

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, April 28, 2023**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large – Denver
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
George Teal	Douglas County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Houston “Tex” Elam	At Large – Arapahoe County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large – Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogl	Clear Creek
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Tom Mahowald	DRCOG Board – Nederland

Guests Present

Colleen Morton, CAPABLE, Debbi Haynie, Castle Rock Senior Center, Estefania Corral, Center for People With Disabilities, Heather Kamper, Center for People With Disabilities

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Caitlin Phillips Ombudsman, Donnita Daniels, Aging Services Counselor, Erika Dubray, Community Resource Manager, Fonda Buckles, ADRC Manager, Ines Rosas , Veterans Program Manager, Janine Brown-Franklin, Community Resource Specialist, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Jennifer Serna, Veterans Case Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsie Jurin, Comm Resource Spec In-Home Services, Malorie Miller, Program Manager Transportation, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rene Hickman, Ombudsman, Sharon Day, Manager AAA Business Operations

Karie Erickson 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 – Karie Erickson

Chair Erickson said that COVID is making a comeback at her office, she reminded everyone to stay diligent and keep informed. Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Director commented that Dr. John Douglas from No CoPay radio said that they are recommending that people over 60 have a fifth vaccination, and they are coming out with a new bivalent vaccine.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- DRCOG has a new federal lobbying firm called Thorn Run Partners, which has a team of six people specializing in aging and are providing Jayla with regular updates on bills.
- Jayla is working on the following federal bills that directly affect the Area Agencies on Aging:
 - The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act –benefits the Veterans Directed Care program by providing more home and community-based services to help veterans remain in their home and receive services.
 - The Elder Justice, Reauthorization, and Modernization Act of 2023 – The bill provides \$232.5 million for all Ombudsman programs across the country and would significantly increase funding to the DRCOG program.
 - A bill for the coordination between medical and community-based services for \$500 million – the bill provides services to individuals discharged from the hospital to prevent them from re-entering the hospital. This is the program that AJ Diamontopoulos is currently working on with hospitals.
 - Another bill for \$250 million addresses social isolation – social isolation has always been a problem for older adults, it can affect them physically, and cognitively. Both Chair Erickson and Chris Lynn from Seniors’ Resource Center said that their programs for social isolation are very successful and could use funding in this area.
 - Chronic Care Act 2.0 – which expands services that can be offered at home such as nutrition, transportation and in home services by expanding Medicare payments for these services. They are also talking about case management and rehabilitation services.
- Jayla attended the Colorado Association of the Area Agencies on Aging quarterly meeting.
 - The Department of Human Services spoke about their funding priorities.
 - Rich Mauro, DRCOG Director of Legislative Affairs, attended the meeting and participated in discussions to start developing a strategy and develop advocacy materials.
 - There was training on advocating with data and keeping the message clear.
- Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, is working with Jayla, Bob Brocker, and others on a coordinated information campaign. The goal is to remind people of the demographic shift in the older population, the challenges and impact that an older population will bring to the DRCOG region. Factors to consider are the 2% growth in the 0 to 18 population, the 17% growth in the worker population of 19 to 64 year olds and the 99% growth in the older adults.
- Jayla met with Donna and John Mullens. John is a distinguished figure in the global entrepreneurial community, he has authored several books, and is a professor at the London Business School. John provided suggestions on how to communicate the message of the demographic shift to the business community.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: March 24, 2023, meeting summary.

Tom Mahowald attended the last meeting and asked for that correction. Phil Cernanec motioned for approval. Chris Lynn 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

CAPABLE Presentation – Colleen Morton

- Colleen Morton, RN presented to the group. CAPABLE stands for a community aging in place, advancing better living for elders.
- CAPABLE is a licensed evidence-based program. The four to five-month program integrates services from an occupational therapist, a registered nurse, and a handy worker who work together with the older adult to set goals and direct-action plans that change behaviors to improve health, independence, and safety. The complete presentation can be viewed on the DRCOG website: <https://drcog.org/node/989907> scroll to the bottom of the page. For more information you can contact CAPABLE at <https://vnacolorado.org/services/capable/> or by email, CAPABLE@vnacolorado.org.

Center for People With Disabilities Presentation – Heather Kamper

- Heather Kamper, Director of Core Services and Stefania Corral, Program Manager presented to the group.
- The Center for People with Disabilities helps those with disabilities gain access to crucial and otherwise unavailable services. They support them in overcoming barriers and challenges to independent living, gainful employment and fulfilled lives. Without this support many would experience a lack of independence, isolation, depression, and other physical and mental disabilities.
- They cover all the DRCOG region except for Douglas County. The complete presentation can be viewed on the DRCOG website: <https://drcog.org/node/989907> scroll to the bottom of the page. For more information you can visit their website <https://cpwd.org/> or email at Info@CPWD.org.

Heather Kamper
Director of Core Services
303-442-8662 x 223
heather@cpwd.org

Collective Messaging Discussion – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- Jayla and Kelly are beginning work on a collective messaging and advocacy campaign to educate the general public, legislators, and public officials, about the shift in the aging demographics.

- The first step is to put together a think tank with representatives from aging interests, the media, funders, and community partners to get cost effective input on the messaging, how to spread the word and partnerships. The think tank will be in June.
- Jayla and Kelly will provide training for consistent messaging. Beginning with a webinar May 28th on the 4 Year Plan, followed up with other webinars in June, August, and October. These webinars will also be a platform for advocacy efforts.
- Denver Regional Aging Alliance is the new name for the collaborative group that began in September at the summit which consisted of the County Councils on Aging and the Senior Commissions.

Update on ACA New Model Subcommittee – Kelly Roberts

- There is an ACA New Model subcommittee working on reviewing and revising the ACA bylaws. Once completed, the recommendations to the bylaws will be provided to the ACA committee for review and action and then consideration by the DRCOG board.
- Kelly will be sending out a survey to the ACA members for input on their role on the ACA. This will help the new model subcommittee with the bylaw changes. Kelly will share the results of the survey at the June 23rd ACA meeting.

Board Report – Steve Conklin

Steve Conklin, DRCOG Board Chair

- Board Chair Conklin said the DRCOG Board had continued discussions regarding Senate Bill 213 and DRCOG continues to monitor the progress of the bill as it continues through the General Assembly.
- The DRCOG Board will be having a special session to discuss Senate Bill 213 and other outlying items that need to be addressed. A video of the DRCOG board recording can be viewed here: <https://drcog.org/node/989842>. Scroll to the bottom of the page.
- Chair Conklin reminded the group about the DRCOG Bike to Work Day which will be held on June 28th.

County Reports

City and County of Denver – Perla Gheiler

Perla reported that Denver has just completed their first Age Matters report since 2018. The plan covers the next two years, they hope to get it in front of the new Mayor in July.

Douglas County – George Teal

George said Douglas County has created a priority focus group to discuss senior services. They had a town hall and found areas that need improvement and will be initiating a road show of listening tours over the summer to have conversations with the seniors on what is going well and where there could be improvement.

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins and Cary Johnson

Donna told the group that there is going to be a steering committee meeting for Age Friendly Jefferson County. She will let the group know how that progresses.

Cary and Donna are working with others from Jefferson County and Metropolitan State University students to design a new logo. They have been educating the students and opening their eyes to aging.

Cary Johnson let the group know they will be holding their Senior Heroes event on May 11th. The event recognizes the value of seniors who volunteer.

Other Matters by Members

- Tex Elam informed the committee that RTD voted to have two national organizations provide Access-a-Ride services beginning in July. This will affect services Via provides to older adults. Currently Via is addressing this change. Tex will keep the group informed.
- Sharon Day reported that the Funding Subcommittee met earlier in the week and made recommendations for funding allocations for the remaining FY22-23 budget. She requested a special session of the ACA to approve funding recommendations so the DRCOG Board can approve at their next meeting.
- Due to the Memorial holiday and several members being out of town, Chair Erickson suggested cancelling the May 26th meeting. Barbara Boyer made a motion to cancel, and Dawn Perez seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Next meeting – **May 26, 2023, meeting cancelled in lieu of a special session to be scheduled in early May.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.