



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: Dec. 2, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and Lyons Regional Library)

Present: Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Dena Boutwell (Co-Chair), Sara Beery, Lisa Bondi, Cindy Brekke, Reed Cobb, Harriet Edelstein, Charles Erdrich, Jeff Foster, Amelia Groves, Rose Marie Miller, Emelita Gagne, Diana Mapes, Christina O’Toole, Jeanine Tarrant, Ellen Taxman, Erin Watson, Carren Williams, Hope Yasbin Engel

Excused: Pamela Christensen

Staff: Carol Cross, Lindsay Neville, Christine Vogel, Michael Chifalo, Corrin Godar

Guests: Mark Ruzzin, Angel Bond

1. Welcome and Comments from the Co-Chair – Arlene Zortman

Arlene (Co-Chair) welcomed everyone and highlighted issues relating to the successful operation of the recent grocery shopping initiative (particularly around Longmont) and confirmed that the City Council had provided sufficient funding for the initiative to run for 2023.

2. Public Comments and Correspondence

No public comments were received, notwithstanding questions concerning the grocery shopping program and the new shuttlebus around Longmont.

3. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were proposed to the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (held on Oct. 7, 2022) as a correct record was **approved**.

5. Resources for Older Adults in Lyons

Lindsay provided an update on local developments and an overview of the local Red Stone Café (funded by the BCAA) who provided free and/or subsidized meals and events for older adults and caregivers.

6. Mountain Resources for Older Adults - Update

Corrin outlined how their roles worked with Cultivate/Capable to help connect older adults and caregivers with relevant local services and funding assistance. Arising from the presentations and a general discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Local resources were available for older adults to access emergency support and services (such as snow shoveling) in the Mountain area within Boulder County limits. 162 clients had been helped in the previous year and an information leaflet would be circulated to members after the meeting.
- The \$500 cap limit of support had been removed to help the service focus on individual needs.
- Carol outlined how BCAA operated/funded and how it worked through the Older Americans Act and with local organizations to support elderly people aging at home and in the local area.
- Carol would provide additional figures concerning client usage around Jamestown.

A ten-minute break was taken at this point

Towards the end of the meeting, Lindsay provided a more detailed update on resourcing issues, particularly highlighting the specific challenges and barriers facing mountain residents in terms of transportation, housing affordability, and social isolation which required renewed attention in the year ahead.

7. State Legislative Update

Mark Ruzzin (BOCC Policy Analyst) provided an update on the latest State legislative developments, and the following key points were noted:

- The State had a robust legislative program for 2023 which was underpinned by a collaborative partnership with counties to ensure that key stakeholders were engaged with legislation and funding decisions.
- The fiscal outlook for the State was tight and there was an on-going need to balance the budget in the aftermath of ARPA funding. Priorities to expand funding would focus on the operation of local public health agencies and address workforce challenges.
- The Democrats had secured a commanding majority in the House and Senate, and impending legislation for the year ahead included a focus on the following priorities: housing (rent relief and controls (particularly for mobile homes) and implementing Proposition 23 to fund affordable housing); racial equality; transportation (particularly expanding new clean air programs); air quality (to combat ozone depletion); health transformations and program developments (to promote access to health services); and veteran services.
- It was not anticipated that any new legislative proposals would emanate from the Governor's Office, although the Governor may progress a 'fees release package' which may reduce revenue flows into general funding and could exacerbate issues concerning future unfunded initiatives.
- The proposed legislative and funding changes concerning health issues required further deliberation at a future meeting. Christine provided a verbal update on how the AAA had been engaging with the proposed changes to widen access to behavioral health services.

Members held a general discussion and considered issues relating to:

- The lack of local affordable housing and the urgent need to meet the requirements of an aging population and youth. The three housing authorities in the locality were working to address the challenges. The County's previous land use decisions may require reviewing to help address the new challenges.
- New initiatives to combat homelessness and promote crime prevention. It was noted that Community Justice Services would be invited to a future meeting.

8. Updates from Boulder County's Mobility and Access Coalition

Angel Bond was welcomed via Zoom, and Angel outlined how the Mountain Mobility group provided paratransit services to individuals who, because of their disability, were unable to use mountain fixed-route bus services.

Members held a general discussion regarding the new service, and the following key points were noted:

- A new service had been launched and a new coordinator position was in place to support the volunteer

driver program and promote the mountain ride service around the Nederland area with taxi (voucher) links to Lyons. Advanced booking was required to book the van.

- Trips to support senior luncheons in the mountain valley region were being promoted through local Alliance partnerships, community partners, and *The Mountain-Eat* newsletter.

9. CLAS Committee and Intersectionality

Lindsay referred to BCAA's role and background to the impending discussion before welcoming Michael Chifalo (LGBTQ+ Program Specialist) who introduced the purpose and goals of the CLAS Committee which were to provide information and support to a diverse range of local communities.

Michael introduced an 'intersectionality' video to help consider how the interconnected and fluid nature of social categorizations (such as race, class, religion, age, sexual orientation, and gender) applied to individuals or groups which created overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

It was highlighted that through an awareness of intersectionality, we could better acknowledge and ground differences and help understand ourselves better. Members held a general discussion regarding the intersectionality concept and how it could help to address discrimination challenges, promote the need for forgiveness and understanding, and better appreciate matters involving personal empathy & identity, and equity & justice issues.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11.40 a.m.