

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY  
October 19, 2018**

**Members Present**

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anne Gross         | Arapahoe County               |
| Barbara Boyer      | Arapahoe County               |
| Bob Brocker        | At Large Denver               |
| Bob Davis          | City and County of Broomfield |
| Cary Johnson       | Jefferson County              |
| Dawn Perez         | Adams County                  |
| Houston "Tex" Elam | At Large Arapahoe County      |
| Karie Erickson     | Douglas County                |
| Larry Strock       | DRCOG Board                   |
| Mary Ellen Makosky | Gilpin County                 |
| Perla Gheiler      | City and County of Denver     |
| Phil Cernanec      | At Large Arapahoe County      |
| Ruth Starr         | City and County of Denver     |

**Guests Present**

Laura Boggs – Benefits in Action

**Others Present**

Sharon Day, Kelly Roberts, Heather Kamper, Amy Pulley, Brenda Whitlow, Heather Porreca, Mindy Patton, Thomas Ellison

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Phil Cernanec – Called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)**

No Public Comment

**Approval of the September 21, 2018 Meeting Summary**

Dawn Perez made the motion to accept the summaries, Ruth Starr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, summaries were approved.

**County Reports – ACA Representatives**

- City & County of Denver - Perla Gheiler
  - Denver Office on Aging is working with the Denver Human service office is working on tax relief for older adults
    - Added to rebate program for low income relief to those who cannot bring in more income to cover taxes
    - Will be open for comment on October 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Lifelong Colorado announcement

- Denver will provide a presentation on how they began the assessment process, planning and moving forward (November 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Perla will attend the AARP Livable Communities conference in November
  - Office on Financial Empowerment received an award by Empowered for work done on housing and fraud prevention.
    - Started a Fraud Prevention round table collaboration for all of Colorado
    - Created work groups from round table discussions
  - Perla attended Housing Colorado Now conference
  - Working with Denver Employees through brown bag lunches to educate them on such things as dementia,
  - Their wellness department attended a changing the narrative event to learn about the shift to this new narrative.
  - Want to hire people 55+dults. (Amy Pulley asked that Perla keep in mind DRCOG Case Management team as they are often looking for work opportunities for clients.)
  - Attended Mayors Diversity and Inclusive awards,
    - Commission on Aging recognized Jenny Vanderburg
    - Hosted by the American Native American Commission.
    - Next year the Commission on Aging will host and may look to some of the ACA to assist with letting the Mayor know about our aging population.
  - Planning for a Montessori learning program, will be looking into it by end of the year.
  - Looking for new commissioners for the Commission on Aging.
    - 7 slots open,
    - The commission will be working on housing, employment, annual planning for next year.
  - The Denver Public Library is doing another aging series as well as other speaker events in other Denver libraries.
- Jefferson County – Cary Johnson
  - Every other year they do a legislative forum, to get legislators together to discuss aging issues.
    - Met last week
    - Had 26 candidates attend.
  - Cary wanted to mention that Bob Brocker had just been elected as President of the Colorado Senior Lobby.
- Douglas County – Karie Erickson
  - Putting together an older resource guide, modeling after Denver's guide to have a tangible item to hand out to people.
  - Just had a housing forum with speaker Lou Litzu from Living in Place Institute
    - He encouraged people to stay in their home as they age but if that is not an option what does an alternative look like.
  - In May Douglas County did their first Vintage and Vibrant event.
    - Dr. Mahoor from the University of Denver provided a demonstration of their robot.
    - The event included several breakout sessions such as Tai Chi and estate planning.
    - The event was well received they are planning on making it an annual event.

- Broomfield – Bob Davis
  - Broomfield raised money to pay for various services.
    - In previous years did annual gala to raise a large amount of these funds
    - There are only 13 members on their board it had become too labor intensive to continue.
    - They concentrated on Broomfield Days where they had golf tournament, a car show, a street dance, live music and a beer garden.
    - However, it did not raise as much money as the gala.
    - They have started a corporate giving program that isn't fully up to speed yet.
    - The idea is for local run businesses to give a certain dollar amount for the next 5 years.
    - The perks of the program are to get their logo on all publications, invitation to events and promised not to bother them for donations over the 5-year term.
  - They hope this program will make up for the shortfall of funds from not having the gala.
  - Trying to prepare for their grant program.
- Adams County - Dawn Perez
  - Adams County held their candidate forum
    - Everyone attended except 2 for the countywide office.
    - 30-40 seniors came along with Rich Mauro from DRCOG.
    - Rich got some interest going for the Boomer Bond.
- Gilpin County – Mary Ellen Makosky
  - Gilpin County has 3 Senior Aide transportation drivers that Mary Ellen is trying to push for raises.
  - Exercise class 3 days a week for seniors
    - Donations sponsor the classes
    - Well attended and help keep people in their homes.
  - Delivering many Meals-on-Wheels meals and taking people to doctor appointments.
    - They do not have any medical facilities in Gilpin County they transport to Boulder, Evergreen, Golden, Aurora, Thornton, Westminster.
  - DRCOG came and did a community conversation,
    - Mary Ellen felt it was good because Jayla knows the struggles of living in the Mountains.
- Arapahoe County
  - Barbara Boyer
    - A3 is working on educating the community, would like to implement some of the ideas presented today.
  - Anne Gross
    - Speakers Bureau is undergoing some changes may implement some of the ideas heard today.
  - Phil Cernanec
    - Working with DRCOG to come out to the Bemis Library for Medicare classes.
    - DRCOG staff have been helpful to Phil with answering his questions.

DRCOG staff are doing Medicare classes in several places anyone can call the office to get a class scheduled or find a class near them.

- Lochbuie - Larry Strock
  - Since their town is very small, he is working on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party newsletter or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party website for senior information.

### **Discussion and Approval of Special 6-month RFP – Sharon Day**

Funding has come in as bits and pieces DRCOG has assumed level funding for the year. There have been problems with getting federal funds and have lobbied for more state funds, both have come in. Now there is excess funding mostly state funds with the increase of \$4M. To use the excess funds DRCOG issued an RFP for additional services that will be for 6 months beginning in January of 2019. Received 9 new proposals from new contractors and existing providers also requested funds.

ACA Funding Subcommittee scored the proposals prior to this meeting, Sharon and Travis tabulated.

Sharon passed out a Conflict of Interest form for everyone to sign prior to RFP approval voting

- Cary Johnson asked about why Jefferson Center for Mental Health was not on approved list, Sharon stated that the size of the grant was for less than \$2,500 and the cost of managing a grant of that size would not be practical.
- Karie Erickson asked about the information and assistance requests, 3 were listed 2 were not approved and 1 was Sharon explained.
  - Colorado Gerontological Society was for translation of information to the Latino population, this is already covered by many other areas including the DRCOG SHIP program, so it would be a duplication of services. In addition, they were charging \$155 per unit which was an excessive amount.
  - City & County of Denver was a unique proposal to have mobile information provided to underserved areas of Denver County the proposal would pay for materials and staff to go to neighborhoods to provide information.
  - DRMAC proposal was for a mobility guidebook in several languages that were not just for the older population budget was very expensive and the subcommittee felt that funding should go to the 60+ population so it did not meet the criteria.
- Other explanations
  - Douglas Transportation was for a voucher program to help serve populations in rural areas, this would allow payment to family or friends for transportation. Second part of the proposal was to use Lyft for transportation. Douglas County was approved because they have a successful, well-coordinated and established voucher program.
  - Senior Hub was for a kitchen upgrade to assist with their respite program, they moved their adult day program into a bigger space and needed to have construction costs paid. Construction costs were highly variable and exceeded budget, there was no clear alternative for overrun costs.
  - Heather Kamper asked about Dominican Home Health Agency why did they have so many approved services. Sharon said their proposal had several smaller services which address the highest needs it was felt that they may help reduce overall service waitlists.
  - Phil motioned for approval of the proposal summary to move forward to the DRCOG board for final approval.
  - There was one more discussion about other sources of funding for DRMAC and the process for them to get other funding.

- Cary Johnson motioned for approval, Bob Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion there were no objections summary will move on to the DRCOG Board.
  - o Abstained votes from Perla Gheiler, Ruthie Starr and Karie Erickson, due to conflict of interest.
- The second part of the funding approval was for existing providers.
  - o 90% of contractors requested some amount.
  - o Funding is for 6 months (January – June).
- No funds recommended for:
  - o Adams County capital purchase wanted funding for matching other funds for a vehicle. The vehicle would not be owned by Adams County but by Seniors Resource Center since it would not be owned by a third party could not be funded.
  - o Lutheran Family Services wanted funding for respite care. Currently they have funding for 3 services, respite care, counseling services and access assistance. They had only used 3% of their current counseling funds due to staff changes and other issues. It was decided to reallocate the counseling funds to their respite care budget.
  - o Carey Johnson asked why Colorado Legal Services and Colorado Gerontological Services received such a large increase. Sharon explained the Colorado Gerontological Society had a large waitlist of 500 clients that is well over a year before services can be provided. A top priority is to reduce waitlists and is why they were awarded funding. Colorado Legal Services also has a very large waitlist and were also approved.
- A motion to approve and move forward to the DRCOG Board was made by Bob Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Perla Gheiler
  - o Abstained votes from Karie Erickson, Mary Ellen Makosky, and Barbara Boyer due to conflict of interest.

### **Voting for new Chair and Vice Chair**

- Phil Cernanec and Anne Gross were nominated by the group for ACA Chair.
  - o Anne wanted to see more participation from members, enjoys being on ACA Funding Sub Committee and would like to get the subcommittee to be more involved.
  - o Phil enjoys being on the committee likes to keep it light and not so serious, he has been involved in senior issues his whole career and has been to Washington to lobby on senior issues.
- Cary Johnson moved to have nominations closed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawn Perez. Ballots were provided.
  - o Phil Cernanec received 8 votes and Anne Gross 4 votes. Phil was voted as new Chair.
- There was one nomination for Anne Gross as Vice Chair.
  - o A motion for Vice Chair nominations to close was made the member motion was inaudible, was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy Patton. Anne was voted in as new Vice Chair.

Barbara Boyer agreed with Anne's comment about having the group become more involved and assisting the AAA staff she wanted to have another spring workshop to see how members can become more involved with the ACA.

### **Directors Report – Jayla Sanchez-Warren**

There was no Director's report Jayla was attending the Colorado AAA meeting. Amy Pulley filled in with update and information about the ADRC program report.

- Amy has filled the position of ADRC Program Manager which has been vacant.
- The ADRC was then restructured into the following teams Community Resources, Options Counseling, SHIP, Case Management and Refugee program.
  - She has 3 supervisors - Cassie Scott for Community Resources, Brandon Davis for SHIP and Missy Griggs for Case Management.
- Added 3 more modules to Network of Care the online database with thousands of listed resources.
- Community Resources
  - Information and Assistance team provides resources over the phone.
    - Dawn Perez asked in what areas were the largest number of calls from. Amy said transportation, nutrition, benefits and housing.

A housing discussion ensued. Denver has helped over 900 people who were at risk of losing their housing from a special newly created housing fund. The fund has run out of money twice, Denver is currently looking for ways to raise more money for the fund.

- Options Counselors go into homes and talk with clients, troubleshoot their issues. It is helpful to see their environment to get them headed to the right resources for their situation.
- SHIP
  - Beginning the open enrollment period.
  - They have 3 staff and 5 volunteers working with clients.

There was a discussion on the importance of having people review their Medicare benefits yearly because they change every year. Tex spoke about how insurance companies are now involved with Medicare because they have found a niche for profit. This adds to complicating benefit choices and information.

- Refugee program is doing well

### **Chair Report – Phil Cernanec**

- Phil spoke about upcoming elections on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Of interest to the group would be how seniors are represented in the House, Senate and congress. New incumbents will provide us a chance to educate them on senior issues.
- He spoke about the \$1M allocated to AAAs how it sounds like a lot more money but the reality not so much because of Colorado's growing senior population. Encouraged the group about finding ways to use funds through volunteer networks and voucher programs for senior transportation.

### **Information Sharing – (ACA members)**

Bob Brocker

Colorado Senior Lobby will be having lobby training on Monday morning. Bob attended the Washington Senior Lobby Fall conference in Tacoma Washington. Found that many have the same issues as we do.

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 2:23 p.m.