

Boulder County Aging Advisory Council May Minutes

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Location: Longmont 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), Stephen Topping, Larry Brassem, Ellen Taxman, Amelia Groves, Cindy Brekke, Bob Magin, Jeanine Tarrant, Emelita Gagne, Randy Trahan, Reed Cobb, Harriet Edelstein, Charlie Erdrich, Michele Cohen, Lisa Bondi, Edie Thorne, Carol Buxton

Members Excused

Jocelyn Brown

Staff and Guests Present

Lindsay Neville, Carol Cross, Sam Sturman, Theresa Grill, Ashley Reese

Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Arlene Zortman

Arlene called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Arlene shared information on what the Longmont Senior Center and their Advisory Board are doing to help with food security in Longmont.

Dena shared how money from a grant that Via has received will help provide free weekend rides for specific populations in Boulder County through the summer.

There were no public comments or correspondence.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Motion to approve March minutes was made by Larry, seconded by Ellen, and approved by the whole.

Motion to approve April minutes was made by Stephen, seconded by Larry, and approved by the whole.

Updates from Longmont Senior Center – Ronnie Maynes

Ronnie shared an overview of what is offered at the Longmont Senior Center.

Ronnie shared a waitlist of four to six weeks for older people wanting to meet with Resource Specialists on their staff. He's hoping to continue to address this issue and get ahead of it as our older adult population continues to increase.

The Longmont Senior Center has, yet again, seen a spike in attendance (year over year).

Ronnie shared information on services for Spanish speakers.

Ronnie detailed an elder exchange program for older people between Longmont and the Wind River Reservation/Northern Arapaho tribe.

Dementia Basics – Theresa Grill

Theresa Grill, a Long-Term Care Ombudsman from BCAA, shared an overview of brain changes with dementia and the very practical way to approach and work with people living with dementia.

Caregiver Programs – Lindsay Neville

Two questions about the BCAA's Caregiver's Program community presence were reviewed.

What specific aspects of BCAA Caregiver Programs are you interested in learning more about?

- Volunteer Visitors
- Dealing with Dementia
- Respite Assistance Program

- Falls Prevention & decluttering
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Hiring a Caregiver
- Financial Assistance
- Long-Distance Caregiving
- Giving Up Keys

What resources and support do you find most helpful as a caregiver or when you were a caregiver.

- Adult Day Care
- PACE
- Where to Start
- Hospice
- Hospital staff referrals to community resources

Budget and Upcoming Contract Year – Carol Cross

Carol outlined attempts to come up with budget scenarios, including state and fed dollars.

- ARPA dollars were fully spent.
- Internal refinements and reductions are being made to decrease the BCAAA budget.
- There is a possibility of funding decreases and eliminations for external providers.

The Technical Review Committee discussed an earlier time in the month to get together and make funding recommendations.

Carol reviewed the suggested parameters to assist in making funding recommendations, including:

- Percent of budget
- Budget utilization
- Clients served
- Target population
- Basic needs

Funding Updates – Lindsay Neville

Lindsay reviewed the dismantling of the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Lindsay reviewed the reduction in force for ACL.

Lindsay shared information about the leaked, proposed budget for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and items that were proposed to be eliminated from the Older Americans Act (OAA). The leaked budget proposed eliminating funding for programs like long-term care ombudsman, ADRCs, and Medicare SHIP Counseling.

Lindsay reviewed the proposition of movement of OAA into two different divisions of HHS.

Reauthorization of OAA was reviewed alongside the advocacy around the reauthorization.

Discussion was lead around the best way to advocate for all county programs that receive federal funding.

Adjourn

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