

Boulder County Aging Advisory Council Jan. Minutes

Date: Friday, January 9, 2026

Location: Boulder County Longmont Hub 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

Lisa Bondi, Jeanine Tarrant, Dena Boutwell, Reed Cobb, Amelia Groves, Carol Buxton, Kay Sparks, Larry Brassem, Randy Trahan, Michele Cohen, Arlene Zortman, Emelita Gagne, Bob Magin, Stephen Topping, Jocelyn Brown, Charlie Erdrich, Cathy James, Sue Winthrop, Ellen Taxman

Members Excused

Cindy Brekke, Harriet Edelstein

Staff and Guests Present

Staff: Kate LeMere, Samantha Sturman, Lindsay Neville, Carol Cross, Mark Ruzzin

Guests: John Higgins, Abi Ocampo, Tina Gonzales, Steven Stump, Marco Prospero

Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Dena Boutwell

There were no public comments.

Dena shared that Via will continue to provide rides for the AAC.

Dena congratulated Carol on her promotion to AAA Director

Dena will be going with transit advocates to DC to talk fixed transit, paratransit, and more with electeds and their staff.

Our Feb. meeting is when we elect a new co-chair. Those interested should contact Lindsay to nominate themselves or someone else who has served at least a year on the AAC.

Who motioned? Kay Sparks

Who seconded? Jeanine Tarrant

Sister Carmen Community Center – Abi Ocampo

Abi provided an overview of how Sister Carmen uses AAA funds. Sister Carmen receives \$30,000 to distribute in financial assistance to older people in eastern Boulder County. Much of the funding goes to housing, but they can also help fund car repairs, utilities, and more.

Clients can access their food bank three times a month and they have food delivery. They have special shopping hours for their food bank once a week for older people and people living with disabilities.

With the threats against SNAP Sister Carmen saw lots of donations to support people living with food insecurity. Abi mentioned that food donations tend to go down in the summer.

Clients can have access to the Sister Carmen thrift store for clothing, household items, mattresses, and more. They accept donations.

High demand items for donations can be found here - <https://sistercarmen.org/give-help/give-food/>.

EFAA and Our Center are the sister organizations to Sister Carmen. These three organizations, providing similar services to different geographical areas of Boulder County, work very closely together.

Lindsay mentioned pass-through funding information for BCAAA can be found [online](#).

Year in Review – Carol Cross

Carol provided a brief overview of the work of the BCAAA in 2025.

Community Justice Services Updates – Marco Prospero

Marco gave an overview of services for youth and adults through [CJS](#).

Marco mentioned dissolving the multiple DUI program. The Juvenile Assessment Center lost three staff. Both are part of ongoing county budget cuts.

There has been lots of reform at the state level with youth offenders.

CJS works together with law enforcement.

The new Alternative Sentencing Facility/Joe Pelle Center took many years to begin providing services.

The facility provides work release where people can go to work, medical appointments, family time, and more. As people work through their sentence, they can expand what they do outside of the facility like exercising, going to spiritual communities, and more.

Previously the county contracted with providers who brought forth many of the services now found in the facility.

Most people in the jail are under 60, but Marco expects we'll see more folks 60+ in the facility, especially those transitioning from Corrections.

Ellen asked about support for long-term care staff who are managing complex clients, especially those coming from Corrections.

Boulder County Funding Updates – Carol Cross and Lindsay Neville

Lindsay reviewed the 30 recommendations for budget balancing presented by Jana Petersen (County Administrator) to the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at the Dec. 9, 2025 meeting.

Boulder County budget information can be found here - <https://boco.org/budget>. The adopted budget for 2026 can be found [here](#).

The group discussed the sale of the property at [Broadway and Iris in Boulder](#).

Carol and Lindsay discussed the complications with the push for 'efficiency.'

The county is looking to reduce general funds through reductions in personnel and operating expenses.

This process will continue for the 2027 and 2028 county budgets.

The idea has been proposed that Boulder County AAA could merge with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) AAA.

Carol and Lindsay shared concerns about services for older adults and caregivers in Boulder County if the AAA is merged into DRCOG.

The AAC is interested in advocacy tools to tell the story of the impact of the BCAA and we will be following up with this conversation starting in February and continuing.

The AAC, serving at the pleasure of the BOCC, are interested in connecting with electeds on these issues.

We are beginning preparations for Older Adults Day at the Capitol, targeting March.

Adjourn

Who motioned? Kay Sparks

Who seconded? Arlene Zortman