

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, August 25, 2023**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	At Large – Denver
Cathy Noon	Arapahoe County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dave Appel	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
George Teal	DRCOG Board – Douglas County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Jim Dale	Former DRCOG Board – Golden
Houston “Tex” Elam	At Large – Arapahoe County
Phil Cernanec	At Large – Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogl	Clear Creek
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board – Edgewater
Tom Mahowald	DRCOG Board – Nederland
Valerie Robson	At Large – Jefferson County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board – Lone Tree

Guests Present

Allison Cutting, Douglas County

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Ashley Bolton, Ombudsman, Cindy Grainger, ADRC Administrative Assistant, Doug Rex, DRCOG Executive Director, Erika Dubray, Community Resource Manager, Erin O’Neill, Community Resource Specialist, Fonda Buckles, ADRC Manager, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kelsey Vander Veen, Caregiver Program Coach, Kelsie Jurin, Community Resource Specialist, Malorie Miller, Program Manager, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Sherri Welch, Case Manager

Bob Brocker Committee Vice Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

Allison Cutting from Douglas County informed the committee that Douglas County is doing an older adult initiative that was put forth by the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners. Douglas County is completing approximately 12 listening sessions. Allison said they are getting good feedback and finding that older adults are very appreciative of the sessions. Douglas County will also do a residence and provider survey. Their plan is to incorporate this information with their CASOA report.

Report of the Chair – Karie Erickson

Chair Erickson was away, there was no report of the Chair.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- The ACL is updating the regulations to the Older Americans Act (OAA) and are seeking comments. Jayla and AJ Diamontopoulos are working with USAging and CTAC to provide comments on various rules outlined in the OAA.
 - Comments range from nutrition requirements to the definition of at-risk adults.
 - When the OAA was reauthorized, there was also a request for additional funding. The funding request was denied, which adds more of a burden to implement the changes in the new regulations.
- The new federal lobbying firm has done a good job keeping DRCOG up to date on legislation at the federal level they are following these bills:
 - When the legislature comes back into session the hope is they will pass the Reauthorization and Modernization of the Elder Justice Act. If passed it will provide additional funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, and funding to area agencies on aging to reduce social isolation.
- Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a) sent a letter to the Governor asking for a \$5 million increase to funding for all the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Colorado. Additionally, they requested there be a formula that would increase the amount to correspond to inflation and population growth.
- Rich Mauro and the state lobbyists are meeting with Joint Budget Committee (JBC) members to discuss the funding. Jayla will be participating in some of these meetings.
- Jayla and Rich along with other DRCOG staff are strategizing on a public awareness campaign to inform people about the funding shortage and the importance of community-based services.
 - Jayla is trying to enlist community partners, DRCOG contractors and others to advocate and educate in anticipation of the loss of approximately one third of the AAA budget in 2025.
 - She is in the process of engaging clients and caregivers, gathering client stories, and client videos from those who want to talk about how important the services are for them.
 - Jayla and AJ are working with Zack Feldman of DRCOG's Regional Planning and Development division to collect data on trends and demographics to show legislators and other partners.
 - Sharon Day's team is developing scenarios of what it might look like in 2025. These scenarios will be shared with the ACA at a later date.
 - Jayla is also working with the other AAA's in Colorado to help coordinate a consistent message regarding funding and Sharon Day did a training for the AAA's on how to project forward to give the budget scenarios needed.
 - Jayla will attend the Volunteers of America legislative breakfast and Seniors Resource Center's legislative barbeque, No CoPay Radio, and other media to promote the message.

- The c4a asked the State Unit on Aging (SUA) to support the AAA's funding efforts with the Governor and legislators. SUA declined support in a letter stating they could not support the efforts because the AAA's have carryover funds.
 - Typically, the state does not allow any carryover funds, but 10 percent of federal funds can be carried over. DRCOG has budgeted all carryover through 2025
 - Due to COVID, AAA's received a large amount of funding in 2021 and 2022. During those years, the state eliminated their carryover requirements and allowed DRCOG to carryover funds. The State then directed them to spend COVID money first, State dollars second, and finally Federal dollars. Because Sharon had the insight to manage carryover during that time, DRCOG was able to extend services longer knowing that the regulations would go back to the old carryover requirements. Those funds will be spent by the end of 2024 causing the fiscal cliff.
 - Since DRCOG is 48 percent of the AAA funding for the state this also affects the other AAA's in the state. Jayla and Rich will be addressing the state's concerns.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: June 23, 2023, meeting summaries.

Tex Elam 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

Briefing on New Accessibility Requirements and the Effects on the AAA – Ashley Summers

Ashley Summers the Director of Strategic Implementation at DRCOG presented information about the Colorado Accessibility law, and how that will affect DRCOG and the AAA.

- HB21-1110: Colorado Laws for Persons with Disabilities can be found at the link below <https://oit.colorado.gov/hb21-1110-faq>. This law is more stringent than previous rules and exposes state and local government to penalties for non-compliance. As quoted by the Governor's Office of Information Technology Operations (OIT) memorandum on accessibility "Every person who contributes content to a website or application; develops or manages IT products and services; and every government entity employee who creates and shares emails, documents or presentations is responsible for making it accessible to everyone."
- SB23-244: The link to the Technology Accessibility Cleanup Act can be found at https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2023a_244_signed.pdf. This bill reduces penalties to remove "per person, per incident" language, but does not reduce the scope of HB21-1110.
- Rulemaking for this new law will be done in the Fall/Winter of 2023 and DRCOG will be actively involved in the process to see if they can get clarification, and further clean up or refinement through the process.
- Deadline for compliance is July 1, 2024. DRCOG is working on how they can pursue compliance and mitigate any unintended consequences or negative effects.

- The law permits any individual to bring a civil action against noncompliant government entities. Government entities found to have engaged in discrimination could be subject to:
 - A court order requiring compliance.
 - Monetary damages.
 - Attorney’s fees.
 - A statutory fine of \$3,500 per violation

Ashley’s presentation is attached for further reading on how this will affect DRCOG and the AAA, it provides some examples of what will be looked at for compliance and DRCOG’s approach to achieving compliance.

Board Report – Steve Conklin and Wynne Shaw

Steve Conklin

- DRCOG Board Chair, Steve Conklin, said the DRCOG Finance and Budget Committee gave approval for Doug Rex to negotiate a contract with a consultant for the regional housing strategy.
 - DRCOG is helping to produce a regional strategy and assess what is available to prepare for the next legislative session.
- DRCOG Board approved the FY 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The document governs where spending of transportation dollars will go. There were also updates on the Front Range passenger rail district and the transportation program distribution formula.

County Reports

Douglas County – Gretchen Lopez

- Gretchen thanked Jayla for letting her speak on No CoPay radio to advertise their Vintage and Vibrant event. The event will be on September 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins

- Donna announced the retirement of Cary Johnson. Dave Appel will replace Cary on the ACA committee and Donna will now be the representative from Jefferson County for the Funding Subcommittee.

Other Matters by Members

- Wynne Shaw informed the committee that Sky Ridge Medical Center celebrated their 20th anniversary. They were the first hospital in Douglas County and there are 56,000 people who have been born at the hospital.

Next meeting – In person September 22, 2023, Koelbel Library, 5955 S Holly St, Centennial, CO 80121.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.