist Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers through objective outreach, counseling, and training to make informed health insurance decisions that optimize access to care and benefits. I also focus on SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) which helps Medicare beneficiaries prevent, detect, and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse.

What is happening in the coming year?

Everything Aging can be Answered, Assisted, Advocated for, and Solutions found - by visiting us at Bear River Area Agency on Aging.

We will be supporting fun and exciting social activities through our Sr Centers this year.

Education classes on how to navigate the complications of aging and caregiving will be presented across the entire Tri-county area - keep an eye out for one near you!

BRAAA will be partnering with the aging Advisory Council, the Caregiver Coalition and Community partners to bring an amazing Aging Conference in the Fall of 2024.

**Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year**

*the Aging Department family!*

# Our Team



Carolyn Reed, MSW, CSW  
Director of Aging  
Services  
435-713-1466

Keirstin Meyer, Fiscal  
Administrator  
435-713-1467



Chad Fairbanks, SSW  
Long-Term Care  
Ombudsman  
435-713-1464

Shelly Andrus, AS  
Intake Specialist/  
Caregiver Case  
Manage/Alternatives Case  
Manager  
435-713-1467



Shawna Peterson, RN  
Aging Waiver Nurse  
435-713-1467

Melissa Lewis, SSW  
Aging Waiver Case  
Manager  
435-713-1467



Shanna Anderson, SSW  
Veterans Specialist  
435-713-1460

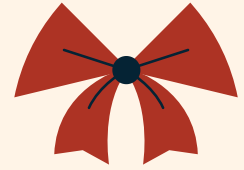
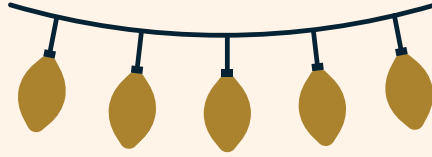
Tammy Hadley  
State Health Insurance  
Program  
435-713-1467



Josie Elliker, BSW -  
2024  
Aging Admin Associate  
435-713-1465



Appreciate our aging advisory council, and look forward to seeing them in the new year!



## Tri county BRAAA Members

### **BRAG Executive AAC Coordinating Staff**

Carolyn Reed  
Director of Aging Services

Roger Jones  
Executive Director of BRAG

Melissa Lewis  
SW/CM

Josie Elliker  
Aging Admin Associate

**Box Elder County**  
Lyle Holmgren  
Mayor of Tremonton City

Stan Summers  
County Commissioner

**Cache County**  
David Zook  
County Executive

Tim Frost  
Clinclile Supervisor

Bruce Lee  
Owner ComForCare Home Care

Karina Brown  
Cache County Exe Support

**Rich County**  
Sim Weston  
Rich County Commissioner

**Senior Center Directors**  
Jenny Christansen  
Bear River Valley Sr Center Director

Bill Cox  
Rich County Sr Center Director

Giselle Madrid  
Cache County Sr Center Director

Amanda Keller  
Brigham City Sr Center Director

This is not a complete membership count. We are in the process of filling position in Cache, Rich, and Box Elder County.

Caregiver Coalition will be up and running in January as an arm to the Aging Advisory Council. BRAAA is looking forward to a new year and the many exciting events that are planned with our community partners. See you then!

