

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, February 24, 2023**

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
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams 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
Tom Mahowald	DRCOG Board
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board – Lone Tree

Guests Present

Lili Jou, General Public, Shari Haidvogel, Kaiser Permanente, Valerie Robson, Jefferson County

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Buffy Sophinos, Lead Community Resource Specialist, Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Desiree Boelte, SHP Program Manager, Doug Rex, Executive Director, Erika Dubray, Community Resource Manager, Ivan Sosa, Case Manager, Jenny Castle, Resource QA Coordinator, Jennifer Reeves, VDC and Transitions Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsie Jurin Community Resource Specialist, Liv Bergman, Sr. Community Resource Specialist, Malorie Miller, Transportation Program Manager, Marlene Priest, Ombudsman, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rene Hickman, Ombudsman, Rich Mauro, Legislative Director, Roshida Lewis-Johnson, Case Manager, Sara Beth Ford, Refugee and Friends Program Manager, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Sharon Day, Business Operations Manager

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

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

- Lili Jou conveyed that Denver no longer has a local arthritis foundation. She wanted DRCOG to sponsor acupuncture research for arthritis on the DRCOG website. Chair Erickson said we would look into this on the Network of Care website. Mindy Patton asked for Lili to provide her email address and Erika Dubray would contact her to add this to the Network of Care website.

Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson

Chair Erickson reported that Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Director was out ill and would not be present.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

There was no Directors report due to Jayla's absence.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval. Andrea Suhaka 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.

Informational Briefings

Update on the Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) – AJ Diamontopoulos

- The Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) is designed to improve the quality of hospital care provided to Medicaid members. Over a five-year period, the program will help hospitals transition from a fee for service business model to a pay for performance model. This will be a cost saving measure that will reimburse hospitals for activities that improve or maintain a patient's health.
- Hospitals will be required to engage with their community, organizations, and stakeholders to understand what is going on from a health care perspective. Then adjust their service offerings and how they deliver those services to meet the needs of their community.
- Hospitals have designed projects based on the engagement conversations and set their own quality measures.
- When patients are admitted to the hospital, they are screened for five health related social needs.
 1. Do you have housing needs?
 2. Do you have trouble getting to medical appointments because of transportation?
 3. Are you able to buy enough food to last the entire month?
 4. Do you feel safe in your home?
 5. Can you pay your utility bill?
- Hospitals will provide a report to Medicaid with the number of patients seen compared to the number of patients screened who had a social need and receive an incentive for those patients.
- Hospitals are paid for these referrals, but community-based service providers who provide the services are not reimbursed for these additional referrals. This will be a burden to community-based service programs who are already unable to serve those in need.

- Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) requires not only the screening but also hospitals must report how they addressed the needs identified. The goal is to lower hospital readmission rates.
- AJ joined the Community Advisory Council to the HTP and the Chase board and will be bringing attention to the problem. In addition, there is funding that the State can tap into from the federal government that could fund community organizations to provide services to Medicaid members.

Update on Transportation – Erika Dubray and Malorie Miller

- In 2022 the AAA made changes to the model they were using; the program has been going well and is sustainable with 570 unique riders.
- A total of 26,803 one-way trips were provided in calendar year 2022 and 32,877 single RTD bus tickets were issued.
- Total spending in calendar year 2022 was \$816,868.
- Since the initiation of the new model, there has been a drop in rides for HopSkipDrive as many clients switched to Uber providing an opportunity for the AAA to offer more trips at a reduced rate.
- HopSkipDrive provided 15,778 trips in 2022 with an average trip cost of approximately \$36.
- Uber provided 10,995 trips in 2022, with an average trip cost of approximately \$17. Ridership has more than doubled as clients can have on demand service at the lower expense.
- 32,877 bus tickets were provided in 2022, local discount tickets are the most requested type of ticket with Access-a-Ride the second most requested.
- In September, a fourth provider, Carepool was added. They provide light hands-on assistance and allowed the AAA to expand services in Gilpin and Clear Creek. Unfortunately, a waitlist was started at the same time, so growth for Carepool has been slow. Reviews for service have been very positive and they anticipate Carepool to become significantly more in-demand throughout 2023.
- The AAA confirmed that they can work together with RTD so clients can use the new Access-a-Ride Uber feature and pay for it partially with AAA Uber funds.
- The AAA is researching more providers that are wheelchair accessible.
- The AAA submitted a proposal for \$900,000 in DRCOG-related funding which will allow the program to grow adding two mobility coordinators and a community resource specialist increasing the team to five people.
- In July, if the additional funding is approved, the AAA hopes to double the amount of clients they are currently serving.
- The AAA will be rolling out an official travel training program next fiscal year. Staff will be trained on best practices and how to develop a travel training program.
- The AAA is still waiting to find out about the Ride Alliance grant submitted in November. The grant will help finish that project and get it launched.

Board Report – Wynne Shaw and Steve Conklin

- DRCOG Board Chair Steve Conklin, welcomed and thanked Tom Mahowald of Netherland for volunteering to be a member of the ACA. Board Chair Conklin also announced that Wynne Shaw is the new Vice Chair of the DRCOG Board.
- At the last DRCOG meeting, directors talked about federal performance measures that deal with safety, bridges, fatalities, and accidents.
- The Regional Transportation Committee presented information about the coordination of traffic lights, and the overall interaction of municipalities in terms of trying to keep traffic moving. One of the goals is keeping people from idling too long at stop lights.
- The Board also received a lengthy update and had a robust conversation on upcoming legislative matters. Chair Conklin said this is going to be a very interesting session with a lot of housing issues related to creating more housing and affordable housing.
- DRCOG Executive Director Doug Rex mentioned that the Board will be reviewing the AAA bylaws in March with the understanding that they will be amended later to comply with the changes to the Older Americans Act.
- DRCOG Board Vice Chair Wynne Shaw thanked Karie Erickson for attending the Living and Aging Well luncheon in Lone Tree and for sharing what Douglas County is doing and has available for their aging population.

County Reports

Cary Johnson – Jefferson County

- Jefferson County's next meeting will include three County Commissioners and will be their opportunity to talk about their concerns and needs for older adults in Jefferson County.
- The county is currently working on an extensive program to provide housing for homeless older adults.

Other Matters by Members

- Tex Elam spoke about the new RTD access on demand program which is underway and has been well received by those who are disabled. They are having some growing pains with the changing of the application form. RTD is currently trying to sort out duplicate applications. They are also having contract issues which is affecting vendors such as Via.

Next meeting – **March 24, 2023**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.