

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday, November 20, 2020**

**Members Present**

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Anne Gross	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large Denver
Bob Davis	City and County of Broomfield
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large Arapahoe County
Jim Dale	DRCOG Board-Golden
Joan Peck	DRCOG Board - Longmont
Larry Strock	DRCOG Board - Lochbuie
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large Arapahoe County
Sharon Perea	Gilpin County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

**Guests Present**

Alice Palmateer, Benefits in Action, Bonnie Ashton, Adams County Aging Network, Kristine Burrows, Jewish Family Services,

**Others Present**

Amy Pulley ADRC Program Manager, Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Douglas Rex, Executive Director, Dwaynna Grace, Case Manager, Heather Kamper, Veterans and Transitions Program Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Ombudsman Supervisor, Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Ron Papsdorf, Transportation Division Director, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Program Manager, Sharon Day, Program Manager, AAA Business Operations, Travis Noon, Senior Program Specialist, Zack Gibbons, Senior Fiscal Specialist

Cathy Noon, Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

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

There was no Public Comment.

**Report of the Chair**

Cathy Noon Committee Chair reminded the group that we won't meet again until January.

**Report of the AAA Director**

- Experiencing an uptick in requests for services as the numbers for COVID go up.
  - Working with more County response teams.

- FEMA has a 30-day supply of food boxes with staples, working to see how we can distribute.
- The AAA team is very busy with response to calls. Started providing services but providers may have to back off with increase in COVID cases.
- Jayla mentioned that there is a difference with this second round of COVID cases in that staff have PPE on hand and there are policies and procedures in place if visits are needed.

#### Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: Summary of the October 16, 2020 meeting.

Cathy asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, Phil Cernanec made the motion, Barbara Boyer 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.

#### Action Items

##### Approval of 2020-2021 Funding Allocations for AAA Contractors

- AAA is seeking the approval for new and current providers for existing fiscal year ending June 30, 2020
  - AAA has \$6.6 million due to the COVID relief funding received.
  - The first \$1.5 million was fully spent in August.
  - State deferred the start of the funding year to September and because of this AAA released an off-cycle RFP for new programs.
- AAA received 18 proposals from 11 different provider agency.
  - The Funding Subcommittee met to review and evaluate the proposals
  - The group evaluated the proposals based on; if the service provided a specified need, the experience of management and staff, past performance, cost and cost comparison with what same services are currently paid, financial stability of the organization, does service provided fill a gap in service area, how well does the organization coordinate with other organizations, do they target the most vulnerable populations
  - \$2.4 million was allotted to 13 service programs

Cathy asked if Sharon could explain why specific proposals weren't funded.

Sharon responded as follows:

Colorado Gerontological Society was a duplicate service which several providers are already performing and therefore was not funded.

Benefits in Action received partial funding, information and assistance, reassurance and education were overlapping services and not funded.

Iacofano Group provides frozen meals, it was not clear what population would be served, current contractors for this service are not reporting wait lists and it would be a duplication of service and was not funded.

Via was funded for 6 months (January through June of 2021) their contract through the SRC reallocation of funds established in July will be completed December 31<sup>st</sup> and a new contract is needed to continue services, contract includes Adams and Arapahoe Counties.

Bob Brocker asked what education service NYMBL provided, Sharon explained they were a fall prevention service engaging clients through a smart phone application that combines balance exercise and brain training. Dawn Perez has used the app and remarked that it was easy and simple to use.

*RFP Proposal vote*

*Barbara Boyer motioned for approval, Bob Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.*

*Approval was provided unanimously. Abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest were Karie Erickson – Douglas County, Chris Lynn – Jefferson County and Perla Gheiler – City and County of Denver.*

- Additional \$1 million in funding for current inter year contracts was requested. Allocations are for January through June of 2021.

Larry Strock asked about what the funding for the SRC chore service included. Sharon said that it was for their hoarding program. There has been increased need and more complicated cleanups. Service measures will be for reimbursing of service costs rather than units. Chris Lynn from SRC said that this program really helps keep people in their home rather than face eviction.

Phil asked if any of the providers they were approving for additional funds have indicated they may not be able to fully spend out their contract. Sharon said the list contains only those who can spend their funds, that the other contractors are leery of requesting more funds for fear of the inability to spend them. Sharon stated that they are constantly monitoring contractors to make sure funds are being spent. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter AAA will reallocate funds that haven't been spent to other providers who can use the funds. Due to the unusual circumstances we are currently experiencing we are able to carryover unlimited federal funds this year. They are hoping this carryover will provide some cushioning for 2022.

There was discussion on using excess funds to purchase tablets, several counties are providing technology using CARES funds. Cathy suggested the group share information on what they are doing in this area to help everyone.

*Additional funding vote*

*Bob Davis motioned for approval, Donna Mullins 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion*

*Approval was provided unanimously. Abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest were Karie Erickson – Douglas County, Chris Lynn – Jefferson County and Perla Gheiler – City and County of Denver.*

### Future of Transportation Opportunities and Challenges

- Jayla discussed three challenges that will impact transportation.
  - COVID – has impacted providers, their business, ridership, and trip costs,
  - Funding – proposed state and federal budget cuts will affect program, there will be a need to work smarter with less funding

- Population Growth – by 2030 we will see an increase of 31% to the 60+ and 55% in the 75+ population. By 2040 an increase of 70% in the 60+ and 139% in the 75+ populations.
- Opportunities for the future
  - Jayla referred to a strategic planning document from the Administration on Aging that suggests a blending and braiding of funding to increase access in services.
  - Look for ways to be more efficient and streamline processes.
  - Partnerships with CDOT, 5310 funding, rural 5311 funds and 5307 funds.
  - Partnering with healthcare, (people aren't making it to appointments or dialysis which costs healthcare providers money)
  - Insurance companies will also be something to look at in the future.
  - Ride Alliance will help make transportation more efficient, helping to fill empty seats

Jayla suggested establishing a Transportation subcommittee to discuss what the future of transportation looks like. There was discussion among the group regarding such a committee. Suggestions discussed were to send an *email to get participant interest and recommendations. Committee include a diverse participation of members. Work with the DRCOG Transportation division. Develop parameters for membership*

*Action to develop a committee.*

*Cathy asked for a motion to develop a Transportation subcommittee*

*Bob Davis proposed the motion*

*Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

## **Informational Briefings**

### **Transportation Today**

Travis Noon showed a presentation which was included in the agenda packet.

- Funding for the voucher program is provided by Older Americans Act/State Funding for Senior Services, funding is for Older Adults 60+
  - 25% of Federal Part B funds stipulate that they must be spent on access services,
  - Service providers include: A Little Help, City and County of Broomfield, Douglas County, Volunteers of America and Via Mobility Services
  - 2019 completed 117,000 trips, 3,900 unduplicated services with SRC as the largest provider.
    - Since July SRC has discontinued transportation services
    - In July there was a seamless transition over to Via Mobility Services (as of October Via is accepting new clients).
  - Due to COVID-19 all transportation providers have extended services to deliver food, groceries, prescription and delivery.
  - COVID restrictions made it difficult due to lockdown and a reduction in transportation needs was seen from April through October.

- From January through October of 2020 the total number of one-way trips was 40,706, COVID delivery trips 20,684 with a total of 61,390 units of service 3,298 of those were unduplicated clients.

A question was asked regarding future reduction of RTD services and how that will affect AAA transportation providers, Travis said it does put more of a strain on the providers, he mentioned one example of the City of Littleton has asked for funding to supplement their transportation services.

A side note to the conversation was when establishing the Transportation Subcommittee to include members outside of the ACA Committee such as providers and other local coordinating councils and transit services.

- Other Funding Sources
  - Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 for Denver and Aurora urbanized area
    - 55% spent on capital purchases for vehicles replacements, software expansion for software upgrades,
    - 45% to operating expenses for many OAA providers and others
    - •Mobility Management
    - •Travel training, brokerage models, call center operations, etc.,
  - Human Services Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside (HST)
    - One time \$1 million provided due to COVID

#### Launch of Ride Alliance

- Ride Alliance started in 2015 with the Northwest Denver Coordination Project trip exchange.
  - The trip exchange or the hub is the online platform used by multiple entities to access and exchange trips.
  - Previously the contract was overseen by DRMAC in 2017 DRCOG took the program over and became the Veteran Transportation and Community Living Initiative.
    - Recently this was rebranded and is now known as Ride Alliance.
  - The goal is to improve coordination with HST providers, human services agencies, and riders through the exchange hub.
- The program serves older adults, those with disabilities and veterans.
- Currently the program is in a pilot implementation mode.
  - Ride Alliance partners include: Aging Services Douglas County, City and County of Broomfield, Via, DRMAC, CDOT, Demand Trans Solutions, RouteMatch, Transit Plus, and the Federal Transit Administration.
    - RTD has been involved and will be onboard with the program after the pandemic.
  - The pilot will test the technology systems and protocols.
  - Funding contract terminates on December 31, 2020.

Several minutes of discussion followed.

#### County Reports

Adams County – Dawn Perez

- Senior Hub has given out 50 tablets, along with providing a person in PPE to go to them and train on how to use the device
- The County Commissioners provided an initial email response to the receipt of the ACAN letter and let them know they are working on a formal response

Arapahoe County – Cathy Noon and Phil Cernanec

Cathy

- Arapahoe County Council is anticipating that they will lose their committee chair to retirement, there is concern about replacement

Phil

- The Littleton Omni Bus and Shopping Cart will be contracting the services out in December

Douglas County – Karie Erickson

- Douglas County has a skilled nursing facility with 78 confirmed COVID cases, 13 probable, 57 staff are positive and 14 probable, they have lost 15 residents and 1 staff person.
  - Collecting donations for a love gift to the facility staff
- Transportation and other services have slowed with the increase in COVID cases
- Continue doing the food delivery boxes
- Received funds to purchase 200 Echo Show video devices
- Douglas County ADRC is distributing 600 Aging Mastery Kits to partners and senior centers as another way to connect with seniors. Kits include various activities, a DVD and aging playbook.

Town of Lochbuie – Larry Strock

- Larry will be resigning from the ACA, and he is no longer on the DRCOG Board

Gilpin County – Sharon Perea

- Sharon announced her resignation from the ACA and ACA Subcommittee after 10 years of service.

Next meeting – **January 15, 2021**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.