

# Board Work Session Summary

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Meeting held via Zoom

## Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Julie Duran Mullica	Adams County
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tim Dietz	Town of Castle Rock
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Craig Kim	City of Commerce City
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Raymond Byrd	Town of Firestone
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	Town of Idaho Springs
Saul Tapia Vega	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Larry Strock	Town of Lochbuie
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Nichole Sterling	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Rachel Hultin	City of Wheat Ridge

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio, Adams County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Ashish Vaidya, Centennial; Kent Moorman, Thornton; Randel Loeb, Citizen; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Whitlow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

## Public Comment

Randall Loeb urged Board members to take responsibility for protecting their communities. He warned that without leadership and protection of voting rights in 2026, vulnerable residents risk losing their safety and voice.

## Status of the Power Ahead Colorado Program

Robert Spotts kicked off the presentation by introducing the Power Ahead Colorado, a \$200M EPA-funded program running through 2029. He highlighted the progress on staffing, contracting, and coordination with local, state, utility, and nonprofit partners to expand access to heat pumps. Greg Miao shared updates on the Building Policy Collaborative, outlining 2026 work on regional policy frameworks for commercial, multifamily, residential, and energy codes, plus research leading to model ordinances in 2027. He also summarized Round 1 subawards to 27 jurisdictions and previewed an \$8.5M Round 2 and a \$600K research contract.

Chris Selk was introduced to report on the new Power Ahead Colorado website and branding, major ad campaigns launching across digital, sports, and Spanish-language media, and strong earned media coverage. She also outlined expanded community engagement with \$4M in outreach funding and grants to community groups. Clay McCombe outlined workforce and contractor support efforts, including the Contractor Finder and Colorado Contractor Hub, paid heat pump training for businesses, and an HVAC-focused AI assistant. He also described workforce hubs and targeted training programs for justice-impacted individuals, Spanish speakers, and young adults. Mac Prather joined the conversation to talk about incentives and energy advising programs totaling \$59.6M to help residents and building owners adopt heat pumps, along with a \$6M innovation grant program. He also described a no-cost upgrade program for at least 1,600 income-qualified households, administered by Energy Outreach Colorado.

Robert Spotts closed the presentation by emphasizing Power Ahead Colorado's coordinated, all-sides approach (combining incentives, outreach, workforce, and policy) to scale heat pump adoption through trusted regional partnerships.

### **Area Agency on Aging Update**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren presented the update to the Directors. Major state-driven funding cuts (roughly \$8 million lost over two years) have forced a shift from long-term "aging well" initiatives to meeting urgent, life-sustaining needs. The AAA, which has served as the region's designated agency for 52 years under the Older Americans Act, delivers mandated services through 60 staff and 22 contracted providers, but cuts led to reduced provider funding, elimination of 10 staff positions, ending support for 12 partners, and the loss of a transportation call center, even as demand rises and client demographics shift younger, more diverse, and more often low-income. Despite constraints, they delivered about 878,000 service units in 2025, reduced the home-delivered meal waitlist to zero, expanded some internal transportation options, and made program changes like cross-training staff, launching a new call center, pursuing partnerships and grants, and refocusing caregiver supports on respite. Broader Medicaid/Medicare disruptions, plan changes, and other state cuts are pushing more older adults to seek help, creating severe waitlists, so the agency is prioritizing core services, targeting those with greatest need, and urging lawmakers to consider the real impacts of continued cuts.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.