

Boulder County Aging Advisory Council Jan. Minutes

Date: Friday, January 10, 2025

Location: Lafayette Senior 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), Lisa Bondi, Reed Cobb, Randy Trahan, Cindy Brekke, Jocelyn Brown, Carol Buxton, Amelia Groves, Bill Walters, Charles Erdrich, Lonnie Dooley, Rose Marie Miller, Ellen Taxman, Harriet Edelstein, Bob Magin, Jeanine Tarrant, Stephen Topping, Larry Brassem

Members Excused

Michele Cohen, Emelita Gagne

Staff and Guests Present

Staff: Carol Cross, Christine Vogel, Sam Sturman, Kate LeMere, Lindsay Neville, Mae Street

Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Dena Boutwell

There were no public comments.

There were no additions to the agenda.

November meeting minutes were not available for approval.

Board Recruitment and Senior Center Update

Ongoing board recruitment efforts, including re-applications and new applicants were discussed.

The Chair called for volunteers to co-chair the board recruitment committee, please contact Christine if members are interested in applying to be a co-chair.

Sarah provided an update on the center's remodeling with the goal of becoming ADA compliant. She also mentioned the center's growth, upcoming events, and various programming, including fitness classes and resource classes on scams, fraud, and estate planning.

Federal and State updates – Christine Vogel

The mission and funding sources of the AAA's, including the Older Americans Act and the Older Coloradans Act was reviewed. The meeting was informed that the Older Americans Act remains under a continuing resolution until March and the State Funds for Senior Services is going through the state budgeting process.

The potential impact of the new administration on the Administration for Community Living and the Older Coloradans Act is of concern.

Advocacy efforts, including the upcoming policy aging summit in Washington, DC was outlined.

The serious financial challenges facing the state budget, with potential cuts of \$600 million to \$1 billion was highlighted.

There will be continued advocacy for funding for the Older Coloradans Act.

Christine, Dena and Arlene will be working to plan the AAC capital hill day or plan to share the legislative priorities.

There is an aging caucus hosted by the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging scheduled for Jan 16, 2025, information will be sent after meeting.

Overview of Region 3B Funding Allocations – Carol Cross

The various funding sources for the agency, including the state of Colorado, Boulder County, federal grants, and the aging services Foundation were mentioned.

The agency operates on three different calendars: county, federal, and state fiscal years, which affects revenue and expenditure reporting.

The amount of money available for services has decreased significantly since the pandemic.

The TRC conducts annual evaluations to ensure compliance with state and federal rules, including on-site evaluations.

The scheduling of provider visits is aiming to start in February and complete by June. And the TRC will send out a schedule for provider visits, and council members interested in shadowing should contact Kate.

Technical Review Committee update – Kate LeMere

Kate introduced herself as the liaison for the TRC. She explained its role in assessing and evaluating service providers. She further stated that the TRC conducts annual evaluations to ensure compliance with state and federal rules, including on-site evaluations.

This year, the state is conducting desk evaluations through emails and shared folders, focusing on documentation review enabling the TRC to carry out its own assessments independently of the state to follow County expectations.

General council members were encouraged to participate in TRC evaluations and stressed the importance of onboarding and background information.

Members Inquired about the state's decision to conduct desk evaluations instead of on-site evaluations. The state determined desk evaluations and on-site evaluations after reviewing all documentation from all 16 AAA's.

2024 Year in Review – Carol Cross and Christine Vogel

The Year in Review presentation mentioned the holiday celebration and the council's work.

The meeting was informed that the review included all staff activities and agenda items, and feedback, questions, and items for highlight.

The year in review also included AAC meetings and agenda items.

Co-Chair Election

The co-chair election will occur at the February meeting.

Adjourn

The motion for adjournment was proposed by an unidentified member and seconded by the group.