

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, December 5, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

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Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker
- 4 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 5 11:35 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from October 31, 2025, meeting.
(Attachment A)

Informational briefings

- 6 11:40 p.m. Discussion on possible ACA member engagement opportunities to support AAA programs – Kelly Roberts
(Attachment B)
- 7 12:20 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 8 12:30 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

- 9 **Next meeting January 23, 2026 – Virtual**
- 10 12:40 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 11 12:45 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

January 23, 2026 – Virtual

February 27, 2026 – Virtual

March 27, 2026 – Virtual

April 24, 2026 – **In person**

May 22, 2026 – Virtual

June 26, 2026 – **In person**

July 24, 2026 – Virtual

August 28, 2026 – **In person**

September 25, 2026 – Virtual

October 23, 2026 – **In person**

November 2026 – To be determined

December 2026 – To be determined

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA) Meeting Summary

Friday, October 31, 2025

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Bocker	Denver
David Appel	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	Broomfield County
Greg Kahler	Adams County
Judi Kern	DRCOG Board Louisville
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Kathy Hensen	DRCOG Board Adams County
Phil Cernanec	Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogel	Clear Creek County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Val Robson	Jefferson County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

No guests were present.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Doug Rex, DRCOG Executive Director, Fonda Buckles, Manager Older Americans Act Services, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kendra Carmickle, Transportation Service Coordinator, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Travis Noon, Manager AAA Business Operations.

Call to Order

Bob Bocker Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Bob Bocker

Chair Bocker reported he attended the Anschutz meeting earlier in the week.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

There was no AAA Director report.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: September 26, 2025, meeting summary.

Ed Moss asked for these changes: City & Council of Broomfield report, paragraph 2. Delete the first sentence. "The shortage of services that the Erickson company offers..." should read "The Erickson company does offer services." Add to paragraph. "Ed Moss expressed his disappointment that DRCOG declined to provide a letter to Westminster City Council which generally noted the staggering shortage of senior housing and continuum care."

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval as amended. Andrea Suhaka seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Action Item

Discussion on combining the November and December ACA meetings.

Phil Cernanec motioned to combine the November 28th and December 26th meeting to one meeting on December 5th. Andrea Suhaka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Informational Briefings

Senior Living Comparison Presentation. – Ed Moss

Ed Moss delivered a detailed financial analysis examining senior living buy-in models tailored to middle- and higher-income older adults. His presentation focused on two significant housing developments: the established Windcrest community located in Highlands Ranch, and the proposed Maris Grove project, a 1,300-unit senior living development planned for Westminster and Jefferson County.

The analysis explored the financial structures and affordability of each model, highlighting differences in upfront costs, monthly fees, and long-term value for residents. Moss emphasized how each approach aligns with the financial capabilities and expectations of older adults in these income brackets, offering insights into market demand. His comparison provided a valuable framework for understanding the economic feasibility and strategic positioning of senior housing initiatives in the region.

AAA Work Session – DRCOG Staff

DRCOG AAA is reassessing its current position and future direction. The team reviewed FY2025 performance highlights, organizational changes, and areas needing attention. Jayla presented impact metrics, while staff reflected on internal transitions, new initiatives, and ongoing challenges.

Facing reduced funding, AAA made tough decisions: cutting contractor support, eliminating 10 positions, and ending case management partnerships. In response, the team secured new grants, cross-trained staff, launched a new transportation service, and plans to open a new call center in January 2026. Ride Alliance now supports transportation coordination, and investments in data systems are underway.

AAA is shifting focus from promoting aging well to addressing critical needs. This includes reassessing funding priorities, understanding evolving community demographics, and improving service delivery. ACA members were invited to help shape priorities.

Colorado's older adults face mounting pressures: Medicaid coverage losses, Medicare Advantage reductions, rising Medigap premiums, and state budget cuts, including \$4.1M from aging services. The Senior Homestead Exemption and Old Age Pension Cash Fund are also under review.

Despite these challenges, AAA remains committed to its mission, partnering with health providers, supporting caregivers, promoting cross-sector collaboration, and leveraging local resources. Advocacy, education, and age-friendly initiatives remain central.

Fonda Buckles shared client insights: the typical AAA client is a 74-year-old woman, urban-based, low-income, and often part of a minority group. She receives ~60 service units annually to maintain independence.

Key needs include transportation, meals, financial support, in-home care, housing, benefits counseling, and fraud protection. These services form a vital safety net.

To guide future strategy, ACA members voted to prioritize fewer services for more individuals. Nutrition and transportation received the most support, followed by chore and homemaker services. Lower interest was shown in other mandated services, with no votes for disease prevention or legal assistance.

DRCOG Board Report

At the October 15th meeting the Board appointed directors to the Nominating Committee, which is responsible for proposing candidates the following year for the Executive Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Performance and Engagement Committee, and other regional boards and committees. One member is selected by the full Board, while the remaining members are appointed by the chair and other committees.

Updates were provided on several programs. Adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program are underway, and progress continues on the Front Range Passenger Rail project. RTD staff recently released a draft of the 2025 Finishing FasTracks Report, outlining plans to complete the four remaining projects in the FasTracks program. Meanwhile, DRCOG staff are developing a Multimodal Local Development Standards Toolkit to help local governments implement strategies and standards that support multimodal development across urban, suburban, and rural communities.

County Reports

Adams County – Greg Kaler

Greg Kaler announced that the upcoming resource fair will be held on November 11 at the MAC Recreation Center, located at 3295 W 72nd Avenue in Westminster.

Arapahoe County – Andrea Suhaka

Efforts are underway to bring Bustang transit service to unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County.

Douglas County – Karie Erickson

Douglas County Aging Resources is collaborating with Affordable Housing and Hospitals to provide transportation services twice weekly. Residents can call to schedule rides at any time.

Jefferson County – Dave Appel

The Jefferson County Commission on Aging held a work session focused on transitioning the Multi-Sector Plan on Aging pilot from the planning phase to implementation.

Other Matters by Members

Phil Cernanec requested the Committee's endorsement for Jayla Sanchez-Warren and Rich Mauro to explore more sustainable funding opportunities, potentially through partnerships with HUDLE organizations. The Committee unanimously approved the request.

Kathy Hansen emphasized the need for clear talking points to support the Committee's discussions with elected officials. These talking points should help articulate the economic rationale for investing in diverse housing options and address issues such as the impact of losing SNAP benefits.

The AAA all-staff meeting has been rescheduled for December 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ACA members are warmly invited to join.

Next meeting – December 5, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: December 5, 2025

Agenda Item #: 6

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Discussion on possible ACA member engagement opportunities to support AAA programs

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

DRCOG staff will lead a facilitated discussion exploring ways the Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA) can support the efforts of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Background

ACA members have expressed a desire to play a more active role in AAA initiatives. This facilitated discussion will gather their insights on how the AAA can better leverage their expertise and perspectives to enhance our work.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Director Area Agency on Aging at (720) 375-1738 or jswarren@drcog.org.