



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2020

Participants: Christian Itin (Chair), John Emerson (Vice Chair), Dave Norman, Greg Smith, Jim Collins, John Zabawa, Tony Tapia, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Karen Brown, Jane Barnes, Kelly Osthoff, Karin Stewart, Gabriel Kaplan, Andrea Kuwik, Sophie Shulman, Jean Nofles, and Steve Child

Not in Attendance: Hayley Gleason, Sarah Elliott, Maureen McDonald, and Chris Lee

Public Participants: Andrea Suhaka (Arapahoe County Local Coordinating Council), Joan Mobley (Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council), Jodi Waterhouse (CU-Anschutz Center on Aging), Ed Leary (Osher Lifelong Learning), Teresa Falagradý (Denver Office of Economic Development), Rachael Minore (Alzheimer’s Association), Blaine Cole (MSU-Denver), Kris Geerkin (Colorado Senior Lobby), Janice Blanchard (Governor’s Office), and Kristine Burrows (Easter Seals)

Action Items:

- Jarett Hughes to add Ed Leary to public participants in December Planning Group minutes
- Jarett Hughes to follow-up with working group chairs about first steps and recruiting additional members
- Jarett Hughes to send out dates of Regional and Aging Caucus meetings to Planning Group members

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Christian Itin at 12:05 pm
- December minutes approved with a motion by Tony Tapia and seconded by John Zabawa
- January agenda approved

Budget Update

Jarett Hughes provided the monthly budget update to Planning Group members. [See link](#)

Update from Janice Blanchard, Senior Advisor on Aging, Governor’s Office

Janice Blanchard joined the Planning Group to provide an update on work efforts. Janice related progress and work back to the initial goals laid out in the 2016 Action Plan and included in each update. Efforts highlighted were as follows:

- Paid family leave for state employees
- Supporting the work of the Secure Savings Board/retirement security
- Participating and supporting in the Age-Friendly Workplaces Conference
- Age-friendly public health and age-friendly health systems
 - o Working with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Gabriel Kaplan to form a working group to explore opportunities
- Top priorities for 2020:
 - o Implementing Planning Group recommendations
 - o Structurally integrate the Planning Group and Senior Advisor efforts



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Jim Collins made the point that Area Agencies on Aging cannot continue on flat funding through State-Funding for Senior Services.

Jayla Sanchez-Warren noted that increasing provider capacity in rural parts of the state is an important goal for Denver Regional Council of Governments and the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Trying to build up capacity prior to a significant increase in demand for services is a top priority for the Area Agency on Aging network. Jayla also suggested that supporting funding for additional nursing home ombudsmen is a need. The state spends a significant amount of money on nursing home care and it only makes sense to prioritize funding for paid positions to ensure quality of care and advocate for residents.

Karen B. expressed concerns over the Governor's priorities and the perception that aging is not one of them. Karen indicated the importance of "getting upstream" on health and aging issues by identifying and/or supporting the development of products and policies that support older Coloradans and older workers. Karen also expressed dismay over the Attorney General's office not prioritizing funding for the Financial Security Coalition efforts.

Regional Meeting and Aging Caucus Updates

Jarett Hughes provided dates for upcoming Regional and Aging Caucus meetings:
Regional meetings – Aurora 1/31, Sterling 3/12, Durango 4/23, and Salida 5/18 from 9:30-11:30 am
Aging Caucus – 2/5 and 3/11 from 7:30-8:45 am in Senate Committee Room 352

Statutory and Bylaw Review

No questions or comments on annual member review of statute and bylaws. The Executive Committee will consider language for a bylaw amendment based on discussion from the new member meeting related to voting and roles of oncoming members.

Establish Working Groups for 2020

Christian Itin led the discussion regarding the formation of working groups for 2020. Groups are as follows:

Governance and State Structure – Christian Itin (Co-Chair), Jane Barnes (Co-Chair), Dave Norman, Sophie Shulman, Andrea Kuwik, and John Emerson

Long-Term Services and Supports – Jayla Sanchez-Warren (Chair), Karin Stewart, Kelly Osthoff, John Emerson, and Gabriel Kaplan – Group needs to identify a Co-Chair

Workforce Development – Tony Tapia (Co-Chair), Teresa Falagradý (Co-Chair), John Zabawa, Karin Stewart, and Karen Brown

Rural Transit – Jim Collins (Chair), Sophie Shulman, Dave Norman (possibly) – Sophie will connect with CDOT folks about involvement, Jarett will connect with CASTA and other transit providers as well

Other Working Groups Planning Group can be involved in with:

- Age-friendly public health – Gabriel Kaplan and Janice Blanchard will keep group apprised of developments



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- Financial Security Coalition – Karen Brown will attend when available and Janice will update group with work efforts

Update from Rich Mauro on Legislation

With extra time left in the meeting, Rich Mauro offered the group a brief update on from of the topics to expect during the legislative session. They included: efforts to modify the Senior Property Tax Exemption, renter's rights, prescription drug costs, loan forgiveness for geriatric medical providers, and increasing provider capacity for Area Agencies on Aging.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm