



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**April 24, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 1:30 pm**  
***Pioneers Medical Center, Board Meeting Room,***  
***100 Pioneers Medical Center Way, Meeker, CO 81643***

**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.

**Approval of minutes** – Mike Samson made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes; Chris Nichos seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Dickenson presented the March 2024 financials. The Profit and Loss statement was presented including profit of \$21K, as well as an explanation of the contra accounts and grant expenses. The Balance Sheet was presented including accounts receivable of \$103K. Accounts Receivable was presented as of 4/22/24, and Tiffany noted that she will check with Glenwood Springs and Jackson County on their outstanding dues. The Transaction List (check register) was discussed including Tactical 101 which is payment to Matt Solomon for his work as Grants Navigator and his work on the NCEI. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Doug Overton, and 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 stated that interviews for Ombudsman commenced, and a conditional job offer has been made and they are waiting on a background check. She said that she attended the Planning for the Future of Older Adult Programs in Garfield County and will attend another meeting in New Castle this week. She reported that she is getting surveys entered from the providers and hopes to have a regional summary. She said AAA applied for CDS to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper from the Colorado Association of AAAs to help with funding for meals and transportation. She reported on the work in the Colorado legislature regarding AAA funding. She reported that the grant review committee met and is working on budgeting, however they do not have a final budget pending final amounts from state funding. She said they will work on a temporary final budget with estimates. She reported that there was an Aging Caucus held at the state capital with discussion on bills of interest. She said that there is a law week starting next week in Glenwood Springs dedicated to elder law topics. She reported on the legislative bills that she is following including HB24-1115, 1142, 1152, 1229, 1312, SB24-040 and 136. Heather’s report is attached as Appendix A.

**NCEI Update** – **Matt Solomon** noted that his payment was 4 months’ worth of work in the financial report. He said they are making good progress in NCEI. He said they are working on an OpEd for press release. He

presented the questionnaire and said there are 29 questions and should take about 15 minutes to complete. He said after the survey is complete Dr. Perry will work on putting the data together for a presentation. He said they will meet with Communities LEAP today and there were 30 accepted for the cohort. He said he spoke with Sarah Carlisle at Tri-State and other entities in the community to get the survey out. He said they have applied for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grant. He spoke about the regional grant navigator program and said it has been well received by the communities. He asked all to send them their projects and wish lists so they can help find grant money, whether it be IJJA, IRA or other grants. Tiffany Pehl commented on the capacity for grant management and that AGNC can help with this, can budget the expenses, and can hire help if necessary. She stated that capacity not be a barrier for anyone with the help of AGNC. Mike Samson commented on Mistalynn Meyeraan's ability to help with grants, and Matt also said that she is amazing. Mike commented on the Oil and Gas Symposium in Garfield County and said that Nuclear was mentioned several times at the conference. Matt said it was a good symposium and well put together. Tiffany spoke about a docu-series she heard about at the symposium. Sarah Carlisle reported on Tri-State and their electric resource plans, including carbon capture and sequestration. She said that their top sights are in Northwest Colorado. She said this is good news and she will be sure to keep everyone updated.

**CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker and Chris Oxley** joined online and presented for the Colorado Workforce. Chris Oxley present on the workforce update. She said that the macro look is good for the region. She presented on the Unemployment rate for the AGNC region, which was at 4.4% as of January 2024. She reported on employment and wages, both showing a steady increase, with the biggest growth in retail and hospitality. She reported that there was a small dip in establishments. She reported that the largest employment was in health care and social assistance, with all industries projected to grow. She spoke about the labor force participation rate, which was 64.5% in 2022, declining down from 67.5% in 2011. She spoke about work-based learning and that the state of Colorado is making this a priority to address the labor shortage. She said that they would like to align education with the needs of the work force. She said the program would provide education or training in a work sight, providing hands-on real-world experience. She spoke about the benefits to the employee as well as the employer. She spoke about work experience programs that can benefit employers, including where the workforce center pays wages and Workers Compensation Insurance for qualified candidates for an average of about 12 weeks. She spoke about the on-the-job training program where the workforce center pays a portion of wages during training which varies based on the rate of pay. She spoke about the apprenticeship program where funding may be available to cover wages and/or the cost of the training program, for an average of about 2 years. Carolyn Tucker spoke about work-based learning opportunities and how important they are to the work force. She said they have had much success with health care providers and apprenticeships. Margie Joy asked if it would apply to childcare facilities. Carolyn said there are some apprenticeship programs with paraprofessionals in the education system. She said she will research more and get back to Margie regarding childcare. Chris Oxley said that there may be some funding from the state for childcare certification. Mike Samson asked when they talk about the AGNC region, which counties are they reporting on. Chris said it would be the 4 counties of Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Moffat. Mike said we have associate members in Grand, Delta and Montrose counties. Tiffany said it makes sense to keep it to the 4 counties. Cody asked if they have information for each county and how to access that information. Chris said to reach out to her directly and she can get that information out. Carolyn said that it is best to give out information on the county level. Tiffany spoke about the CSU extension and asked Jeff Engell to present on the research that they can provide to communities. Jeff spoke about a couple of projects that they have done research for, including the Ute Theater in Rifle. He said communities can reach out to him if they would like to have research done.

**Pioneers Medical Center Contribution Project – Cindy Rholls and Rachel Gates.** Tiffany Dickenson briefly spoke about the Enterprise Zone and the contribution project program. Cindy and Rachel gave a PowerPoint presentation on their EZ contribution project. They reported that since receiving designation the Foundation has donated over \$100K back to the hospital for their equipment. They reported that Pioneers

Medical Center employs over 180 employees and is the largest employer in Rio Blanco County. They spoke about the town of Meeker and the town's transition plan. They spoke about medical tourism, business retention and expansion. They said that from 2020 to date that about 7500 patients are from outside the region, and project over 10,500 through 2025. They spoke about the economic impact of new jobs on the local economy. They said CU did a study and economic report showing that 6 new jobs can add \$18M to the economy. Jeannie Caldwell asked about medical tourism and if orthopedics is the only thing bringing in the numbers. Rachel said that it also impacts radiology and other services at the hospital. Mike Samson asked where the patients are coming from, and Rachel said they have western slope as well as nationwide patients coming in. Tiffany asked them to talk about the tax credits available to donors. Rachel spoke about the huge benefit the tax credits are to donors, which benefits PMC as they receive more donations.

**Business Incubator Center – Dalida Sassoon Bollig.** Tiffany Dickenson spoke about the Office of Just Transition and SBDC doing a satellite office in Yampa. She said that she spoke to Dalida about BIC and how they can help in the just transition communities. Dalida presented a PowerPoint and spoke about western slope pioneers and making businesses prosper. She said they were founded in 1986 after a bust in the economy. She spoke about the mission and goal of the BIC. She said they focus on the impact of economic development to diversify the economy. She said they guide entrepreneurs through innovation, space and tools, funding and incentives, and mentoring and training. She spoke about the programs that are available to entrepreneurs and small businesses and said that some of these programs include Small Business Development Center, Mesa County Enterprise Zone, Mesa County Business Loan Fund, Strategic Training for Nonprofits, Fruita Satellite Office and Coworking, Maker-space, Incubator Intensive, Commercial Kitchen and Food Innovation, AgriWest, and Colorado Circular Economy. She said that in 2023 they helped create 745 new jobs, 43 new startups, 22 business loans, 446 clients served, 231 jobs retained, and 73 businesses on campus. She spoke about a business named Valkyrie Recovery Systems owned by a veteran who opened a business for rocket recovery. She said that they received congressional recognition, as well as recognition from Gov. Polis for their success. She spoke about creating a future together with AGNC and mentioned young robotics students from local high schools that they are working with at BIC. Ray Beck commented that diversifying an economy is tough and asked about working with local colleges and loan information. Dalida said they work with the local colleges to engage graduates with entrepreneurship. She said there are multiple sources for loan funds. She said they are not traditional lenders, but they have specific qualifiers. She said they have a revolving loan fund as well as private lending. She said their loan terms are usually between 15 to 20 years. She said that once businesses become well established the loans can then be bought by banks. Dalida presented a video for AgriWest. She spoke about Janie VanWinkle and her contributions to AgriWest. Tiffany said we can get a link for the video sent out so that everyone can view and hear the video. Janie VanWinkle commented that she is very impressed with BIC and that it is a hidden gem in western Colorado. Tiffany spoke about using the BIC as a hub and spoke model to get services to the Yampa Valley region. Tiffany asked Dalida if there is a way to access these resources and services. Dalida said they can collaborate. Lori Malsbury spoke about a new business in Silt. Tiffany said there will be a tour April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the BIC in Grand Junction for anyone that may be interested.

**Ray Beck** spoke about SB24-197 regarding water rights and thanked Tri-State. He spoke about the Wolf issues and said that Tiffany did a good job writing a letter regarding the recent problems. He commented on the lack of action by CPW. He said our ag people need help and encouraged everyone to participate. Mike Samson commented that it will be an uphill battle and feels that the current plan may destroy the ranching industry. He commented that what we are seeing is only with the small number of wolves and that CPW would like to see up to 250 wolves in the state. He said he believes the only way to change it would be to get it back on the ballot for another election.

**Janie VanWinkle** commented that she had a conversation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She said that in the northern states they must deal with the various national organizations. She said that in Colorado there is

also a very vocal local group on the ground, and they would have to deal with the fallout from these local groups. She said she believes there is a movement where local landowners will stop cooperating with CPW. Tiffany said the biggest issue is that they refuse to work with the local communities where the reintroductions are taking place.

**Cody Davis** asked for any other County or Municipal updates.

**Margie Joy** talked about affordable housing and current legislation that is being considered. She said there is a bill that would extend tax credits for affordable housing. She said that Prop 123 will start to do announcements and CHFA has been contracted by OEDIT to administer this funding. She said that CHFA does invest in economic development. She said they have several grants available. Chris Nichols asked what the AMI is currently in this area. Margie said it depends on the program, but it could be up to 120.

**Tom Rugaard**, mayor of Parachute, commented on the CPW. He said thinks before they spend more money on reintroduction of wolves, they should spend money on the dying elk and deer.

**Energy Code Training for Local Jurisdictions – Erica DiLello and Shannon Bauman.** Erica presented a PowerPoint via zoom on Energy Codes. She spoke about what an energy code is including regulations that govern energy efficient design and construction of new buildings and major renovations of or additions to existing buildings. She spoke about the benefits of adopting energy codes. She presented energy code adoption requirements per Colorado house bill 22-1362. She presented a map showing the adoption of the codes. She said that they will share all the links from today's presentation. She talked about training and technical assistance. She said there is free training available for local governments and building professionals on the latest energy codes and stretch codes. She said some of these trainings include Wednesday webinars, on demand training, role-based training, and blower door training. She spoke about the energy code adoption toolkit available on the Colorado Energy Office website at <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/buildings/building-energy-codes>. She spoke about the Colorado Building Code Helpline accessible through [www.coloradocodes.happyfox.com/new](http://www.coloradocodes.happyfox.com/new). Shannon presented the grant program to help provide funding to local governments to assist with adoption, implementation and enforcement of the latest energy codes of stretch energy codes. Examples of funding areas include consultant and staff time, outreach and engagement, training and workforce development, compliance review and verification, enforcement improvements and innovation. She said that local governments or COGs, or nonprofits working on behalf of local governments can apply. She said the next application deadline is May 31, 2024. She said grant amounts of up to \$125K are available for eligible entities applying individually, and up to \$250K for partnerships. She listed some grants that have been issued so far including Garfield Clean Energy supporting Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and New Castle. She shared her resources and contacts. Ray Beck commented on local control and asked how the energy codes impact local control and working with local governments to design these codes. He asked about current proposed legislation and how this works with the codes they are discussing. Shannon said she is not familiar with proposed legislation. She said they hear about local control regularly. She said that if there is no action taken to update or implement new building codes, then the new energy codes are not enforced. She said if there is an update they will be required to update to these new energy codes, basically make it an optional program. Cody Davis asked if there is anything that will require that these codes be updated by a certain date. Shannon said they are only required if they update or adopt building codes.

### **Federal Delegate Update –**

McKenna Farley with Rep. Boebert reported on legislation. She reported that there are new rules increasing fees by the BLM for federal lands which disincentivizes producers. She said they have new legislation that will address these issues. She reported that Rep. Boebert opposes the new Dolores River National Monument. She said they will continue to monitor the national monument discussions. Cody Davis asked when the NCA will

make it out of committee. McKenna said it is already out of committee but does not have needed amendments, so they are working to amend it. She also said they are in talks with USPS for options to reverse the decision regarding the Grand Junction processing facility.

**Tiffany Dickenson** gave an administrative update including a 10:30am tour of BIC in Grand Junction on 4/25/24 and an upcoming meeting in Naturita regarding Dolores National Monument. Commissioner Samson asked if there is local support for Dolores Monument. Janie Van Winkle said that she went to a meeting with about 3-400 people, and she found 1 person in support. Cody Davis said that Mesa County is working on a website for public education on the matter. Mike Samson moved that AGNC prepare a resolution in opposition to the Dolores Monument, Doug Overton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Tiffany said that she will begin work on the resolution.

**New Business –**

*Next meeting May 15, 2024, Garfield County Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 195 W.14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650*

**Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.**

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
Matt Solomon	McKenna Farley – Rep. Lauren Boebert
Tiffany Dickenson	Heather Jones – AAA Region 11 Director
Toni Barrett	Jeff Engell – CSU Extension
William Dearing	Jeff Comstock
Rochelle Firth	Tom Rugaard – Mayor of Parachute
Grady Hazelton	Christina Oxley – Colorado Workforce
Lori Malsbury	Carolyn Tucker – Colorado Workforce
Travis Day	John Bristol – RCEDP
Jeannie Caldwell	Betsy Bair
Mike Samson	Erin McCuskey – SBDC
Cody Davis	Erica DiLello – NORESCO
Chris Nichols	Shannon Bauman
Lisa Piering	970-880-4172
Doug Overton	
Janie VanWinkle	
Margie Joy	
Ray Beck	
Sarah Carlisle	
Dalida Sassoon Bolig	
Mike Ritter	

## APPENDIX A



### Updates from AAA 03/20/2024:

- The AAA received sixteen applications for the LTC Ombudsman position. We plan to interview five of the applicants next week.
- The first week of April, the LTC Ombudsman team will be heading to Denver for recertification training.
- The AAA has received performance measure surveys from five providers. Providers have until the end of the month to provide the AAA with their surveys. The AAA has begun to enter the survey data into the State Unit on Aging Google Forms and hopes to have this completed by mid-May 2024.
- The State Unit on Aging is looking to update their current Policy and Procedure Manual by July 1, 2024. They have been soliciting feedback from AAAs and contracted providers.

### Legislative:

#### **HB24-1115: Prescription Drug Label Accessibility**

The bill requires a pharmacy to provide an individual who has difficulty seeing or reading standard printed labels on prescription drug containers with access to the prescription drug label information by: Including an electronic label affixed to the prescription drug container that transmits the prescription drug's label information, directions, and written instructions to an end user's external accessible device, including an individual's compatible prescription drug reader; Providing a prescription drug reader at no cost to the individual; Providing a prescription drug label in braille or large print; or Providing the individual with a method recommended by the United States access board. **House Committee on Health & Human Services Refer Amended to Appropriations 3/12/24.**

#### **HB24-1142: Reduce Income Tax Social Security Benefits**

The bill expands the current income tax subtraction for social security benefits. Current law allows any individual who is 65 years of age or older at the close of a taxable year to subtract the total amount of social security benefits that the individual received from the individual's federal taxable income, to the extent those benefits were included in federal taxable income, when determining the individual's state taxable income. The bill expands this subtraction to any individual who is 55 years of age or older. **Introduced in House and Assigned to Finance 1/29/24.**

#### **HB24-1229: Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Care**

Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill removes the requirement that the department of health care policy and financing (department) fully assess a person in need of long-term services and supports for the appropriate level of care before the person is presumed eligible for the medical assistance program. The bill authorizes the department to make any necessary changes to any other federal authorizations that are authorized by the federal centers for

Medicare and Medicaid services in order to implement the presumptive eligibility requirements for persons in need of long-term services and supports. **House Second Reading Special Order-Passed-No Amendments 3/15/24.**

**HB24-1152: Accessory Dwelling Units**

The bill creates a series of requirements related to accessory dwelling units. The bill establishes unique requirements for subject jurisdictions and for qualifying as an accessory dwelling unit supportive jurisdiction (supportive jurisdiction). **House Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government Refer Amended to Appropriations: 02/27/2024**

**HB24-1211:** The bill creates the state funding for senior services contingency reserve fund (fund) in the department of the treasury to aid the state office on aging in addressing unforeseen circumstances experienced by an area agency on aging or a provider of eligible services. **This bill was signed by the Governor on 2/27/24.**

**SB24-040:** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the department of human services for state funding for senior services. The bill also requires the general assembly to annually adjust for inflation the general fund appropriation for state funding for senior services. Funding must be reviewed every three years to make sure there is adequacy of the appropriations for senior services. **Referred unamended to Appropriations 1/25/2024.**

**SB24-136:** The bill provides guidance for guardians and conservators and clarifies how appointees must make decisions on behalf of a person under guardianship or conservatorship. It encourages the use of protective arrangements and less restrictive alternatives instead of conservatorship or guardianship if a person's needs can be met with support services and technology. It also expands monitoring of guardians and conservators to ensure compliance with fiduciary duties and prevent exploitation. The bill includes a limitation on a guardian's ability to prevent communication, visitation, or interactions between a person subject to guardianship and a third party. **Assigned to Judiciary 2/7/24.**