



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

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

# Arapahoe County

## Board of County Commissioners Study Session

### Meeting Minute Summaries

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**

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

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**Commissioners Present**

Carrie Warren-Gully  
Jeff Baker  
Leslie Summey  
Bill Holen

**Others Present**

Ron Carl  
John Christofferson  
Michelle Halstead  
Cooney Sarracino  
Ed Bowditch  
Jennifer Cassell  
Jennifer Ludwig  
Alexa Escobar Paez  
Heather Baumgartner  
Larry Mugler

**12:00 PM BREAK**

**STUDY SESSION TOPICS**

1:00 PM \*Legislative Update

**Attachments:** [Board Summary Report](#)  
[2024 Legislative Issues Guide](#)  
[2024 Internal Legislative Report](#)  
[2024 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.

Commissioner Holen and Commissioner Campbell-Swanson absent and excused.

#### General Government

· HB24-1437 Prohibit Flat Fees for Defending Indigent Clients. BOCC had previously taken an amend position. Amendments have been added to bill, but it is still recommended to remain in the amend position. 3-0 in favor to remain in an amend position. Commissioner Holen and Commissioner Campbell-Swanson absent and excused.

Additionally, the lobbyist and staff legislative team will provide updates on the following bills and topics:

- SB24-174 Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance. Amendments to the bill were presented. Staff recommended staying in an amend position. Bill passed the Senate and is going to be introduced to the House. 3-0 in favor to stay in an amend position. Commissioner Holen and Commissioner Campbell-Swanson absent and excused.
- HB24-1366 Sustainable Local Government Community Planning. Bill may be postponed indefinitely.
- HB24-1313 Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities. Bill has made it to Senate. Staff does not recommend a change of position. 3-0 in favor to stay in an amend position. Commissioner Holen and Commissioner Campbell-Swanson absent and excused.
- MACC Support Letter for HB24-1371 More Uniform Local Massage Facilities. Staff informed the BOCC that they did not oppose submitting the letter.
- HB24-1266 Local Government Utility Relocation in Right-of-Way. Bill is in front of the House on this date. Staff wanted to provide an update of the bill.

BOCC and staff discussed a property tax bill draft. Proposed background and purpose of bill was discussed.

Staff discussed 1460 law enforcement bill to protect whistle blowing and updated the BOCC on interim committees.

Commissioner asked staff regarding the behavior health bill 1384. As of this date, the bill was sitting on second reading and is awaiting its third.

Meeting went into Recess

2:00 PM \*Arapahoe County Community Health Assessment Findings and Discussion

**Attachments:** [Board Summary Report Presentation](#)  
[2024 Arapahoe County Community Health Assessment](#)

Meeting Reconvened

The purpose of this study session was to provide information and respond to questions related to the 2024 Arapahoe County Community Health Assessment.

Commissioner Holen arrived at 1:52 PM.

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

Background and purpose of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) was presented. Requirements for CHA were established by the Public Health Act of 2008.

Benefits of a health assessment were listed. A timetable of milestones and products was reviewed.

The goals of CHA were presented (cultivate comprehensive health equity practice, optimize interventions, reinforce and expand robust partnerships, and enhance capacity and workplace diversity, inclusion, and engagement).

Staff presented the methodology for community engagement and participation. Findings of community engagement were reviewed. Community responses were prioritized by areas of most urgency.

The relationship between economic security and health was discussed. Maps and charts of unemployment status was displayed. These were broken down to different demographics.

Survey results were reviewed regarding housing. Statistics were reviewed about the amount of population paying over the recommended 30% of income on housing. Concerns with homelessness and barriers to housing was reviewed.

Staff reviewed results related to safety and health. Concerns with school safety were presented. Statistics were reviewed regarding violence in intimate relationships. Death and violence caused by firearms were presented.

Survey results were reviewed regarding access to care. Survey results reflect that mental health has been a requested access. Procedural denials, eligibility denials, and losing coverage were reviewed. Percentages of Arapahoe residents to review lack of care due to cost was presented. Limitations to access health care were listed and immunization rates were reviewed.

The affects of environment on heat and water were presented. The Denver Metro Area was categorized as a severe nonattainment area of ozone. Open space and green areas benefit health.

The impact of food and health was presented. Lower income housing with children face difficulties finding healthy selections. There are programs such as SNAP and WIC, but these do not provide enough support to the community.

Commissioners discussed how to inform the community about available resources. Commissioners also asked staff about the impact of drugs.

3:30 PM \*Proposal for Participation in the South Metro Enterprise Zone Program

**Attachments:** [Board Summary Report](#)  
[South Metro EZ map](#)  
[EZ Tax Credits](#)  
[Proposed EZ changes](#)  
[EZ Support Letters](#)  
[Draft EDC Commissioner letter](#)  
[Presentation](#)

The purpose of this study session was to request direction from the BOCC to move forward with a 2024 boundary change to the Colorado Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program to include areas in the eastern part of the county and to work with the City of Englewood on an agreement to administer the new areas. At the Board study session on October 10, 2023, staff described the Colorado Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program and outlined an opportunity to include portions of unincorporated Arapahoe County in the program. The Board directed staff to continue to pursue this opportunity and to research ways to manage the program. Colorado's Enterprise Zone program provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate and expand in designated economically distressed areas of the state. The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) manages the Colorado Enterprise Zone Program and is about to undertake a required review of the 16 EZs in the state that occurs every ten years. This provides both a chance to re-evaluate the South Metro EZ and a constraint on any immediate major changes.

Commissioner Summey left at 3:18 PM.

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

The background and purpose of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program was presented.

Business tax credits and incentives were listed. Also listed were tax credits and certifications.

Staff presented what an enterprise zone contribution project would require. Taxpayers can claim certified contributions.

Components of the Enterprise Zone Program oversight was discussed (EZ administrators, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and Economic Development Commissioner).

A map of EZ boundary was displayed.

Staff presented the community eligibility of an EZ, and Colorado law allows for 16 zones.

The state review process of the EZ program was presented.

Maps of eligible block groups and proposed boundary revision were displayed.

Staff explained the purposes of the EZ boundary adjustment and the benefits to the eastern portion of the county. The boundary adjustment would benefit business, residents, and Arapahoe County. The EZ administrator position would not be changed.

The proposed scope of work and opportunity for Long Range Planning staff was presented.

Summary of benefits and concerns of the adjustment were reviewed. The county would support rural business, and the business would be able to take advantage of tax credits. Some concerns would be distributing information to businesses and nonprofits with assistance from county staff.

The next steps of staff were presented if the BOCC supports.

Commissioners asked questions to staff regarding the process and what to expect. Commissioners also addressed their support and concerns with the program.

Staff discussed benefits of looking into the program that would create interests.

3-0 in favor to support moving forward for the pilot program year. Commissioner Summey and Commissioner Campbell-Swanson absent and excused.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

**\*Virtual/Streamed**