

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Bob Brocker	At Large – Denver
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Jim Dale	Jefferson 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
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Tom Mahowald	DRCOG Board – Nederland

Guests Present

Allison Cutting, Douglas County

DRCOG Staff Present

Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Sharon Day, Manager AAA Business Operations

Karie Erickson Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Action Items

Discussion of additional funding allocations for AAA contractors for the 2022- 2023 state fiscal year – Sharon Day

- Sharon informed the committee that at the end of the fiscal year some contractors are unable to use all their funding and give money back to DRCOG. DRCOG sent out a request on April 13th to current contractors for them to request additional funds. DRCOG received requests for approximately \$1M, with the availability of only \$686,000 to reallocate.
- The Funding Subcommittee met on April 25th to review the requests and make some challenging decisions on how to allocate funds.
- Those requesting additional funds were evaluated on the types of services provided, if they had wait lists, and could serve a large number of people with the additional funding. Some contractors kept their funds but allocated them to other existing contracted programs.

- There was discussion and comments from the Funding Subcommittee explaining what led to the final allocation decisions.
 - Cathy Noon commented that funding was reallocated to the category it was returned from. An example was chore services funds were allocated to other contractors requesting funds for chore services. Cathy also stated that allocated funds went to providers who would not have enough money to get to the end of the year to meet their contracted numbers.
 - Cary Johnson said the committee looked at more hands-on direct services.
 - Sharon mentioned that this was the second request and some providers who had received money previously did not receive funds for this request.

Cathy Noon motioned to recommend that the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee approve allocating additional federal and state funds to AAA contractors totaling approximately \$686,000 for the state fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023. Cary Johnson seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved with Bob Brocker, Chris Lynn, Karie Erickson, Perla Gheiler and Tex Elam abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Discussion of contract renewal with Nymb Science for the state fiscal year 2023-2024 – Sharon Day

- Nymb Science is a for profit mobile fall prevention program. DRCOG entered into a pilot program with Nymb in February of 2021 with the initial goal of reaching 5,000 people, currently they have 21,000 participants.
- Nymb Science conducted surveys to ensure that people using the application are happy with this type of program.
- DRCOG would like to be able to continue the program for another year with slightly less funding. Approval of the contract would allow Nymb to reach another 9,400 people. The contract amount was for \$662,300, and they would be adding the format in Spanish.
- Jayla said that DRCOG is now the largest fall prevention program in the nation.

Phil Cernanec motioned to recommend that the Board Finance and Budget Committee extend the contract with Nymb Science for their mobile fall prevention program in the amount not to exceed \$662,300 for the state fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024. Tex Elam seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved.

Discussion of approval to allocate funds to contractors for the AAA Choice Services program in state fiscal year 2023-2024 – Sharon Day

- This item was to approve the Choice Services providers for the next fiscal year. There are six in-home service providers, and three transportation providers. Contracts are renewed annually.
- All contractors have been vetted by DRCOG to make sure they are licensed, have the required insurance, a good service history, a good review of their program management and have a site visit.
- This is an internal DRCOG program where staff complete the intake and assessment for clients and make referrals to the fee for service providers. There is a budget based on available funds to issue vouchers. Unspent funds are returned back into the funding pool each month, and new vouchers are issued to clients.

- AAA Choice Services Program funding for transportation will be \$1,000,000. With \$784,000 going to in-home care services.
- Phil Cernanec asked Sharon to elaborate more on how the pool of funds rolls over into the next month and what happens when all the funds are used for that month. Sharon said clients get up to six months of service which commits the funds for six months at a time, but clients can only redeem monthly. The voucher is uncommitted and de-obligated, when a client passes away or moves elsewhere no longer needing the service, or if the service was only needed temporarily then the funds go back into the pool, and somebody is taken from the wait list according to who has the most need.
- Chair Erickson asked about fairness between a contracted service provider and the DRCOG voucher contractors. Sharon replied that the program was developed out of a need to fill the gap in service to clients due to the decline in contracted service providers that were unable to meet the need. In addition, Colorado Visiting Nurse Association decided not to continue their in-home program leaving hundreds of people without needed services. Regarding transportation services, Sharon said clients were having to book a ride several weeks in advance with the contract providers, but the voucher program contractors can provide clients with on demand service. Also, the per ride cost is less expensive with the voucher program. Jayla stated that another advantage to the voucher program is staff decide what serves the client best and is most cost effective. DRCOG will be providing travel training to assist clients with being more comfortable using less expensive rides.

Phil Cernanec made the motion to recommend that the Board Finance and Budget Committee approve issuing contracts with providers for the AAA Choice Services Programs for the state fiscal year of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Donna Mullins seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved with one abstention by Tex Elam.

Next meeting – June 23, 2023

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.