



Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments

3224 Independence Road, Suite A, Canon City, CO. 81212

Chaffee Custer Fremont Lake

UPPER ARKANSAS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

(UAACOG)

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Board of Directors Meeting 8/20/2025 10:00 AM

3224-A Independence Road, Canon City, Colorado

And Electronically via Teams

Call to Order

Roll Call, establishment of a Quorum

Ryan Stevens, Lucas Epps, Buck Wenzle, PT Wood, Andy Lee,

Approval of Agenda with any modifications

Added Statement of Authority

Stevens first

Lucas second

-Review and Approval of Minutes from 06/18/2025 Board Meeting

Lucas first

Buck second

-Bank Statement Review

Outstanding reimbursements from the State.

Large Head Start reimbursement coming in the next week or two.

Close to closing on the Salida AAA building.

Will be having a much more detailed finance discussion at the October Meeting.

-Manager's and Director's reports

-Housing - Michael Loyd

Housing Choice Voucher program – have 386 being administered now with 30 more coming in November. Awarded the Osborn House in Rocky Ford which will be 30 more starting in November.

Working to restart Home Repair Program.

Justin says the home builds on Arrowhead Dr. are going well. (presented pictures of the houses in progress).

Hired a Housing Assistant to assist Mindy. Hiring a loan packager for both Self-Help Housing and for as well as Rehab loans when that program is restarted.

-Central Colorado Area Agency on Aging – Tom McConaghy

Participating in a pilot program for prioritization of for Legal Assistance; this is due to a change in the CFR that requires a system in place for screening clients

Piloting Blooming Health program designed to more efficiently communicate with older adults.

Piloting another program called My Friend Ben to work with clients on Medicare and Medicaid qualifications and managing the systems so they get the best options.

Negotiated both of these programs for zero cost for at least the first two years.

New building is progressing, and we will hopefully move into it in November and will schedule a grand opening.

-Women Infants and Children – Jessica Rathke

Case load is staying at 1,200 to 1,250.

Rec'd five reimbursements for January through May totaling \$64,000.00.

Funding for Fed year '26 has been released, and it is looking like a decrease of \$42,00.00 which pretty standard across local WIC offices.

It is Breastfeeding Awareness Month.

-Human Resources – Mary Tinkcom

Handbook is being reviewed in light of Gusto and Human Interest along with the many changes to Federal laws and regulations.

Working on the differences between Federal changes and State of Colorado current laws and regulations.

All openings are getting more viable candidates than have seen in a while.

-Business Loan Fund and Enterprise Zone Administration – Dave Paul

Business Loan and Enterprise Loan programs are moving forward.

Business loan portfolio is in pretty good shape and payments are coming in.

Enterprise Zone is in recertification, and it is a challenging application.

Application for approved for Places to Age program in Salida.

-Safe Streets 4 All grant – Beth Lenz Action Item, resolution 2025-13

Last year we started to work with communities in our area: Silver Cliff, Westcliffe, Brookside Williamsburg, Rockvale and ??????. Applied for Safe Streets and Roads for All encompassing these communities along with Florence.

Resolution presented with the COG being the applicant and managing the financial aspects of the program.

Ryan moves to approve resolution 2025-13

Lucas Epp 2nd

Motion approved

- Mini Grants program: Mary Tinkcom

Have submitted a Request of Reimbursement which is still in process.

Have restarted the process for processing payments to the communities that have finished their projects.

Working on resurrecting the mini-grant program and process which languished after Heather's departure.

-Head Start – Chris Henager

Have streamlined the mandated Board Training. Have provided the link for the self-paced training. If you have been through the training in the past you may only need to focus on the changes. If you haven't please do download the training please look at it in its entirety.

Started our 25-26 school year on August 4th with a full staff.

Children started on August 11. Sent a lot of five-year-olds off to Kindergarten so have a lot of three year olds replaced them.

We are full in the program for the first time since 2020 and have a waiting list.

and Reconvening as the UAADC Board for the Vote, then subsequent adjournment and reconveyance as the UAACOG Board.

Finance Office Report: Introduction of Veronica Vigil, Finance Director and Karin Petrin, Founder Karifin Partners, LLC and report on progress in the finance and accounting currently underway.

Executive Director's report – Dave Paul

Old Business: ratification of the email vote to approve a contract over policy limits of \$10,000 without three bids for Karifin Partners, LLC.

New Business: Consider approval of Resolution 2025-14, Removal and additions of named individuals from financial accounts and designation of authorized users.

Board Member Comments from around the room and region

Executive Session

Adjourn