



Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.



AAC members = 20
Quorum = 11

To deliver, fund, and advocate for services that promote well-being, independence, and dignity for older adults, people living with disabilities, family and informal caregivers, and veterans in Boulder County.

BOULDER COUNTY AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

MINUTES: April 7, 2023

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and
Lyons Regional Library (451 4th Ave, Lyons)

Present: Dena Boutwell (Co-chair), Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Susan Gusendheit, Barbara Schwendler, Michele Cohen, Lisa Bondi, Cindy Brekke, Pamela Christensen, Reed Cobb, Harriet Edelstein, Charles Erdrich, Amelia Groves, Rose Marie Miller, Jeanine Tarrant, Ellen Taxman, Carren Williams, Sara Beery, Erin Watson, Christina O’Toole

Excused: Bill Walters, Emelita Gagne, Pamela Christensen

Staff: Carol Cross, Christine Vogel, Kate LeMere

Guests: Maria Merino Ortega and Tanya Jimenez (for item 8) and Claire Levy (County Commissioner)

1. Welcome and Comments from Co-Chairs – Dena Boutwell

Dena opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and highlighted the recent circulation of the newsletter, the issue of home improvements and community transport becoming more prominent.

Dena had recently attended a national three-day event at Capitol Hill, (DC) to discuss funding of community transport, which had highlighted the restrictions for providing transport services within rural areas. The event was successful and had included meetings with legislators, and there were a number of leads to follow-up with CDOT.

Members held a brief discussion on the role and impact of funding changes and regulatory restrictions for transport and housing. The devastating impact of recent contractual changes and reduction in funding for a local non-profit transport service was highlighted.

2. Public Comments and Correspondence

No public comments or issues of correspondence were raised.

3. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were proposed to the agenda.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The motion (proposed by Arlene and seconded by Rose) to agree the minutes of the previous meetings (held on February 3 and March 3, 2023) as correct records was approved.

5. Area Plan Review

Christine and Carol provided updates on the Area Plan for 2024-27. Arising from both presentations, and a general question/answer session, the following key points were noted:

- The Area Plan was updated every four years supported by public input, the CASOA, and considered shifting demographic trends.
- The Area Plan also included how services had responded to the pandemic and incorporated plans for advancing equity and inclusion for older adults and caregivers.
- Additional priorities (such as disaster preparedness and tech innovation) were also identified in the Area Plan alongside how existing services were improving and expanding to meet the increasing complexities of needs and demands of an aging population.
- The Area Plan highlighted the need for stipulating Direct Services Waivers to ensure BCAA continued to provide voucher services, community living team activities, Medicare Counselling, and nutrition and LGBTQ+ programs.
- Members discussed the funding streams, the various activities, and roles of groups supporting and underpinning the above services such as the 'Grab & Go' scheme, and funding staff to manage LGBTQ+ activities, the Age Well strategy and 'Help the Aged' program.

6. Technical Review Committee (TRC) Updates

Carol and Christine provided an update on TRC activities and how last year's influx of Federal stimulus funding had provided BCAA with nearly half of their funding; however, this funding was closing down in September.

Christine outlined the current mix of funding and related restrictions, and how the BCAA and AAC would need to balance commitments with future priorities. Arising from the updates and questions from members, the following key points were noted:

- Funding was readjusting back to pre-pandemic levels and there was the challenge of meeting new demands and needs.
- TRC meetings over the summer would oversee a number of Requests for Proposals (RFP), starting with nutrition. The final meeting would consider funding allocations which would be a challenge in light of significant funding reductions. The TRC's final recommendations would be forwarded to County Commissioners to determine final outcomes.
- A wide range of RFPs were scheduled for the year ahead, and the proposed criteria, description, and individual priorities for future RFPs across all services were outlined.
- Discussions were on-going with a number of existing and new providers in the areas of nutrition, transportation, case management, and housing.

A fifteen-minute refreshment break was taken at this point

7. Housing – Willoughby Corner Overview and Boulder County Housing Authority

Members welcomed Maria Merino Ortega (BCHA) and Tanya Jimenez (Willoughby Corner) who introduced themselves and outlined how the Willoughby Corner housing project development in East Lafayette was progressing. Members particularly noted the following key points presented by Tanya:

- Land and water rights had been obtained to allow the development of 400 units of affordable housing in East Lafayette.
- The housing units would be built over three phases including a mixture of multi-family, rental township, and community buildings. The development would consist of common area spaces and amenities covering 55 buildings including spaces for parks, playgrounds, gardens and orchards. The whole project would be net zero and all electric with insulation, solar panels, EV chargers, and geothermal heating.
- The project relied on a mix of funding, utilizing tax credits, grants, and energy credits to provide rental housing at below market levels to low-income households.
- The new buildings would meet all relevant accessibility requirements to accommodate people with mobility challenges.
- Construction for Phase 1 begins from June 2023 and should be completed by June 2024. Phase 3 construction should be completed by the end of 2027. Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA) would be responsible for overseeing the new properties.

Maria outlined BCHA services and the current housing portfolio for seniors around the county, and members raised questions relating to: waiting lists (average times for waiting for properties were 3-5 years), rental subsidies and rental ranges, how unit vacancies were publicized, and how many properties were made available via section 8.

Members thanked both presenters and raised questions relating to the location of the building site, accessibility issues (particularly relating to bathroom and showers), parking reductions for seniors aged over 55 years, the pets' policy (as pets were allowed), and the leasing arrangements being conducted via BCHA. The criteria for seniors applying for the units and rental rates would be forwarded by Maria to Council members.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, May 5, 2023, at 9 a.m. – Louisville Senior Center

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.