



Tentative Schedule
All Meetings Held at Westin Westminister
Schedule as of November 18, 2024

Monday, December 2

11am – 1pm **ACCA Pre-Conference Workshop**
ACCA Annual Member Program & Meeting – Negotiation Your
Employment Agreement

Employment agreements serve to protect both County administrators and counties. This interactive session will begin with a presentation of the results from the ACCA employment agreement survey to set the stage for the presentation with a 3 person panel made up of a 30-year veteran of local government management experienced in the composition of employment agreements, an executive recruiter (and former Colorado county manager) offering the perspective of what it's like to be the "go between" with the governing body and the prospective candidate in negotiating an agreement, and an attorney experienced in employment contract negotiations representing county commissioners.

Learn more about what you need to think about when negotiating an agreement, and how to negotiate to your best advantage. And if you don't have an employment agreement, the panel will talk about how to approach the idea with your commissioners in a productive way.

This ACCA-sponsored session is restricted to County Managers/Administrators.

[Pre-register for this session by clicking here.](#)

Noon – 6 pm **Registration Open**
Westminster Office
Sponsored by Anthem



1:30 – 3pm

**CCI Concurrent Issue Session
Collaborative Water Strategies for Resilient Agriculture &
Communities
Westminster 3**

In Colorado, rural and urban communities alike are invested in sustainable water management, with agriculture holding a pivotal role in the state's water landscape: agricultural producers hold a majority stake in Colorado's water rights, making the stability of agriculture essential to the state's water future. As demand for water grows, so does the opportunity – and imperative – to create innovative partnerships that safeguard agricultural needs and food stability and balance the needs of expanding urban centers. Through real-world examples, this session will explore a range of tools, best practices, and collaborative strategies to ensure water resilience and sustain vital industries across the state.

Speakers

Robert Sakata, Agricultural Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Russ Sands, Water Supply Planning Section Chief, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Bill Long, Board President, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Jim Yahn, Manager, North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs

Moderator

Greg Felt, Commissioner, Chaffee County

1:30 – 3pm

**CCI Concurrent Issue Session
Tackling Wildfire from All Angles – How Colorado is seeking to
Minimize Wildfire occurrences and severity
Westminster 1**

Unfortunately, the risk of wildfire knows no bounds and, at this point, is a threat to all of our communities. Efforts must be made in both our forests and our homes to prevent, prepare, respond, *and* recover from wildfire.

Join leaders to discuss:

- Pro-active efforts in wildfire prevention and response, such as the work of the Colorado Fire Commission
- Ongoing priorities for strengthening wildfire resilience, including best practices for mitigation
- Opportunities for partnership among state agencies and with counties to improve community preparedness and risk reduction
- The evolving landscape of Colorado's insurance market, given the threat of natural disaster

Bonus Opportunity -- Commissioners will also have an additional opportunity to discuss wildfire and solicit feedback from their colleagues during Wednesday's breakout session!

Panelists

Mike Conway, Director, Division of Insurance
Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Matt McCombs, State Forester & Director, Colorado State Forest Service
Mike Morgan, Director, Division of Fire Prevention & Control

Ashley Stolzmann, Boulder County Commissioner & Commissioner-representative to the Wildland Urban Interface Code Board

Moderator

Lesley Dahlkemper, Commissioner, Jefferson County, CCI Board Treasurer

1:30 – 3pm **New Commissioner Orientation**
Welcome to County Government!
Westminster 2

The votes have been tallied and Colorado will have 59 new county commissioners sworn in this January. Congratulations TO YOU ALL! This public service job will be one of the most diverse, challenging and rewarding opportunities in your life. This session will provide a high-level overview of the duties of a county commissioner and introduce you to the resources and support you will find at Colorado Counties, Inc to help you respond to your communities' needs, implement state programs, and comply with state statutes.

Speakers

Kelly Flenniken, Executive Director, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Don Suppes, Commissioner, Delta County, CCI President
Scott Weaver, Commissioner, Yuma County, CCI President-Elect

2-4pm **CARSE Board Meeting**
Waverly

2:45 - 3:15pm **Coffee Break/Visit Sponsor Tables**
Westminster Foyer

3:15 – 4:30pm **CCI New Commissioner/Commissioner Session**
Telling your County Story
Westminster 2

You have now completed your campaign to be a commissioner and won! During your campaign, you likely used various communication platforms to get your message out. Now, you will join a county board and transition to getting the county's message out and telling the county's story. This session will feature two dynamic communication professionals who will discuss effective ways to share your county's story, highlight best practices for impactful communications, and give ideas on how to handle those trolls that might come after you and the county. Learn how to frame and claim the conversation in your community about the role and purpose of County Government.

Speakers

Jennifer Finch, Public Information Officer, Weld County
Wendy Holmes, Douglas County

3:15 – 4:30pm

CCI Concurrent Issue Session
Why BESS Systems Sometimes Catch Fire: Navigating Battery Energy Storage Systems
Westminster 3

Battery energy storage systems (BESSs) are crucial for grid stability as renewable energy grows, but they also introduce unique safety and environmental challenges. This session will explore the development of lithium-ion BESS, associated safety risks, and effective practices for managing these issues. Topics will include site design and fire safety from a land use perspective, along with solutions counties should be aware of for managing environmental impacts. This session will invite questions throughout, creating an environment where you can explore how BESS can support your community's goals and needs.

Speaker

Curtis Ashton, Director of Training, American Power Systems

Moderator

Gordon Westhoff, Commissioner, Morgan County

4:30 – 6:30pm

President's Cocktail Reception
Sponsored by Wagner Equipment
Legacy Ballroom



Tuesday, December 3

7 am – 5pm

Registration Open
Westminster Office

7:00 – 8:45am

Breakfast for All Attendees
Sponsored by CTSI
Legacy Ballroom



7:45 – 8:45am

CARSE Membership Meeting
Meadowbrook

9 – 10:30am

CCI Opening General Session
Westminster 3-4

Speaker

Governor Jared Polis – Invited

Moderator

Don Suppes, Commissioner, Delta County, CCI President

- 10:30 – 10:45am **Coffee Break/Visit Sponsor Tables**
Westminster Foyer
- 10:45 am – Noon **CCI Concurrent Issue Session**
Igniting Collaboration: Elevating Partnerships Between Counties and
the Behavioral Health Administration!
Westminster 2

In February, Dannette Smith was selected as the Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Since then, she has traveled the state in an attempt to better understand the unique needs of our various communities. So far, she has taken these perspectives to improve the structure of the BHA and inform the selection of the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BHASO's).

Following an update from Commissioner Smith regarding initiatives at the BHA, Commissioners will have the opportunity to share the successes they see in their community and a piece of feedback regarding the behavioral health safety net for Commissioner Smith.

Speaker

Dannette Smith, Commissioner, Behavioral Health Administration

Moderator

Tamara Pogue, Commissioner, Summit County

- 10:45 am – Noon **CCI Concurrent Issue Session**
Conservation Finance: A Flexible Tool to Meet Local Needs
Westminster 3-4

Conservation finance offers counties a flexible, locally adaptable tool for addressing pressing needs ranging from preservation of agriculture water resource management to wildfire mitigation and wildlife conservation. In this session, we'll discuss real-world examples of local initiatives and regional collaboration to demonstrate how conservation finance can be tailored to meet diverse community goals. Join us to gain insight into strategies for developing community buy-in, navigating political challenges, and leveraging local resources to make meaningful investments.

Speakers

Greg Felt, Commissioner, Chaffee County

David Weinstein, Western Conservation Finance Director, Trust for Public Land

Chris Yuan-Farrell, Director of Programs, Great Outdoors Colorado

Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, Colorado River District

Moderator: **Tony Hass, Commissioner, Las Animas County, CCI Board Member**

10:45am – Noon **CARSE Issue Session**
Transportation Safety Countermeasures for Rural Areas
Meadowbrook

This session will feature several safety strategies that are known to be effective in improving transportation safety, especially in rural areas. Several resources will also be shared that can help agencies in planning, selecting, funding, and constructing safety countermeasures. Discussion and questions will be encouraged during the session to facilitate learning from peer experiences.

Speaker

Charles Meyer, PE, PTOE, RSP1, Transportation Safety Specialist, Federal Highway Administration

10:45am – Noon **CHSDA Issue Session**
CHSDA Introductions & Membership Meeting
Lakehouse

County Human Services Directors will be welcomed by CHSDA staff and will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to their peers. This session will then provide a summary of CHSDA mission and vision updates approved by the association in November and continue strategic planning in a new way.

Speakers

Megan Burch, Director, Eagle County Department of Human Services

Heather Durosko, Executive Director, Colorado Human Services Directors Association

Yumiko Dougherty, Owner/Consultant, Ignite the Change Advisors, LLC

Noon – 3pm **CCI District Meetings/Lunch**

Eastern District
Standley 2

Front Range District
Westminster 2

Mountain District
Westminster 1

Southern District
Cotton Creek

Western District
Standley 1

Noon – 1pm **CHSDA, CARSE and Other Attendees Lunch**
Legacy Ballroom

1 – 1:45pm

CARSE Issue Session
Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association
Meadowbrook

Asphalt industry update of new trends and innovations as well as the 2025 outlook.

Speaker

Mike Skinner, Director of Engineering, Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association

1 – 2:15pm

CHSDA Issue Session
CHSDA Strategic Planning A New Way, Continued
Lakehouse

The Colorado Human Services Directors Association kicked off a new Strategic Planning effort in October 2024. This membership only session will continue moving forward this important work by having Directors create and refine goals, objectives and priorities together.

Speakers

Yumiko Dougherty, Owner/Consultant, Ignite the Change Advisors, LLC

Megan Burch, Director, Eagle County Department of Human Services

Heather Durosko, Executive Director, Colorado Human Services Directors Association

2 – 2:45pm

CARSE Issue Session
Colorado Local Technical Assistance Program
How to find candidates, train them and get the money to stay busy!
Meadowbrook

A discussion on industry trends with regards to recruitment and retention of employees will funnel into what local agencies can do now and how FHWA's Strategic Workforce Development initiative champion, Colorado LTAP, can help. The conversation continues with identifying projects, finding and applying for the funding to complete them and what to do when the monies arrive!

Speakers

Heather Carlson, Director, Colorado LTAP

Jean Millard, Projects Coordinator, Colorado LTAP

2:15 – 4pm

CHSDA Issue Session
A Conversation with State Leadership: CDEC, CDHS, BHA, HCPF
Lakehouse

State Department Executive Directors will join CHSDA in a facilitated dialogue about the state of CO's human services system, with a specific focus on budget challenges and solutions.

Speakers

Dr. Lisa Roy, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Michelle Barnes, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services

Danette Smith, Commissioner, Colorado Behavioral Health Administration

Kim Bimestefer, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

7 am – Noon **Registration Open**
Westminster Office



7– 8:30am **Breakfast for All Delegates**
Legacy Ballroom

8:45-10am **CCI Concurrent Issue Session**
From Vision to Reality: Local Housing Initiatives
Westminster 4

Addressing housing needs requires thoughtful planning and strong partnerships. In this session, local leaders and experts will cover essential aspects of casting a local vision for your community, navigating the steps required to bring a project to life, and working collaboratively with municipal partners. With practical examples and real-world advice, this panel will provide inspiration for casting a vision, mobilizing resources, and fostering the partnerships needed to make housing initiatives successful.

Speakers

Lesley Dahlkemper, Commissioner, Jefferson County, CCI Board Treasurer

Warren Brown, Commissioner, Archuleta County

Emily Lashbrooke, Executive Director, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

Heidi Williams, Executive Director, Metro Mayors Caucus

Moderator: Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner, Gunnison County

8:45-10am **CCI Concurrent Issue Session**
Transitional Planning
Westminster 3

8:45 – 9:30am **CARSE Issue Session**
Laws in the ROW/Attorney Session
Meadowbrook

Speaker

Matthew Hoyt, Attorney, Gunnison County

8:45 – 10am

CHSDA Issue Session
Safety Net Innovation with Gary Community Ventures
Lakehouse

Gary Community Venture staff and County Directors will share innovative initiatives they have undertaken locally to increase family economic mobility. This session will include a focus on 1) My Friend Ben, an innovative tool to help Coloradans quickly determine which public benefits they might be eligible for; 2) Early Childhood projects in Adams County; 3) an update on how CO is leading the nation in tax credits for families; and 4) Gary Community Ventures family advisory work.

Speakers

Elise Henson, Executive Director, My Friend Ben, Gary Community Ventures
Julie Stone, Director, Family Economic Mobility, Gary Community Ventures
Kathleen Bottagaro, Manager of Research and Partnerships, My Friend Ben, Gary Community Ventures
Megan Burch, Director, Eagle County Department of Human Services
Katie McDougal, Director, Adams County Department of Human Services
Mary Berg, Director, Jefferson County Department of Human Services

9:45 – 10:30am

CARSE Issue Session
Meadowbrook

10-10:15am

Coffee Break/Visit Sponsor Tables
Westminster Foyer
Lakehouse
Standley Foyer

10:15 – 11:30am

CCI Coffee Talk

Pick a room with a hot topic you'd like to chat with your fellow commissioners/administrators about. Each room will have a moderator to guide the discussion among your peers. While the topics are broad, CCI hopes this forum will help create new ideas.

Fire
Westminster 4

Budgets
Westminster 3

Road Working Group
Westminster 2

10:15 – 11:45am

CHSDA Issue Session

Aging & Adult Priority Follow-Up: Long-term Care Streamlined Eligibility

This session will be a facilitated discussion to provide a deeper dive into one of the top Aging & Adult priorities identified at last year's winter conference: Long-term Care Streamlined Eligibility.

Speakers

Amanda Lofgren, Division of Strategic Outcomes Director, Office of Community Living, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Marivel Klueckman, Eligibility Division Director, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Facilitators

Donna Rohde, Director, Otero County Department of Human Services

Jamie Ulrich, Director, Weld County Department of Human Services

10:45 – 11:30am

CARSE Issue Session

USFS

Meadowbrook

Conference Concludes