



AURORA COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS (ACFOA)

Monday, September 11, 2023

1:00 p.m.

**Aurora Center for Active Adults
30 Del Mar Circle, Aurora, CO 80011**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: By Chair at 1:00 PM

ACFOA MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeannie Davis, Chair; Juanita Audre, Derrick Vaughns, Karen Jorgensen, Caroline Kim (virtually), Barbara Schneller, Fran Dollard; George Bain, Commissioners.

ACFOA MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Lori Sanchez, Facility Program Supervisor ACAA and ACFOA Liaison; Beth Yacono, Recreation Superintendent; Officer James Seneca, Aurora Police Department; Adriana Valles Morales, Secretary for ACFOA and PROS Admin Specialist. Bridget Doherty, Get Better Medicare Advocate; Les Moore, guests.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Upon motion, second, and vote, the August 7th and August 17th meeting minutes were approved.

SPEAKER: Jean Bogar is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who has worked with older adults in the Denver Metro community for over 25 years. The Aurora Mental Health Center changed its name at the beginning of 2023 to Aurora Mental Health and Recovery (AMHR). The older adult team at AMHR assists adults over the age of 50. Based on Center For Disease Control (CDC) statistics, adults over the age of 85 have the highest rate of suicide in the United States, with the 75-84 age group coming in second. The program Mental Health First Aid “empowers individuals to identify, understand, and respond to those who are experiencing a mental, emotional, or substance abuse crisis.” This is offered as an interactive 8-hour course. Different situations can cause depression, such as: a child/parent passing, trauma, physical pain, illness management, changing living situations. Things that can help are the ability to change and grow, purpose, wisdom, community, passion, skills, and peace. Individual, couples, and family therapy are all offered at AMHR. The older adult team at AMHR offers services at



nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Aurora. This is funded through Medicaid, Medicare, Medicare Supplements and sometimes grants. The new mental health crisis telephone number to call is 988. Questions from Commissioners were answered by Jean after her presentation.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT: *Officer James Seneca, Community Relations*

- Class has started for 35 new police officers. This is the largest class Officer Seneca has seen in years. The class includes both in-state and out-of-state recruits.
- Officer Seneca will present at the Forum Series on September 22nd (Scams and Fraud) and October 3rd (Public Safety).
- There will be some new strategies and reorganization happening for the Aurora Police Department.
- Officer Seneca touched on public safety. He mentioned that there have been 46 traffic-related fatalities to date. There are many car racers, cars with expired or no license plates, and robberies going on and each police officer has a lot on their plate.
- Plans for the APD Tour for the Commission have been put on hold due to a staffing shortage.
- No update on the Public Safety rack card.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT: *Jeannie Davis, Commissioner*

- Michelle Teller sent an update memo to all Commissioners prior to the meeting advising that the Needs Assessment consultant has been selected. The PROS Staff has been working on contract negotiations with the proposed consultant. Commissioners had no comments, questions, or concerns.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES:

- No update.

BUDGET REPORT: *Jeannie Davis, Commissioner*

- A new box of ACFOA business cards has been ordered. The vendor for the new Commissioner shirts and badges will be changed. Lori is looking at other vendors.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Aurora Center for Active Adults (ACAA) – Beth Yacono, Recreation Superintendent



- The Commission received the list of suggested programs as a result of the town hall meeting that was held in June. This list includes programs the community is interested in seeing more of at ACAA and in other recreation centers. Lori is looking at bringing back the Advisory Committee to help expand programming for older adults at other recreation centers. The plan is to expand programming at ACAA first. A new fitness supervisor was hired at ACAA.

Arapahoe County Council on Aging (ACCoA) – Barb Schneller, Commissioner

- The topic for this meeting was Drive With Confidence. Jill Kelly passed informational fliers out to participants. Drive With Confidence is a program where the driving skills of older adults is evaluated. You can learn more by visiting DriveWithConfidence.co. As a Colorado driver, it is your responsibility to tell the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) of any medical condition that could affect your driving.

Aurora Health Alliance – Jeannie Davis, Commissioner

- Jeannie feels the quarterly meetings are general info sessions not specific to older adults. Since the Senior Circle Group has ended most attendees are healthcare professionals, vendors, and other service providers.

Ward Meetings – All Commissioners

- Barb joined the Ward V meeting. Caroline attended both Ward I and Ward V meetings. Caroline presented herself to Councilmember Murillo at the Ward I meeting. She also distributed Forum Speaker Series fliers and rack cards. Jeannie requested that Commissioners take fliers and rack cards to their respective ward meetings to share with attendees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative – Karen Jorgensen, Commissioner

- The Stop Fraud Bulletin announced that the State of Colorado has been awarded \$2.5 million in new funding to fight the state's opioid crisis.
- Colorado has also been awarded \$500,000 for cyber security, which is going to Metropolitan State University. Small public sector entities such as counties, school districts, and fire districts, can apply for some of these funds.
- Visual Prop Studios LLC, and PropDoks, have been shut down by the Attorney General for forging documents and evidence of "fraudulent and deceptive practices perpetrated in and outside Colorado."

Transportation Solutions – Jeannie Davis, Commissioner



- The TSAC membership dues have been renewed. The next meeting is in October.

Public Relations – Juanita Audre, Commissioner

- Mission Viejo Library is still hosting *Bringing Older Adults Together (BOAT)* events on Mondays.
- Juanita had a successful Chill With a Commissioner event on September 6th and got several responses from those who completed intergenerational surveys. Juanita got contact information from some residents who were interested in attending their ward meetings but had no means of transportation to do so.

Intergenerational Support – Juanita Audre, Commissioner

- A scholarship application was submitted for Juanita to attend the Colorado Association of Libraries Convention (CALCON). Scholarships will be awarded toward the end of September.

Fraud and Abuse Prevention Committee – George Bain, Commissioner

- George met with the Colorado Mortgage Brokers Association and with a Colorado Senator. They are trying to have all Mortgage Originators trained in elder financial abuse. A report was requested by Congress from the Colorado Mortgage Brokers Association. A proposal for creating a task force to combine all data on elder fraud and abuse is in the thought process. George is trying to arrange a meeting with Officer Seneca and a couple of Congressman. He believes the rack cards need to be given out more. Jeannie reminded George that the District Attorney's office is happy to distribute the Fraud and Abuse rack cards at resource fairs.

Housing Committee – Derrick Vaughns, Commissioner

- Before moving forward, Derrick and Karen are doing research on the following:
 - Impact the cost of living is having on older adults in Aurora.
 - How many adults are experiencing homelessness in Aurora.
 - Identify available services for aging adults who are experiencing or are on the verge of experiencing homelessness.
 - Will the Needs Assessment address concerns of homelessness for aging adults? Lori says the Needs Assessment will address these concerns.
 - Karen will be conducting research on the legal side regarding housing.

OLD BUSINESS:

DRCOG Area Agency on Aging – Jeannie Davis, Commissioner



- The Commission voted to support the request from DRCOG and AAA to increase the state budget by \$5 million at the August meeting. Jeannie clarified that Commissioners who want to support this effort must do so as individual residents.

Living Your Best Life Speaker Series – Jeannie Davis, Commissioner

- Jeannie advised of recent changes to the speaker series schedule. The sessions on September 12th and 16th have been canceled.

ACFOA Orientation – Jeannie Davis, Commissioner

- No speaker is scheduled for October 2nd. The agenda is to have an orientation session for Commissioners. Jeannie is uncertain whether this will happen or not. Lori will get in touch with the City Clerk’s Office.

NEXT MEETING

Date: October 2, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Aurora Center for Active Adults and virtually through WebEx.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion, a second, and consensus of the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Jeannie Davis, Chairperson
Aurora Commission for Older Adults



Date 12-4-23

Adriana Valles Morales,
Administrative Specialist and Secretary



Date 12/4/2023

ADOPTED _____

