



Assisting Teller County Seniors in living full and active lives with dignity and independence

Senior Courier November 2016

Greetings Teller

County. My name is Ralph Power and I have been the Executive Director of the Teller Senior Coalition since March of this year. After more than 20 years of non profit, government, and private industry experience, mostly in transportation, I am happy to be back in Southern Colorado where I grew up.

TSC is making strides in expanding services, improving services, and meeting the needs of Teller County seniors. Our progress is the direct result of an excellent and dedicated staff that really wants to make a

difference. Leni in case management, Gerry at the Community Cafe, Maggie in transportation and all of our people are what make TSC go.

As we continue to work with the community to make Teller County a great place to retire, we are looking to you to tell us what you need, what works, and what doesn't. Please stop by our office, get to know us, and tell us how we're doing .

-Ralph Power

Teller Senior Coalition (TSC) has been providing "Senior Services with Heart" in Teller County since 1996 and now also serves parts of eastern Park and western El Paso Counties. Our objective is to help our senior population remain safely in their own homes and out of institutionalized care.

We are here to help!

Call us for detailed information about our beneficial services for eligible Teller County community members:

NEMT Medicaid Transportation
Door to Door and Fixed Route Transportation
RAMP (Rural Area Meal Program) In-Home Delivery
Caregiver Support and Respite
Case Management
Legal Aid
Handyman for Safety Issues

Volunteer Spotlight

John Topping

John has been volunteering as our Handyman for almost 3 years. He gets great joy out of making our elderly citizens happy by doing work for them. When not volunteering, you can find him outdoors, hunting, fishing, or archery. He even makes his own arrows! Thank you, John, for being a huge part of our organization!

The 2016 Client Satisfaction Surveys are in!

Thank you very much for your valuable feedback. The Survey showed that the Teller Senior Coalition meets the needs of 100% of our seniors, for the services we provide. In addition, 96% of our seniors would recommend us to another senior.



Did you know? Our office is open for walk-in visits Monday— Friday 9am-1pm. Call us at (719) 687-3330 for information or to schedule an appointment. Need a ride? Call us at (719) 687-0256.

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TSC Receives Respite Grant

In October, the Teller Senior Coalition received a \$12,500 grant from the Colorado Respite Coalition to aid rural caregivers in need of respite. The Colorado Respite Coalition's (CRC) goal is to provide caregivers with a temporary break from caregiving demands and to establish coordinated caregiver respite resources. To meet these goals, CRC has partnered with Easter Seals Colorado to manage the implementation and conditions of the respite services. For over 100 years, Easter Seals has served those with disabilities and their families. Caring for those that care for others is a natural evolution for Easter Seals and its partnership with the CRC. TSC is proud to be the recipient of this grant and pleased to support caregivers caring for seniors in Teller County.

Ride with us!

The Teller Senior Coalition received a new 2017 Ford Bus in September 2017. This project was funded by CDOT and The Christopher and Dana Reeves foundation. It can seat 14 passengers and is equipped with a wheelchair lift with 2 wheelchair securements. This has been a wonderful addition to our fleet.

Also in September 2017, Teller Senior Coalition Transportation Department received the 2016 Small Community Transit Agency of the Year award from Colorado Association of Transit Agencies. This award was received with great honor. September was a great month for our Transportation Department.

Call us if you need a ride



687-0256

Teller Senior Coalition Staff Directory:

Ralph Power—Executive Director

Kathy Lowry—Office Manager

Leni Stevenson—Case Manager

Maggie Reed—Transportation Manager

Sheila Wolf—Transportation Supervisor

Bunni White—Program Assistant

Kimberly Burleson—Administrative Assistant

Gerry Coulter—Community Café Manager



Need To Know Info!

(Clip and Save)

What is Medicare Open Enrollment?

By Leni Stevenson, Teller Senior Coalition

October 15 to December 7 each year is the time when Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their existing coverage. It is also known as the Annual Election Period. In late September, seniors enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or a stand-alone Part D plan (Part D is prescription coverage) received an Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) that lists any changes to their plan for 2017. These changes could be that the plan will charge a different monthly premium, cover different services, or change its list of covered drugs. Seniors should read this notice carefully to see if any of the changes affect them. For example, if your ANOC tells you that your Part D plan will have an annual deductible next year, you may want to choose a new Part D plan that does not have a deductible. Making this type of change can only be done during Medicare Open Enrollment. Other changes that can be made during Open Enrollment are:

- *Switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C)
- *Switch from a Medicare Advantage Plan back to Original Medicare
- *Switch from your current Medicare Advantage Plan to a new one
- *Join a Part D prescription drug plan (if you do not have one)
- *Switch from your current Part D prescription drug plan to a new one
- *Do nothing and stay with your current coverage

What is Medicare Open Enrollment? (Con't)

If a senior makes a change and then has a change of heart and wants to make a different modification, only the last change made during the Open Enrollment period will be effective in January 1, 2017. If seniors do not wish to make any changes, they simply do nothing and they will keep their current plan. To help seniors navigate Medicare Open Enrollment, the resources listed below can help with coverage questions, available plans, or provide general assistance and answer questions:

Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program:
Call (719) 635-4891.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE to confirm your current coverage and learn of plan options, or change your coverage.

Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to search for, and compare plans.

**Tune in next month for
Decembers Clip and Save:
Emergency Preparedness for
Older Citizens**

