

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, September 27, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 1:05 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

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Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000.

- 3 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 4 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 5 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker
- 6 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 7 11:40 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from August 23, 2024, meeting.
(Attachment A)

Informational briefings

- 8 11:40 a.m. Discussions of Legislative Issues – Rich Mauro
(Attachment B)
- 9 12:20 p.m. Update on DRCOG-Community Care Hub and Payor Contracting –
AJ Diamontopoulos
(Attachment C)

- 10 12:40 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 11 12:50 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

- 12 **Next meeting Month 00, 2024.**
- 13 1:00 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 14 1:05 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

October 25, 2024 – In person
November 22, 2024 – Virtual
December 27, 2024 – Virtual
January 24, 2025 – Virtual
February 28, 2025 – Virtual
March 28, 2025 – Virtual
April 25, 2025 – In person
May 23, 2025 – Virtual
June 27, 2025 – In person
July 25, 2025 - Virtual
August 22, 2025 – In person

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA) Meeting Summary

Friday, August 23, 2024

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	Denver
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	Broomfield County
George Teal	DRCOG Board Douglas County
Jim Dale	Jefferson County
Justin Martinez	DRCOG Board Thornton
Paul Haseman	DRCOG Board Golden
Phil Cernanec	Arapahoe County
Sharon Tessier	Broomfield County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

Nikki Crouse, the Senior Services Manager, City and County of Broomfield, Lauren Clements, Program Coordinator for Senior Services City and County of Broomfield, Jennifer Hussey, Easy Ride Program Supervisor City and County of Broomfield.

DRCOG Staff Present

Erika Dubray, ADRC Manager, Erin Iserman, Compliance Specialist, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Sharon Day, Manager AAA Business Operations, Travis Noon, Program Manager AAA Grant Compliance.

Call to Order

Bob Brocker Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker

Chair Brocker attended a Colorado Commission on Aging meeting where Michelle Barnes, the Director of CDHS, was present. She expressed her willingness to hear from attendees. However, she conveyed that there would be no additional funding and emphasized the need for everyone to find ways to work more efficiently with the existing resources.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla is exploring multiple strategies to increase funding for the AAA. With the current funding constraints impacting staff and contractors, Jayla, along with AAA managers and program managers, is ensuring that compliance and customer service remain top priorities. Additionally, managers are motivating staff to advocate for individuals by reaching out to their original social workers at other agencies and to use available tools more efficiently.

Due to the increasing demand for services, long waiting lists, and reduced funding, Jayla and her team are receiving complaints about individuals being unable to access services. Jayla mentioned a specific complaint that the ombudsmen are addressing at a nursing home facility where the water has been off for 11 days. The ombudsmen are collaborating with the nursing home corporation and the state health department. There are significant concerns from the nursing staff at the facility regarding infection control, bed sores, and sanitation.

Five key management positions are currently vacant at the State Unit on Aging, impacting two critical tasks. First, the state must establish rules and implement the \$2 million emergency fund that was approved last session. Rich Mauro, who helped draft the bill, is collaborating closely with the state on this process. Second, the state needs to conduct a statewide evaluation to determine the necessary funding needed by all AAAs in the state. Rich is also working with the state to complete the evaluation as written by the legislature.

AJ Diamontopoulos is collaborating with Torrie Fields on business development, and they have attracted interest from six potential payors. The AAA has secured a \$490,000 grant from US Aging to develop the infrastructure for the Hub. Additionally, the AAA has been approved for an \$850,000 grant, pending federal budget approval, to support the integrated health program and staffing needs.

Move to approve consent agenda.

Items on the consent agenda included: June 28, 2024, meeting summary.

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval. Dawn Perez seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Informational Briefings

Broomfield Community Center Presentation

Nikki Crouse, the Senior Services Manager for the City and County of Broomfield, introduced her team. They include an Active Adult Program Coordinator who manages trips, tours, and events, as well as classes focused on positive aging, empowerment, and intellectual stimulation. They have also developed an acronym, ASENT, to describe their mission.

A= Adventure, trips, and tours

S= Support, help connect people

E= Enrich, provide educational classes and experiences

N= Nourish, provide meals

T= Transport, E-Z Ride program

Caregiver Respite Program

Lauren Clements, the Program Coordinator for Senior Services, collaborates with DRCOG on the Caregiver Respite Program, currently serving 34 clients with a goal of reaching 52. She assists with financial aid for dentures, glasses, and some medical bills, such as copays, for those who qualify. For individuals on the DRCOG waitlist, she provides financial assistance and navigates them through their specific needs, connecting them to resources within the City and County of Broomfield and beyond.

The Senior Resources of Broomfield program, a 501(c)(3) organization, can supplement programs. They raise funds through events, receive grants, and obtain support from the City of Broomfield. They have assisted with moving expenses and car registrations. During Christmas, they organize a gift drive, inviting community residents to provide gifts for seniors.

Jennifer Hussey, the Easy Ride Program Supervisor, oversees transportation services funded by DRCOG, providing over 17,000 trips in 2023. Half of these trips were for medical appointments, while the other half were for nutrition and personal wellness. These trips not only facilitate socialization for those unable to drive but also give them a sense of purpose. Seniors are brought to the Broomfield Center for meals, activities, and exercise. Since Uber is often too expensive and Medicaid rides can be unreliable, the program offers a valuable alternative, with volunteer drivers taking clients to appointments up to 100 miles outside of Broomfield.

The staff also reach out to long-time participants who have had to stop driving, informing them about available transportation options and resources to ensure they can continue attending medical appointments and social activities at the Center.

DRCOG Board Report

There was no DRCOG Board Report.

County Reports

Adams County – Dawn Perez

On Wednesday, September 25th Adams County Aging Network (ACAN) will hold their Political Forum. This is a non-partisan introduction and discussion with Adams County elected officials for aging adults. It will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Thornton Active Adult Center, 11181 Colorado Blvd, Thornton, CO.

On Wednesday, October 10th, at 9:00 a.m. ACAN will have their membership meeting and a presentation by Sara Bohar with MTM Transit at the Thornton Community Connections Center, 9471 Dorothy Blvd, Thornton, CO.

The ACAN Senior Resource Fair will be Wednesday, October 30, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the Bison Ridge Recreation Center, 13905 E 112th Avenue, Commerce City, CO.

Arapahoe County

Chair Brocker introduced Paula Hillman, the newest member of the ACA, representing Arapahoe County. Paula serves as the Program Engagement Representative at the Centennial YMCA Center of Generations.

A measure has been submitted for the November ballot asking Arapahoe County voters to consider removing the spending and revenue limits imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins and Jim Dale

Donna Mullins mentioned that Rich Mauro attended their last meeting. She emphasized the importance of informing everyone about the AAA, including how its funds are acquired and distributed.

Jim Dale said that the Commissioners have placed a funding initiative on the ballot. This initiative aims to allow them to retain all property taxes, which are currently restricted by TABOR. The funds will support not only roads and bridges but also services for older adults and social services.

The Jefferson County Council on Aging will be having their candidate forum on October 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Apex Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO.

Other Matters by Members

Paul Haseman and Chair Brocker discussed collecting a list of other entities that are advocating for older adults. It was decided that Jayla Sanchez-Warren will work on this project and present it to the group at a later date.

Next meeting – September 27, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: September 27, 2024

Agenda Item #: 8

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Discussion of Legislative Issues

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Review and discussion of the implementation of Senate Bill 24-040, House Bill 24-1211, state fiscal year 2025 budget and status of DRCOG's federal advocacy plan.

Background

During the last state legislative session, DRCOG led efforts to increase state funding for AAA services. This resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 24-040 (regular evaluation of state funding for senior services), House Bill 24-1211 (AAA emergency fund with \$2 million annually, and a \$2 million increase in the state fiscal year 2025 budget). There will be a discussion of the progress in the implementation of those bills.

The Older American's Act (OAA) is due to be reauthorized in the coming months. DRCOG staff has been developing a federal advocacy plan both for the reauthorization and for OAA appropriations.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None



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Attachment

Update DRCOG State Federal Advocacy presentation.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (303) 480-6778 or rmauro@drcog.org.



Citizen Advocacy Brings Results Update on DRCOG State and Federal Advocacy 2024 and 2025

Presentation to DRCOG Advisory Committee on Aging
Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs
September 27, 2024

HB24-1211: State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund

The bill creates the State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Reserve Fund and gives CDHS the authority to distribute money from the fund to a AAA or a AAA provider that needs funding due to one of the following unforeseen circumstances:

- financial or operational emergencies caused by force majeure;
 - a disruption in the delivery of eligible services due to an unexpected change in provider availability or operational capacity;
 - an unintended delay or interruption of state or federal allocations; or
 - an emergency disaster declaration.
- The funds may only be used for direct costs of eligible services for no more than 90 days, and CDHS must report on distributions from the fund. In FY 2023-24, the bill transfers \$2.0 million into the fund.

SB24-040: State Funding for Senior Services

By August 2024, and every three years after, CDHS, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPb), and the AAAs must review the adequacy of the appropriation for “state funding for senior services” and report the findings to the General Assembly by November.

DRCOG area agency on

aging+

Service | Support | Advocacy

HB24-1430: State Budget

- The “Long Appropriations Bill” includes a \$2 million increase in General Fund for State Funding for Senior Services.
- Total state funding is now \$31.6 million
 - \$16.5 million General Fund and \$15.1 million Cash and Reappropriated Funds
- CDHS estimate of the cost of clearing AAA waitlists was \$6.1 million (as of November 2023).

HB24-1322: Medicaid Coverage Housing & Nutrition Services

The bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to study the feasibility of covering specified housing and nutrition services and report to General Assembly by November 10, 2024.

The study must address several issues, including costs and funding mechanisms, and how the services will integrate with existing state housing and nutrition services.

If HCPF determines that providing these services is budget neutral to the General Fund due to offsetting reductions in medical services and other expenditures, the department must seek federal authorization to cover the services by July 1, 2025.

Federal Older Americans Act Issues

- Federal Advocacy Plan
 - Updating materials
 - Accumulating stories
- Older Americans Act FY 2024-25 Appropriations
- Older Americans Act Reauthorization

2024 Election – Candidate Forums

2024 Election

Candidate Forums on Aging in Colorado



2024 Election – Candidate Forums - continued

Five Candidate Forums on Aging in Colorado September 25 - Tuesday, October 8

Join aging advocates in your community to hear from candidates running for the state legislature about their priorities related to older Coloradans. These events will allow you and your neighbors to learn more about the priorities and solutions supported by your future representatives. You can sign up by following these links:

- Western CO: Wednesday 9/25: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[Western Colorado Candidate Forum on Aging - Action Network](#)
- Denver Metro - East: Wednesday 9/25: 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
[Denver Metro East Candidate Forum on Aging - Action Network](#)
- Southern CO: Thursday 9/26: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
[Southern and Southeastern Colorado Candidate Forum on Aging - Action Network](#)
- Northern CO: Tuesday 10/1: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[Northern Colorado & Eastern Plains Candidate Forum on Aging - Action Network](#)
- Denver Metro - West: Tuesday 10/8: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[Denver Metro West Candidate Forum on Aging - Action Network](#)

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: September 27, 2024

Agenda Item #: 9

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Update on DRCOG-Community Care Hub and Payor Contracting

Agenda item type: Information

Summary

In June 2024 the AAA received a grant from the Center of Excellence to Align Health and Social Care (COE). Additionally, since 2023 the AAA has been working with Torrie Fields Analytics, Inc. (TFA) to contract with health care providers. Staff will explain how COE funding will be used to complete the creation of a Community Care Hub (CCH) and provide updates on our contracting efforts with TFA.

Background

Since 2022, the AAA has been working to develop a CCH to contract with healthcare providers and to benefit the AAAs clients and those of our contracted partners. This effort has already led to many positive outcomes including technology enhancements and a partnership with Denver Health hospital. Further, in the past year, the AAA and the CCH has worked with TFA to contract with health care providers. This Informational briefing will provide an update on the progress we have made with TFA and how the new grant funds from the COE will be utilized over the next two years to support our contracting efforts. The COE funds will be used to:

1. Expand current AAA partnerships with contractors to join the CCH as a Network Provider.
2. Assess the current technology capabilities of the CCH, AAA and its contractors and develop a plan to expand technology abilities (billing, payment, documentation, reporting) to meet new requirements.
3. Assess the current service delivery costs and capacity of each service and develop a plan to scale capacity when necessary.
4. Business development activities to contract with health care providers.
5. Identify and implement technology to exchange client information with health care providers and with CCH Network Providers.
6. Educate CCH Network Providers on new billing requirements.



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Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Staff presentation.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact AJ Diamontopoulos, Integrated Health Manager, Area Agency on Aging at (303) 480-6767 or adiamontopoulos@drcog.org.





The DRCOG Community Care Hub

An overview of new grant funding and partnership opportunities



What is a Community Care Hub?

- A Community Care Hub serves as a single point of contact between health care entities and a network of Community-based Organizations to centralize administrative and operational infrastructure, including:
 - Contracting & payment operations
 - Client referral management
 - Organizes health related social needs service delivery in partnership with Network Providers
 - Technology systems (data transfer, collection, and reporting)
 - Governance and compliance

Why Did We Pursue This Model?

- A Community Care Hub matches the goals we have set for new partnerships with health care providers:
 - A strong potential to benefit older adults in our region.
 - Benefits as many AAA partners possible.
 - Utilizes and compliments the services already provided by the AAA and its partners.



What Have We Already Accomplished

We began working to develop a Community Care Hub in 2022, since then we have:

1. Received a grant that enabled the continuation of our Health Navigation program in partnership with Denver Health.
2. Received grant funding to build and deploy a Closed-Loop Referral system to share client information with our AAA contractors.
3. Hired Torrie Fields Analytics, Inc. to assist with health care partnership development.
4. Been accepted into the Health Equity Learning Collaborative to design a new program with Denver Health.
5. One of 20 organizations in the nation to receive funding from the Center of Excellence (COE) to more fully develop our Community Care Hub .

Center of Excellence Funding Overview

- In September 2023, USAging was awarded \$12 million to implement the Center of Excellence to Align Health and Social Care.
- The Center of Excellence will develop and expand the abilities of Community Care Hubs and their networks of community-based organizations.
- In June 2024, DRCOG was one of 20 Community Care Hubs in the country to receive grant funding.



How the Community Care Hub Funding Will Be Used

- Assess the current technology capabilities of the Community Care Hub, AAA and its contractors and develop a plan to expand technology abilities (billing, payment, documentation, reporting) to meet new requirements.
- Assess the current service delivery costs and capacity of each service and develop a plan to scale capacity when necessary.
- Business development activities to contract with health care providers.
- Identify and implement technology to exchange client information with health care providers and with Community Care Hub Network Providers.
- Educate Community Care Hub Network Providers on new billing requirements.
- Identify the costs of services delivered and identify areas for improvement to improve quality and lower costs.



Current Health Care Opportunities

- A new program with Denver Health funded by a new Medicare Part B benefit.
- About to begin discussions with Medicare Advantage Plans.
- We might pursue reimbursement from the new Medicaid Community Health Worker Benefit in 2025.
- We will soon be working with an Accountable Care Organization

Next Steps

- Formalize Network Partnerships between Community Care Hub and Network Providers.
- Assess Technology of AAA contracted partners.
- Implement technology to exchange client information with health care providers and with Community Care Hub Network Providers.
- Develop a plan for technology expansion with CCH Network Providers.
- Continue business development efforts to expand current health care partnerships.
- Develop new health care partnerships

Thank you

Questions and Discussion

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