

# Boulder County Aging Advisory Council August Minutes

Date: Friday, August 1, 2025

Location: Nederland Community Center and Zoom

## Mission

The mission of the AAC is 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.

## Members Present

Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Dena Boutwell (Co-Chair), Stephen Topping, Larry Brassem, Ellen Taxman, Amelia Groves, Cindy Brekke, Bob Magin, Jeanine Tarrant, Emelita Gagne, Randy Trahan, Reed Cobb, Edie Thorne, Michele Cohen, Carol Buxton, Charlie Erdrich

## Members Excused

Harriet Edelstein, Lisa Bondi, Jocelyn Brown

## Staff and Guests Present

Lindsay Neville, Carol Cross, Guio Bravo, Monet Scott, Sam Sturman, Erica Corson

## Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Dena Boutwell

Dena called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

There was one public comment in person. Written public comments are attached to these minutes. All public comments centered around the defunding of nutrition counseling through the BCAA.

There were no additions to the agenda.

## Mountain Updates

Monet Scott, BCAA Resource Specialist, provided an overview of the services she provides in her role with mountain clients, as well as information on how she has expanded her outreach and current services from other providers in the mountains.

Monet went over top requests including transportation, heating/firewood/propane, and food/meals.

Monet reviewed gaps in health care in western Boulder County.

Carol and Lindsay shared information on the definition of rural from the state.

## Updates from Erica Corson, Elder Rights Program Manager

Erica shared updates across her team.

For LGBTQ+ Programs, she gave updates on Project Visibility, Rainbow Elders, and our annual Lavender Gala.

Our Volunteer Visitors Program provides social connection to older people as well as weekly, short respite when there is a caregiver. We are looking into expanding the program into long-term care facilities.

Erica mentioned our annual Volunteer Picnic, taking place on Friday, Sept. 12.

Erica gave an overview of Justice Coalition for Abuse in Later Life (JCALL), which is federally funded. Erica shared information on the transition from Senior Law Day to the Senior Legal Clinic, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20.

Erica shared staffing and volunteer information for our Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Erica shared information about the complexity of shifts needed when facilities drop Medicaid and PACE programs. The group discussed major, impactful changes when facilities change and close. The group discussed the complexity of issues when ownership changes in long-term care are frequent.

### Assessor's Office Overview

Cynthia Braddock, Boulder County Assessor, and Erin Gray, Administrative Deputy, gave an overview of their office and tax remedies for older people. The full presentation was shared with AAC members. We reviewed recent legislation on the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption and how reform has not been signed into law though many bills have been introduced over the years.

### Programmatic and Policy Updates

Lindsay shared an overview of updates including reductions in pass-through funding and those impacts, county budget changes, and reductions in AAA staff.

Lindsay gave information on Medicare and Medicaid changes. Those alerts are now on <https://boco.org/medicare>. Justice in Aging did an analysis of Medicaid and Medicare Provisions Impacting Low-Income Older Adults here -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/142FkjwNpbIs2ZMar7oJ0b6ZXRhbxfN/edit?tab=t.0>.

### Adjourn

The motion for adjournment was proposed by Cindy, seconded by Bob, and approved by the whole.