

**Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**3224-A Independence Road; Board Room and Zoom**  
**December 17, 2025 at 10:00 am**

**Board Members in attendance:** Andy Lee (virtual), Buck Wenzel, Dana Green (Virtual), Lucas Epp (virtual), PT Wood (virtual), Ryan Stevens

**Also in attendance:** Chris Henager, Dave Paul, Delany Deskin (virtual), Jessica Rathke, Mary Tinkcom, Max Hanson (virtual), Mike Loyd, V Nicholson, Veronica Vigil, Jackie Wolf, Beth Lenz, Karin Petrin

**Roll call – quorum met**

**Call to order**

Buck opened meeting at 10:04 am and called meeting to order.

Introduction to Delany Deskin (Area Rep for Senator Michael Bennett.)

**1) Additions/changes to Agenda**

- a. Agenda date correction from 12/15/25 to 12/17/25. Motion to approve date modification 1<sup>st</sup> by Ryan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dana. Approved unanimously.

**2) Bank Statements Review – Dave Paul**

**3) Program Managers Reports – Director's overview of Program Manager's Reports**

- a. **Safe Streets 4 ALL – Beth Lenz** – Working with Federal Highway admin to modify budget. Fremont county expressed interest to join last week.
- b. **Housing – Mike Loyd** – rehab received \$450K grant. **Self-help** – Intro to Jackie Wolf, loan specialist. Ribbon cutting 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Jan. for completed Self-Help project. Ace is hosting BBQ. Education – DOC going good for inmates about to be released. **Vouchers** – 400 now and Rocky Ford has an additional 40 more vouchers.
- c. **WIC – Jae** - numbers are declining due to a lot of referrals are over the income requirements. Medicaid is transitioning people to CHP Plus which is not a qualifier. Leadville and Chaffee need an educator to help bring numbers back up. Salida, new AAA location ribbon cutting in Feb. is a good time to hire a candidate.
- d. **Head Start – Chris** – 90 currently enrolled. 17 enrolled with IEP. 5 openings to fill. Sol Vista mental health contract signed and will begin working with kids. New position opening. Interview process begins in January 2026. Credentials for a new hire will take a couple months with on-line courses.
- e. **AAA** – Dave – New location and meals will begin 1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.
- f. **HR** – Mary – Anthem as our carrier for health insurance. Kept at 13.2%. \$120 for employees' portion kept. All other insurances under review. Grants scheduled cleared by end of 2025.
- g. **Finance** – Veronica – QuickBooks remaining of this year and moving to Aplos and Dominions 1<sup>st</sup> of year 2026. Karin provides extra finance training for all

finance employees. Jae expressed special thank you to department did a great job getting WIC reimbursement to the state with very little kickback.

h. **Executive Director** – Dues for 2026 - used 2024 for assessment. Formal letters mailing in January 2026. UAADC – approved Start-Up 2.0 grant for \$300K with 8% admin fees and have to repay interest. Will use for business loan funds but have yet to commit, as only approved at 50%. Forest Service – reach out to Dave or Tim. Encourage wood product businesses. A new location for manufacturing a Norwegian machine used to package firewood, to avoid tariffs.

4) **Old Business**

- a. Ratify Online vote for stucco job on building. No discussion. Buck motion to ratify the vote. 1<sup>st</sup> by Lucas Epp and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dana Greene. All in favor.
- b. **UAACOG Budget** – Karin – Provided extensive walk-through of all individual program budgets plus Admin and a total for 2026. Still needs to complete a position analysis and position descriptions, and carry-over figures will be available when the 2023 and 2024 audits conclude. First revision expected in April 2026.
- c. Dave – Amendments to budget likely at each BOD meeting.
  - i. Dana wants BOD to review budget to actuals (bank statements)
- d. **Resolution 2025-15 Approval of 2026 Budget**. Ryan made motion to approve as submitted with a revision changing adoption date to 12/17/25, Buck 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.

5) **Executive Session** – none required

6) Max Hanson, Area Rep for Congressperson Brittany Pettersen – currently accepting intake for FY27 projects.

7) **Adjourn Board Meeting** - Ryan moved, PT seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. V Nicholson, Office Administrator