



Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.



AAC members = 18
Quorum = 10

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.

BOULDER COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

MINUTES: April 2, 2021
Virtual Meeting

AAC Members Present: Sara Beery, Dena Boutwell, Cindy Brekke, Judith Brush, Pamela Christensen, Patrick “Pat” Egan, Charles Erdrich, Jeffrey “Jeff” Foster, Amelia Groves, Judy Mares-Dixon, Christina O’Toole, Dave Pinkow, Jeanine Tarrant, Erin Watson, Carren Williams, Hope Yasbin Engel, Arlene Zortman, Diana Mapes

Staff Present: Carol Cross, Ali Hasert, Lindsay Parsons, Christine Vogel, Guio Bravo

Excused: Emelita Gagne, Karla Garcia-Velez, Christa Grundy, Ellen Taxman

Guests: Rose Miller

Welcome and Comments from the Chair – Dena Boutwell, Co-Chairs:

Dena Boutwell, co-chair of the AAC, kicked off the meeting and addressed the tragedies Boulder County has experienced over the past year with the Table Mesa Shooting, Calwood and Lefthand Canyon Fires, and COVID-19 Pandemic Response. She highlighted and thanked the heroes in our community. She also shared Via’s role in responding to the Table Mesa Shooting last week to support victim advocates.

Lindsay provided links and information for additional support and will email them out to AAC members.

Public Comments and Correspondence:

None.

Additions to the Agenda:

None.

Approve March Minutes:

Jeff Foster moved to approve the March Minutes. Judith Brush seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Advocacy Update – Christine Vogel & Lindsay Parsons:

Lindsay mentioned that she was hoping to provide members with an update on when the next in-person meeting will be. However, that is still uncertain at this time. She mentioned that she will update the AAC as soon as she knows more.

Christine Vogel provided updates to the AAC on the following: SUA Funding, County Funding, AAA Funding, and AAA Opportunities. She encouraged the AAC to provide feedback on how the funding could potentially be spent. She shared that the SUA and County Funding are one-time funding opportunities.

Pat Egan asked if the ASF is still raising funds for AAA. Christine shared that the ASF is currently taking a pause but that the fundraising efforts may ramp up in July 2021.

Lindsay Parsons provided an update on House and Senate Bills that impact the older adult community and the BCAAA.

March Meeting Project Discussion Debrief – Lindsay Parsons:

Lindsay reviewed the discussion points from the March AAC meeting and the major themes were housing, transportation, and economic stability. For more detail regarding these points, please refer to the presentation slides from the April 2, 2021 AAC meeting.

Breakout Session – Transportation, Housing, Economic Stability:

Lindsay split AAC members into three breakout groups where Jamboards were used to capture more specific details on the three themes listed above.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
Submitted by Ali Hasert*

Next meeting of AAC:
Friday, May 7, 2020
9–11 a.m.
Location: Zoom

Housing Jam

Affordability

- Becoming more of an issue
- Average rent before utilities increasing forcing housing burden, move out of county, or homelessness
- Home prices increasing
- Formal caregivers commute from outside county due to lower wages
- Consider one-time funds to build older adult housing
- Can be necessary to have renters to afford staying in home
- Difficult to be “in the know” for older adult housing list openings
 - Short openings
 - Inequity
- Stipends and tax breaks to support aging in home
 - Senior Homestead Tax Exemption – needs to transition within community when folks need/want to downsize
 - Downsizing prevented by tax exemption and current housing costs
- Tiny homes – needed code changes
- Consider policy supporting those living in manufactured housing where the home is owned (but may not be able to be moved or sold) and land is rented
- Folks feel forced to sell home in order to afford health care costs
 - How can we support someone to stay in home from financial standpoint so they’re not forced to sell?
- What is the deal with reverse mortgages?
 - How to make sure they’re safe
 - What are the basics?

Availability

- Inventory low in past year

Accessibility/Home Safety

- Clutter/hoarding
 - AAC members interested in data from APS, COB, PD, others
 - Hesitation reporting cluttering/hoarding issues
 - Scarcity during youth leads to hoarding/establishes mindset
 - Consider marketing to declutter focused on giving to charity
 - Pivotal decisions about decluttering easier to make at an earlier time with higher mobility. Decluttering becomes overwhelming at a point.
- Safety issues with renters – elder abuse, fraud, difficult to evict
- Expansion of landlord/tenant mediation programs
- Occupational therapist supposed home modification
 - How to let folks know about available resources
 - Aging in place is not always an option
 - Consider mobility device access in home mod
 - Home equity loan options?
- Formal caregivers have specific insight to prevalence of hoarding

- The people who need to learn about home safety aren't attending or can't attend the types of resource fairs where they can learn about options.
- Tech aspect of home safety – need support to navigate cameras, auto locks, etc.
- Building codes and regulations to build housing accessible to all
- Smoking Cessation Education – some folks have lost housing due to their desire to smoke in or near their home (also relevant to vaping and marijuana)
- Focus on transit-oriented developments
 - Manufactured homes, subsidized housing and more that is located near transportation hubs to encourage people to live in walkable, connected areas

Marketing

- Positive marketing around home mod/aging in place/Aging 101
 - What models exist?
- Neighborhood support – resource awareness, looking out for each other
- Need for centralized advisory/navigational program with so many different questions
- “Transition Services”
 - Do people need support in figuring out what the next step is?
 - How to use resources most effectively as folks transition to next housing step

Home Maintenance

- Yard work
- Snow and ice removal

Transportation Jam

“Giving Up the Keys”

- “Giving up the keys” conversation – are there ways to make it a meaningful transition rather than a loss?
 - So connected with ability.
 - Campaign like vaccine, to normalize, highlight the benefits.
- Would be more comfortable giving up the keys if KNEW there was reliable transportation nearby. First and last mile is critical here.
- Is the public well informed about the user cost?
 - Avoid using due to assumptions about cost.
 - Communication and perception is the key here.
 - Safety and Cost. Social aspects of giving up the keys – maybe need to talk more about that aspect than health, self-care, etc.
- Counseling/coaching for family/friends about how to have those conversations.
- Sandwich generation supports – talking about no longer driving, when is the time.
- Transportation technology for access and safety

Communication, Funding, & Advocacy

- What public advocacy opportunities are there for solutions (example with Boulder County effort to form own transportation district)?
- Communicating options out to the broader community
- Latino older adults and language barriers to accessing transportation options.
 - Translations, equity in service.
- Messaging around safety
- A lot of options that don’t work well. Evaluate current providers and how those services could be improved.
- Funding assistance for transportation to extend boundaries. Funds don’t meet the demand.
 - Awareness – perception that rides are prohibitively expensive.
- Always talk about mountain transportation – other opportunities? Research on best practices in rural/mountain transportation options.
- Mountain transportation. Lack of opportunities, options. Potential for new volunteer program.

Public Transportation

- RTD – would like to see more prevalence of kneeling busses, etc.
- RTD – financial distress, cuts as a result. Don’t think we have the public pressure to change their view on cuts to routes.
- Access to Age Well Centers – eliminated bus stop near West Center. Advocacy opportunities.
- Post-COVID messaging to encourage utilization, communication about safety. Creative ideas about something different?
- First and last mile – critical to getting to other transportation options. On demand services can help, but not full solution.
 - Code enforcement – shoveling, etc. Example of client unable to get to bus because of lack of shoveling
- Check in with Via, Cultivate, and other transportation service providers about door through door services. What about bus stops?

- Is there a stigma for/against older adults using public transportation?
 - How do we de-stigmatize transportation? Highlight what is working and great about public/available transportation.
- Re-entering “normal” transportation options. Scary time to be transported. Communicating what options are and that they are safe.
- Advertising safety, modifications, adaptations made so that people feel more comfortable.
- Long-term safety of public transportation (post-COVID and beyond).
- Meaningful transportation for recreation – getting to the mountains. How to continue meaningful activities while not being “in the driver’s seat.”
- Leverage those with passion for specific services – Ambassadors – hikes, transportation, technology. Find naturally occurring groups and ambassadors within the groups to share about resources.
- Updates on Ride Hub DRCOG Pilot?

Serving People with Disabilities

- Transportation options should meet the needs, operators who are sensitive to the needs of older adults and those with disabilities.
- Hands on transportation workshop – as a group mobility options training
- Wheelchair accessible transportation – not every vehicle has a lift. Extremely expensive. More subsidies, programs to get more accessible.
- Infrastructure changes – curbs, sidewalks, etc. Walkable/wheelchair accessible communities. Coding enforcement – often maintained by private groups. Public advocacy.
- Another Longmont example – study of time it took to get off bus, cross street. Could that be replicated elsewhere?

Ride Sharing

- Ageism in private transportation providers. Could it be a specific/separate service with trained staff, accessible vehicles, etc.
- Subsidies for appropriate services – ability to request accessible rides.
- Are there ways to encourage the private market to fill the need for accessible rides? Subsidies, etc.
- Uber/Lyft – can they indicate accessibility or assistance needs?
- People offer rides, then get credits – ride sharing programs? What grassroots activities are happening that could be replicated? Car/ride sharing combo programs (Longmont).

Transportation System Navigation

- Transportation corridors, in and out of Boulder County. Transportation options by geographic area. Mapping of those resources.
- Knowing the boundary of the transportation modality – cross boundary trips. Both first and last mile as well as cross boundaries.
- Standard reservation process between the modalities? Could help/inform coordination across boundaries.
- Navigating transportation options based on income.
- Teaching folks to register and use apps/supports for transportation they prefer to use.

Economic Stability Jam

Food Security

- What does being food insecure mean?
- Maintain the increased food allotments from the state that were put in place during COVID-19
- Food cooking classes and education
- Delivery and congregate
- People with extra fruit in their yards can donate to older adults
- Access to healthy and good food security
- Expand resource awareness and resource access
- Access, eligibility, and criteria
- Maintain creativity and expansion of food opportunities

Aging 101

- More intergenerational programs and connection
- More classes for planning for retirement (including transportation, financial, and life enrichment activities and classes, community resources, reducing ageism)
- How COVID-19 worsened age discrimination

Scam, Fraud, Theft

- Weekly updates for older adults – scams or fraud to look out for the week. Maybe offered in older adult living facilities or centers
- Advertise: Senior Planet, purchased by AARP, who offers free weekly classes. One of which is on scam awareness and prevention.
- Multiple outreach efforts
- Pushing telephone providers to help find solutions
- Additional outreach, resources, tools, and education on scams for older adults
- More timely distribution on recent scam tactics
- Creative ways to educate - games, etc.

Caregivers

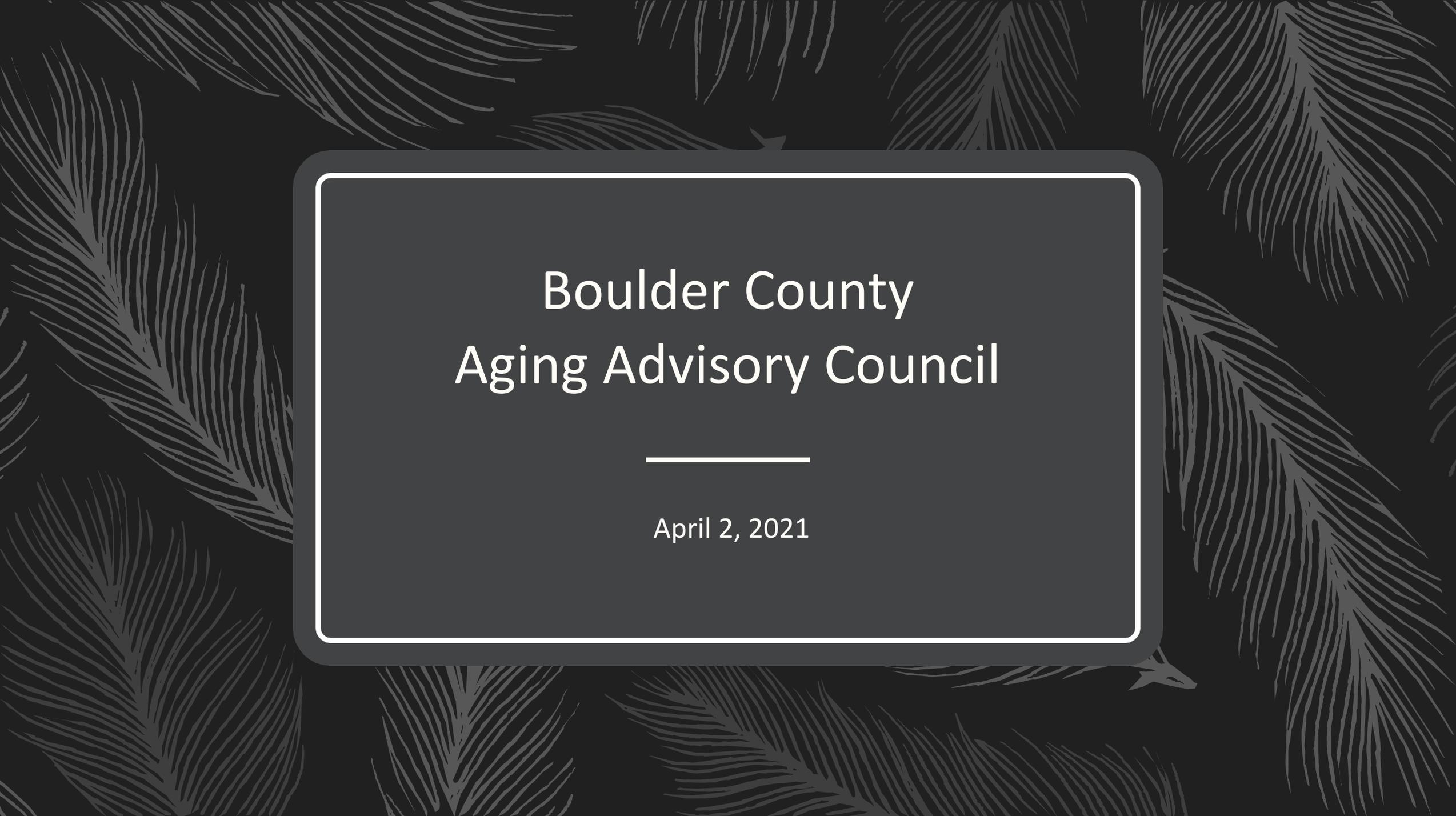
- Additional resources (financial, respite, education)
- How to address caregiver burnout
- Caregiver leave from employers
- Grant support for employers' stipends to help caregivers go back into the workforce

Workforce

- More discussion on what roles older adults can play in the community
- Educate organizations on workforce diversity in terms of age
- Age discrimination in the hiring process

Healthcare Expenses

- Access to hearing aids and eyeglasses
- Support (financial support) on other options, including PT, etc.
- Access to providers (dental)
- Access to resources and information
- Annual review of prescription drug and medical coverage



Boulder County Aging Advisory Council

April 2, 2021



Funding

SUA Funding

County Funding

AAA Funding

AAA Opportunities

[HB21-1074](#) – Immunity for Entities During COVID-19

[SB21-080](#) – Protections for Entities During COVID-19

[SB21-158](#) – Increase Medical Providers for Senior Citizens

[SB21-176](#) – Protecting Opportunities and Workers’ Rights Act

[SB21-187](#) – Dialysis Treatment Transportation Funding

[SB21-123](#) – Expand Canadian Rx Import Program

[SB21-175](#) – Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board

[SB21-181](#) – Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities

State Bills

March
Meeting
Project
Discussion
Debrief





Housing

- Affordability
- Clutter/Hoarding
 - Address ahead of mobility device use
 - Funding to support de-clutter
- In-Home Care
- In-Home Safety
- Need for Single Level Homes
- Multistory Home Issues
- Home Modification Funds
- Building Codes (focus on affordability AND accessibility)
- Home Maintenance



Transportation

- First and Last Mile
- NEMT (Non-Emergency Medical Transportation)
- Driving Education
 - Removing the Taboo from Alternative Transportation
 - How to Approach Conversations about Driving Changes
- How to Use Public Transit and Transportation Services



Economic Stability

- Reaching Sandwich Caregivers
- Scam/Fraud/Identity Theft
- Addressing Food Insecurity
- Aging 101
- Workforce
 - Safety
 - Types of Jobs for Older Adults
 - Age Discrimination

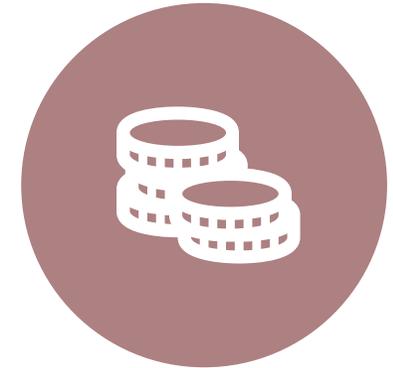
Themes



TRANSPORTATION



HOUSING



ECONOMIC STABILITY



Additional Topics

- Outreach to Spanish Speakers
- Intergenerational
- Vaccinations
- Technology
- Coordination with Municipalities/Older Adult Centers
- Best and Evidence-Based Practices
- Supporting Folks Who Lose a Partner