

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
June 17, 2016**

Members Present

Amanda Gregg	City and County of Denver
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Davis	Broomfield County
Bob Lanky	Jefferson County
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Janet Romarine	Clear Creek County
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large
Maureen Spiegleman	Denver Office on Aging
Muriel Arvay	Denver County
Sharon Perea	Gilpin County
Vivian Stovall	At Large

Guests Present

Nancy Steinfurth (Liver Health Connection), Barbara Jaynes (Liver Health Connection), Paulette St. James (Colorado Commission on Aging)

Others Present

Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Sharon Day, Shannon Gimbel, Amy Pulley, Mindy Patton, Jill Eelkema, AJ Diamontopoulos,

Call to Order and Introductions

Cary Johnson, Vice Chair called the meeting to order @ 12:05 p.m.

Public Comment

- Vivian Stovall announced that she had the "Keep the Tabor Money" petition if anyone wanted to sign it. If passed will provide approximately 30% to transportation, 30% to education and 30% to mental health and aging. It could be a few million dollars.
- Bob Davis informed the group that Broomfield will be participating in Boomer Bond.

Approval of the May 20, 2016 Workshop Summary

- Muriel Arvay made a motion to accept the summaries. Tex Elam seconded, summaries were approved.

Guest Presentation – Liver Health Connection, Nancy Steinfurth

Nancy provided information about the Liver Health Connection. Attached is her presentation. Her phone number is 800-522-4372, email nsteinfurth@liverhealthconnection.org, website www.liverhealthconnection.org.

Legislative Report – Mickey Farrell

- Mickey said at the current time the Legislature is concerned about the election, who will be the next President and how that will affect everything. The Legislators are also focusing on getting reelected in November.
- Older Americans Act is under a new 3 year extension of the 2006 Bill.
 - We are in the 2nd FY of a 3 FY cycle. October 1 will be midpoint of the Bill.
 - Colorado is advocating for equity in the funding formula. The formula distributes the same amount of funds for those who lose population as for those with a growing population. In Colorado we are short changed due to the growth of the senior population.
 - Congress was forced to admit to the flaw in the formula but couldn't solve the problem. The bill is for 3 years vs. 6 years because of the inability to resolve the formula. Colorado will see 500K per year for 3 years.
 - Senators Bennett and Gardner came together after the Bill was passed and wrote a floor statement saying this was a priority going into the next Bill to get the formula fixed.
 - The House members led by Congressman Polis are mirroring the same statement except for Buck and Lamborn. Mickey asked that we reach out to them to convince them to agree for a unanimous effort.
- In April Mickey and Jayla went to the N4A conference in Washington to present the funding formula information to the executive committee. Some of the committee was shocked that it was the first time they were exposed to the information.
- 62% of all seniors who are living in the U.S. receive a disproportionate amount due to the funding formula. (See attached map.) States now have a vested interest in getting the formula changed. The funding shortage impacts Federal government because they will have to pay for people in nursing homes.
- A question regarding the Senior Act 2015, Mickey will look into.

Tex asked Mickey if he had any impact from AARP. Mickey said he had a meeting with the local AARP and they were helpful in pushing back against the national group.

Jayla said this is an example of how a few people can make a difference. Jennifer, Jayla and Mickey have been taking this on for the past 3 years. Mickey has been instrumental in getting legislators to work on our behalf and Representative Polis to get congressional review.

Status updates May Workshop – Mindy Patton for Kelly Roberts

- Jayla, Kelly and Mindy met to review meeting outcomes/actions and divide up topics.
- Mindy will communicate with the group that focused on the exchange of information between COAs and COAs and between the COAs and the AAA. Dawn will make the first report on Adams county today.

- Jayla will talk to Rich about the interest in forming a subcommittee focused on being involved with laws and budget allocations that meet the needs of the growing senior population. Jayla would like to establish guidelines for a legislative subcommittee.
- Kelly will communicate with Amanda about the group focused on reconfiguring the ACA and finding ways for the ACA to support AAA staff. The group met once followed by a meeting between Kelly and Amanda. Amanda requested a meeting of the group with Jayla in July to explain their ideas and develop a timeline.
- Jayla will talk to Jill about the group that focused on diversifying and developing key messages.

Adams County Report – Dawn Perez

Dawn provided a PowerPoint which is attached. She said their biggest challenge is getting people to volunteer for Adams County Aging Network (ACAN).

Director's Report – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla passed out a summary of her activities for the past month she went over some of the key activities. See attached list passed out at the meeting.

- Jayla talked about the No Copay Radio show DRCOG is now participating in weekly. The flyer with information on the show was provided to the group.
- DRCOG is working on another grant with the Colorado Refugee Services program in Colorado.
 - Older refugees don't get care until they are so sick it requires an emergency room visit. Their average stay is 9 days with a morbidity rate of 62%. Costing between \$70,000 to 2M.
 - Could save the state a lot of money if prevented.
 - Shared initial data with legislature and other refugee organizations and as a result Visiting Nurse Association is starting a pilot program to serve 13 Burmese and Somali elder refugees.
- County council checks have been approved and will be going out on June 20th.
- Jayla spoke at Live, Work, Ride Transportation conference.
 - There were a lot of different ideas and approaches to the transportation problem:
 - There are changes for us if using Federal or State funds. You must meet insurance requirements of 1M or more. Uber and Lyft drivers don't have or want that type of insurance.
 - Lyft and Uber transportation options are not trained with how to assist seniors getting in and out of the car. Extensive background checks are needed to adhere to Federal and State regulations.
 - State looking into vouchers for transportation.

There are many things to work on for seniors to thrive rather than just survive.

- Internal review time for DRCOG staff.

- Currently working on salary assessments to determine staff salaries.
- Having labor issues for getting and retaining staff this is a huge problem for our providers, facilities and DRCOG staff.
 - DRCOG staff can't make ends meet with Denver's cost of living.
 - SRC can't get drivers and are losing volunteers.
 - VNA lost 7 people in 7 days several are moving out of state due to the cost of living. Seventy people won't get served until they hire replacement staff.
 - Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are becoming very preoccupied with making a profit rather than serving clients so salaries for staff are low.
- Hosting a meeting on livable communities with leaders from across the country who deal with livable communities for older adults. The goal of the meeting sponsored by AARP and DRCOG is to bring together people who are actively working to develop communities that promote successful aging. We will learn best practices, share challenges and review upcoming national policy or initiatives.

Compliance and Finance Report – Sharon Day

No report, Sharon was working on closeout of the 2016 FY.

CCT and Case Management Report – Amy Pulley

- Veterans
 - DRCOG is currently working with 2 clients.
 - VA has a waiting list of 30 people that will be passed down to DRCOG.
 - DRCOG wants to take people slowly while they get everything worked out with the reimbursement process. It is important that billing reimbursement is working because DRCOG is using general funds currently not State or Federal funds. Because of this they want to make sure VA will reimburse before too much money is out,
- Case Management
 - Case management has 100 clients, no waiting list.
 - Latino program is working well.
- CCT
 - Program is up for renewal in July.
 - Rate has been renegotiated and will be renewed for FY 16/17.
 - Waitlist is high, 150 on list.
 - DRCOG worked with HCPF to allow those who have a home to transition into be able to do so.
 - There are now 2 waitlists, those that have a home and those that don't.
 - HCPF is working to reorganized workflows currently they are comprised of Options Counselors which are from DRCOG; Transition Coordinators who are from outside agencies; and Intensive Case Managers who have been at the single entry points. HCPF would like to have the Transition Coordinators and Intensive Case Managers work together.

Ombudsman Program – Shannon Gimbel

- Shannon is reorganizing the Ombudsman teams.
 - She will have a nursing home team, an assisted living team and a generalist team who will handle both nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
 - Sara Frieson is the new Generalist Supervisor.
 - Teams will consist of 10 to 12.
 - Supervisors will be remapping the area to distribute facilities.
- There are now 470 facilities with 25 more expected in the Fall.
- Castle Rock Care Center will not have to close.
 - A management team has been hired to oversee and may be interested in purchasing the facility.
 - They have been confirmed by the state to be in compliance.
- Shannon is still working on rewriting the regulations and is now chair of the committee.

Community Resources Report – Jill Eelkema

- Information and Assistance (I&A)
 - May's numbers: 993 incoming contacts, 234 were consumers, 64 were caregivers and 77 were professionals. Approximately 45 calls coming in per day.
 - Jill will be hiring someone to assist with the I&A line and help Rachel with options counseling.
- Options Counseling
 - Rachel has helped over 75 options clients this year with the addition of Jill's leftover clients from when Jill moved into her new position.
 - Developing a new process to write and standardize printed materials to give them a new look and better clarification of the message being presented.
 - Have a new volunteer, she was a medical device engineer and fits well with the I&A group.
- Refugee program
 - Sara Beth is writing the RFP to maintain the \$97,000 for the Elder Refugee program.
 - Sara Beth has done a great job getting community partners on board and expanding the program.
 - She is doing a lot of classes and developing a curriculum for classes to teach what the refugee program is all about and how to assist the refugees.

Business Development Coordinator Report – AJ Diamontopoulos

- AJ has put in a proposal for the first stage of a two stage grant to the Colorado Health Foundation. The proposal is for capacity building in and around Commerce City. He will know by July 1st if the proposal has been accepted and if he can move into the second phase which will be submitted in the Fall.

- AJ and Jayla met with UC Health and anticipate follow-up meetings.

Chair Report – Cary Johnson

Cary Johnson (Vice Chair) chaired in Phil's absence and did not have a report.

Information Sharing

Cathy Noon discussed Centennials Mobility Ambassador Program (MAP). The program will train people on how to use the transit system, Lyft and Uber. They are currently working on program materials. Their intent is to have a concierge program to assist those that don't have cell phones to book Lyft and Uber services for them.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:10 p.m.