

April 23, 2025

**Call to Order:**

- Pueblo Advisory Council on Aging meeting called to order by Vice Chair Eva Muniz Valdez at 2:32PM

**Roll Call:**

- *Members in Attendance:*  
Tricia Ayala, Norma Becco, Richard Blair, Thomas Carrigan, Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Kathy Javaneau, Judy Martinez, Eva Muniz Valdez, Claudine Riccillo, Andrea Sanchez, Marty Schlink
- *Members Excused:*  
Carla Garcia, Kathy Jones
- *Pueblo Area Agency on Aging (PAAA) Staff in Attendance:*  
Dina Godinez, Jennifer Novak - *Heather Cornell excused*
- *Guest:*
- Ginelle Orozco, Business Development Team – Goodwill/Goodwheels Program (by Zoom); Diane Hayhurst-Vigil, DHS Utilization Management Specialist

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve the Agenda as presented.

1<sup>st</sup> Andrea Sanchez 2<sup>nd</sup> Claudine Riccillo

Motion Approved

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the April 23, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented.

1<sup>st</sup> Norma Becco 2<sup>nd</sup> Marty Schlink

Motion Approved

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Provider Update –** Ginelle Orozco, Business Development Team – *Goodwill/Goodwheels Program:*

Ginelle Orozco from the Goodwill/Goodwheels program presented to the Council via Zoom. Ginelle gave an overview of the purpose of the Goodwheels Program in addition to the programs Goodwill offers to veterans, seniors, and disabled individuals in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo including rural areas throughout the southern part of Colorado. Ginelle stated there is an excel center in the Denver area – free public high school - for adults 22 years old and older. Several free certification programs are also offered to qualifying individuals in areas such as AI, Hospitality, Caregiver, Forklift, Flagger, Microsoft Outlook, Warehouse, Logistics, & Retail. Goodwheels provides door-to-door transportation service for clients with Medicaid to medical appointments, pharmacy stops, dentist appointments, or other destinations requested by their physicians.

**DHS Report –** No report this month.

**PAAA Report –** Dina Godinez/Jennifer Novak

**Contracts and Budgets**

- Dina informed the Council all of the provider’s evaluations have been completed. Dina is also working on the budget. Federal funding cuts overall for all Colorado PAAA agencies are -2.62%, so developing a budget for 2026 will be a challenge. The state does have some allocated dollars that might cover some

of the shortfalls on the federal side. Overall, 2026 budget allotment will be short approximately \$46,949.00.

- RFP's – The effort to bring new homemaker and caregiver respite RFP bids was not successful. FirstLight was the only homemaker and caregiver agency to apply and will receive the contract if they accept the funding PAAA can award them.
- As soon as the full 2026 budget is established, Dina will meet with several directors and fiscal managers to get approval then all contracts will be issued and have to be finalized by July 1, 2025. The hearing aid program will be cut entirely out of the 2026 budget because of the small amount that would be offered to clients who need them, making the program unaffordable for many people.
- Starting July 1, the new fiscal year starts with farm and other vouchers becoming available; Jennifer will be very busy.
- Despite PAAA being unable to increase funding to SRDA for 2025/2026, Meals on Wheels will increase their food delivery back to 5 days a week from the former 3 days a week schedule, which was put into place due to SRDA's budget cuts.

## Old Business

### **Centenarian/ Senior of the Year Committee Update:**

- Dina will contact a person to donate a cake for the event
- Ramona will track and store all silent auction items for the event
- PAAA will track all monetary donations and RSVPs to the event
- Heather Cornell is developing the donation letters and forms
- SRDA will provide the food (\$15/\$20) per plate – Jennifer Novak and Marty Schlink will ensure all food preparation details are finalized
- A taste testing will take place at SRDA June 25 at 2:00 p.m. with the PACA Council meeting directly following the taste tasting event at 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 27, 2025, SRDA will be hosting a summer block party at 4:00 p.m.
- A name for the senior volunteer was voted on by all Council members
- Next planning meeting will take place Friday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. at SRDA
- PACA Council conducted a silent written vote to decide on the name of the event
- A draft flyer for the event was passed around for Council review

### **Legislative Session:**

- Richard Blair informed Council the committee selected July 25 and October 24, 2025 to host an advocacy breakfast meeting for elected officials at SRDA
- It is particularly important legislative representatives know how vital PAAA services are to older people and the importance of funding these programs
- The July 25 meeting will be for County Commissioners
- The October 24 meeting will be for State Representatives
- Questions for the elected officials in attendance, from those present, will be gathered at the start of each meeting and read/answered during the meeting
- A letter will be written and given to Dina Godinez to distribute to various agency administrators, DHS, and supervisors to inform them of the purpose of these advocacy meetings
- Claudine Riccillo and Eva Muniz Valdez met with Senator Bennett's office to highlight the importance the Older Americans Act to advocate for PAAA programs and how important these services are to older Americans in Pueblo County.

**New Business:**

- Council discussed how to get the word out regarding PACA meetings through social media, County Commissioner's, etc. so more older Americans can be informed of services PAAA offers.
- PACA members are welcome to personally spread the word about PACA Council meetings. Dina Godinez has asked numerous times to have PACA agendas and meeting minutes posted on the County website.

**Meeting Adjourned by Vice Chair Eva Muniz Valdez at 3:55 PM**

**Next Meeting: June 25, 2025 at SRDA – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

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Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Secretary

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Date of Approval

Minutes Submitted by Secretary Ramona Chisman-Ewing