

**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 1st by Ryan and 2nd 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 2nd 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 1st 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 1st 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. 1st by Lucas Epp and 2nd 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 compete 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 2nd 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