



Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.



AAC members = 21
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 AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

MINUTES: Aug. 5, 2022

Virtual Meeting

AAC Members Present: Sara Beery, Dena Boutwell (Co-chair), Cindy Brekke, Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Lisa Bondi, Reed Cobb, Harriet Edelstein, Charles Erdrich, Amelia Groves, Emelita Gagne, Jeanine Tarrant, Ellen Taxman, Erin Watson, Carren Williams

Excused: Pamela Christensen, Jeff Foster, Rose Marie Miller, Diana Mapes, Christine O’Toole, Erin Watson, Hope Yasbin Engel

Staff Present: Lindsay Neville and Christine Vogel

Guests: Marta Loachamin (Boulder County Commissioner), Brett Landis (Managing Attorney of Colorado Legal Services) and Mike Anderson (Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Legal Services)

Item 6 was considered after item 7

1. Welcome and Comments from the Co-Chair – Dena Boutwell:

Dena welcomed everyone and highlighted how she was looking forward to the next in-person meeting to consider issues relating to the Master Plan.

2. Public Comments and Correspondence

No public comments or issues of correspondence were raised.

3. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were proposed.

4. Approve June Minutes:

The motion (proposed by Carren and seconded by Lisa) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held in June 2022 as a correct record was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion with Boulder County Commissioner

Marta Loachamin (the Boulder County Commissioner) was welcomed to the meeting and Dena outlined the Council’s current activities and priorities. Arising from a general discussion, the following key points were noted:

- The AAC had identified four key priorities relating to affordable housing & living, aging in place, transportation, and social isolation.
- Marta highlighted how on-going developments overlapped with AAC’s key priorities and provided updates on recent proposals to: establish disaster recovery units to support family care units; utilize ARPA funding to

promote housing/allocations for affordable homes and behavioral/mental health initiatives; and ballot for increasing the sales tax to promote transport mobility programs. Two other ballots had passed recently concerning the funding of emergency responses and wild farm irrigation.

Marta was thanked for her update.

6. Legal Panel – BCAA Funded Providers

Brett Landis (Managing Attorney of Colorado Legal Services – Boulder Office) and Mike Anderson (Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Legal Services) introduced themselves and highlighted how BCAA grant funding was utilized to support senior citizens managing legal issues and accessing services. Arising from a general discussion, the meeting particularly noted that:

- Issues relating to consumer protection/debts, bankruptcies, housing, powers of attorney, living wills, and transferring/protecting assets of adults as they aged were high in demand. Both providers could be used to approach specialist lawyers who would help establish special needs trusts to help people protect assets and access Medicaid services.
- Both providers had moved to new office locations (CLS in Boulder/RMLS in Lafayette), were taking on more staff, and received funding from a number of different sources. The BCAA grant was being used to provide flat fees or free services for people over 60 years of age and on low income.
- Much groundwork had been laid during the pandemic to prevent an evictions crisis, and legal guidance was available for people on fixed incomes facing eviction and consumer debt. *Bridge to Justice* was also available to provide detailed legal support.
- A recent local case involving elderly person abuse and issues relating to mandatory reporting were discussed. A renewed push to promote mandatory reporting should be pursued generally, and it was highlighted that mandatory reporting was being incorporated into the latest legal guidance, particularly relating to family financial abuse.
- A recent focus was on immigration issues and providing an enhanced legal service to Spanish speaking people.
- Legal information and education for both providers were key drivers, and proper legal planning and “preventive law” were highlighted as major issues to promote to the aging community. ‘Ask your lawyer’ and other free legal education sessions were taking place around the county. A detailed website, AI guided tool (the debt box), and Legal Handbooks were also available via Colorado Legal Services.
- A member’s suggestion to produce a “top ten legal issues” leaflet for older people would be pursued by Rocky Mountain Legal Services.

Brett and Mike were thanked for their presentations and updates.

7. BCAA Strategic Planning and Area Plan Updates

Lindsay and Christine provided verbal updates on the latest BCAA funding and strategic developments, and members particularly noted that:

- Intermountain Healthcare was running a community benefit program to provide \$512k to support nine different partners, including \$15k for BCAA’s Healthy Aging team to deliver some new master class initiatives in 2023.
- The \$15k relating to the Fraser Endowment grant had been received and was being used by the Community Living team to gauge local needs and deliver additional resources and possibly connect with other services.
- BCAA’s strategic planning process was currently holding community conversations with the local Veterans’ Service Office and relevant providers/partners to produce a story-telling report to help shape future priorities and address challenges such as homelessness and other long-term care/aging support issues.

Issues relating to Meals-on-Wheels would be raised at the next community conversation.

- The BCAA's strategic and area planning processes would holistically evaluate services delivered to the community (and address service gaps) for the next four years. Around forty community conversations were being scheduled and promoted to the public (and would include discussions with LGBTQ+, Spanish and mountain communities and long-term care owners, residents, and staff). The whole process would be underpinned by the results of the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA). The BCAA data report should become available for consideration in October 2022.
- The AAA's "Aging Well in BC" newsletter was currently reaching an audience of 4,500 subscribers.

Charles highlighted the activities of BC's EA and their on-going work with gun safety programs; an event was being scheduled on Veterans' Day to promote gun safety.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.