

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, December 1, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 1:05 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Board of Directors 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 or you need accommodation, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 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.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson
- 4 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 5 11:35 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from October 27, 2023, meeting.
(Attachment A)

Action item

- 6 11:40 a.m. Discussion of additional funding for Older Americans Act contractors.
Sharon Day
(Attachment B)

Informational briefings

- 7 12:10 p.m. Legislative update and discussion – Rich Mauro
(Attachment C)
- 8 12:40 p.m. DRCOG Board Report

9 12:50 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

10 **Next meeting January 26, 2024.**

11 1:00 p.m. Other Matters by Members

12 1:05 p.m. Adjourn

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)
Meeting Summary
Friday, October 27, 2023

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dave Appel	Jefferson County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Ed Moss	City and County of Broomfield
George Teal	DRCOG Board – Douglas County
Houston “Tex” Elam	At Large – Arapahoe County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large – Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogel	Clear Creek County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Valerie Robson	At Large – Jefferson County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board – Lone Tree

Guests Present

Allison Cutting, Douglas County, Debbi Haynie, Castle Rock Senior Center, Jennifer Dambrosia, Douglas County.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Ashley Bolton, Ombudsman, Ayesha Anwar, Case Manager, Doug Rex, DRCOG Executive Director, Erika Dubray, ADRC Manager, Erin O’Neill, Community Resource Specialist Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Jenny Castle, Resource and QA Coordinator, Juliana Malchman, Integrated Health Navigator, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsey Vander Veen, Caregiver Program Coach, Kelsie Jurin, Community Resource Specialist, Lauren Bell, Community Options Program Manager, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Travis Noon, AAA Grant Compliance Program Manager.

Call to Order

Karie Erickson Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson

Chair Erickson brought up the issue of social isolation within the older adult population. She said it was declared a national pandemic by the Surgeon General. The Surgeon General reported that it can increase the risk of getting dementia up to 50%. Chair Erickson said this points to how important it is to receive social companion type funding at the Federal level.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- Jayla and AJ Diamontopoulos attended the Conversation with the Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Finance conference. The conference was about healthcare reform in Colorado.
 - There is a huge problem with the workforce in healthcare in the State of Colorado. The state needs 13,500 nurses, and over 54,000 ancillary positions such as CNAs, lab techs and radiation techs.
 - There are more challenges for rural communities and providers are closing their doors.
 - Hospitals are struggling to get staff, and staff are working multiple jobs within the hospital to keep the doors open.
 - Behavioral/mental health is a priority, they talked about behavioral health in children. There was not much discussion about older adults, Jayla and AJ kept bringing up older adults in the sessions to bring awareness to their needs.
 - The Director of Medicaid addressed the social determinants in families and children but did not talk about older adults. Jayla mentioned to the Medicaid Director that grandparents were a very important component of families and that hospitals were receiving payment for referrals, but providers were not getting payment for services that hospitals refer to them.
- Jayla and Rich Mauro met with state lobbyist, Ed Bowditch, and Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Staffer, Tom Doherty about the funding situation for the AAAs and the request to the Governor. Tom Doherty gave them some good insight and suggestions on how to present the data. He also asked for more data as he would like to provide a briefing to the JBC about this issue. Rich Mauro said the Governor's budget is due on November 1st. Rich was not optimistic the request would be in the budget suggesting that advocacy with the JBC would be the next step.
- Jayla is meeting with Kaiser Permanente to see if they can partner together and assist with funding for Nymbi Sciences. This will be a good lead into partnerships with healthcare. Currently Nymbi has 30,000 members that DRCOG pays their membership. However, the program is not required under the Older Americans Act and DRCOG may not be able to continue funding the program in 2024. DRCOG would like to continue the Nymbi program because it is well used and liked by the participants.
- Jayla and Sharon Day met to discuss funding scenarios and found that they will need further investigation into the different funding variables and the regulations

associated with each funding category. They will bring this to the committee when they work out the details.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: September 22, 2023, meeting summaries.

Barbara Boyer motioned for approval. Wynne Shaw seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Agendas and summaries are posted on the [DRCOG website](#) from the link choose the month and date of the meeting, click on the event. Once clicked, you will find the link to the meeting for that month.

Action Item

Discussion of combining the November 24th and December 22nd, 2023, meeting – Karie Erickson

Chair Erickson discussed combining the November and December meetings with the group. Since a recommendation to approve funding by the ACA Committee would be needed to be presented to the DRCOG Board at their December meeting, it was decided that the Committee would meet on December 1, 2023, at the regular time.

Informational Briefings

Review and update of September 22nd work session – Kelly Roberts

Kelly Roberts provided background about the public advocacy campaign September work session.

- During the session there was work done on a public awareness flyer, the Committee was very productive and paved the way for a complete makeover of the flyer. Kelly thanked Ed Moss for his email, Ed's background and expertise in public relations was extremely helpful. Kelly and Jen Reeves have spent time integrating all the input from the Committee and are now completing edits to the flyer. The goal is to have the flyer done by mid-November.
- In addition to the flyer there will be a toolkit that will be ready for the legislative session in January.
 - The toolkit will contain:
 - An elevator speech.
 - A template for contractors so they have information from the main flyer that can be customized with their information and logo.
 - There will be a social media campaign with monthly themes.
 - Information on how to conduct communications with elected officials allowing contractors the ability to voice individual concerns in their own words.
 - Client stories provided by DRCOG staff and contractors.
- Finally, there will be work done on a video, possibly using excerpts from contractors.

Business development update – AJ Diamontopoulos

- AJ Diamontopoulos is working on a community care hub. The “Hub” is a community-based organization that organizes and manages a network of community-based providers. It can be a one stop shop for health care or health insurance companies, and others to work within the region to address patients or members social needs.
- Work has been done at the national level with the Administration for Community Living Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and Partnership to Align Social Care.
- The roles of an Area Agency on Aging and a Community Care Hub are similar. They provide services to the region; they are stewards of their funding, and they deliver services through an accountable network of community-based organizations.
- AJ gave a background of how the program has evolved.
 - The program began in 2012 with DRCOG participating in the Community Care Transitions Program. This program was a national success in helping Medicare beneficiaries avoid unnecessary hospital readmissions.
 - In 2014, the national Y.M.C.A. received a demonstration project with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. From this program they developed a model showing that one organization can handle the administrative and implementation project management functions.
 - DRCOG was a part of the Accountable Health Communities Model which began in 2017. This program was the first time that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid tested the impact of identifying and addressing social needs. In Denver that showed lower emergency department visits and increased primary care visits, which was the intent of the program.
 - In 2018 the Chronic Care Act allowed Medicare Advantage plans to offer special benefits to their members with chronic illnesses. They could use funding to pay for food, transportation, health literacy classes, and home modifications. They found that doing this improves their member satisfaction and are starting to see that healthcare costs are going down.
- At the national level, the partnership includes leaders among community-based organizations, health plans and systems, federal agencies, and other collaborators to enable a successful partnerships between health care organizations and community care hubs. The partnership is funded by Robert Wood Johnson, United Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, and others.
- Area Agencies on Aging, the Food is Medicine Coalition, the Administration for Community Living, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and multiple health insurance companies are working to see how they can best access community-based organizations to serve healthcare and health insurance patients and members.
- The Administration for Community Living is pressing Area Agencies on Aging across the country to form community care hubs.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services would like everyone in Medicare and Medicaid to have an accountable care relationship. They want to pay for

outcomes and not fee for service and are pushing healthcare providers towards health equity that addresses health related social needs such as food, transportation, and utilities.

- AJ is currently on a work group which is actively working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to implement new billing codes so community-based organizations can bill for services delivered.
- Recently the US Aging Business Institute received \$11 million from the Administration for Community Living to fund a center of excellence to promote the adoption and implementation of community care hubs. The Institute will be issuing an RFP that DRCOG hopes to apply for to help implement a No Wrong Door type system in the Denver region.
- In 2024 the new Medicare physician fee schedule creates two opportunities for Area Agencies on Aging and Community Care Hubs to bill for services in partnership with health care entities and to screen for social needs.
- The State of Colorado is issuing an RFP to fund regional hubs to help deploy the Social Health Information Exchange which will send referrals from healthcare to community-based organizations.
- AJ spoke about what will be needed:
 - Technology to receive digital referrals from health care organizations.
 - Community Resource Navigators that can assist referred clients.
 - Technology to document client interactions, record time spent per client, generate reports, and send authorized client information back to health care organizations.
 - The ability to send client information to network partners.
 - A community care network of community-based organizations that provide a range of services to clients that has the foundations to partner with health care for cyber and other insurance, security and policies that protect client privacy.
 - Finally, years of direct client service experience and health care contract negotiation, billing, and reimbursement experience.
- The result will be a partnership with healthcare organizations where they will be able to refer patients to DRCOG for services and those hours spent assisting the patient be paid for by that organization. In turn, DRCOG will share the referrals with their network of providers who will then be paid for providing that navigation service.

DRCOG Board Report – DRCOG Board Chair Steve Conklin

- Steve Conklin, DRCOG Board Chair said the board appreciated the presentation Jayla provided at the September board meeting and appreciated the work the AAA staff does. Wynn Shaw added that many board members were unaware of the funding problem.
- Chair Conklin advocated and shared with the DRCOG Board that we need to have younger advocates for aging issues. He has talked to elected officials about such

advocacy and asked if they have younger people in their communities that are good at talking about aging, if they could help people understand the issues better. He felt the more people from different vantage points that talk about the funding cliff and the changing demographics would be helpful.

- At the next workshop for the DRCOG Board, the governor's office is going to talk to them about their plans for the housing bills coming up this legislative session.

County Reports

Douglas County – DRCOG Vice Chair Wynne Shaw, Commissioner George Teal, and ACA Chair Karie Erickson

- DRCOG Vice Chair, Wynne Shaw attended the Lone Tree Art Center's graduation of their eleventh class of volunteers from Wellspring. Seniors of the Wellspring community have shared needs for transportation, challenges of living alone and finding things to do that give personal satisfaction and purpose in life.
- Commissioner Teal told the committee that ACA Chair Erickson has found a building in Lone Tree to move the base operations for the Aging Resources of Douglas County (ARDC). In many of the town halls that Douglas County recently held, the topic of having a social gathering place came up often. This building could house a social gathering place. The county would partner with ARDC. Commissioner Teal said the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners is supporting the effort.
 - The facility will have a fully operational restaurant, Grandma's Kitchen will be operating out of the restaurant.
 - There will be a social gathering place and will offer space for support groups.
 - There will be employment opportunities for older adults who need to make extra money to stay independent financially and in their homes.
 - It will be open to the public so the community can come in and support the older community.
 - All proceeds that are made from the restaurant will go back into programming to provide local support and local dollars for further operations.

Other Matters by Members

Tex Elam brought up in-person meetings and how beneficial he felt they were. This opened a discussion among the group about the value of in-person meetings, food, and parking costs. It was decided that the Executive Committee would talk the issue over and get back to everyone with a plan.

Next meeting – December 1, 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: December 1, 2023

Agenda Item #: 6

Discussion of additional funding for Older Americans Act contractors

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

A recommendation to allocate additional funding to Area Agency on Aging (AAA) contractors for the 2023-2024 state fiscal year.

Background

Upon receipt of an option letter from the State to receive federal Older Americans Act carryover funds, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) informed AAA contractors of the opportunity to request additional funds to support their programs. Two-thirds of contractors responded with requests totaling approximately \$3.2 million. The requests outlined the projected additional service units and consumers served, together with explanations for needing the additional funds. The ACA funding subcommittee reviewed the requests and have made recommendations based on available funding of approximately \$1.6 million.

Funds allocated must be fully expended by the end of the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Action by others

November 3, 2023 – ACA Funding Subcommittee convened a meeting to review and discuss additional funds requests and have made funding recommendations

Previous discussions/actions

N/a

Recommendation

Move to make a recommendation for the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee to approve allocating additional funds to AAA contractors totaling approximately \$1,600,000 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Attachment

Recommended Additional Funds for FY24 AAA Contractors.pdf

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Sharon Day, Manager, AAA Business Operations Manager, at (303) 480-6705 or SDay@drcog.org.

FY2024 DRCOG AAA Contractor Additional Funds Recommendations

Contract	Provider	Service	Additional Funds Requested	Additional Funds Recommended	Total Recommended Contract Funds
EX23043	A Little Help	Chore	\$21,650.00	\$11,000.00	\$67,250.00
			\$21,650.00	\$11,000.00	
EX23026	Aging Resources of Douglas County	Information & Assistance	\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$135,000.00
			\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	
EX23023	Alzheimer's Association	Caregiver Counseling	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00
			\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
EX23037	Audio Information Network	Education	\$99,456.00	\$50,000.00	\$209,840.00
			\$99,456.00	\$50,000.00	
EX23027	Benefits in Action	Counseling	\$270,346.00	\$75,000.00	\$203,731.00
EX23027	Benefits in Action	Material Aid - Other Food	\$195,959.00	\$100,000.00	\$220,000.00
			\$466,305.00	\$175,000.00	
EX23036	Brothers Redevelopment	Information & Assistance	\$35,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
EX23036	Brothers Redevelopment	Chore	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00
			\$135,000.00	\$70,000.00	
EX23058	Center for People with Disabilities	Counseling	\$12,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$57,000.00
EX23058	Center for People with Disabilities	Education	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$28,800.00
			\$16,000.00	\$9,000.00	
EX23028	City and County of Broomfield	Assisted Transportation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$360,500.00
			\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
EX23040	Colorado Center for the Blind	Education	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
EX23040	Colorado Center for the Blind	Counseling	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
			\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
EX23030	Colorado Legal Services	Legal Assistance	\$175,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$685,000.00
			\$175,000.00	\$90,000.00	
EX23048	Colorado Visiting Nurse Association	EB Disease Prevention & Health Promo	\$30,960.00	\$30,960.00	\$200,960.00
			\$30,960.00	\$30,960.00	
EX20360	Denver Inner City Parish	Material Aid - Other Food	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$87,194.00
EX20360	Denver Inner City Parish	Information & Assistance	\$7,155.00	\$7,000.00	\$35,023.00
EX20360	Denver Inner City Parish	Education	\$7,312.50	\$0.00	\$28,023.00
EX20360	Denver Inner City Parish	Assisted Transportation	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$105,000.00
			\$51,467.50	\$44,000.00	
EX23031	Douglas County	Personal Care	\$93,254.50	\$46,000.00	\$234,758.00
EX23031	Douglas County	Homemaker	\$47,780.25	\$24,000.00	\$225,972.00
EX23031	Douglas County	Reassurance	\$3,987.00	\$3,000.00	\$78,728.00
EX23031	Douglas County	Assisted Transportation	\$98,210.00	\$75,000.00	\$374,700.00
			\$243,231.75	\$148,000.00	
EX23041	Jefferson Center for Mental Health	Counseling	-\$31,680.00	-\$31,680.00	\$95,036.00
			-\$31,680.00	-\$31,680.00	
EX23046	Jewish Family Service	Homemaker	\$59,249.00	\$30,000.00	\$341,865.00
EX23046	Jewish Family Service	Case Management	\$18,022.00	\$9,000.00	\$29,400.00
EX23046	Jewish Family Service	Material Aid - Other Food	\$23,167.00	\$23,000.00	\$75,741.00
			\$100,438.00	\$62,000.00	

Contract	Provider	Service	Additional Funds Requested	Additional Funds Recommended	Total Contract Funds
EX23045	Project Angel Heart	Home Delivered Meals	\$200,005.64	\$200,000.00	\$776,141.00
			\$200,005.64	\$200,000.00	
EX23044	Senior Support Services	Screening	\$40,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$283,396.00
			\$40,000.00	\$30,000.00	
EX23065	Seniors' Resource Center	Caregiver Respite	\$600,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$700,721.00
EX23065	Seniors' Resource Center	Chore	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$378,787.00
EX23065	Seniors' Resource Center	Homemaker	\$139,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$401,826.00
EX23065	Seniors' Resource Center	Case Management	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$632,511.00
			\$839,000.00	\$310,000.00	
EX23064	Via Mobility Services	Assisted Transportation	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$2,085,300.00
			\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00	
EX23053	Volunteers of America	Chore	\$32,444.00	\$16,000.00	\$148,600.00
EX23053	Volunteers of America	Congregate Meals	\$48,387.13	\$48,000.00	\$4,018,356.00
EX23053	Volunteers of America	Capital Expenses	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			\$135,831.13	\$64,000.00	
		Total	\$3,225,165.02	\$1,599,780.00	\$13,855,159.00

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: December 1, 2023

Agenda Item #: 7

Legislative Update

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Rich Mauro will provide an update on the AAA funding efforts and an overview of other legislative issues for the 2024 session.

Background

DRCOG, along with c4a, has been leading an effort to obtain a \$5 million base increase in state funding for AAA services since early this summer. At the December meeting, staff will provide an update on these efforts.

Action by others

N/a

Previous discussions/actions

N/a

Recommendation

N/a

Attachment

N/a

For more information

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