

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday, January 15, 2021**

**Members Present**

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Bocker	At Large Denver
Bob Davis	City and County of Broomfield
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large Arapahoe County
Jim Dale	DRCOG Board-Golden
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large Arapahoe County

**Guests Present**

Cate Townly, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Joan Baucha, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Jarrett Hughes, Senior Policy Advisor on Aging, Office of Governor, Heather Roth, Immunization Branch Chief, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Kristine Burrows, Jewish Family Services,

**Others Present**

AJ Diamontopoulos, AHC Manager, Amy Pulley ADRC Manager, Ashly Johnson, Transitions Program Manager, Brad Calvert, RPD Division Director, Cassie Scott, I&A Manager, Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Douglas Rex, Executive Director, Dwaynna Grace, Case Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Ombudsman Program Manager, Jenny Castle, Resource and Quality Assurance Coordinator, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Sara Beth Ford, Refugee Program Coordinator, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Program Manager, Sharon Day, Program Manager, AAA Business Operations, Susan Anderson, Case Management Program Manager, Travis Noon, Senior Program Specialist

Cathy Noon, Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

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

There was no Public Comment.

**Report of the Chair**

- Due to the holidays and COVID the forming of the transportation subcommittee discussed in the November 20th meeting is on hold until February.
- Cathy attended the contractor meeting held on January 13th and remarked about the meeting.

- She was excited to see DRCOG moving forward with the rollout of the Nymbbl program. There will be a pilot program of 5,000 annual subscriptions.
- The providers are having difficulty with finding staff due to COVID which prevents them from serving more clients. There is a need to figure out how to get their staff vaccinated to provide services to clients.
- The provider surveys are due to be sent out in February compiled results are due to the state in May

#### Report of the AAA Director

- Jayla informed the group that Heather Kamper who managed Veteran's, Transitions and Ride Alliance programs and was working on the Anthem project accepted a position with another organization.
  - Jayla commented that the Veterans and Transitions managers are highly qualified and are doing an excellent job in Heather's absence.
  - Jayla is getting up to speed with Ride Alliance and trying to figure out how to sustain the program since funding ended on December 31st.
  - She has met with the Doug Rex, Executive Director, Ron Papsdorf, Director of Transportation and Jenny Dock, Director of Administration and Finance to discuss options.
  - Due to COVID the Anthem program has moved slower than anticipated but the hope is for it to start soon.
- Staff are starting to get their COVID vaccinations with the Ombudsman and AHC Navigators going first.
- RFP closed this week.
  - Sharon said there were 46 submissions and that the Funding Subcommittee will meet to discuss next steps for review of the RFP.

#### Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: Summary of the November 20, 2020 meeting.

Cathy asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, Bob Davis made the motion, Tex Elam seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the consent agenda.

- Agendas and summaries are posted on the DRCOG website located at <https://drcog.org/calendar> from there 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.

#### Informational Briefings

##### State of COVID

##### **Update on Vaccine and Distribution Plan**

##### **AAA - Jayla Sanchez-Warren**

- Jayla, AJ and the Information and Assistance line began getting calls.

- Jayla from health providers, health systems, and the Governor’s office asking to assist with transportation for getting seniors vaccinated.
- The Information and Assistance line was beginning to see an increase in calls for transportation to vaccinations.
- AJ received a call from SCL wanting to partner with DRCOG in identifying, providing outreach and transportation to those 70+ who would need vaccines.
- Jayla was concerned with how many people SCL was planning to provide these services for and if they would cost share.
- With approximately 300,000 over 70 population within the DRCOG AAA area, 12%-15% of those may not drive. Health systems are setting appointments until 8:30 p.m. although this is good it is harder to get rides and many in that population are concerned with being out late in unfamiliar areas when driving themselves, there is also concern with those that are homebound.
- After discussions with the DRCOG executive management team it was decided that partnering would be a good idea since this is what AAAs do by using staff and AAA providers to work with the senior population.
  - Contractors have the ability to contact and work with seniors quickly, but there does need to be some cost sharing.
  - AAA must be careful not to use all funding for vaccine transportation and then not be able to fund the medical and personal trip requests.
- The AAA staff are seeing people who want to get the vaccine as soon as possible, those who will wait until it is their turn and those who don’t want the vaccine due to concerns about the effects it has on their population.
- Jayla spoke with the state to see what they were looking at for providing the service.
  - She reached out to top providers, Via said yes, they would have dedicated drivers who will only do vaccination rides. They will take on the later appointments.
  - HopSkipDrive is on board as well as Douglas County transportation. Arapahoe, Gilpin and Clear Creek and A Little Help.
- Project funding
  - The state said cost sharing was acceptable to them.
  - Jayla and AJ are having discussions with health systems regarding cost sharing.
  - There have been no partnerships initiated at this time with health systems.
- Work will be done to identify the homebound and how to serve them in the process.

*Phil Cernanec asked where do people go to schedule an appointment?*

Jarrett Hughes, guest speaker with the Governor’s office replied. With 50% vaccines going to health systems, 20% to community health clinics, 20% to pharmacies, 10% to drive up regional partnerships. Focus is either online or hospital systems to set up appointments. Many hospitals are working through their existing patient portals. Denver Health will soon open to those who are not their patients. Drive-up mobile clinics will become more common in rural regions.

*Chat question: Are the AAAs communicating with Uber and Lyft?*

Cassie Scott said they were but there are concerns about staff being able to keep up with the high call volume. She told the group how the Uber service was going since the contract was signed.

The first scheduled ride was not successful, client was not picked up and Uber was not helpful with assistance. DRCOG could not reschedule ride as it was out of common workday hours (6:30 a.m.). There is now a change in scheduling rides with Uber, client must be able to schedule on their own after a profile is created by using an App on their smart phone. With those who are less independent DRCOG will continue to schedule their rides through HopSkipDrive.

### **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Heather Roth**

- Heather describe the difference with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
  - Both vaccines are more effective than the flu vaccine and efficacy is equivalent to the measles vaccine.
  - Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) is a way for the Food and Drug Administration to provide access to critical medications in emergency situations prior to approval.
  - The criteria for an EAU
    - The disease in question can cause a serious or life-threatening illness or condition.
    - There is reasonable belief, after looking at all the scientific data, that the product may be at least 50% effective for its intended use.
    - The known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks.
    - There is no adequate, approved, and available alternative to the product on the market.
- Prioritization is based on how many lives can be saved and how to end the pandemic crisis
- Heather described each of the vaccine distribution phases these are updated and located on the state's website.
- The Pfizer vaccine is licensed for distribution down to 16 years of age the Moderna down to 18-year of age.
- In the Phase 1A group the estimated number of Coloradans for High Risk healthcare workers is 76,000, Long-term care residents and staff 121,000 for a total of 197,000.
- In the Phase 1B group the estimated number of healthcare workers and EMS is 125,000, 70+ population 562,000 this does not include the 14,000 in skilled nursing centers, 628,000 frontline essential workers for a total of 1,315,000.
  - As of January 13<sup>th</sup>, Phase 1A and 1B has 669 vaccine providers 223,827 people have received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 46,897 the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.
  - Local public health is responsible for immunizing any outstanding highest risk people, unaffiliated health care workers in Phase 1A, moderate risk health care workers and first responders in Phase 1B
  - Providers which includes hospitals, health systems, retail pharmacies and safety net clinics are responsible for people 70+ and hospital staff
  - Expectation is to have 70% of Coloradans 70+ vaccinated by the end of February
- The state will distribute vaccines as they are received as follows; 50% will go to hospitals, 20% to community partners & local public health agencies, 20% to federal qualified centers and 10% to retail pharmacies
- Heather said we should remind people that 2 doses are needed for maximum benefit and to plan ahead that the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine may have more side effects than the first and they can have mild symptoms for 2 or 3 days after receiving the shot.

- Communicate to communities that the vaccine is effective, the first phase will focus on frontline health care workers, first responders, and our most vulnerable populations living in long term care facilities, It will be a few months till the general public can get the vaccine (probably by summer). Until then, we need everyone's help doing their part: wear a mask, social distance, limit gatherings, wash your hands.

She provided these resources:

CALL COHELP at 1-877-462-2911

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/vacuna>

Link to <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UjNfMX9--zzDKJ8iN6R9-Ny1yvAjHG5gQ6EIC2UhNts/edit?usp=sharing>

## Questions

*Can you respond to the confusion of the CDC guidance to include the 65+ population.*

Colorado is only vaccinating the 70+ until we get more data.

*Will there be enough vaccine to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose?*

Yes, the CDC sends those doses along with additional new doses.

*Does Phase 1B cover case managers, social workers, who work directly with older adults?*

If face to face, contact they would fall under 1B and it may be necessary to have something from employer verifying they have this type of contact.

*Will there be a way to verify if specialized transportation drivers have been vaccinated?*

Each person receives a vaccination card at the time they were immunized they can use this as proof of vaccination.

## Update from the Governor's Office – Jarrett Hughes

- As of January 15<sup>th</sup> Colorado, was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country for administering vaccines.
  - Colorado is providing 8 to 9 thousand vaccines per day and want to expand.
  - Cannot expand to the 65+ unless more vaccines are distributed to the state.
  - The long-term care and assisted living pharmacy program have partnered with CVS and Walgreens.
    - Will be completing first doses this week and by the end of the month for second doses.
- Consent forms are not transferable from one health group to another.
- Numbers are trending down.
  - Flu hospitalizations are down for this year.
  - Only 18 patients hospitalized for flu this year compared to 3,546 last season.
  - Approximately 2 million people received the flu vaccine a 16% increase from last year.
- If 65+ are added this would increase recipients to 140,000 in the DRCOG region.

- Sara Beth Ford gave a brief overview of the Immigrant program, she is working with Colorado Refugee Services Program, CDPHE, Tri-County Health to get accurate information to refugee and immigrant communities to understand the vaccine and vaccine process.
- Jarret's priorities are:
  - Restoring communities after COVID
  - Working with DRCOG on livable communities with focus on community development.
  - Working with AJ and Dr. Levine on Wellness Funding
  - Looking at ways public health can work at prevention and managing chronic conditions specifically dementia in conjunction with the federal grant received

#### Role of the AAA in the vaccine distribution process

- Jayla asked the group if they had received their vaccine, several members had and shared their experience.
- Ada Anderson mentioned that Kaiser is providing the vaccine to non-members.
- Jayla then asked about the challenges and wanted to know what they were hearing from those getting the vaccine.
  - Karie Erickson said they are receiving calls with people who are very frustrated and confused about how and where to get vaccinated.
    - Their rural people are not comfortable driving into Denver to get vaccinated or going into a large distribution site.
    - Would like to see if there can be smaller distribution sites in the rural areas.
  - Cathy said they need to consider a makeup plan in case there is a large snowstorm and seniors are unable to make their scheduled appointment.
  - UCL and SCL are both doing big events dates to be announced.
  - Tex Elam mentioned the confusion with appointment setup has been an issue with those he has spoken to.
  - Connie Ward said many of those she has worked with do not have the capability to get on the sites using a computer or app to schedule an appointment.
  - While in the meeting Dawn Perez received information that all the federal doses that were expected will not be arriving. Colorado was due to receive 210,000 doses and will now only receive 79,000.
  - Many people are signing up at more than one site to be sure they get in and may not call to cancel or may forget they already scheduled an appointment and schedule again. There was concern of wasted vaccines if not used

#### County Reports

There were no county reports.

#### Other Matters by Members

Phil mentioned the Colorado Senior Lobby will be having several interesting topics of interest. The link to the site <https://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org>

Next meeting – **February 19, 2021**

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.