

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday, February 18, 2022**

**Members Present**

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large City and County of 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
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large Arapahoe County
Jim Dale	At Large Jefferson County - Golden
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large
Sean Wood	Clear Creek County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board, - Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board - Lone Tree

**Guests Present**

Conner McCarthy, Aging Resources of Douglas County, Debbi Haynie, Castle Rock Senior Center, Kimberly Harris, Mark Levine, DRCOG Consultant, Nathan Estrada, Nymbl Science, Valerie Robson, Jefferson County

**DRCOG Staff Present**

Adriana Francis, Case Manager, Ana Lilia Lahowetz, Case Manager, Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Desiree Boelte, SHIP Program Manager, Doug Rex, Executive Director, Erika Dubray, I&A Manager, Fonda Buckles, ADRC Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Jenny Castle, Resource and Quality Assurance Coordinator, Jennifer Reeves Transitions & VDC Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Ryan McGee, Options Counselor, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Sharon Day, AAA Business Operations Manager, Travis Noon, Senior Program Specialist, Wade Branstetter, Community Resource Specialist, Zack Gibbons, Fiscal Specialist

Cathy Noon Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

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

There was no Public Comment.

**Report of the Chair**

There was no Public Comment.

### Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- Jayla said DRCOG staff will be returning to office April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In January, the I&A team responded to 1400 calls. The biggest need was transportation followed by benefits and information about financial assistance, housing, and caregiver support.
- The recent nursing home and assisted living report for our region indicated we are down from 241 facilities to 203 who still have a large number of COVID cases. Staff are still masking up and use other personal protective equipment while doing visitations following the infectious disease protocol.
- DRCOG is conducting a salary survey that may have a positive impact to the AAA staff and will affect the budget.
- Jayla participated in the National Coalition to Transform Advanced Care. She was encouraged because the Office of Medicare and Medicaid Innovations are looking at how to integrate community-based services into the next payment model. This is important because they are currently only looking to reimburse clinical services at home and not thinking of the future for transportation, nutrition and other at home support.
- The AAA is taking the opportunity to update their data systems while there is funding. They are moving from 13 systems to one. And will be contracting with Brite Systems for development. This system will be a Salesforce platform and will coordinate well with the state's new data system which also uses the Salesforce platform. The goal is to be fully integrated in August or September.
- Jayla asked the committee if they would be interested in having a report from the DRCOG Board. There was a positive response, and it was decided that either Wynne Shaw or Steve Conklin could provide a short report.

### Discussion

- There was discussion regarding a new facility opening in Castle Rock, Shannon Gimbel said it will be an independent living, assisted living, and memory care facility.
- Karie mentioned that many home care companies have gone under since COVID and that many people are having to move into assisted living because they have no one to provide home care. Jayla said the AAA is seeing a trend towards this, many companies are struggling with staff to provide the services.

### Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: Summaries of the January 21, 2022, meeting

Bob Davis motioned for approval with the change to move Steve Conklin from a guest to a ACA Member. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion, the consent agenda was unanimously approved with change.

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

#### Discussion of Transportation Project Funding – Travis Noon

- In November DRCOG announced a call for projects that closed in early January.

- They received proposals from 14 organizations requesting approximately \$8.2 million.
- Proposals were reviewed by a peer review panel and stakeholders in the region.
- There are three funding sources.
  - The Federal Transit Administration Section, the human services transportation TIP set aside (HST), the Older Americans Act and state funding for senior services dollars.
  - ACA members were asked for their recommendation to the DRCOG Finance and Budget Committee to approve the older Americans Act and state funding for senior services portion of the projects.
- The period of performance for these awards will be starting July 1, 2022, ending June 30, 2023, with approximately \$6.6 million in new funding available across the three funding streams.
- Chair Noon asked for a motion to move the approval forward to the DRCOG Finance and Budget committee. Jim Dale made the motion, Phil Cernanec seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by the committee.

### **Informational Briefings**

#### Legislative Update – Rich Mauro

- The House Committee has approved the Department of Regulatory Agencies recommendation to sunset SAPGA. This allows moving to the next step which is House Bill 1035, the Modernization of the Older Coloradoans Act
  - The bill modernizes the Colorado Commission on Aging to operate like SAPGA has in the past. It will expand and diversify membership giving it the autonomy to implement and advocate for aging and carry out SAPGA's recommendations going forward.
  - The statute also states that the State Office on Aging is to be a leader in the state on promoting aging issues and codifies Lifelong Colorado within the department. Additionally, it will establish a technical advisory committee that would include representatives from state agencies with the directive to coordinate work throughout the state.
  - The bill has moved out of committee and out of the House and is currently awaiting a Senate hearing.
- Rich is still working on other ways to expand funding for the AAA.
  - He has a meeting with Jarett Hughes to discuss sustainable and stable funding for the AAA.
  - The idea is to have a lump sum increase to reduce waitlists, then have a baseline going forward with an annual inflation factor for population growth to maintain the same level of services.
  - Work needs to begin now to get into the Governor's budget.
- Senate Bill 79 enables the state to tap into federal funding to provide training in dementia and Alzheimer's care in long-term care facilities.
  - The bill has moved on from the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, is now awaiting hearing on the floor for the full Senate.
- Rich provided a link to the full list of the bills that are available:  
<https://coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-analysis/6452/2022/0/#>

### Follow-up Discussion County Councils on Aging – Kelly Roberts

- After last month's discussion regarding the County Councils on Aging, Kelly Roberts, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, and Mindy Patton met to discuss some of the ideas generated at the January meeting. They proposed an in-person summit with representatives from the County Councils on Aging, senior commissions, and older adults to explore how to strengthen the network of aging interests in the region.
  - Possible agenda items for the summit would be a presentation from the state demographer, discussion about the importance of advocacy at the local level, exploring the potential impact of having a viable network of local aging interests in the region.
  - Suggested conversation questions might be, how to plan for meeting the needs of older adults over the next 10 years, collaboration and communication, sustainable funding, housing, and the shortage of affordable housing.
- The group was receptive to having a summit in August or September. They wanted to be sure after having the summit, there was movement forward on whatever outcomes came from the discussions. Several members volunteered to be on a summit committee. Kelly will be contacting them in early March.

### Nymbl Science Presentation – Nathan Estrada

- In the last 12 months Nymbl and DRCOG have impacted more older adults than the rest of the nation's evidence-based programs.
- Nymbl learned to use younger imagery as older adults seem to see themselves 10 years younger, to not artificially create disability language and visualizations when outreaching to people.
- Currently, Nymbl has 11,920 people enrolled in the program.
- Word of mouth was the highest form of advertising along with segments on Colorado and Company, newspaper, TV, and email postcards.
- The average number of risk factors for older adults in the DRCOG area is four per person.
  - More than 55 percent report unsteady walking and fear of falling, 37 percent had a recent fall, and less than 5 percent are chair bound.
- Initial results from the program show a 46 percent balance improvement, a 42 percent steadiness when walking and 70 percent are no longer fearful of losing their balance in their home.
- Nathan said when there is improvement there is more functional independence and they need less help with self-care.
  - 37 percent of all users had meaningful improvement in balance, 40 percent moved out of high risk and into more challenging tasks in the program.
- A Nymbl study showed prevention of 162 hospitalizations which equates to 54 lives saved, avoided 238 emergency room visits and 1,428 falls. This saves the DRCOG region \$3.7 million in medical expenses.

### County Reports

Arapahoe County – Barbara Boyer and Cathy Noon

Barbara said Linda Haley will be retiring in the Fall and Arapahoe County now has a Co-Presidency. Cathy stated they are still searching for their third member for the ACA.

Other Matters by Members

Next meeting – March 18, 2022

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.