

Boulder County Aging Advisory Council October Minutes

Date: Friday, October 3, 2025

Location: Boulder County Southeast 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

Charlie Erdrich, Emelita Gagne, Dena Boutwell (Co-Chair), Cathy James, Jeanine Tarrant, Amelia Groves, Carol Buxton, Ellen Taxman, Reed Cobb, Arlene Zortman (Co-Chair), Randy Trahan, Sue Winthrop, Stephen Topping, Cindy Brekke, Kay Sparks, Lisa Bondi, Bob Magin

Members Excused

Jocelyn Brown, Lisa Bondi, Larry Brassem, Michele Cohen, Harriet Edelstein

Staff and Guests Present

BCAAA: Lindsay Neville, Carol Cross, Kate LeMere, Christine Vogel

City of Lafayette: Dana Hoffman and Sarah Cooper

Mom's Meals: Tina Gonzales

Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Dena Boutwell

There were no public comments.

Ellen motioned to approve the September minutes and Reed seconded.

City of Lafayette Senior Services – Dana Hoffman and Sarah Cooper

They offer lots of activities, including river rafting. They are hoping to bring more enrichment and general interest programs. They held a resource fair on Sept. 19.

They manage a volunteer snow removal program, host help with Medicare, do CarFit with Intermountain and Boulder Community Health. Lafayette Senior Services hosts the Front Range Solo Aging Network the third Friday of each month. There is a capital bonds improvement issues on the ballot for Lafayette.

What are your biggest challenges? Six years ago Dana's budget was plentiful, but that is changing. There is lots of creativity, trying to find folks who can teach without needing payment. There are space challenges. Patron challenges - still the stigma of it being a senior center. Cost recovery needed for lots of programs and some programs (trips noted) are unaffordable.

What are some of the most popular services out of Lafayette? Fitness, book club, FRSAN, lots of financial assistance requests

The visitability ordinance is no longer in effect in Lafayette.

Policy, Budget and Legislative Updates – Mark Ruzzin and Christine Vogel

Christine shared the [structural budget deficit](#) for the county of \$13.8 million for the county budget year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2026). There is expected to be an additional \$30-40 million shortfall over the next three years. Mention of the [BOCC Strategic Priorities](#). BCAA's [Caregiver Programs](#) have been impacted by the cuts.

Mark outlined information shared on the [county's budget webpage](#). Boulder County is a statutory subdivision of the state. Counties make sure the state can deliver services close to the residents.

Municipalities are home rule and have more authority than counties. K-12 education and Medicaid takes about 60% of the general fund. There will be an estimated \$841 million deficit for next FY (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) for the state.

Clinica Family Health and Wellness – Kate Parker

Kate reviewed the merger of Clinica and MHP - safety nets for MBH, physical, and dental providers. It's an organization of 1,100 staff serving 60k patients. Care integration with merger is the goal, substance issues addressed as well. Lots of work around policy in the background to make sure people can access each of the types of services. Ursula has served over 400 unduplicated clients through our funding for individual and group counseling. They don't see many older adults in their clinics.

Since they are a safety net provider there may be stigma for some folks. Historically, they could serve Medicare folks with unlicensed staff when folks are dual eligible, but Medicaid is no longer allowing that. They are a teaching organization. Once you get someone licensed, they don't often stay. The change just happened this year. Workforce issues in MBH. Medicaid is about 48% of Clinica's population.

More trainings and certifications.

Jeanine's suggestion of bringing more counselors into senior and age well centers. Due to Medicaid, they've had to change who they can take. For physical health, some people have gotten notice that they can no longer come to Clinica.

Ballot issue for MBH - <https://bouldercounty.gov/government/county-ballot-issues/>

Why did workforce reduce? COVID, etc

What are the education requirements for young people to enter this field? Peers don't need schooling, but you must go through peer training and certification. Any other role requires a bachelor's in arts, psychology, some connection to BH. Seeing more social activists interested in the MBH field.

We must figure out how to deliver care while maintaining people's rights as humans.

Kate wants to crack the caregiver program nut. Clinica takes donations.

Biggest fears and challenges with fed HHS. Many fed grants that have not been impacted yet. Mostly worried about marginalized folks and undocumented folks and how they will be impacted. Looking at 5-10% cut based on impacts to folks from federal changes/decisions.

Kay mentions advocacy opportunity for the organization.

Executive orders are conflicting each other. We don't want to create angst, we don't want to get out the wrong narrative, and we want to activate people.

Adjourn

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