

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Anne Gross	At Large Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	At Large Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large Denver
Bob Davis	City and County of Broomfield
Cathy Noon	At Large Arapahoe County
Connie Ward	At Large Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large Arapahoe County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Larry Strock	DRCOG Board
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver
Phil Cernanec	At Large Arapahoe County
Sharon Perea	Gilpin County

Guests Present

Alejandra Garza, Congresswoman DeGette's Office, Paulette St. James, Colorado Commission on Aging, Kristine Burrows, Director of Older Adult Services at Easterseals, Valerie Robson, Douglas County,

Others Present

Adriana Francis, Intake Case Manager, AJ Diamontopoulos, AHC Program Manager, Amy Pulley ADRC Program Manager, Ashly Johnson, Community Options Program Manager, Caitlin Phillips, Ombudsman, Douglas Rex, Executive Director, Heather Kamper, Veterans and Transitions Program Manager, Ines Rosas, VDC Lead Case Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Lauren Bell, SHIP - Aging Services Counselor, Lisa Houde, Public Engagement Specialist, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst, Ryan McGee, Transitions Counselor, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Program Manager, Sharon Day, Program Manager, AAA Business Operations, Steve Erickson, CAM Division Director

Phil Cernanec, Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no Public Comment

Report of the Chair

- Phil spoke with Senator Gardner on April 6th regarding nonprofits, for profits, senior services and care facilities and will be discussing these topics with Jayla Sanchez-Warren.
- He is looking forward to a draft revision of the ACA bylaws.

Report of the AAA Director

- Jayla presented an overview of the first weeks of the COVID 19 outbreak as it related to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the response by the AAA. Details are described in her presentation (Attachment B), the following is a brief overview.
 - Week of March 16th
 - Staff began mandatory teleworking
 - Information and support begins, there are calls with, Administration on Aging, State Unit on Aging (SUA)
 - CDPHE gives directive no gatherings of more than 10
 - Tri-County and CDPHE ask AAA to identify all senior housing, emergency response and needs resources for older adults
 - Contractors have fiscal concerns, dining sites close, home visits stop, rides for only most in need, begin working with counties and providers
 - State relaxes requirements on background checks for volunteers and for assessments in nutrition and case management
 - Week of March 23rd
 - Effects of service cuts begin to affect providers
 - Coordinated efforts begin with providers, SUA, the Governor's office and Administration for Community Living (ACL)
 - Begin to prioritize needs
 - Switch to delivery of food, begin reassurance calls
 - Hold harmless clause has been removed from the Older Americans Act, the President signs Act and he declares Colorado a state of emergency
 - Week of March 30th
 - Begin to see Long Term Facilities with COVID 19 cases
 - SUA options letters go out for \$1.5M for nutrition
 - Week of April 6th
 - 17 facilities have virus, 32 residents have died
 - Hear of more federal funding an additional \$5.5M will be received to be used over the next 18 months
 - April 1st, SRC tells DRCOG they will no longer be providing transportation services to the DRCOG region starting July 1, 2020.
 - April 4th DRCOG puts together a team of Transportation, Finance and AAA staff to discuss options and critical needs.

There is uncertainty how providers will survive and what operations will look like once COVID is over.

There was discussion regarding the future of transportation if SRC no longer provides transportation. Karie Erickson and Val Robison volunteered to participate in future group discussions on solutions.

Move to approve consent agenda

Phil asked for approval of the consent agenda. A motion and second were assumed and passed unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

Summary of the February 21, 2020 meeting

Action Items

Approval of Grant Funding

- Sharon presented information to the group for approval of allotted grant funds for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This will be the proposed funding for the 2nd year of the provider contracts.
 - The Funding Subcommittee reviewed and voted on these allocations in mid-March
 - The allocations were based on what was known before the COVID19 pandemic.
 - Unsure of what state and federal funds will be allotted this year, the current assumption is that the same level of funding will be designated as FY 2019/2020.
 - The proposed contractor allocations will remain at level funding for state fiscal year 2020
 - Colorado Visiting Nurse in home program will not be renewed for next year and Centura Healthset will not be renewed, Centura has closed the Healthset division.
 - Due to the inability of contractors to spend all their allocations there will be approximately \$2M carryover in pass through dollars, the state has waved the carryover cap

Phil asked what the plan was given the changed landscape. Sharon said flexibility was key the current goal is to spend the state funds.

Phil requested for a motion to move forward with a vote for approval – Larry Strock motioned and Barbra Boyer 2nd the motion

A rollcall vote was taken and allocations were unanimously approved and will move forward to the DRCOG Board.

Informational Briefings

COVID 19 DRCOG Funding

- DRCOG received the first of 2 allocations of COVID relief funding for \$1.6M
- Wholly earmarked for Title III Part C1 & C2 senior nutrition congregate and home meal delivery.
- The second allocation which is pending House approval will be approximately \$5M. This will be able to be spent over 18 months and will provide much more flexibility with spending.

There was discussion on the spending of funds:

- Jayla is working on Market Meals for rural areas, looking into foodbanks and material aid.
- She is also working with Nourish (formerly TLC Meals) to see if they can work on a program.
- Cathy Noon stated that Nourish is expanding services and clients served through various funding sources.
- Sharon expressed the need to get the money out quickly.

- Bob Brocker asked: Could we work out something with King Soopers (or others) to provide prepared meals for meals on wheels? Jayla said other parts of the state are working on that now, she is working with some of the stores in Bennett and will talk with them. She also said that the state has provided guidelines regarding what needs to be included in a meal. If this works will look at other underserved areas. Rose Foundation is sending \$75K to get meals out to seniors.
- The committee was asked if they were flexible on working quickly to get money where it is needed, there was no objection.
- DRCOG will keep the committee and counties informed of funds and areas where funding is needed in their counties.

County Reports

DRCOG – Rich Mauro

- A ruling from the State Supreme Court has been received on their interrogatory regarding the rule for the session to be 120 days long. Given the current circumstances the days do not need to be consecutive days. Must pass budget before June 30th.
- Due to the reduction in funds several bills will not get funding and it is not sure with federal funding being provided now, how that may offset losses.
- Homestead funds may be set aside or taken off the table due to COVID crisis to balance the budget.

Denver and Colorado Senior Lobby – Bob Brocker

- Bob had nothing to add to what Rich said regarding General Assembly issues. Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) will be prepared to do whatever they can when they return to work. Most likely will not be very much under the circumstances. Next year is not likely to be very good for new programs.
- We fully expect that the Homestead Exemption will be zeroed out for the next two years.
- CSL has postponed their May event until September 25th.

Douglas County – Karie Erickson

- Douglas County has several taskforces, trying to serve the needs.
- Changing things up by delivering food rather than taking clients to the store.
- Senior centers are providing meals to people.
- Still running critical dialysis transportation for those who are in need.
- Had scare at Parker Kidney with a couple positive virus cases working with Tri-County Health to establish protocols.

Arapahoe County – Cathy Noon

- Cathy's was excited, her mother successfully used the DRCOG voucher program and received a ride she sent kudos to AAA staff.

Adams County – Dawn Perez

- Adams County Senior conference had to be postponed to September 29th.
- They had to shut down the senior tax program and are hoping to be able to reopen for a short time before the July filing date.

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins

- Cancelled their March meeting due to COVID, plan on having their first Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 10th.
- They are hoping they do not have to cancel the Heroes event they do with SRC which is tentatively scheduled for September 10th.
- Still want to do their legislative event which is done every other year.

Denver Office on Aging – Perla Gheiler

- Special shout out to Shannon Gimbel on assisting her with a facility issue.
- Working with Denver Mayor's emergency taskforce.
- Working closely with the Denver Environmental Health taking recycled bags to Denver food pantries.
- Received funds from CIGNA to donate to Bandadosa for food delivery. Have given 10,00 bags and 7,000 meals.
- Working with religious organizations to get meals to undocumented older adults.

Gilpin County – Sharon Perea

- No influx on their Meals on Wheels program.
- Started a Mountain Mask project, residents have cut, sewn and delivered 1,000 masks to local businesses. Getting requests daily and are so far keeping up.

Jayla told Sharon she was working with VOA to get meals dropped at the congregate meal site and will be talking to Mary Ellen Makowsky to get set up.

Lochbuie and DRCOG Board – Larry Strock

- Can really feel the pain within the community, he is working on Next Door to give a positive thought for the day.
- Their senior center has been closed and there is not another plan. Wants to be sure seniors are getting taken care of.

Next meeting – **May 15, 2020**

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.