

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday, October 28, 2022**

**Members Present**

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large – Denver
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Houston “Tex” Elam	At Large – Arapahoe County
Jim Dale	Jefferson County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large – Arapahoe County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board – Lone Tree

**Guests Present**

Allison Cutting, Douglas County, Debbi Haynie, Castle Rock Senior Center, Nikki Crouse, City and County of Broomfield, Patrick Donovan – Physical Therapist, Shari Haidvogel, Kaiser Permanente, Valerie Robson, Jefferson County

**DRCOG Staff Present**

Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Doug Rex, Executive Director, Erika Dubray, I&A Manager, Erin Iserman, Compliance Specialist, Esra Sonmez, Case Manager, Fonda Buckles, Community Resource Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Julianna Malchman, AAA Intern, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsie Jurin Community Resource Specialist, Mason Green Grants Specialist, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Legislative Director, Sharon Day, Business Operations Manager, Travis Noon, Program Manager AAA Grant Compliance

Karie Erickson Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

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

There was no public comment.

**Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson**

Chairman Erickson spoke about the increase in homeless and the problem it is having for the unhoused senior population. She said the committee will be hearing more about this in the future.

## Report of the AAA Director – Sharon Day

Sharon Day reported for Jayla Sanchez-Warren who was in Washington DC at a C-TAC conference and having hill visits.

- Sharon conducted a contractor meeting on October 19th. Percy Divine, Regional Administrator with the Administration for Community Living Western AAA division attended along with Todd Coffey, Manager at State Unit on Aging.
  - During the meeting there was a good discussion from providers about the challenges they are facing, ongoing concerns and the outlook for the future.
  - Jayla is currently working on the four-year plan. She and several staff have been conducting community conversations that will help address the needs of the various communities for inclusion into the plan. The report is due to the state at the end of March 2023.
- The bi-annual solicitation for Older Americans Act request for proposals (RFP) will be sent out November 7th as an E Blast for ACA members to share with their networks and community. This RFP is for SFY2023 which begins in July. Proposals will be due the first Monday in January.

### Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: Summary of the August 26, 2022, meeting.

Bob Brocker motioned for approval. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

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.

### Action Items

#### Approval of State Funds from Senate Bill 21-290

- Sharon provided background on Senate Bill 21-290 which authorized \$15 million in state funds to help support AAA's fund one-time services and help build infrastructure that would create service capacity for the future.
  - DRCOG received a grant in the spring that resulted in an award for three of the five projects that were submitted for \$344,000.
  - Not all the money had been allocated by the state and a second round of grant funding was issued for the remaining \$5 million.
  - DRCOG opened a request for providers to submit projects for funding. They received 11 projects and submitted a grant application for five projects totaling \$1.3 million.
- In September DRCOG was awarded \$530,000.
  - DRCOG received \$200,000 to enhance their data reporting system.
  - Volunteers of America received \$275,000 for a new kitchen.
  - Senior Support Services received \$54,670 to replace computer equipment.

- Phil Cernanec moved to recommend that the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee approve state funds of \$529,670 from Senate Bill 21-290 and to allocate them to projects as approved by the State. Cary Johnson seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by the ACA.

### **Informational Briefings**

#### **Transportation Program Update – Erika Dubray and Travis Noon**

Erika Dubray began the presentation.

- The AAA created a transportation services program in July to begin breaking away from the Information and Assistance program. They have developed a dedicated team of three for the program.
- In June, the AAA did an extensive review of the program and made changes to be more equitable and sustainable long term.
- These changes went into effect on August 1<sup>st</sup> as follows:
  - A cap of \$400 per month among all programs for each client
  - There are no limits on the distance of a trip
  - And no limits on the number of trips a user can take in a month
- In addition, they made the following changes to the cancellation policy:
  - A warning letter will be sent after four late cancellations or no-shows within a six-month period.
  - A one-month suspension after six missed rides in a six-month period.
  - A three-month suspension after six additional missed rides in a six-month period after first suspension.
  - A six-month suspension after six more missed rides in a six-month period after second suspension.
  - Finally, a permanent suspension after six more missed rides in a six-month period after third suspension.
- An individual can split their monthly budget among HopSkipDrive, Uber and bus tickets as needed.
- In FY 2020-2021 a total of 12,332 trips were provided; in FY 2021-2022 that increased to 34,296 trips. Averaging about 1,270 trips per month with a trip cost of approximately \$34.
- Because of the changes, the AAA was able to serve more clients at a less expensive rate per ride as many people switched from the more expensive HopSkipDrive to using Uber.
- Due to the popularity of the program and budgetary constraints beginning in September, people were placed on a waitlist. Those placed on the waitlist are prioritized by using a worksheet that evaluates their need and the length of time they have been waitlisted.
- Erika presented several slides showing the savings comparison of riders and costs with the new changes in guidelines.
- The AAA transportation team has begun training on the use of the Uber system and other resources.

- The AAA will be searching for additional funding sources for the program with a possible look at 5310 funds.
  - Doug Rex, DRCOG's Executive Director mentioned that DRCOG Board approved additional funds in the FFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for human services transportation. Beginning October 2023, the amount of funding will double to two million dollars per year

#### Regional Summit Update – Kelly Roberts

- Kelly Roberts reported that DRCOG held their first Regional Summit on September 30, 2022, at the Fossil Trace Golf Club in Golden. It was well attended by the county councils on aging and the senior commissions in the AAA region.
- There were presentations on demographics from Nancy Gedeon from the state's demographers office and an overview of funding through the Older Americans Act by Todd Coffey at the State Unit on Aging.
- There were two breakout sessions with facilitated conversations that were well received with lively participation.
- A written evaluation was provided at the end which indicated that the participants would like to continue networking with other participants.
- The planning committee would like to get participants more involved with legislative advocacy, continue with an information exchange on how to recruit members, and complete a survey to seek input about what is important for a network of this kind to do.

#### Board Report

##### Wynne Shaw

- Wynne said the DRCOG subregions are preparing project submittals for consideration by the DRCOG board as part of the FF Y2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The DRCOG Board is currently seeking candidates to serve on the nominating committee which will make a recommendation on the makeup of the next executive committee.

##### Steve Conklin

- Steve thanked those that helped with the Regional Summit. He appreciated the content and said it was worthwhile to attend.

#### County Reports

##### City and County of Denver – Perla Gheiler

- Perla told the group that their Inflation Relief program has given out over 325 gift cards for two hundred dollars each to older adults in some of their poorest areas.
- In addition, they would be having their third food distribution event the following day.

#### Other Matters by Members

- Doug Rex invited the group to an upcoming board work session that will be presented by DRCOG's AJ Diamontopoulos, and Kelly Croman the ACL Deputy Administrator. The work session is about a community care hub concept they are pushing out to the AAA's. AJ will be presenting the model used by Kansas City.

Next meeting – **November 14, 2022**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.