

**Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)
Meeting Summary**

Friday, December 1, 2024

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	Denver
Dave Appel	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Ed Moss	City and County of Broomfield
George Teal	DRCOG Board – Douglas County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Houston “Tex” Elam	At Large – Arapahoe County
Jim Dale	Jefferson County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Shari Haidvogel	Clear Creek County
Sharon Tessier	City and County of Broomfield
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Tom Mahowald	DRCOG Board – Nederland
Valerie Robson	At Large – Jefferson County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board – Lone Tree

Guests Present

Carol Fey, Littleton, Rachel Walker, Developmental Pathways.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Caleb Susuras, Service Coordinator, Erika Dubray, ADRC Manager, Erin O’Neill, Community Resource Specialist, Fonda Buckles Community Resource Manager, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsey Cable, Community Resource Program Manager, Kelsie Jurin, Community Resource Specialist, Malorie Miller, Transportation Program Manager, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Sharon Day, AA Business Operations Manager, Travis Noon, AAA Grant Compliance Program Manager, Yvette Del Conte, Intake Specialist

Call to Order

Karie Erickson Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

Rachel Walker, from Developmental Pathways talked about changes to their case management services. Their case management agency will provide all disability services for Arapahoe, Douglas, and Elbert counties. They now house the Medicaid Waivers program, four non-Medicaid programs, and various other state and local programming they have available for those with disabilities. They will be starting a community advisory committee and will be looking for folks in the community that might be self-advocates, be on a Medicaid waiver that have a disability and would like to have their voice heard with Developmental Pathways in the work that they are doing in the community. Rachel can be reached by email at r.walker@dpcolo.org or by phone 720-705-6479.

Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson

- Chair Erickson thanked DRCOG staff for putting together the template that was sent to all members so they could advocate for funding. She found the template greatly beneficial. Karie said we all have to be a collective voice in this time of funding need.
- Chair Erickson spoke about a statistic she heard on National Public Radio (NPR) that said only 13 percent of older Americans can afford to have help in the home one day a week. These are people that aren't on Medicaid and are self-pay. Those in this category could be forced into a higher level of care really proves how valuable the AAA funding is for the service contractors that are providing that help in the home for older adults.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- During the October ACA meeting the topic of in-person meetings was brought up, Jayla discussed the topic with the ACA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee recommended in-person meetings in April, June, August, and October. In-person meetings for 2024 will be held in various places across the region so the committee has the opportunity to see some contractor facilities and communities that they serve.
- Nymbl Sciences had the Alliance and Aging event for the AAA's the beginning of November. Jayla said that it was a wonderful event that highlighted the DRCOG partnership and the importance of Older Americans Act dollars. DRCOG is the largest fall prevention program in the country, as part of the Nymbl program.
 - Nymbl is becoming a strong partner in advocacy for DRCOG, they brought in a lot of folks that would not normally hear about the funding issues.
 - Nymbl will be meeting with the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) staff members to talk about how valuable the partnership has been with DRCOG and the need for continued funding of the AAA network across the state.
- Jayla is working with Rich Mauro to provide information to the JBC. AAA staff compiled the information, Rich, and Ed Bowditch, DRCOG's lobbyist, reviewed and edited the information which will be presented by a JBC staffer during the JBC briefing. The information the AAA provided covered AAA services, the fiscal cliff,

explains the inability to sustain services without additional funding and the impact it will have if people lose services.

- Jayla met with the staff from the Adams County Department of Health and the Crisis Management Team in Adams County. It was the first time they had met, she learned about their program and discussed how they could partner together. She learned Adams County is dealing with a higher suicide rate in older adults, and abuse and fraud cases are up. They also talked about diabetes prevention.
- Jayla and Doug Rex met with Seniors Resource Center (SRC). SRC is concerned about the fiscal cliff, the impacts it might have on their organization and wanted understanding of what that might look like for them. Unfortunately, the budget has many variables and is still unknown which makes it difficult for AAA contractors to begin planning. Jayla is planning on having a meeting with the Chief Executive Officers of the DRCOG's larger contractors to see how they can collaborate on legislative issues and advocacy
- Jayla spoke about an impromptu meeting she had at the Aging and Alliance event with Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser expressed an interest in funding Nymble Sciences and possibly working with DRCOG on funding for the social determinants of health. Funding for these types of projects can help allocate funding from the Older Americans Act dollars to other areas.
- Jayla thanked the members who sent the Colorado Center for Aging letter to the JBC. She said the advocacy flyer was almost complete and the team is developing the toolkit.
- Jayla told the group that December would be the last month that DRCOG would sponsor the No CoPay radio program. If No CoPay does not get funding it will stop airing.
- Jayla announced that DRCOG Board Chair Steve Conklin was elected Mayor in the town of Edgewater.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: October 27, 2023, meeting summary.

Barbara Boyer motioned for approval. Tom Mahowald seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Agendas and summaries are posted on the [DRCOG website](#) from the link 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 Item

Discussion of additional funding for Older Americans Act contractors – Sharon Day

- DRCOG received an option letter from the State allocating unspent funds from the previous fiscal year to this year. DRCOG sent out a notice to their contractors for them to request additional funding which must be spent by June 30, 2024. Over two thirds of the providers currently contracted submitted requests for services.

Justifications included additional clients and the added units of services they would provide with the requested funds.

- The ACA Funding Subcommittee convened a meeting to evaluate the requests following their established process for distributing funds. This includes requirements of the Older Americans Act, identifying where the highest level of need is, looking at wait lists, etc.
- There were over 3.2 million dollars of requests submitted by providers. DRCOG had approximately 1.6 million dollars to allocate so some services were not able to be accommodated. Some received a recommendation for a partial allocation of what was requested.
- Jefferson Center for Mental Health requested to decrease their contracted funds, and that was noted.
- Tex Elam motioned to recommend that the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee approve allocating additional funds to AAA contractors totaling approximately 1.6 million dollars for the state fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024. Tom Mahowald seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved with Bob Brocker, Karie Erickson, and Val Robson abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Informational Briefings

Legislative update and discussion – Rich Mauro

- Rich Mauro told the group that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) was scheduled to get a staff briefing regarding the Department of Human Services budget on December 4, 2023. The briefing was open to the public in person or via live stream. Rich was hoping that the JBC staff person presenting would call out concerns, and then raise the issue of both immediate needs for increased funding for the AAA's, and also look at long-term stability or sustainability for AAA funding. Rich anticipated the JBC would have questions and was anxious to hear their responses. He was also interested to see if any of the JBC would comment about having received emails from the public. The JBC will also be able to ask questions of the Department of Human Services who will have their presentation approximately ten days later.
- DRCOG Vice Chair, Wynne Shaw wanted to know how DRCOG would be addressing the subject of the AAA seeking funding from other sources aside from the legislative funding. She wanted to be sure the JBC knew that the AAA would still need the funding they were requesting from the legislature and any funds raised by the AAA would be in addition to their request. Rich said he was promoting this funding as an investment, and as a return on the investment for the State, community-based services keep people in the community and are preventive services. If people do not get the supportive services they need to live in a community, they will end up needing more expensive care.
- Depending on the outcome from the JBC, Rich indicated another option. He said that there has been some interest in running a bill for more stable funding.

- DRCOG also intends to bring awareness of funding needs to the Colorado Counties Incorporated and the Colorado Municipal League.

DRCOG Board Report – DRCOG Board Chair Steve Conklin and DRCOG Vice Chair, Wynne Shaw

- Steve Conklin, DRCOG Board Chair told the committee that at their November meeting the Governor's legislative staff talked about the housing bills that are be introducing this session. He is looking forward to more communication regarding housing in the region.
- Chair Conklin spoke about traffic congestion and that a recent report said people 65 years old and over are 52 percent more likely than 20 to 45-year-olds to be involved in a fatal or very serious crash. The report also said when speeding in a 35 mile an hour zone a pedestrian is twice as likely for an accident to be fatal or serious than in 20 mile an hour zone or other slower areas.
- The Board also received an update on the Land Use and Transportation Connection Technical Assistance Plan. Board Chair Conklin said it was an interesting meeting and opened up communication with the Governor's office.
- Wynn Shaw mentioned that the Board had a nominating committee to help find candidates to join the Executive Committee. They selected Director Nicole Speer from Boulder, Jeslin Shahrezaei from Lakewood, John Diak from Parker and Steven Barr from Littleton.

County Reports

Adams County – Dawn Perez

- Adams County Aging Network hosted a resource fair at the Community Connections, it was extremely successful. They are going to continue to hold smaller resource fairs and spread them throughout the county. She said more people are able to participate because they do not have to travel as far to attend.
- Dawn sat in on the DRCOG contractor training for funding, she was extremely impressed with the training and thanked Travis Noon for putting on an outstanding program.

City and County of Broomfield – Name

- Sharon Tessier with the City And County Of Broomfield, let the group know that last year Broomfield put in a partial property tax rebate program in preparation for this year. Broomfield will pay up to a thousand dollars of the delta that was between last year's property tax and this year's property tax. The program is specifically to keep seniors aging in place and exclusively for Broomfield residents. The program has been successful and there is a possibility that the program may expand. So far, they anticipate helping about 1,500 residents.
- Sharon also said Broomfield has extended their Tibur program to include seniors for the next two years. They are using their home funds to work with seniors who are severely cost burden. They expect to help another 300 to 400 seniors in Broomfield who are severely cost burden with this program.

Next meeting – January 26, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.