

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
REGION XII REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
10:14 a.m. – 1:42 p.m. CMC Edwards, Eagle

**Call to Order:** John Bade, Chairperson, called the regular meeting of the Region 12 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) to order at 10:14 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Bert Roy, Vice Chairperson, called the roll. It was determined that there was a quorum.

<b><u>RAC Members Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Jan</u></b>	<b><u>Apr</u></b>	<b><u>Jun</u></b>	<b><u>Sept</u></b>	<b><u>Nov</u></b>
	* = Voting Members for meeting				
Coni Aguilar-Optimal		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>
Gary Armes-Jackson Co.	X	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
John Bade-Eagle Co.	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Tootie Crowder-Jackson Co.		X	<u>X</u>		
Anne Crane-Summit Co.	X	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Commissioner Steve Child-Pitkin Co.			<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Steven Ladin-Summit Co.	X	X	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>
Geni Garcia-Optimal	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Lesley Janusz-Grand Co.	X	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Terry Myers-Jackson Co.	X			<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
David Pearce-Optimal	X	<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>
Bert Roy-Eagle Co.	X	X	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Gayle Stephenson-Jackson Co.	X		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Debby Sutherland-Optimal	X	X			<u>X</u>
Sr. Coordinator Optimal Alt.(Eagle Co)-Carly Rietmann	X	X	X		<u>X</u>
Sr. Coordinator Optimal Alt.(Grand Co)- Lisa Jonas		X	X	X	X
Sr. Coordinator Optimal Alt.(Jackson Co)- Wendy Petefish	X	X	X	X	
Sr. Coordinator Optimal Alt.(Pitkin Co)-Chad Federwitz	X	X	X	X	X
Sr. Coordinator Optimal Alt.(Summit Co)-Lorie Williams	X	X	X	X	X

**NWCCOG Staff Present:**

Erin Fisher, Director, NWCCOG-AlpineAAA  
Amanda Rens-Moon, Program Specialist, NWCCOG-AlpineAAA  
C.J. Grove, Volunteer Coordinator, NWCCOG-AlpineAAA

**Guests:**

Matt Scherr, Marketing Manager, Castle Peak  
Shannon Shepherd, Outreach Specialist, KEPRO  
Tina Wells, Alzheimer’s Association, Colorado Chapter—Denver

**Comments & Announcements:** John opened the meeting with a humorous story, reminding the group about potential fall risks.

**Amend/Approve Agenda:**

*Motion* by David Pearce to approve the agenda; *second* by Anne Crane. All members voted *aye*.  
**Motion carried.**

**Review/Accept Meeting Minutes:** Correction on second page, Steve Ladin is not a commissioner. Additional correction: Lesley Janusz's meeting participation was missing on the role call list. No other additions or revisions requested.

*Motion* by Steve Ladin; *second* by Terry Myers to accept the September regular meeting minutes with revisions as presented. All members voted *aye*.

**Motion carried.**

**Castle Peak Presentation:** Matt Scherr provided an in-depth overview of the new Castle Peak Facility. Augustana Care is a 501c3, and Castle Peak's primary source of construction funding came from a USDA loan. Castle Peak strives to serve the "middle of the market" price point for assisted living and nursing services. The construction of the new facility led to the creation of 100 new jobs, and the facility created 65 ongoing positions for the community.

In Castle Peak, all rooms are private. There are no semi-private rooms. There are 20 assisted living apartments, and Castle Peak does not accept Medicaid for assisted living residences. Rentals are month-to-month, and residents can leave with a 30-day notice. Medicare does not pay for assisted living.

On the nursing side, there are 12 secure memory care private suites, 22 skilled nursing private suites, and 10 short-term rehabilitation private suites. There were over 100 individuals on the interest list, and 30 individuals are likely to move-in upon opening of the facility. Castle Peak expects to be half-full by the end of December.

Augustana Care cannot admit criminals, sexual predators, anyone without a confirmed pay source, or anyone with an active communicative disease.

Castle Peak is located in downtown Eagle Ranch, so residents can enjoy nearby restaurants, a brewery, movie theater, coffee shop, and interact with the nearby elementary school. At this time, Google does not recognize Castle Peak's address, so Matt recommended using the address for the nearby Dusty Boot Restaurant or Brush Creek Elementary.

**Payer Sources**

Castle Peak assisted living accepts private pay, LTC Insurance, or LTC policy conversion  
Skilled, memory care, and rehabilitation services accept Medicare/Medicaid  
Rehabilitation services also accept private insurance and Medicare Advantage Plans

## **Assisted Living Rates**

Assisted living—Basic services

Studio \$5,000-\$5050

1 Bedroom \$5400-\$5450 (500 sq)

Two Bedroom/Two Bath \$6140-\$6190 (800 sq)

Basic services include all living expenses, meal costs, some housekeeping, laundry, activities, and transportation. Castle Peak has a van that provides transportation across a 35-mile radius.

Castle Peak also offers an additional care package ranging from \$800-\$2,000 to meet additional ADL needs.

Castle Peak allows roommates for an additional \$800.

## **Nursing side**

Skilled nursing is a daily rate. Private pay would be \$10-11K per month.

The rehabilitation rate is \$340 a day for a suite, and a memory care suite is \$355 a day.

Medicare can cover some of the expenses on the nursing side. If the patient spent 3 midnights, fully admitted, to a hospital prior to coming to Castle Peak for rehabilitation, Medicare will pay at 100% for 20 days, as long as the patient is progressing. From 20-100 days, Medicare will pay 80% as long as the patient is improving. For long-term care, Medicaid will pay 100%.

**RAC Membership Term Renewals:** All members and officers agreed to continue for the upcoming year.

**State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Update:** T.J. Dufresne was unavailable for this RAC meeting, due to open enrollment commitments, but the RAC requested that TJ present for 15 minutes on Medicare Benefits and admission requirements at the next RAC meeting.

**RAC Anniversaries:** Anne Crane has been a member of the RAC for 20 years. Wendy Petefish has been a RAC member for 15 years, and John Bade has been on the RAC for 10 years. Anne, Wendy, and John received a small gift for their kind dedication to the RAC.

**KEPRO Presentation:** Shannon Shepherd, Outreach Specialist for KEPRO provided information on the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCCQIO.) KEPRO is the federal contractor for CMS, and their services are free for Medicare beneficiaries (Original Medicare and Managed Care Plans.) KEPRO is a neutral 3<sup>rd</sup> party, and they are not impacted by the results of their investigations. KEPRO examines discharge appeals, termination of services, and beneficiary complaints.

**Appeal Rights:** Upon discharge from a hospital, beneficiaries receive several different forms including the “Important Message from Medicare, Preadmission/admission Hospital Issued Notice of Non-coverage (HINN) and Hospital Requested Review (HRR) forms. Hospitals must provide these forms and ensure patients sign them at discharge. However, hospitals do not have to explain the document or its ramifications. These forms are designed to let beneficiaries know that they are being discharged, and they give them their discharge appeal rights. Beneficiaries who feel discharge is inappropriate should appeal to KEPRO before midnight on the day of discharge. Beneficiaries should call and leave a voicemail. It will be time stamped. This time stamp financially protects beneficiaries so that they will not incur additional charges, while KEPRO makes a determination on the discharge. A timely appeal requires KEPRO to make a determination within 24-72 hours. However, beneficiaries can file an appeal after the midnight deadline, (as long as it is within 30 days,) but late appeals give KEPRO 30 days to make a decision.

The HINN informs beneficiaries of services that the provider does not believe Medicare will cover.

In post-acute care, (home health, skilled nursing, or hospice) beneficiaries must receive a Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage or the NOMC, and beneficiaries have until noon the day before services terminate to appeal to KEPRO.

**Observation Status:** KEPRO often hears of difficulties caused by beneficiaries unknowingly receiving care while in observation status. Under observation status, **beneficiaries do not have appeals rights.** CMS is working on finalizing the Medicare Outpatient Observation Status form or (MOON.) Hospitals will be required to provide beneficiaries with a MOON form to inform patients that they are transitioning into observation status. Observation status can be financially detrimental to patients, as Medicare will not cover oral medications for patients in observation status. If a beneficiary has many oral medications, he/she should bring them to the hospital to reduce costs. In addition, Medicare does not recognize time spent in observation status towards the 3-midnight inpatient stay. Patients that admitted over 3 midnights are eligible for Medicare payment of home health, hospice, or skilled nursing care after discharge.

**Immediate Advocacy:** KEPRO can provide assistance for Medicare beneficiaries to resolve complaints and challenges. Beneficiaries can contact a caseworker to receive help with durable medical equipment (DME) difficulties, challenges setting up home health, and other obstacles to receiving covered benefits. KEPRO is available weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Weekends/holidays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and their voicemail system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to timestamp appeals.

RAC members requested that Shannon compose a short article outlining all of the information she presented for distribution in the AlpineAAA magazine and on the website.

**NWCCOG Executive Director:** Jon Stavney introduced himself to the RAC. He was involved in bringing Augustana Care to Eagle and the construction of Castle Peak.

**RAC Evaluation:** Erin presented the new RAC member evaluation form. In an effort to receive more constructive recommendations, the evaluation has more open-ended questions than previous evaluations.

**2017 Meeting Calendar:** Discussions were held regarding the upcoming calendar. Wednesdays had the fewest conflicts. Senior Day at the Capitol is scheduled, and it is Pitkin County's turn to represent the region. Grand, Pitkin, and Summit will host RAC face-to-face meetings in 2017.

**Conflict of Interest Form:** Erin provided additional background on the Conflict of Interest form, and redistributed the form to members who had not returned their form.

### **MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Jackson County**— Terry reported that Jackson County is preparing for their fundraiser. They will be selling baskets at the Harvest Craft Festival. The JCCOA elected new officers to their board, and JCCOA will be requesting funds from the Commissioners to offset expenses for 2017. Holiday meals are in full swing, and JCCOA and Caregivers will participate in an open house, where drinks, candy and cookies will be served.

**Eagle County**—Carly informed the RAC that there have been no major changes at the Eagle sites. They are continuously working on their Aging Well initiative, and she distributed their new Aging Well Connection to Resources rack card. The Connection to Resources team streamlined the information and referral process for seniors by encouraging seniors to contact four key agencies for information. Those key agencies are Eagle County Public Health, 211, Eagle Valley Libraries, and AlpineAAA. The Connection to Resources team also created a simple website to encourage seniors to contact one of these agencies. Eagle County is also rolling out their Red Binder Program. The red binder is a medical history notebook developed by the Aging Well Healthcare Action Team to assist patients in communications with their physicians. Carly also informed the RAC that the Aging Well final report is complete and is on their website. Eagle had a successful fundraiser, and seniors are planning a bus tour of New Mexico.

**Grand County**— Lisa reported that there are few updates for Grand County at this time. GCCA is planning for the holidays and hosting a party.

**Summit County**— Lori informed the RAC that the Summit County Seniors are developing their own website, in addition to the county maintained website. It will launch in time for registration for the 50+ Winter Games. This year the 50+ Winter Games will add telemark skiing to attract a younger senior crowd. The Summit Community and Senior Center is hosting an open house to promote their programs. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, they will be hosting a special

presentation on Alzheimer's, and they are preparing for their holiday dinner on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Reservations for the dinner must occur before Thanksgiving.

**Garfield County**—Debby reported that Garfield is working on preparations for Senior Law Day, which is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mesa County hosted a similar event, and it was very successful. Garfield will have the Adventures in Aging workshop in March, and they will utilize the Well and Wise grant to provide Tai Chi and In-Balance classes. The Mountain Madrigals will take place on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Glenwood Springs.

**Next Meeting:** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:15 a.m. –1 2:15 p.m., Conference Call

**ADJOURNMENT:** John closed the meeting with a joke, reminding us of the value of a dollar, or \$50. *Motion* to adjourn by Lesley Janusz *second* by David Pearce. All members voted *Aye*. Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

**Motion carried.**

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Rens-Moon, NWCCOG-Alpine Area Agency on Aging.

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CHAIR, RAC

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Approved - SECRETARY, -RAC