



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
June 21, 2023
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Garfield County Admin Bldg, 2nd Floor Meeting Room,
195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2510562431> **Password:** 2462
PHONE: +1 (669) 900-6833 **Meeting ID:** 251 056 2431 **Password:** 2462

Pledge of allegiance

Call to order – Chairman Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:04am. Introductions were made.

State Legislators Updates –

Sen. Janice Rich reported that this was her first year in the state senate after four years in the house. She said it was a tough session, but they still managed to get things done for rural Colorado. She commented that the best work is done when they work together, and that they have the same interests in mind for rural Colorado. She commented that the Orfs do a very good job for AGNC and she greatly appreciates them. She reported that she had 18 bills this year, 16 of which passed and were signed by the Governor. She worked with Sen. Roberts on the rural opportunity office bill. She serves on several committees. She said they were able to continue the child tax credit. She spoke about some legislation regarding transportation including the Move Over Stay Safe bill. She spoke about the number of lives that are saved because of this bill. She spoke about a bill for higher education staff sabbaticals for continuing education for higher end administrators. She talked about a constituent bill that she worked on to promote CPR in high schools, which was passed with strong bipartisan support. She said that it was a pleasure to serve this year.

Sen. Dylan Roberts reported that the session ended on May 8th and it is good to be back home. He stated that there were 617 total bills this year, 474 passed, and 464 became law after 10 vetoes by the Governor. 88% were passed with bipartisan support. He spoke about working with AGNC on SB6, the rural opportunity office, a division of OEDIT. He said this is valuable for the rural communities to get technical assistance. This bill was signed by the Governor in Rifle. HB1247 was discussed, a continuation of Senator Rankin’s work for energy. This will direct a study for an all-of-the-above strategy for alternative energy in NW and SE Colorado. The study will take place over the course of the next 2 years. He talked about the wolf bills, a total of three were introduced. 2 started in the senate, including SB255 to create a permanent compensation fund for wolf depredation. SB 256, the 10j bill, would have insured the 10j rule be in place before wolf introduction, was passed, however the governor vetoed the bill. It was passed with large bipartisan majorities, and he was very disappointed with the governor’s decision to veto. He spoke about the housing issues and legislation that was introduced to address some of these issues. SB1 will allow public-private partnerships to form to build housing on available land. SB213 did not pass, but he thinks it will come up again, with some animosity from local governments. He talked about water issues which are a big priority for him. He said that over \$90M was put into water legislation to fund water projects across the state. SB295 creates the Colorado River Drought Taskforce, 17 members of the taskforce will have conversations about what the state should be doing on the river. He said this will help with interstate negotiations on the river.

Rep. Meghan Lukens reported via zoom. She said this was her first legislative session and there was a lot of learning for her. She worked on 17 bills focused on supporting our rural areas. She served on the education committee and stated that there were huge wins for education in rural Colorado. She talked about the School Finance Act, increasing the funding per student. She said the committee advocated for additional funding for rural schools and special education. She spoke about the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which allows teachers to transfer their licenses from another state, allowing them to more easily move into Colorado. She talked about the School Transportation Taskforce bill that she worked on, which will study the problem of school transportation issues. She said thank you to AGNC for the support of HB1247 for the energy transition study. She also talked about the wolf bills and the support of AGNC for these bills. She said it was a direct response from constituents that these bills passed, and she is disappointed in the Governor's veto. She said the western slope delegation was unified in these issues, and many other rural issues. She said that she was happy about the other bills passing providing funding for the wolf depredation issues. She also worked on two mental health bills to increase access to mental health services. She stated that she received the mental health legislator of the year because of these bills. She said she was looking forward to the next session.

Rep. Rick Taggart reported and expressed his gratitude for the Orfs and AGNC for their support during his first year as a legislator. He talked about how important it was to reach across the aisle and have bipartisan support. He had 20 bills/resolutions of which 17 passed. He spoke about a bill that allowed craft brewers and wineries to increase the number of events they can attend. He spoke about HB1081 increasing tax credits for ownership transfers of small businesses. He spoke about issues for food banks including operational costs and that packaging food for seniors was costing more than the federal government would reimburse. He talked about metro districts regarding transparency issues. He said that there were some disappointments, as well. There were a couple of bills that were postponed, one being a higher education bill to recognize first generation students, and a search and rescue bill for helicopters. He said that the county sheriffs have told him they will support this bill if he brings it back. It would give governmental immunity for these volunteer helicopter services. He said he was grateful for the opportunity to present today.

Rep. Elizabeth Velasco reported that she is a newly elected legislator. She has been working for many years on the western slope in many capacities. She said that collaboration is very important to her. She said a lot of the bills she worked on were about serving working families, like clean water for mobile home parks. She talked about the bill to give priority to translation for emergency alerts. She reported that she worked on the Regional Health Connectors Program. She said that she sat on the appropriations committee. She was also part of the energy and environment committee, where she saw a lot of new technology introduced for energy. She is also the chair of the wildfire matters committee, where they worked on air quality, evacuation, and language access. She spoke about transportation issues including Glenwood Canyon and her participation in resolving these issues. She said she is looking forward to having good relationships with everyone and elevating the issues of the western slope. She said that in HB213 there was a lot of focus on density, but she would like to see more focus on affordable housing and workforce development. She said that she cares about our natural resources and protecting our public lands.

Cody Davis opened the discussion to questions and noted that we have 3 first time legislators here today. Dianna Orf asked Sen. Roberts about the progress of the 10j rule. He said that the department of fish and wildlife feels confident that it will be passed before the December 31st deadline. Rep. Lukens commented that she was at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association meeting yesterday and that the fish and wildlife said that they even though they anticipate it to be passed, they still anticipate legal opposition to the passing of the rule. Bill Carlson commented that he heard that they may have a hard time getting wolves, and asked if it is still up in the air where the wolves will come from. Sen. Roberts said they think Washington state may be a source, but it is up in the air. Bill Carlson said he went to the JOLT seminar and toured the power plant, he said that the workers are in such a state of limbo, and he commented that he is concerned about the people that are being affected by these shutdowns. He commented that the 2-year study just gets us closer to the shutdown and he doesn't want to see the loss of these resources. Sen. Roberts talked about the Just Transition funding that is available to these communities. He talked about the amount of money that it takes to start a new energy program and that there is no law restricting a new program, and that it is mostly a cost issue, which the study should help with. Tiffany Dickenson commented about how hard it is to get

funding from Just Transition to help fund the support of the Northwest Energy Initiative. She spoke about the roadblocks with Just Transition and Sen. Roberts said he would like to speak with her more about it. Richard Orf spoke about Land Use and asked if there will be new ideas presented and how this will be brought back next session. Rep. Taggart commented that he emphasized that stakeholder engagement with local governments is very important to the success of these issues. Sen. Rich commented about the sponsor of the Land Use bill, Senator Moreno, and said that when SB213 did not pass he almost seemed relieved. She said that it will be back, but she thinks it will be more successful when all are included. Bill Carlson commented that he is a member of CML and at a recent meeting it was said that it will be brought back next year but in three different bills. He said that this will be a big issue for local governments without funding to help them implement it. Dianna Orf said that she was grateful for the legislators who fought for infrastructure funding for mandating these new developments. Rep. Taggart said they did get that amendment through in the house, but it was a big fight. Richard Orf commented that affordable housing is necessary, but it must include the language for the infrastructure, which may be why AGNC may or may not oppose this type of legislation. Tiffany Dickenson brought up the Eco Dwelling program, and how they are being innovative in solving housing issues. She also talked about the town of Silt and the mudslides that destroyed their water facilities and that they are struggling to get funding. Lori Malsbury with the Town of Silt said they also have issues with the wastewater plant and will soon be noncompliant without upgrades. Cody Davis commented on broadband, and the access given by CDOT, and reassessing right of way fees making broadband unattainable for some communities. They have been told that without legislation they cannot make any changes to these right of way fees to make them more reasonable to make fiber connection in rural Colorado feasible. He asked the legislators to keep this on their radar.

Cody Davis then presented appreciation awards to two legislators, Dylan Roberts and Megan Lukens, for their work on behalf of the region and rural Colorado. He commented that they took some heat from their own party for the work they did on behalf of these constituents. Richard Orf commented that it was a politically contentious year, and he is also thankful for the new legislators and returning legislators for their hard work and many late hours. Rep. Lukens was presented with the Eagle award. Richard Orf commented that Sen. Roberts may have had his hand in everything contentious this year, as he was presented with the “battle royale” elk award for fighting to do the right thing. Rep. Lukens said thank you and that she is committed to doing what’s right for her district, despite party lines.

Approval of minutes – Mike Samson made a motion to approve the May 24, 2023, meeting minutes; Grady Hazelton seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the May 2023 financials. She presented the Profit and Loss including the income overage for contribution project admin fees and how beneficial they are to AGNC. She said that Bill Carlson will be taking the grant navigator specialist position, so those expenses will start to go up for his compensation. The Balance Sheet was presented including the AGNC savings account balance, which is over \$700K in AGNC funds, and includes AAA funds which are paid out each month. Accounts Receivable was discussed including the billing of \$7K for Routt County, and \$14K for Routt County EDD which should be paid in two payments over the course of the year. Tiffany reported on the check register, and pointed out that all the expenses are standard. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Lisa Piering, seconded by Mike Samson; the motion passed unanimously.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts Heather reported AAA received some ARPA funds to expand the Public Health Workforce. They had two agencies submit RFPs for this funding, both out of Moffat County. The RFPs are attached to her report. They totaled almost \$59K of the \$102K they received, and both seem to qualify for the funding. She has reached out to the state to see if she could use the leftover funding to update the AAA website, which would help to meet the requirements to bring the website up to accessibility standards. She said she will keep us posted on the status of this funding. She asked for board approval to fund the two RFPs. She also reported that they are working on getting contracts out to providers

for the next fiscal year. She said they hosted the AAA directors meeting from around the state for the quarterly meeting in Palisade. She said the state unit on aging is hosting nutrition training for nutrition providers this week in Denver. She reported that they will be transitioning to an online monitoring program for contracted providers on the same system for reimbursements, and it will be HIPPA compliant. She reported that they will be looking to update the internal policies and procedures to ensure they are still in compliance with the state. She said that the PACE and LAD programs will be moving from their current operation to be under the Colorado Dept. of Human Services effective July 1, 2023. She then spoke about the legislation that required the website be accessible which goes into effect July 1, 2023 but they have until July 1, 2024 to be fully compliant. Tiffany Dickenson reported that Heather was given access to our grant program, Instrumentl, to apply for available grants. Cody asked the board for approval of the RFPs, Bill Carlson moved to approved the RFPs, Mike Samson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

OEDIT Update – **Keely Ellis** reported that she is returning from maternity leave and will be working part time. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her by email or phone.

DOLA Update – **Dana Hlavac** was unable to attend due to a dental emergency.

CDLE Workforce Update – **Christina Oxley** reported that unemployment in our region is at historic lows, and that the reasons for leaving work have more to do with climate and culture than pay. They are working with Just Transition for a workforce subcommittee. They have survey responses back and will be working on those results.

Legislative Update – **Richard and Dianna Orf**. Richard reported that the JBC has met, and they are trying to crack down on one time funding received for things that require ongoing funding. He said that Colorado is feeling the effects of inflation more than the rest of the country. He reported that the JBC is looking at permit fees, as well. Dianna spoke about a supreme court decision regarding U.S. waters and the Clean Water Act. She said the state health department now has to protect certain wetlands, and that this will cost the state money to do this, so they have asked the JBC for about \$215M to cover these costs. JBC approved the money with some restrictions. There is some debate as well over what defines a wetland. Richard said this will be an expensive program that will require funding. They also approved supplemental funding for a prison in Delta due to flooding. He said that interim committees begin next month. He said they anticipate more water bills next year, as well. Dianna said the state health department is looking at streams on the impaired list, and how to proceed. She said they are working on fee structures for greenhouse gas emissions for next year, that must be in place by December. Mike Samson stated Garfield County is against proposition HH and stated that he tells people that the Governor wants to take your TABOR refund money to fund HH, and he considers it a bait and switch. Richard stated that it would take about \$215M in TABOR funds the first year, and it would go up each year after that, and will only reduce property taxes by a small amount for homeowners and businesses.

American Lands Council – **Jennifer Fielder, Stacy Kandel, Alan Gardner and Doug Heaton** with American Lands Council (ALC) presented. ALC was started as issues were arising regarding land access and land mismanagement from the federal government. Jennifer presented a PowerPoint. She stated that ALC was started in 2012 and now includes elected officials from nearly every western state. She showed a map showing the portions of Colorado that are under federal control and are under federal jurisdiction, which is about 36% of the state. She stated that over 50% of the west is federally controlled. She presented that federal lands are neglected and that “protected” equals neglected (dense, overgrown, and unhealthy). She presented a chart showing the acres burned in the western 11 states in the last 100 years, showing massive increases. She presented the consequences of federal control, including road closures that are now impassable to foot traffic. She said that false science showed bears avoiding roads, however, further studies showed that not to be true. She also said that feds are blocking state fire crews, resulting in animals being burned alive, and massive environmental destruction. She stated that lands should be cultivated and cared for, and not treated as a museum. She stated that federal protection equals blocked access, dead trees, huge fires, toxic smoke, filthy water, environmental destruction, and economically devastated and depressed communities. She said the solution is to transfer federal lands to willing states, with decisions made by local control. She stated that this has been done before and that states can afford to keep them public. She stated

that Illinois successfully argued to have federal lands transferred to the state in 1829, with more than 95% federally controlled until that time. She presented the difference between the east and west states and why the west is more federally controlled. She presented three solutions: litigate with knowledge, legislate with courage (proposed National State Lands Act), and coordinate locally (using the state resource management plan). She spoke about establishing local chapters, which requires a minimum of 10 members with 4 officers, to which ALC provides organizational support. She said that ALC needs to advocate effectively and has a national website at americanlandscouncil.org where people can sign the petition, take action and become a member. Mike Samson stated that turning over lands to the state of Colorado gives him some serious pause, especially with the political makeup of the state at this time. Alan stated that some states will not participate and not make applications, and that Colorado may be one of those states. Mike asked if individual counties could join ALC, and Alan said yes, the individual counties could join. Jennifer said she could look into seeing if AGNC could join, but typically it is individual counties. Mike encouraged ALC to contact the other counties in western Colorado as well as some rural counties in eastern Colorado.

Chairman Cody Davis turned over chairman duties to Immediate Past Chair Mike Samson and left the meeting.

Broadband Update – Corey Bryndal reported that region 10 is getting ready to sign the IGA with CDOT for access along the highway. The agreement will allow CDOT to issue the permits to connect and should get things moving. Region 10 is reprogramming their federal grant for funding. Corey reported that they have had strong interest from the private internet providers to bring the internet to the communities, including Fruita, Palisade, Rifle, Craig, Meeker, Parachute, Collbran, and DeBeque. The grant window just opened for these private providers to seek federal funding. They are looking at how to get connectivity to southern Mesa County, as well. Work is also moving along in Garfield County. They are looking at structuring a multi-regional organization/board to oversee the middle mile network in the western half of the state. Tiffany commented that we would definitely have members that would be interested in the multi-regional board. Corey commented that the supply chain issues have eased some, so electronic equipment can be ordered now with about a 5-month lead time, versus the 12-month previous lead time.

Federal Delegate Update –

Janeth Stangle with Sen. Hickenlooper spoke about the energy initiative and will send information to Tiffany Dickenson to share with the AGNC members. She spoke about PILT money that will be available to Colorado counties. She said that Sen. Hickenlooper continues to be involved in water and the Colorado River initiatives and that they will have someone working with them to help local communities access federal funding. She also spoke about a proposed program to enable students who have credits from a 4-year college to transfer them to a community college for an associate degree.

Raven Finegan with Rep. Boebert reported that they have introduced amendments to ensure government transparency. Rep. Boebert has passed 2 bills and supports several water bills. Her Convey Act will receive a hearing in the coming weeks, directing BLM land to be conveyed to Mesa County. She has asked for input on proposed amendments on the farm bill. If anyone has any input, please contact her.

New Business –

Ray Beck with Club 20 commented that he is grateful to all who attended the JOLT energy summit. He applauds the legislators who helped get the energy study bill passed. June 27 & 28, 2024 will be next year's energy summit. He thanked the Orfs for all they do for western Colorado and AGNC. Tiffany Dickenson thanked Ray for his work during his retirement years, and for his participation in the AGNC EDD.

Mike Samson commented that he is interested in the ALC proposal, but he thinks there are some sticking points. He believes it could be a huge change for the west.

Tiffany Dickenson encouraged everyone to register and attend the IJJA summit on July 19th in Rifle from 9am to 4pm at Grand River Hospital.

Next meeting July 19, 2023, Grand River Hospital Conference Center, 501 Airport Rd, Rifle, CO 81650

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Lori Malsbury	Ray Beck – CLUB 20
Heather Jones	Meghan Lukens
Lisa Piering	Tony Bohrer
Bill Carlson	Raven Finegan
Mike Samson	Mike Markus
Rick Taggart	Tommy Klein
Nicole Maxwell	Brandon Bainer
Richard Orf	Margie Joy – CHFA
Dianna Orf	Crystal Mariscal
Cody Davis	Christina Oxley
Janice Rich	Keely Ellis – OEDIT
Janeth Stanclie	Doug Heaton – ALC
Grady Hazelton	Jennifer Fielder – ALC
Jennifer O’Hearon	Stacy Kandel – ALC
Dylan Roberts	Alan Gardner – ALC
Elizabeth Velasco	Corey Bryndal
Tiffany Dickenson	Leslie Cannon – Tri State
Mistalynn Meyeraan	Tony Haschke
Toni Barrett	

APPENDIX A



AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Updates from AAA 06/21/2023:

- The AAA had a Request for Proposals (RFP) on some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health (PH) funding (\$102,193) to expand the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network. The funds need to be spent by 09/30/2024. The funds should be used to recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health challenges. The AAA received 2 RFPs. ~Attached
- The AAA is working on getting contracts (and contract amendments) out to providers for the next fiscal year.
- Last week Region 11 AAA hosted all the AAA Directors from around the state for our Quarterly AAA Director meeting. The last time we hosted was June 2020.
- The State Unit on Aging is hosting nutrition training for nutrition providers this week (June 21-22) in Denver/virtual.
- The AAA will be transitioning to an online monitoring program for contracted providers. The online monitoring program will be the same platform our providers use for reimbursement, so they will be familiar with the system. The system is also HIPPA compliant.
- The AAA will look to update our own internal policies and procedures. These have not been reviewed since 2014.
- The Colorado State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office, the State Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Ombudsman Program and the Legal Assistance Developer (LAD) Program will be moving from their current operation under contractor, Disability Law Colorado, to operating under the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) July 1, 2023.
- There was legislation passed HB21-1110 that requires the State and other government entities to ensure their websites, videos, printed materials, etc. are accessible. This affects the AAA and potentially our providers since we all receive State funding. The legislation goes into effect July 1, 2023, but we do not have to be fully compliant until July 1, 2024. The Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) is trying to figure how we can get best come into compliance. C4A met with Kevin McDaniel (who will manage accessibility with the State) last week at our quarterly meeting. I have asked the State Unit on Aging (SUA) if the AAA could use some of the ARPA Public Health funds to come into compliance. The SUA was unsure and has reached out to the Administration for Community Living.

Submitting Agency: Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
Federal Employer ID Number
Date Established
Type of Organization
Proposal Status: **Submitted**
Proposal Contact: Suzi Mariano
940 Central Park Dr, Steamboat Springs CO 80487
9708791632
smariano@northwestcoloradohealth.org

AGENCY INFORMATION

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Northwest Colorado Health is requesting funding for a contracted on-call Home Health service to support rural, homebound aging adults in Moffat County. Home Health provides skilled nursing in the comfort and security of patients' homes for treatment of illness or injury. Northwest Colorado Health is the only provider of Home Health services in Moffat County regardless of patients' ability to pay. Home Health is a critical component of the public health infrastructure that is proven to increase access to care, improve health outcomes, support aging in place, reduce re-hospitalizations and reduce the financial burden of healthcare. During a pandemic, home health can reduce the spread of infectious disease and provide critical, safe, in-home care for those recovering from illness.

Home Health needs occur day and night and require staffing to support patients at all times, however, this component of the program is also extremely difficult to sustain with a small staff, and the requirement of working after-hours makes recruitment of staff challenging, particularly this time of extreme nursing shortages. The proposed contracted on-call service will triage Home Health after-hours calls, supporting patient needs via on-call nurses using a telehealth and phone-based model. This will allow our staff nurses to work at the top of their license and better utilize their time giving in-person care to patients during business hours.

Our Home Health program, like many rural service providers, has faced staffing shortages magnified and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In discussing solutions with other rural Home Health providers, the on-call service has the potential to efficiently and economically address workforce challenges, and provide access for all who need our care. Several neighboring counties have either closed their Home Health services or reduced them significantly due the aforementioned challenges. Contracting an on-call service is an innovative approach to rural healthcare workforce needs that have resulted from Covid-19 and will support our organization to be responsive into the future.

Service Requested State/Fed Funds

Public Health Professional \$46,800.00

TOTAL REQUESTED STATE/FEDERAL FUNDS \$46,800.00

PROPOSED SERVICES

Page 1 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Service Description:

The service funded by this proposal is for on-call Home Health contracted services. The proposed contracted on-call service will triage Home Health after-hours calls, providing personalized care for patients during evening and weekend hours via on-call nurses. This will allow our staff nurses to better utilize their time giving in-person care to patients. Home Health is an essential component of public health, as it assures access to care for patients who are unable to leave the home, improves health outcomes, and reduces the cost of healthcare.

Contracted services will include:

- 7 days a week, after hours and weekend on-call service
- \$900/week x 52 weeks = \$46,800/year
- This is for clinical Home Health patients only, and will not cover Home and Community Based Services
- Triage calls
- Send any complicated cases to the contracted on-call Nurse Case Manager
- Involve our staff as needed
- Provide personalized care
- Collaboration with our Home Health team
- Access our internal electronic medical record system to chart all care in the system
- Based on a daily census of 75 patients in Moffat County

Home Health provides skilled care (nursing, physical and occupational therapy, medical social workers, and certified nursing aides) in the comfort and security of patients' homes for treatment of illness or injury. In our rural community, many individuals live a great distance from their physicians, making it challenging to travel to appointments. By providing Home Health, all individuals have the opportunity to receive appropriate medical supports along the continuum of care. Illness and injury can have major impacts on the financial stability and mental health of a family, especially without the necessary care to prevent rehospitalizations. We are removing barriers to healthcare, ensuring that our patients are able to heal as quickly as possible without leaving the area, assessing for any significant changes in condition that can negatively impact positive health outcomes, and reducing the cost of medical care for the family.

For all our Home Services programming, staff address a client's needs, but also serve as advocates, answering questions, screening for depression, contacting their doctor with concerns or connecting them to community resources including medical and mental health. Our program allows a patient's family member to continue leaving the home for work and provide financially for their household and allows older adults to remain in their homes and communities, living independently. Our clients often have nowhere else to turn for care and are unable to leave their homes. Our staff are often the only people entering these patient's homes and provide the sole connection to community, and relieve from isolation for many.

Home Health in Northwest Colorado was originally developed as a partnership between county government and our agency to assure the communities could meet the needs of their residents. Home Health embodies several of the public health essential services by assuring an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Evidence suggests that home health care is a key piece of a patient's recovery process. Patients who receive home health services after an injury, operation, or illness are less likely to be readmitted to the hospital than those who return home on their own. Home health not only reduces the risk of rehospitalization but can also decrease the financial burden that results from

SERVICE DETAILS

OAA-SYS Request for Proposals System

RFP ARPA PH

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Detailed Budget:

Revenue

Requested State/Federal Funds \$46,800.00

Local Cash -

Local In-Kind -

Program Income -

TOTAL REVENUES (incl Program Income) \$46,800.00

Expense

Equipment -

Indirect -

Other Expense -

Personnel -

Professional Services

Telephone and Telehealth Triage Service for Hospice and Home Care. \$12/day for 7 days/week outside of business hours based on a daily census of 75 patients will be \$900/week x 52 weeks = \$46,800/year

\$46,800.00

\$46,800.00

Supplies & Operating -

Travel & Training -

TOTAL EXPENSES \$46,800.00

rehospitalization or poor health outcomes. In rural areas such as ours, home health also ensures that clients receive necessary maintenance care, such as wound dressing changes, that they might otherwise forgo, due to challenges in receiving that care. Home Health is vital to ensuring residents have access to healthcare and reduces the financial burden on individuals and families leading to increased self-sufficiency and stability. According to the 2014 study Differences in Case-Mix between Rural and Urban Recipients of Home Health Care, rural home health patients are more likely than their urban counterparts to:

- Be severely ill or in fragile condition
- Have more risk factors for hospitalization
- Need respiratory treatments and therapies
- Have a surgical wound requiring treatment

We serve rural patients including those utilizing Medicaid and on a sliding fee scale, removing financial barriers for our residents. This is an important service assuring equitable access to care in rural settings, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Unit Rate Analysis:

Requested State Federal Funds Proposed Units Rate Per Unit Proposed Clients Rate Per Client

\$46,800.00 100.00 \$468.00 75.00 \$624.00

Page 3 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Question 1: Briefly describe your organization's history and mission.

At Northwest Colorado Health our mission is to improve quality of life for all Northwest Colorado residents by providing comprehensive health resources and creating an environment that supports community wellness. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to achieve their best health. Every day, we partner with individuals throughout Northwest Colorado at their homes, in our clinics, and in the community because healthy people and families create a healthy community. Northwest Colorado Health was founded in Steamboat Springs, Colorado in 1964 in collaboration with Routt County. What started out as a small agency providing only public health and home health has grown to provide primary, dental, and behavioral health care, hospice, home health, and wellness and prevention services to all members of our community. Since 2006, we have acquired The Haven Assisted Living, and opened two Federally Qualified Health Centers. Additionally, we operate two dental clinics in Craig and Oak Creek and school based dental clinics in Hayden, Craig and Steamboat. Since 1964, Northwest Colorado Health has worked to understand and address the needs of our community.

We provide comprehensive services to those in need, from birth to end of life, regardless of ability to pay, serving roughly 15,000, or 30% of our regional population each year. We provide services in Northwest Colorado, an area making up 11,954 square miles of the state (roughly the size of Delaware, Rhode Island and New Jersey combined). These are rural, geographically isolated areas with many parts federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area/Population. These realities make access to affordable healthcare a regional and community priority.

Service-level Targeting Efforts [Total unduplicated persons by service area(s)]:

Service Area Total 60+

Persons

Moffat 75

TOTALS 75

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

Page 4 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Question 2: How will the funds be used to increase the public health workforce working with older adults (age 60+) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health challenges?

Funds for on-call Home Health support will allow our Home Health nurse staffing to work at the top of their license to support homebound older adults. Home Health staffing recruitment and retention has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, in many cases, causing neighboring rural Home Health providers to reduce or stop providing this essential service. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Home Health program was critical to supporting patients in a safe way, so that they did not need to travel to medical appointments and risk viral exposure. We cared for COVID-19 patients as they were discharged from the hospital, which required large amounts of PPE, and increased infection control. These services were essential to assuring safety and access to care for the most vulnerable populations. Our ability to continue providing Home Health is a key factor in preparing to support older adults in the event of future health challenges.

Question 3: Is there a specific target population of older adults (age 60+) that the public health professional will be working with?

The on-call services will specifically be working with rural homebound older adults who are recovering from illness or injury, or are too sick to leave their home. While Home Health is available to any age, the vast majority of patients are 60+.

Question 4: Describe your organization's plans to provide outreach and marketing towards older adults (age 60+).

We reach our patients by collaboration with a multitude of partners throughout the region to build knowledge and referrals for our work. We collaborate with local physicians, hospitals, assisted living facilities and our Aging Well Programs, to assure our community members are aware of the spectrum of services available to people who are home bound. Additionally, we collaborate with the Health Partnership Serving Northwest Colorado, and the Northwest Colorado Aging Services Coalition, to share resources and information.

Page 5 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Question 5: Since this RFP is for a twelve-month contract award, please describe efforts that will be taken to secure other permanent funding for the continuation of the public health professional(s) beyond the term of AAA funding.

The highest agency priority is sustainability for current programs. We are currently carrying out our strategic priority of building long term financial stability through a multi-tiered plan that includes diversifying revenue streams, enhancing a culture of partnership and accountability, enhancing staff recruitment and retention, preparing for ongoing shifts in payment reform, a recently established endowment, and assessing sustainability of current and potential programming. By having such diverse sources of revenue, we have been able to weather many challenges, including economic downturns resulting in decreased private donations and decreases in federal and state funding. Northwest Colorado Health receives multiple grants from a variety of sources, and no single grant fully supports any program.

The on-call service has the potential to eventually reduce costs through decreased turnover, increased employee satisfaction and more effective workflows. The cost of the on-call service is significantly lower than a staff position, and our organization is confident that this one time funding will help us implement an innovative solution that will help Home Health thrive moving forward.

Page 6 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

SUBMITTAL DETAILS

This submission must be **received** by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on Friday June 2, 2023.

Method of Submittal: Submit Electronically

Date Submitted: 6/1/2023 2:06:27 PM -07:00

SIGNATURE

In signing this proposal, we acknowledge and consent to the above terms and conditions

Electronically signed by Suzi Mariano

Senior Director of Marketing and Development

smariano@northwestcoloradohealth.org

ATTACHMENTS

The following files have been uploaded to the RFP database and are included by reference as part of this proposal.

Requested Attachment Uploaded Document

It is understood and agreed by the proposer that:

- 1) funds granted as a result of this request are to be expended for the purposes as allowed under the Older Americans Act and as set forth herein, and in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures of the AAA, the State of Colorado, and the Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- 2) funds granted as a result of this request are contingent upon the services provided being allowable expenses;
- 3) payment for services rendered cannot occur until the parties have fully executed a contract and AAA has confirmed that the services are eligible for funding;
- 4) funds awarded as a result of this request may be terminated at any time for violations of any terms or requirements of the required contract or any applicable laws, regulations, policies or procedures or in the event that it is determined that the services are not eligible for funding under the Older Americans Act;
- 5) The Required Reading Section of this proposal application will be read prior to finalizing and submitting a proposal. It is further acknowledged and agreed to that this RFP is a solicitation and not an offer to contract. AAA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. AAA further reserves the right to issue clarifications and other directives concerning this RFP; to require clarification or further information with respect to any proposal; and to determine the final terms of any contract.

It is further agreed that by submitting a response, the proposer represent that its agency and its principals are not suspended or debarred per federal requirements.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Page 7 of 7 - Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

OAA-SYS Request for Proposals System

RFP ARPA PH

ON-CALL HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Submitting Agency: Senior Citizens Action Council

Federal Employer ID Number

Date Established

Type of Organization

Proposal Status: **Submitted**

Proposal Contact: Rebekah Greenwood

775 Yampa Ave., Craig CO 81625

9703263188

executivedirector@seniorsocialcenter.org

AGENCY INFORMATION

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

We would like to hire a staff person to help our Older Coloradans in Moffat County to provide information and assistances navigating resources available to them. To help them sign up for programs like leap, CARE, free internet, low-cost phone service, and act as a care coordinator to connect them to healthcare. This program will help make Older Coloradans aware of the programs or resources available. If we can't sign them up on our own, we can get them in contact with the right agency or representative. Referring to other resource agencies like Human Services, Caregiver Support, Health Partnership, NWCCI and Care Coordinators throughout our community when appropriate.

Service Requested State/Fed Funds

Public Health Professional \$10,374.00

TOTAL REQUESTED STATE/FEDERAL FUNDS **\$10,374.00**

PROPOSED SERVICES

Page 1 of 6 - Senior Citizens Action Council

RFP ARPA PH

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Service Description:

Detailed Budget:

Revenue

Requested State/Federal Funds **\$10,374.00**

Local Cash -

Local In-Kind -

Program Income -

TOTAL REVENUES (incl Program Income) \$10,374.00

Expense

Equipment -

Indirect -

Other Expense -

Personnel

Resource Navigator [520 hrs at \$19.95/hr] **\$10,374.00**

\$10,374.00

Professional Services -

Supplies & Operating -

Travel & Training -

TOTAL EXPENSES \$10,374.00

To help the SSC be more effective as the resource hub for older adults, we see the need to hire a part-time Resource Navigator to gather information on resources available, refer to area partners, and sit down one-on-one with people in need to help them find and apply for the resources they need. I had a gentleman come in that had been to many different agencies in the city looking for help and really just needed someone to take time with him and address his individual concerns. It was overwhelming to him having to go to so many different places and not really understanding the services they provided. He kept saying "no one has the time to help me". He really needed someone to look at his overall picture and help go through the process of applying through a website or over the phone. This staff person will help our older adults in Moffat County to navigate resources available to them. To help them sign up for programs like food assistance, leap, CARE, free internet, low- cost phone service, Medicare, etc. If we can't sign them up on our own, we can get them in contact with the right agency or representative. Referring to other resource agencies like Human Services, Caregiver Support, Health Partnership, NWCCI and Care Coordinators throughout our community when appropriate. This staff person will be responsible to update the resource list to help the Senior Social Center act as the Aging Services Hub for Moffat County, as identified by the Aging Services Coalition of Northwest Colorado. This staff person will do outreach within the community, including having meetings within Sunset Meadows, Maybell Seniors group, Veterans Hall, Wellness Wednesday and other locations. We believe having a contact act as a Care Coordinator within the Senior Social Center will help the older adults in our community connect with the resources that they need to live healthier life.

SERVICE DETAILS

Page 2 of 6 - Senior Citizens Action Council

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Question 1: Briefly describe your organization's history and mission.

The Senior Social Center inception date was in 2014, when a group of Moffat County delegates for the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Colorado (AAA) collaborated with local business owners and community members to create a permanent, accessible gathering place for active adults. In addition, the SSC partnered with many non-profits and other agencies interested in the health and wellbeing of seniors in our community. The mission of the Senior Social Center is to provide a permanent accessible gathering place to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens through socialization, exercise, creativity and education.

Question 2: How will the funds be used to increase the public health workforce working with older adults (age 60+) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health challenges?

The Resource program will help community members find resources to help them financially and/or help them connect to resources that will help them live a healthier and safer life. To help them sign up for programs like food assistance, leap, CARE, free internet, low-cost phone service, Medicare, etc.

The SSC helps improve the quality of life for many in our community providing them resources and assistance during this unprecedented time of isolation in the world today caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Connecting older adults with these services affects the costs of services these individuals would have needed of from other resources and agency within the community by getting help for an individual sooner and hopefully stopping or slowing the progressing of a health or wellness issue. When a community's residences are secure financially, and living a healthier and safer life, the more resource are available to improve its environmental footprint.

Unit Rate Analysis:

Requested State Federal Funds Proposed Units Rate Per Unit Proposed Clients Rate Per Client

\$10,374.00 2000.00 \$5.19 200.00 \$51.87

Service-level Targeting Efforts [Total unduplicated persons by service area(s)]:

Service Area Total 60+

Persons

Moffat 200

TOTALS 200

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Question 3: Is there a specific target population of older adults (age 60+) that the public health professional will be working with?

In the frontier region of Northwestern Colorado, services can be hard to find or access. The SSC wants to offer as many options as possible to promote health and improve our community's older adult's quality of life. The SSC wants to reach a diverse demographic by offering services that peak a variety of interest. The SSC also wants to reach the isolated, including many homebound, frail, and/or low-income seniors. Moffat County's demographic as a rural and frontier America region intensifies the challenges to access care for older Coloradans. Access to this care is an exigent need and resources are not as accessible. We reach out to and welcome people of all ethnicities, ages, disabilities and income levels. We work closely with the Northwest Colorado Center for Independence (NWCCI), sharing resources and referrals. We will be looking for a bilingual Spanish speaking staff person to help meet the needs of individuals with language barriers in our communities. The Spanish language is the 2nd most common language spoken in our communities. According to the most recent American Community Survey, approximately 2944 Moffat County residents are age 60 or older, and 10.9 percent of 65 or older are living below the Federal Poverty Level (2021). Colorado's rural/frontier population is shifting to an older demographic at a faster pace than any point in the state's history. In Moffat County, estimates from U.S. Census data in 2021, the most current year available, state that 22.15 percent of residents are age 60 or older, with approximately 13 percent of locals between the ages of 50 and 59 (Census.gov). This demographic breakdown highlights a challenge that will intensify for rural and frontier America in the coming years: care for elders is an exigent need and the SSC is working to bring creative programs to help meet those needs.

Question 4: Describe your organization's plans to provide outreach and marketing towards older adults (age 60+).

The SSC will utilize the Senior Outreach Service (SOS) program to help identify needs and share information on the resource program. The SOS outreach program targets homebound, frail, and/or low-income residents ages 60 and older who live in Craig and the surrounding communities, with the objective of improving participants' quality of life through consistent, appropriate personal contact. With SSC's goal to reach out into the Hispanic community we hope to offer more programming and reach a more diverse population. We share SSC information through a comprehensive email list of older adults and utilizes the Chamber of Commerce email list of 1000 business and community members for special occasions. We use Facebook pages for both the SSC happenings and programs, our information is shared on multiple local social media pages from our community. We produced and distributed flyers for programs and events, both physically and digital. We share information on our website and as a member of the Chamber our contact information and link to our website are on its highly trafficked site. We have a relationship with the local newspaper that has written articles, printed letters to the editors, event info as PSAs, and we have done a small amount of advertising through print. We have produced and continually distribute brochures with information on the SSC's programming and services. Our local radio station is a great partner, always willing to do PSAs for our events and programs. Our Quarterly provider meeting is a great way to get the word out on programming and events. We do outreach in the community at other organizations that serve Seniors. SSC sends newsletters to seniors that don't rely on email and our Senior Outreach program volunteers encourage contacts to participate in other services. Word of mouth continues to be the greatest marketing tool.

Page 4 of 6 - Senior Citizens Action Council

OAA-SYS Request for Proposals System

RFP ARPA PH

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Question 5: Since this RFP is for a twelve-month contract award, please describe efforts that will be taken to secure other permanent funding for the continuation of the public health professional(s) beyond the term of AAA funding.
It is our belief that the resource program proposed will show a meaningful impact throughout the year. We will work to secure additional grant funding to make sure the funding is available to continue the programs after Aug. 2024. We will work on relationships with people and organizations that can provide in-kind services. The SSC will secure additional funding to extend the position for Sept. 2024- Aug. 2025 by June 30, 2024. The SSC has set aside designated funds to be used starting Sept. 2024 if needed to continue the programs position in the amount of \$6,543.21.

Page 5 of 6 - Senior Citizens Action Council

OAA-SYS Request for Proposals System

RFP ARPA PH

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

SUBMITTAL DETAILS

This submission must be **received** by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on Friday June 2, 2023.

Method of Submittal: Submit Electronically

Date Submitted: 6/2/2023 3:08:15 PM -07:00

SIGNATURE

In signing this proposal, we acknowledge and consent to the above terms and conditions

Electronically signed by Rebekah Greenwood

Executive Director

executivedirector@seniorsocialcenter.org

ATTACHMENTS

The following files have been uploaded to the RFP database and are included by reference as part of this proposal.

Requested Attachment Uploaded Document

It is understood and agreed by the proposer that:

- 1) funds granted as a result of this request are to be expended for the purposes as allowed under the Older Americans Act and as set forth herein, and in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures of the AAA, the State of Colorado, and the Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
 - 2) funds granted as a result of this request are contingent upon the services provided being allowable expenses;
 - 3) payment for services rendered cannot occur until the parties have fully executed a contract and AAA has confirmed that the services are eligible for funding;
 - 4) funds awarded as a result of this request may be terminated at any time for violations of any terms or requirements of the required contract or any applicable laws, regulations, policies or procedures or in the event that it is determined that the services are not eligible for funding under the Older Americans Act;
 - 5) The Required Reading Section of this proposal application will be read prior to finalizing and submitting a proposal.
- It is further acknowledged and agreed to that this RFP is a solicitation and not an offer to contract. AAA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. AAA further reserves the right to issue clarifications and other directives concerning this RFP; to require clarification or further information with respect to any proposal; and to determine the final terms of any contract.

It is further agreed that by submitting a response, the proposer represent that its agency and its principals are not suspended or debarred per federal requirements.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Page 6 of 6 - Senior Citizens Action Council