

Meeting notes:

- **County Jurisdictional Updates:** Commissioners and staff from Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Jefferson, and Douglas counties, including Adams, Rhonda, Melinda Stevens, and Sarah, provided updates on legislative progress, infrastructure projects, public health initiatives, and local challenges, highlighting recent successes and ongoing priorities.
 - **Adams County Legislative Progress:** Adams reported the passage of House Bill 1239, a priority code enforcement bill supported by CCI, which is expected to strengthen county enforcement capabilities and improve community health and safety. The county is optimistic about its prospects in the Senate and continues advocacy for the C .10 year plan, including updates and expansion of major highway segments.
 - **Arapahoe County Facility Expansions:** Rhonda shared updates on the expansion of the Arapahoe County detention center, including the launch of a Behavioral Medical Center and a new kitchen facility, which will provide improved access to behavioral health and medical services for detained individuals. The county also received informative presentations from local chambers and lobbyists regarding business recruitment and legislative monitoring.
 - **Broomfield Financial and Infrastructure Planning:** Melinda Stevens and Sarah discussed Broomfield's initiation of long-term financial strategy planning and a new comprehensive plan, marking the first effort to align financial and comp planning. The county completed successful bonding for water infrastructure projects, including expanded treatment plants and new tanks, and faces upcoming decisions regarding competing hospital proposals.
 - **Boulder County Civic Engagement and Facility Upgrade:** Melinda Stevens described increased local activism, with two groups circulating petitions for changes in county governance and a public improvement district proposal for early childhood education. Boulder County acquired and is retrofitting a modern, carbon-neutral building to replace outdated office space, resolving ADA violations and improving staff working conditions while saving significant funds.
 - **Jefferson County Wildfire and Forest Health Initiatives:** Jefferson County approved a wildfire resiliency code, including structure hardening and defensible space requirements for properties in the wildland urban interface, effective July 1. The county launched a forest health survey to address mountain pine beetle impacts, created an Invasive Species Management program, and established a Land Owner Assistance Program with substantial funding to support mitigation efforts.
 - **Douglas County Homelessness and Health Partnerships:** Douglas County reported achieving actual zero unsheltered homelessness in unincorporated areas, supported by hotel voucher programs and a homeless engagement team. The county announced a partnership with Children's Hospital to establish a crisis stabilization unit for youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, aiming to provide comprehensive care at the hospital.
- **Legislative Updates and Collaborative Advocacy:** Melinda Stevens, Adams, and other commissioners discussed ongoing legislative efforts, including Senate Bill 15 on child

trafficking, House Bill 1239 on code enforcement, and House Bill 1313 on affordable housing, exploring strategies to address fiscal notes and inter-county collaboration for policy advancement.

- **Senate Bill 15 Child Trafficking:** Melinda Stevens explained the progress of Senate Bill 15, which seeks to increase criminal penalties for solicitation of a child. The bill passed judiciary but faces a significant fiscal note due to projected incarceration costs. Douglas County offered to partner with the state by providing jail space to reduce the fiscal impact, and commissioners were encouraged to consider similar partnerships.
- **Intergovernmental Agreements for Incarceration:** Commissioners discussed the possibility of counties signing IGAs with the state to manage incarceration for offenders under Senate Bill 15, potentially eliminating the fiscal note. Melinda Stevens and Adams explored broader collaboration, considering capacity issues and the impact of recent changes in jail and prison standards.
- **Affordable Housing Legislation:** Jefferson County provided an update on House Bill 1313, which aims to recognize county contributions to affordable housing through mechanisms like tax credits and property tax reductions. While the county's original proposal was not included, the bill is seen as a positive step toward greater recognition of local efforts.
- **MAC Legislative Priorities:** Melinda Stevens summarized the three pieces of MAC legislation being advanced: SB15 (child trafficking), code enforcement from Adams County, and Prop 123 from Jefferson County. The group also identified regional emergency preparedness, construction defects, and cold weather coordination as ongoing priorities.
- **Area Agency on Aging: Challenges and Innovations:** Jayla Sanchez-Warren and Melinda Stevens presented a comprehensive overview of the Area Agency on Aging, detailing mandated services, demographic shifts, funding challenges, service reductions, and innovative approaches to meet the growing needs of older adults in the region.
 - **Mandated Services and Partnerships:** Jayla Sanchez-Warren described the agency's mandated services under federal law, including transportation, nutrition, ombudsman programs, and family caregiver support. The agency contracts with local service providers across the region to deliver these services, focusing on those not eligible for Medicaid but still in need.
 - **Demographic Shifts and Funding Decline:** The presentation highlighted Colorado's status as the third fastest aging state, with a rapidly growing older adult population and declining birth rates. Funding for aging services has decreased by 21% since 2022, while demand for services has increased, creating significant challenges for the agency and its partners.
 - **Service Reductions and Waitlists:** Due to funding cuts, the agency has reduced the number of home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation services, and personal care support. Waitlists for services have grown, with seniors waiting up to 63 days for meals and nearly a year for transportation, and over 1,000 monthly denials for transportation trips.
 - **Medicaid and Medicare Changes:** Jayla explained the impact of the Medicaid unwind program, which resulted in over 700,000 people losing coverage, and ongoing changes in Medicaid eligibility and Medicare Advantage plans. These

shifts have increased reliance on community-based organizations and created gaps in coverage for vulnerable populations.

- **Innovative Solutions and Future Priorities:** The agency is exploring new partnerships with healthcare providers, technology solutions like virtual care, and alternative funding sources such as mill levies. Commissioners discussed the potential to prioritize aging and senior transportation as a top MAC issue, considering county-level data and strategies to eliminate waitlists and improve service delivery.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Cold Weather Coordination:** Adams, Melinda Stevens, and other commissioners revisited the topic of emergency preparedness and cold weather coordination, discussing the need for shared data, inter-county agreements, and learning from Jefferson County's experience in organizing municipal partnerships for sheltering and response.
 - **Coordinated Response Framework:** Adams raised questions about the status of cold weather sheltering thresholds and proposed further discussion and data sharing among counties. Melinda Stevens offered to present Jefferson County's experience in developing coordinated IGAs with municipalities, including lessons learned and funding structures, to inform future collaborative efforts.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Legislative Update Distribution:** Send a legislative update on Senate Bill 2615 to all meeting participants before the end of the meeting. (Jen EB)
- **County-Level Aging Services Data:** Provide county-level breakdown of aging services data, including wait lists, to each member for their respective counties. (Melinda Stevens, data team)
- **Cold Weather and Emergency Preparedness Coordination:** Add a discussion on coordinated cold weather and emergency preparedness responses, including sheltering thresholds and inter-county collaboration, to the agenda for the next meeting. (Melinda Stevens)
- **Jefferson County Emergency Coordination Presentation:** Prepare and share a short presentation at the next meeting about Jefferson County's process for organizing coordinated emergency responses with municipalities, including lessons learned and data from the past year. (Melinda Stevens)
- **Shared Data Set for Emergency Responses:** Develop a shared data set documenting emergency response policies and practices across counties for reference and collaboration. (Adams)