



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

**Monday, December 2**

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

<b>2-4pm</b>	<b>CARSE Board Meeting</b> <b>Waverly</b>
<b>2:45 - 3:15pm</b>	<b>Coffee Break/Visit Sponsor Tables</b> <b>Westminster Foyer</b>
<b>3:15 – 4:30pm</b>	<b>CCI New Commissioner/Commissioner Session</b> <b>Telling your County Story</b> <b>Westminster 2</b>

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

<b>3:15 – 4:30pm</b>	<b>CCI Concurrent Issue Session</b> <b>Why BESS Systems Sometimes Catch Fire: Navigating Battery Energy Storage Systems</b> <b>Westminster 3</b>
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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

<b>4:30 – 6:30pm</b>	<b>President's Cocktail Reception</b> <b>Sponsored by Wagner Equipment</b> <b>Legacy Ballroom</b>
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## 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	<b>CCI District Meetings/Lunch</b>
	<b>Eastern District</b> <b>Standley 2</b>
	<b>Front Range District</b> <b>Westminster 2</b>
	<b>Mountain District</b> <b>Westminster 1</b>
	<b>Southern District</b> <b>Cotton Creek</b>
	<b>Western District</b> <b>Standley 1</b>
Noon – 1pm	<b>CHSDA, CARSE and Other Attendees Lunch</b> <b>Legacy Ballroom</b>
1 – 1:45pm	<b>CARSE Issue Session</b> <b>Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association</b> <b>Meadowbrook</b>

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	<b>CHSDA Issue Session</b> <b>CHSDA Strategic Planning A New Way, Continued</b> <b>Lakehouse</b>
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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 Duroske, 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  
Mary Alice Cohen, Office of Program Delivery Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood  
Donna Rohde, Director, Otero County Department of Human Services  
Dan Makelky, Director, Arapahoe County Department of Human Services

3 – 3:10pm

**CCI 50,000+ Caucus Meeting**  
**Election of CCI Board Secretary & Treasurer**  
**Westminster 2**

County members of the 50,000+ Caucus includes: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Jefferson, Larimer, La Plata Mesa, Pueblo and Weld

3 – 3:20pm

**Coffee Break/Visit Sponsor Tables**  
**Westminster Foyer**  
**Lakehouse**  
**Standley Foyer**

3 – 4:30pm                    **CARSE Issue Session**  
**US 50 Blue Mesa Reservoir Emergency Project**  
**Lakehouse**  
**Standley Foyer**

Discussing the details of the emergency project including the cause of the closure, repair details and team dynamic.

**Speakers**

Jason Smith, Region 3 Transportation Director, Colorado Department of Transportation  
Martin Schmidt, Gunnison County

3:20 - 4pm                    **CCI Business Meeting**  
**Westminster 3-4**

**NACo Legislative Conference Meeting** – If you plan to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in 2025, please stay for a quick meeting following the adjournment of the CCI Business Meeting to discuss meetings CCI is planning for in Washington, DC.

4 – 5:30pm                    **CHSDA Membership Social Hour**  
**Sponsored by Northwoods**  
**Lakehouse**



5:30-7:30pm                    **CCI Dinner and Awards**  
**Legacy Ballroom**

**Wednesday, December 4**

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**  
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Mary Berg, Director, Jefferson County Department of Human Services

10:45 – 11:30am

**CARSE Issue Session**  
**USFS**  
**Meadowbrook**

**Conference Concludes**