

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, June 12, 2020**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large Denver
Bob Davis	City and County of Broomfield
Cary Johnson	Jefferson County
Cathy Noon	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
Phil Cernanec	At Large Arapahoe County
Sean Wood	Clear Creek

Guests Present

Frank Bruno, Via Mobility Service, Bill Patterson, Via Mobility Service, Chris Lynn, Seniors' Resource Center, Dan Dias, Audio Information Network, 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, Cindy Grainger, Administrative Assistant, Douglas Rex, Executive Director, Heather Kamper, Veterans and Transitions Program Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Lisa Houde, Public Engagement Specialist, Liv Bergman, Community Resource Specialist, Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst, Ron Papsdorf, Transportation Director, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Program Manager, Sharon Day, Program Manager, AAA Business Operations, Travis Noon, Senior Program Specialist, Zack Gibbons, Senior Fiscal Specialist

Phil Cernanec, Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no Public Comment

Report of the Chair

- Phil mentioned Adrian Miller author and chef wrote a column suggesting conversations we should have regarding race and turmoil.
- Phil is taking seniors on rickshaw rides as part of his group Seniors Without Age he spoke of the joy and freedom seniors had to be able to take ride
- Phil heard from Integrated Services mentioned their services have gone up 16-fold they have become a federal distribution center for food and meals.

- Nourish Meals on Wheels service has increased 4 to 5 times in this time of COVID

Report of the AAA Director

- AHC - Program still going strong with hospital navigation and work groups.
- ADRC- Has been having a lot of calls for, food delivery, housing and people moving out of the state, others moving in to have their elders closer.
- Veterans – The staff went out and did drive by social distancing visits to connect and see how clients were doing.
- SHIP - Busy with people trying to get insurance and services, there is a lot of fraud happening.
- Ombudsman
 - Shannon Gimbel said there were 115 facilities with COVID, most have been resolved
 - Hard to advocate when they can't see people and communicate especially with those who have dementia
 - The work group and CDPHE sent a letter to the Governor asking to ease up on the restrictions in facilities and recommendations for ombudsman to be able to go into facilities, although it is not the Governor's decision for this to happen, ultimately it will be the State Ombudsman.
 - Isolation is not good for their health both mentally and physically.
Phil asked if there was a specific timeframe for going back into the facilities. Shannon said there was not a timeframe but more of looking at what going back will look like and types of PPE needed. There is a worry of transmission from facility to facility.
- Contractors are providing more services they will be going to twice a month for provider calls.
- People are missing the socialization trying to see if there can be congregate meal sites that are held outside
- Another provider is looking at outside Bingo

Karie Erickson mentioned the creative ideas such as delivery of kindness and smile kits.

- Jayla has been on several state and federal calls to discuss PPE, virtual calls on isolation prevent.

Karie asked about virtual wellness and if anyone has started doing this within the area?

- Jayla mentioned that the Weekly Activity Report updates will be going from every week to every 2 weeks since there is a slowdown in activity.

Move to approve consent agenda

Phil asked for approval of the consent agenda. There was a motion from Barbara Boyer and second from Tex Elam consent agenda passed unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included: Summary of the May 15, 2020 meeting

Action Items

Discussion of funding for Via Mobility Service

- Travis Noon reminded the group of SRCs departure from transportation beginning July 1st and provided background on the meetings and participants that assisted in the transitioning of services to Via.
- DRCOG is asking approval to recommend a contract with Via for 6 months beginning July 1, 2020 through December 31st, 2020. Contract amount is 1.2 M. DRCOG will be assisting with the transition through the 6 months.
- The transition costs will include normal operating costs, a 350K one-time transition cost for keeping key SRC staff onboard, rewrapping of vehicles and software. This will keep the service location at SRC, using same staff and vehicles for the next 6 months until Via works on physical transition.
- Frank Bruno introduced Via to the members with a slide presentation.
 - Via has been in business for 41 years.
 - Frank was on the board for 7 years before going to work for Via. And has been CEO for 4 years.
 - Via provides door through door service.
 - Because they are a nonprofit organization profits from their earned income transportation are used to subsidize their para transportation program.
 - They will be looking at software that will optimize their trips to be more efficient and cost saving.

Phil asked Frank to explain the reduction and optimization of the current rides he mentioned and how this will affect the expansion. Frank clarified that the reduction of trips and optimization would be in Boulder County as their interest is in optimization to reduce costs. He explained that Via's Board of Directors is committed to finding revenue streams to address more para transit and are interested in the continued growth of Via.

Cathy Noon worked with them on their Centennial transit project when she was mayor and said she could attest that they were very committed and could think out of the box and were flexible to change.

Dan Dias asked if there was an app for a smartphone. Frank said they are working on one.

Ron Papsdorf thanked Chris Lynn and SRC staff, along with Frank and Bill Patterson and Via staff on their approach and assistance working with DRCOG to make the transition go as smoothly as possible. He commented that there was still a lot of work ahead for long-term service. He also thanked Travis Noon and Matthew Helfant for their work to get all the details worked out and their work with all partners including RTD and CDOT.

A motion to fund Via Mobility Services was made by Cathy Noon and 2nd by Tex Elam.

Motion passed with quorum.

Discussion of proposed contractors for AAA voucher service

- Sharon Day gave an overview of the transportation program providers.
 - HopSkipDrive is still providing rides through COVID and DRCOG would like to continue contracting with them.
 - Currently there are contracts pending with Lyft and Uber as another alternative to HopSkipDrive, Travis is working on contract details.
- Home maker services
 - Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA) is getting out of paraprofessional care program they have approximately 280 clients.
 - Recently contracted with FirstLight for home services and would like to continue contracting with them for the next year.
 - Alpine Homecare serves a large Medicaid population and has agreed to take on CVNAs clients.
 - A recommendation for approval to add both FirstLight Denver and Boulder along with Alpine Homecare to the voucher program is being requested.
- DRCOG is setting aside the Cares Act funds for the increased voucher program 450K for transportation and 400K for in home care.

A motion to approve adding FirstLight Denver and Boulder along with Alpine Homecare to the voucher program was made by Bob Davis and 2nd by Barbra Boyer.

The motion passed with quorum.

Election of ACA Officers

- Jayla asked for nominations for a new Chair, the Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually serving a term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and are allowed to serve for 2 terms if affirmed by the committee.
 - Tex Elam nominated Cathy Noon and was endorsed by Bob Davis.
 - There were no other Chair nominations.

Barbara Boyer motioned to approve Cathy Noon as the next ACA Chair, Phil Cernanec 2nd the motion

Cathy was unanimously approved as the next ACA Chair

- Jayla asked for nominations for Vice Chair.
 - Cathy Noon nominated Karie Erickson, Phil Cernanec 2nd the nomination.
 - There were no other Chair nominations.

Tex Elam motioned to approve Karie Erickson as the next ACA Vice Chair and was 2nd by Barbara Boyer.

- Karie Erickson was unanimously approved as the next ACA Vice Chair.

Informational Briefings

Update on Legislative Budget Approvals

- Long Bill
 - The COVID-19 virus shutdown of the state and the economy in mid-March resulted in a \$3.3 BILLION reduction in available revenue compared to the budget the governor submitted in November 2019.
 - The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) met during the month of May and went through multiple stages of budget balancing
 - State Funding for Senior Services, which funds the Area Agencies on Aging (including DRCOG), was not cut, but the JBC did approve the transfer of \$18 million from the balance in the Older Coloradans Cash Fund into the general fund.
 - JBC did acknowledged the need to identify long term, stable, sustainable funding for the AAAs.
 - There is an opportunity to have future discussions regarding stable funding and grow with the need for AAAs.

Jayla acknowledged the work that Rich has put into organizing the AAAs and lobbying at the capital to preserve as much funding as they could.

There was discussion about making legislators aware of AAA services and how quickly they can readjust services to accommodate the needs such as with the COVID pandemic.
 - JBC was able to balance the budget without doing away with suspending the Senior Property Tax exemption.
- Legislation supported by DRCOG in regard to affordable housing in the area of renters:
 - HB 20-1009 (requiring a court to suppress court eviction records if the eviction is not granted.
 - HB 20-1196 - amendments to the Mobile Home Park Act.
 - HB 20-1201 - providing an opportunity for mobile homeowners to purchase a mobile home park passed.
 - HB 20-1141 - restrictions on fees landlords can charge was postponed indefinitely.
 - SB 20-200 - providing for the creation of a state-facilitated automatic enrollment individual retirement account program for workplaces that do not offer a retirement plan passed both chambers and is expected to be signed by the Governor.

County Reports

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins

- Jefferson County had their second Zoom meeting with 25 people in attendance. Connie Ward commented on how well the meeting went and that they are making headway.
- They are going to continue with their annual Senior Heroes Event doing it virtually Sept 9.

- Discussed transportation during their meeting and are hoping Frank from Via will visit them in the future.
- The AARP Life Long community initiative effort is continuing to make progress.

Arapahoe County – Barbara Boyer

- The Arapahoe County meeting went well as a virtual meeting, there seemed to be more attending then when the meeting is in person.
- They will be doing an education program for their county committee in regard to conducting virtual meetings and the use of equipment.
- The next meeting would be in Byers but will now be held virtually, the hope is that more of the Byers people will be able to attend the virtual meeting.
- Because they are not physically meeting, they are sending checks to the food bank in Byers and collecting food cards for King Soopers.

Douglas County – Valerie Robison

- Douglas County had a very successful virtual town hall meeting with about 4,000 in attendance. They will be doing another one with an expanded length of time.

Phil asked what some of the concerns were during the town hall. Valerie said they asked about what precautions Douglas County had in place for a reopening timeframe, Dr. Douglas from Tri-County answered questions, Karie Erickson provided resources and support. The next town hall will also include someone from family services.

- Their providers continue to work with grocery deliveries, food banks. They have developed a First Friday program which gives updates the first Friday of the month.
- Talking about rolling out virtual access meetings.
- Planning a parking lot Bingo and outdoor movies.

Clear Creek – Sean Wood

- Clear Creek has limited senior housing with no nursing homes and has helped them avoid any major out breaks (16 cases).
- The SRC suspension of their transportation program has affected the community. Sean would like to meet up to discuss creative alternatives like what Centennial has done previously. Their SRC transportation ran between Georgetown and Idaho Springs.

Next meeting – July 17, 2020 (cancelled)

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.