



Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.



AAC members = 22  
Quorum = 12

*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: March 4, 2022  
Virtual Meeting

**AAC Members Present:** Sara Beery, Lisa Bondi, Dena Boutwell, Cindy Brekke, Pamela Christensen, Reed Cobb, Harriet Edelstein, Charles Erdrich, Jeffrey “Jeff” Foster, Emelita Gagne, Amelia Groves, Diana Mapes, Jeanine Tarrant, Ellen Taxman, Carren Williams, Hope Yasbin Engel, Arlene Zortman

**Staff Present:** Carol Cross, Candice Long, Lindsay Neville, Carlene Okiyama, Erica Corson

**Excused:** Karla Garcia-Velez, Rose Miller, Dave Pinkow, Christina O’Toole, Erin Watson

**Guests:** N/A

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

Dena Boutwell discussed how being active and moving is important for your health and that it’s important to get out and move in the ways that are best for you, especially with spring and warmer weather around the corner.

**Public Comments and Correspondence:**

Lindsay populated a poll for all members to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ for Arlene to be the new co-chair with Dena. Everyone unanimously voted ‘yes’, thus making Arlene the new co-chair.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

None.

**Approve January Minutes:**

Dena prompted for a motion to approve the February minutes. Arlene motioned to approve the February minutes; Ellen seconded the motion. The AAC motion passed unanimously.

### **Honoring Judith Brush**

Judith, editor extraordinaire, passed away after the last meeting surrounded by her family and loved ones. Council Members took turns paying their respects and sharing beautiful memories of Judith and all of Judith's advocacy and contributions to AAC, ASF and her community.

Lindsay shared "Death is Nothing at All" by Henry Scott Holland to commemorate Judith.

### **Getting to Know Our New Members -Breakout Exercise**

- Lindsay put council members into breakout rooms to discuss the following questions to get to know new members and each other better:
  - Where in the county do you live?
  - Interest or experience in the aging world
  - Something unique or interesting about you
  - What issues specific to older adults in our community are you most interested in right now?

### **BCAAA and AAC Refresh – Lindsay Neville, Aging Policy Advocate & Planner and Christine Vogel, Division Manager**

- Robert's Rules of Order
- First five Acronyms:
  - Aging Advisory Council = AAC
  - Boulder County Area Agency on Aging = BCAA
  - Technical Review Committee = TRC, Sub-Committee of AAC
  - Older Americans Act = OAA
  - Administration for Community Living = ACL
- Older Americans Act (OAA): Enacted in 1965. Mission is to help older adults maintain maximum independence. Also covers caregiver support, emergency planning and evidence-based programming
- Older Coloradans Act (OCA) aka "Vol.10", State that authorizes and guides use of OAA, Advisory councils mandated as part of OCA
- OAA and Vol.10 fund critical services that keep older adults healthy and independent.
- Aging Advisory Council (AAC): 22 Members – Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Advisory to the commissioners, Ambassadors in BC, Advocate on matters of public policy, funding recommendations and priority determination through TRC
- Area Agency on Aging (AAA): Became part of the OAA in 1973. Respond to the needs of older adults (60+) and their family and informal caregivers in the community they serve through advocacy, funding, direct service, planning, and education.
- Boulder County Area Agency on Aging (BCAAA): Planning and coordination, direct services, ensures services are provided, determine priorities and distribute state and federal funds
  - Subpopulation: LGBTQ+ Older Adults

- Strategic Priority- Equity & Justice:
  - Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)
  - Community Services (CS) Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion (CRI)
  - Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion Committee (CRIAC)
  - Office on Racial Equity
- BCAAA Plan:
  - Due every four years to the CO Dept. of Human Services (CDHS)/ State Unit on Aging (SUA)
  - Outline's the AAA's plan for funding regional series under OAA/State Fund for Senior Services (SFSS)
  - SUA review and approves the Area Plan
  - SUA drafts and submits a State Area Plan which is submitted to ACL
- Four main Teams in BCAAA:
  - Business Results Team:
    - Strategic Planning
    - Advocacy
    - Veteran's benefits Services
  - Community Living Team: "Front door to our services"
    - Assessment and resource connection
    - BCAAA Resource Line: (303) 442-1617
  - Elder Rights Team:
    - Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Help residents link to resources and services
    - LGBTQ+ Programming
    - Respite & Volunteer Program (RCVP)
    - Abuse in Later Life grant
  - Healthy Aging Team:
    - Falls Prevention Week
    - Diabetes Prevention program
    - Diabetes Support and Education Group
    - Nutrition Counseling
    - Programming in Spanish
    - Medicare Counseling
- AAA Elevator Speech: BCAAA advocates for, funds, and delivers services that promote the well-being, independence, and dignity of older adults, people living with disabilities, family and informal caregivers, and veterans.
- AAC Elevator Speech: The AAC consists of 22 Boulder County residents who are volunteers with a diverse set of skills and experiences. We advise and provide support to the Area Agency on Aging in responding to community needs.

**Discussion of Upcoming Meetings (In-Person vs. Virtual)**

- Christine informed the Council that BCPH's Mask Mandate has been lifted.
- Lindsay posted a poll for members to take regarding:
  1. Meeting In-Person or Virtually in April:
    - a) 47% Voted for in-person
    - b) 53% Voted to meet Virtually

2. Preference of meeting for the rest of the year:
  - a) Half In Person, Half Virtual
  - b) Hybrid
  - c) In-Person
  - d) Virtual
- Co-chairs will discuss and inform council members prior to April AAC meeting

### **Discussion of AAC Priorities**

- Council members were put in breakout rooms where they read the following and discussed AAC priorities for the next year:
- Housing and Economic Stability:
  - 1) Advocate for the ability to transfer the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption to a new home when older adults downsize. Downsizing can be prevented by the current tax exemption as well as housing costs.
  - 2) Support more affordable and accessible housing.
  - 3) Promote Aging in Place by advocating for additional Occupational Therapist supported home modification services and by developing positive communication strategies that inform older adults and their families of the availability of resources and services.
- Transportation:
  - 1) Review the comprehensive evaluation of transportation services and determine whether and how to advocate for additional funding for transportation to meet existing needs and extend service boundaries. For example, mountain communities needing additional service.
  - 2) Advocate for a standard reservation process between the providers and modalities as this could help/inform coordination across boundaries.

### **Closing Summary:**

Dena prompted for a motion to adjourn. Jeff motioned to adjourn, Arlene seconded the motion.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.  
Submitted by Candice Long*

Next meeting of AAC:  
Friday, April 1, 2022  
9 a.m. – noon  
Location: Zoom