



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Carrie Warren-Gully, District 1
Jessica Campbell, District 2
Jeff Baker, Chair Pro Tem, District 3
Leslie Summey, Chair, District 4
Rhonda Fields, District 5

Arapahoe County

Board of County Commissioners Study Session

Meeting Minute Summaries

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
1:00 PM

Administration Building
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
West Hearing Room

The Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners typically holds weekly study sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study sessions (except for executive sessions) are open to the public and agendas are available online at arapahoe.legistar.com. Meetings marked with an asterisk () can be attended virtually via arapahoe.legistar.com while non-asteriked (*) sessions are open to in-person attendance only. The members of the Board of County Commissioners may choose to attend study sessions virtually.*

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Commissioners Present

Carrie Warren-Gully
Jeff Baker
Leslie Summey
Rhonda Fields

Others Present

Ron Carl
John Christofferson
Michelle Halstead
Cooney Sarracino
Callie Pecore
Ed Bowditch
Jennifer Cassell
Nico Johnson
Andrea Albo

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

1:00 PM *Legislative Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report](#)
[2026 Legislative Issues Guide](#)
[2026 Internal Legislative Report](#)
[2026 Public Legislative Report](#)

The purpose of this study session was to provide information on the status of Colorado's state legislative session, including potential impacts to Arapahoe County, and seek Board direction on legislative positions or specific advocacy activities.

Staff presented information regarding HB26-1347: Federal Disability Benefits for Foster Care Youth. This bill is concerning changing practices related to federal benefits for youth in foster care. Under current law, a county department of human or social services is required, beginning on or before July 1, 2027, to determine whether a child or youth who is in foster care and who has a deceased parent may be eligible to receive federal survivor benefits and to apply for and manage those benefits under certain circumstances. This bill would extend the date to begin on or before July 1, 2028, and would extend certain application, accounting, and notice provisions in place for survivor benefits to federal supplemental security income benefits, which are monthly payments to a child or youth with a disability and limited resources. This bill would also add a requirement related to identifying and documenting the disability of a child or youth in the child welfare system. Staff provided further information surrounding the bill and the requirements a county department would need to follow. Boulder County, Jefferson County, along with the city and county of Denver are all in an amend position. Staff are recommending BOCC take an amend position and listed the proposed amendments.

Discussion was held surrounding the federal administration as it pertains to survivor benefits. Further discussion was made on the proposed amendments and the future of these benefits.

Commissioner asked regarding the bill and that it would be setting up Colorado prior to it becoming a federal mandate. Commissioner clarified the need if it will be federally mandated in the future. Commissioner also asked regarding the sponsors on the bill and voiced support for an amend position.

4-0 in favor of an amend position. Commissioner Campbell absent and excused.

Commissioner clarified why the bill is viewed as unethical by the federal administration.

JBC updates were reviewed and the updates for the Long Bill were shared. The artificial intelligence compromise was announced but no bill has been introduced. The redesign of the Human Services bill has not yet been introduced. Staff went on to review the bills that are being introduced. Lobbying team further discussed the orbital bills that will be traveling alongside the Long Bill. Lobbying team voiced the concern with the next year and the struggles that lay ahead.

Commissioner asked regarding the duration of the reading of the Long Bill.

Commissioner clarified the funds surrounding the Tabor refunds. Commissioner asked about the funding from Prop 123 and where those funds were distributed.

Staff asked Lobbying team regarding funding from the marijuana bill, and others that would not necessarily impact Arapahoe County but that could impact local city partners.

Commissioner asked if the schools will be impacted from the funding cuts.

Commissioner asked regarding the school finance bill.

Human Services Director discussed the Restructure Bill updates. No bill has been introduced yet. Staff voiced concern surrounding the bill not yet being introduced due to the length of the bill and the scope of items.

Commissioner spoke regarding an email that was received by new staff at HCPF and if discussion with that staff should be taken to voice concerns. Discussion was held regarding what happens if the bill isn't introduced and what the next steps look at.

SB26-155: Increase Access Homeowner's Insurance Enterprise was discussed for BOCC awareness. CCAT is in a support position for SB26-155 and may request that a Commissioner testify in support of the bill. Staff is not certain that the bill helps with affordability and recommend BOCC stay aware of the bill.

The draft bill SB26-005: Replacement Bill was discussed for BOCC awareness. Staff provided context on the bill. County Attorney spoke regarding the bill and if it is introduced would recommend BOCC oppose the bill. County Attorney further spoke surrounding the issues in the bill and the negative impacts that it would have on the county. Discussion was made regarding an upcoming meeting surrounding the bill and if County Attorney has support from the BOCC to speak negatively on the bill.

Further discussion was made on SB26-005 and there was voiced support for opposition of the draft bill.

4-0 in favor of County Attorney to speak negatively at upcoming meeting as well as if the bill is introduced the BOCC will be in an oppose position. Commissioner Campbell absent and excused.

Commissioner clarified that the bill is primarily targeted at immigration issues.

The conversion of Pinnacle was discussed.

Commissioner asked regarding the state's strategy surrounding the Pinnacle conversion.

Commissioner asked if there are organizations that plan to oppose the conversion of Pinnacle from a state entity to a private entity.

Updates on HB26-1123: Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails were shared. If amendments are adopted there wouldn't be a need for BOCC to take a position.

Updates on HB26-1399: Elimination General Fund Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund were discussed. Amendments were adopted and staff recommend BOCC stay in an amend position.

2:00 PM *Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report Presentation](#)

The purpose of this study session was for Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) leadership to share news and provide an update since their last presentation in 2024.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

A historical background to the SCFD Foundations was presented. A map of the counties supported by SCFD was displayed. An organization chart of the SCFD was reviewed.

The funding for the SCFD from sales tax was presented. The funding is then distributed to larges national organizations, regional organizations, and local organizations.

Commissioner asked about different local and regional examples.

The growth of the SCFD was reviewed from 1989 to 2024. The current impact of the SCFD was broken down and has funded 304 culture and scientific organizations.

Staff presented impacts to Arapahoe County. The different tiers were explained and Arapahoe County provided \$16.4 million. A chart of the different districts and organizations was displayed. \$4.2 million has been distributed to Arapahoe County. Examples of the different organizations within tiers 1, 2, and 3 were listed. A spotlight location was the Museum of Outdoor Arts' Cabinet of Curiosities.

A history of public support was presented. Staff discussed the process for 2028 reauthorization. The 5 phases of the reauthorization were listed. The 5 phases include Research and Landscape Analysis, District-Wide Listening Tour, Initial Proposal Development, Stakeholder Consensus Building, and Final Proposal.

The reauthorization timeline for each phase was displayed and reviewed.

Staff presented areas of focus for Arapahoe County.

Commissioner expressed support for the SCFD and reauthorization. Current considerations for proposed changes were discussed.

Commissioner asked about a permanent solution.

Commissioner thanked staff for their work and asked how impact is evaluated. Discussion was held as to impacts and ways to address the different communities.

Commissioner asked about gubernatorial appointees.

Staff discussed upcoming events.

Presentation concluded without a vote. Commissioner Campbell absent and excused.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Virtual/Streamed**