



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: February 3, 2023

Hybrid: Zoom and Boulder County Public Health (3482 Broadway, Boulder)

**Present:** Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Dena Boutwell (Co-chair), Sara Beery, Lisa Bondi, Cindy Brekke, Pamela Christensen, 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

**Excused:** Hope Yasbin Engel, Carren Williams

**Staff:** Carol Cross, Lindsay Neville, Christine Vogel, Erica Corson

**Guest:** NA

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

Arlene (Co-Chair) welcomed everyone, referred to the forthcoming meeting of the legislature (and if rent controls would be seriously considered), and highlighted future fun events (including memorable past events) taking place in February.

### **2. Public Comments and Correspondence**

No public comments were raised.

### **3. Additions to the Agenda**

No additions were proposed to the agenda although a member raised the issue (considered at the previous meeting) concerning the loss of Medicare beds. It was noted that an update on this matter (from the LTC Ombudsman) would be considered later, and Carol highlighted that advocacy campaigns were on-going to raise the issue and consider the implications.

A verbal update on recruitment matters was outlined and members noted who would be joining the Council at the next meeting.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The motion (proposed by Ellen and seconded by Jeff) to accept the minutes of the previous two meetings (held on Dec. 2, 2022, and Jan. 6, 2023) as correct records was **approved**.

### **5. Thank You to Departing Members**

Lindsay highlighted that Hope, Diana, and Jeff were attending their last meeting, and council members gave their thanks.

## **6. Fair Housing Overview**

Amelia (a Senior Services Support Specialist in a Housing Division) provided a Fair Housing Overview, and council members asked a number of questions and held a general discussion, particularly noting that:

- A number of Acts (from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995) underpinned fair housing protections relating to lending, rental, sales, insurance, and zoning, and covered the roles of landlords, property managers, and real estate firms.
- Federally protected classes covered: race, color, religion, national origin, sex/gender, familial status, and disability. It was noted that age had not been included as a category.
- A list of discriminatory housing practices were outlined which included: a refusal to sell or rent, lying about availability, 'steering', 'redlining', 'blockbusting' as well as the use of threats, intimidation, and coercion.
- A number of local organizations were explicitly committed to the Equal Housing Opportunity prohibiting discrimination, and there were a number of local agencies to mediate and support people who were progressing housing complaints and highlighting violations.
- Older people were facing increasing housing challenges which overlapped with the on-going discussions concerning rent controls, the need to access housing voucher programs to cover utility costs, and additional support for people with disabilities and living in mobile homes.

Amelia was thanked for her overview. The outstanding queries concerning additional housing support available for local people would be progressed outside the meeting.

## **7. Technical Review Committee (TRC)**

Carol provided an update on TRC activities, and it was noted that TRC meetings over the summer would oversee Requests for Proposals (RFP), starting with nutrition. The proposed criteria, description, and individual priorities for future RFPs across all services were outlined, and Council members discussed the weightings (to help score RFPs) and training requirements to help improve future service delivery.

New members for the TRC were required and expressions of interest were invited.

## **8. Project Visibility Update**

Erica Corson (Elder Rights Program Manager) provided an update concerning Project Visibility, and council members watched the film trailer produced by the project team to highlight LGBTQ+ issues. The video will be promoted throughout the rest of the year and members were invited to sign up to watch the film.

## **9. Long-Term Care 101 Overview**

Erica provided an update concerning Long-Term Care 101 which covered independent and assisted living and living in nursing homes. An overview of long-term care issues was provided, and members particularly noted the following key points:

- The regulations for assisted living facilities were voluminous and vague and covered an array of issues such as: resident rights, discharge guidance, and procedures for nursing care, although staffing ratios were not covered.
- Location, size, and personal preferences and requirements were the key drivers for identifying the most appropriate assisted living facility. Managing incontinence and having access to an active program of social activity were also key issues for consideration for some people. The average age for a person moving into assisted living was 87.
- Nursing homes were regulated at both state and federal levels and covered staff contact time, discharges, grievance and complaint policies, annual surveys/publishing results, and personal care planning

requirements.

- The costs (including Medicare, Medicaid, long term care insurance and private pay contributions) were outlined. Medicare did not contribute to long term care, only rehabilitation stays and acute short-term cover. Medicaid paid up to 70% of private pay arrangements after personal funding had been exhausted.
- A range of local care costs were highlighted: the monthly median cost for Boulder ranged from \$6k to \$11k for home health care to nursing home provision. A one-page summary of local assisted living and nursing home facilities and beds would be shared with members after the meeting.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program involved three team members who helped to enforce the regulations and handled complaints/grievances mainly involving the quality of care, discharges, housekeeping, food, and choices/rights. Serious incidents (involving abuse and exploitation) must be mandatory reported to the relevant law enforcement authority to investigate.
- The sector was changing, post Covid, in light of recent closures, Medicaid changes, and the expanding roles of the LTC Ombudsman and the County.
- There was a role for local groups to pursue advocacy campaigns, raise awareness, and shape future provision to meet the needs of an expanding aging community.

Erica was thanked for both updates.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, March 3, 2023, at 9 a.m. – St Vrain Community Hub, Longmont

*The meeting adjourned at 12 noon*