

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Monday August 14, 2017 - Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Riesberg (chair), Karen Brown (vice chair), John Zabawa, Wade Buchanan, Jean Nofles, Ben Moultrie, Karin Stewart, Josh Laipply, Tony Tapia, Christian Marcel Itin, Mindy Kemp, Sharron Williams, Donna Baros, John Barry. **On Phone:** Sallie Thoreson, Steve Child, Dale Elliott, Claire Anderson **Sinergie Project Staff:** Amber Minogue, Andrea Wilkins

Meeting called to Order

Chair Jim Riesberg called meeting to order at 12:02 and took roll; participating members constituted a quorum.

Approval of Agenda and July Meeting Minutes

Accepted as presented.

Public Comment

Francis Legasse, Founder and Administrator of Sevens Home Care, and Sevens Memory Care asked the Planning Group to consider looking at tiered Medicaid programs that are being done in other states. Because we see bed shortages across the board, he is questioning what might be done if the state considered a tiered Medicaid program to help increase access of beds to a range of patients with a variety of needs.

Advocacy Policy and Procedures

An overview of changes to the policy and the reasoning for the changes was presented by Andrea Wilkins. The planning group discussed the changes and made following suggestions for edits.

- Edit bullet 3 on page two to say "...consistent with the strategic action plan or the intent of Enabling Legislation...".
- In the third paragraph on page two, the sentence "The meeting may be conducted in person, by phone, or by any other technology the planning group chooses."
- The third paragraph should be further edited to include "abstain" to the ways that members can vote on actions.

It was noted that the changes suggested would also impact the Planning Group's bylaws and could thereby need amending at a future date. John Zabawa made a motion to accept the Advocacy Policy with the suggested changes, and Wade Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sinergie Project staff will make changes to the policy and distribute amended version to Planning Group members.

Committee, Subcommittee, and Administrative Reports

*Please consult August Planning Group Agenda Book for individual sub-committee updates.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) continues to discuss convening legislators for a Legislative Caucus. A meeting just prior to the Planning Group meeting helped to identify members to contact, however it was also decided that all General Assembly members should be extended an invitation to the Regional Meetings, and to participate in the Caucus.

The EC also focused on implementation strategy for 2017, working with Sinergie Project staff on regional meetings, fundraising, and Planning Group meeting administration. They have had one meeting with the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and are working to schedule a second meeting that will focus on what state funds are committed towards aging programs. The EC has also provided oversight to the development of the Advocacy Policy, the coordination of the Transportation presentation for the July/Aug meeting, and the direction and implementation of a survey to Planning Group members on their perceptions of process, and of the priorities for 2017 Action Plan implementation.

Action Items: Each Planning Group member will be charged with contacting 4 legislators to orient them to the work of the Planning Group and extend an invitation to attend one of the upcoming Regional Meetings.

Implementation Sub-Committee

Action Items: The Implementation Subcommittee has created a spreadsheet that crosswalks the Action Plan recommendations with the action steps and progress towards goals, and they are using that spreadsheet to track their work. The spreadsheet was shared with the Planning Group and chair, Mindy Kemp, invited other committees to add and adapt the spreadsheet so that there is more communication and collaboration about what each sub-committee is doing.

Innovation and Technology Sub-Committee

Action Items: None at this time. Subcommittee will provide recommendations to the Planning Group at the end of the year.

Local and Regional Implications and Planning Sub-Committee

Action Items: Reach out to Roberto Ray with Livable Communities Initiative if you are interested in participating in their Conference on Housing.

Workforce Development Sub-Committee

Extensive discussion on barriers to the development of a sustainable workforce, including hourly wages, professional pathways, community college/higher education participation, and private sector collaboration.

Action Items: None at this time.

Sinergie Project

- General provision of administrative and consulting support to the Planning Group and the Executive Committee.
- Drafted a Fundraising Plan identifying several tiers of potential foundations that are mission aligned, and then from that, highlighting a top tier that we can submit proposals to by the end of the year.
- Developed a “Case for Support” that we will be sharing when we begin identifying prospects (businesses and individual donors) to help inform them about the Planning Group and build the case for why they should support the Planning Group.
- Editing and vetting the Advocacy Policy for approval.

- Reviewing the Enabling Legislation and Bylaws to look for areas of non-compliance.
- Coordination with Lisa Carlson around Sub-committee work
- Media development including updating the website, and media relations for the upcoming regional meetings.

Priority Survey Results: Developing Action Items for Top Priorities

Planning Group members broke into small groups, members participating by phone constituted an additional group. This discussion was continued from the July Planning Group meeting where the breakout groups reviewed the top 5 priorities that were identified in the 2017 priority survey. In August, the next 5 priorities were used for discussion and the group discussion summaries are as follows:

Group 1 – priority 6/recommendation 4: (To) help communities reinvent themselves so that Colorado seniors have more opportunities to age in place and remain active, the General Assembly should...support the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) State Coordinating Council in coordinating among the wide range of programs that help serve the transportation needs of Colorado’s aging population. The Council should be charged with making specific regulatory, legislative and funding recommendations to improve the reach, effectiveness and efficiency of existing programs.

Ben Moultrie reported on behalf of Group: Discussion focused on universal design and perceptions of higher costs for builders. Education is needed to bring more builders into this arena, while also making homes affordable. Focus should be on how simple things can be done (at a low cost) to improve design for seniors (e.g. levers instead of knobs, grab bars, etc.). Industry partners need to be brought together to explore this. Planning Group can serve as a convener/facilitator to activate education in these areas by partnering with the Koebel Center and the University of Denver or the Columbine Center for Healthy Aging at CSU, in addition to connecting with builders that are doing this kind of work. Also need to educate city planners.

Group 2 – priority 7/recommendation 6: To provide support to the growing number of Colorado workers who are also caregivers for aging loved ones, the General Assembly and Governor should...fully fund the recommendations made by the Respite Care Task Force in their January 2016 report.

John Zabawa reported on behalf of group: Discussion focused on financial incentives to caregivers (tax credits, etc.), similar to child care tax benefits that exist. Discussion also focused on importance of the Family and Medical Leave Act, development of public/private partnerships, and design elements that can be implemented within homes to keep older family members living at home as long as possible, and alternative living arrangements such as mother-in-law apartments, etc., that provide for a supportive living environment. This is another important aspect of caring for family members in community. Planning for long-term care needs. CLASS Act proposed as a financial model to encourage people to save for their own long-term care – more effort needs to take place in this arena. Financial resources are needed to help people with costs associated with long-term care. Group also discussed dementia-friendly initiatives and the White House conference on aging. Needs to be greater public awareness of the signs of dementia and efforts to provide more supportive environments where families can go (businesses certified as dementia-friendly). More caregiver education is needed and strategies for dealing with caregiver burnout. (Alzheimer’s Association is hosting a caregiver forum on Aug 22.)

Group 3 – Priority 8/Recommendation 3: The General Assembly should (help) increase retirement savings by Coloradans of all ages by creat(ing) a public-private partnership to

design and offer a workplace retirement saving plan for employees who currently do not have access to one. This plan should be portable and should emphasize the essential ingredients of availability, automatic enrollment, automatic investment, and automatic escalation.

Christian Itin reported on behalf of the group: Planning Group does not have subject matter expertise to address the key issue associated with solutions in this area, which is tax law. Believes Planning Group should meet with individuals who drafted the work and save legislation (attempted 3 times and failed). Planning Group should also explore other ways that we can draft legislation to help people save pre-tax dollars for retirement. Other issue is education – how do you get people to even consider saving? Group is interested in exploring if there is some way to take the concept of a public-private partnership and do something similar to the ombudsman bill and run it as a pilot. May need to repackage legislation. Helpful to have bill drafters come in and have dialogue with subcommittee or Planning Group as a whole. Concept of personal responsibility that is tied to the idea of saving for retirement seems to be an area ripe for bi-partisanship and this may help alleviate one of the barriers to passage. Bell Policy Center has been lead on this. Bell would be happy to come and discuss this with the subcommittee or Planning Group. In terms of pilot, Natalie Wood thinks there may be some communities that have tested this out. She will look into possible examples and report back to group. Most effective way to get people to save for retirement is through their employer. But many people don't have this option. (3/4 of a million people) How do we pull them in?

Group 4 – Priority 8/Recommendation 8: To ensure older adults are free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, Colorado should...support programs to raise awareness and train law enforcement personnel, district attorneys, service providers, caregivers, and other key audiences in how to identify and prevent elder abuse.

Natalie Wood (Bell Policy Center) reported on behalf of group: Much of the work surrounding implementation of this recommendation has been started by the Implementation subcommittee (see subcommittee report on page 15 of agenda book). Many of the barriers identified and discussed relate to funding. Group questioned what formula counties use to allocate funding for adult protective services? Mindy Kemp reports that caseload ratio plays into this. Mindy can provide more information on funding and capacity at a future Implementation subcommittee meeting and share with the full Planning Group.

Group 5 – Phone – priority 10/recommendation 7: The General Assembly should work with the appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure state laws and regulations are adequate to protect consumers, including seniors, from predatory financial practices...The General Assembly and the Governor should support the U.S. Department of Labor fiduciary rule to protect workers from business practices that cost American families excess fees and charges.

Phil Cernac (Arapahoe County) reported on behalf of the group: Group feels it is important to identify committees of reference in legislature (regarding legislation relevant for Planning Group) and request 15 minutes with committee chair. Need to identify legislators with interest in addressing issues relevant to Planning Group. Should review Colorado and federal legislative activity and identify gaps. (real vs perceived). Need to increase financial literacy among all ages. Planning Group should work in conjunction with AARP and the Colorado Senior Lobby. Rich Mauro may be able to facilitate connections.

Regional Meetings

Amber Minogue with the Sinergie Project provided updates on the Regional Meeting planning. All dates have been confirmed (Grand Junction - Aug 24th; Frisco - Sept. 13th; Pueblo - Oct. 19th; Fort Morgan October 25th; Denver - Nov 2nd). Sinergie Project staff have met with AAA Directors to

coordinate planning and identify channels for ongoing communication and collaboration. Valerie Koehn with the Pueblo AAA would like to tie into local/regional subcommittee to discuss Pueblo's senior transportation program and would like Planning Group representative to attend their monthly stakeholder meeting. Ft. Morgan meeting date has been changed to October 25. Denver meeting will take place November. 2 but will still need to identify location. Would like to explore opportunity for remote participation during this meeting. Need 3-5 Planning Group Members at each meeting. Breakout groups will be facilitated by Planning Group members. Need to circulate sign-up sheet again. Karen Brown reports that there is some concern about the likelihood of the Lt. Governor's attendance at the regional meetings.

CDOT Transportation Presentation - Joshua Laipply

Colorado has had significant population growth in 25+ year—from 3.3 million in '91 to 5.4 million in 2015. Last time we did a gas tax increase was in 1991, the primary source for transportation revenue. Faster transit in 2009 was first funding dedicated to transit money. Within that, 3 programs that are mandated - service treatment, maintenance, and bridges.

In preparing for the future, we must consider that congestion will be 2-3 times worse in the future. We also prioritize mobility, safety and the experience of the traveler. Our approach is a Healthy multi-modal system that provides more distance options based on other existing systems that can be connected to RTD (eg Glenwood Springs, Ft. Collins).

See <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9cWAMXYXA4BeUQ4SDVyTHJLN3M> for more information.

Action Item: Open next Planning Group meeting with transportation questions. Planning Group members can email their questions to the Sinergie Group and they will compile them for consideration at September's meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Jim Riesberg adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2017