



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: Jan. 6, 2023

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and Louisville Senior Center)

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

Excused: Erin Watson, Emelita Gagne

Staff: Carol Cross, Lindsay Neville, Christine Vogel, Kate LeMere, Nina Christensen, Tyler Shankel

Guests: Katie Beasley, Monica Rotner, Desiree Firle

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

Dena (Co-Chair) welcomed everyone and referred to local developments concerning housing and the recent approval of the proposal to extend the sales tax to fund a local initiative.

The Chair was part of a national volunteers’ delegation to visit the White House on March 2, 2023, and discussions would be scheduled to help prepare background information for the event.

2. Public Comments and Correspondence

A local concern was raised regarding the proposed removal of some local Medicaid beds which support long term home care assisted living needs from March 2023. Members held a general discussion concerning the background and potential impact of losing around 35 beds which would be highlighted as part of a local campaign to oppose the reduction. An update on the latest position would be circulated to members for information.

3. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were proposed to the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on December 2, 2022, would be considered for approval at the next meeting.

5. Louisville Senior Services Updates

Katie Beasley (Senior Center Supervisor) provided an update on the latest activities and developments involving Louisville Senior Center, and the following key points were noted:

- The Senior Center had been an emergency site during the Marshall Fire in December 2021 and had hosted a

visit from the US President who observed how the local community had supported each other during the crisis. It was acknowledged that the emergency services had responded and communicated well during the fire.

- Health and mental health programs for seniors had been delivered from Spring 2022 including a weekend of healing.
- The Senior Center had been successful with a Fraser Grant to support a local scholarship program.
- The 'Grab & Go' meals program was being successfully delivered and permanent outdoor furniture was being purchased for Spring.
- Normal operations (post Covid) were resuming with regular events, in-person activities, meal programs, and a new Spring program called 'hope and open house'. The new SUDS database was operating successfully to record center activities.

6. Fair Housing Overview

The overview will occur at the Feb. meeting.

7. Community Justice Services (CJS) Overview

Monica Rotner (Division Manager) provided a presentation of CJS activities, and the following key points were considered by members:

- Boulder County CJS provided humane and constructive community-based interventions, education, alternatives to incarceration, and reparation to the community for criminal behavior.
- The CJS commitment was to assist individuals to live lawfully and constructively in the community whilst ensuring public safety.
- CJS staff, interns, and volunteers provided 20 programs (including family navigator and addiction therapy schemes and mental, physical, and behavioral health support) and pre-trial/post sentence support for up to half of all defendants.
- A 250-bed community correctional facility was being built in the county which should become operational from 2025 and would require CJS working closely with local senior centers and aging support organizations to assist older Americans exiting the criminal justice system and living in the local community.
- The prevalence of opioid and substance addiction amongst CJS clients was considered and the latest figures (plus additional information concerning detention and CJS services) would be circulated after the meeting.

A ten-minute break was taken at this point

8. Technical Review Committee (TRC)

Carol provided a verbal update on TRC activities, and it was noted that a number of meetings were scheduled to manage and review Requests for Proposals (RFP) over the next few months, including the RFP for nutrition.

9. Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) Results - Overview

Lindsay Neville (Aging Policy Advocate and Planner) provided a presentation concerning the 2022 CASOA results, and the following key headlines were highlighted:

- A significant growth of (60+) Older Americans in Boulder was projected over the next 30 years from 70,000 today to 115,000. The average income for 80+ year old Americans would be clarified after the meeting.
- 1,537 local people had responded to the CASOA with 91% reporting that their community was excellent or good to live in.
- Arising from the survey, there was a need to increase and improve:
 - the promotion of aging services information and long-term care options,
 - the availability of quality mental health care,

- the availability of affordable/quality nutritious food,
- the availability of affordable housing and accessing services to support aging at home,
- local transportation systems.

Further data (particularly the issues relating to supporting aging in mobile homes and numbers of renters) and organizational responses to the fully published CASOA results would be considered at future meetings.

10. Racial Equity Toolkit Exercise

Lindsay Neville, Tyler Shankel, and Pamela Christensen introduced the racial equity toolkit, and members participated in workgroup exercises to use four or five toolkit questions as part of a program scenario to allocate vouchers to the wider community.

Arising from the workgroup exercises and a plenary discussion, members considered the practical challenges and issues with distributing vouchers in an equitable fashion.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon