

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Meeting Minutes November 5, 2018

Participants: Karen Brown (chair), John Zabawa (vice chair), Tony Tapia, Christian Itin, Jim Riesberg, Maureen McDonald, Sarah Elliott, Steve Grund, Karin Stewart, Jayla Sanchez Warren, Josh Laipply, John Barry, Mindy Gates, John Emerson, Jimmy Collins, Natalie O'Donnell Wood (phone), Dave Norman (phone), Coral Cosway (phone), Chris Lee (phone), Kathleen Hall (phone), Gabriel Kaplan (phone), and Jarett Hughes

Not in Attendance: Jean Nofles and Steve Child

Public Participants: Jerry McElroy (Colorado Gerontological Society), Rich Mauro (DRCOG), Wade Buchanan (Governor's Office), Leigh Hull (Innovage), Andrea Kuwik (Bell Policy Center), Zoe DeVito (Via Mobility), Rebecca Grushkin, Ashly Johnson (DRCOG), Savannah McDaniel (Colorado Consumer Health Initiative), Caitlin Westerson (Colorado Consumer Health Initiative), Lindsay Parsons (Boulder AAA), and Hayley Gleason (HCPF)

Action Items:

- SAPGA members to provide input on Draft Action Plan by 5pm November 7
- SAPGA members to provide input on Executive Summary and Successes by 5pm November 9
- Jarett Hughes to incorporate SAPGA member input by 5pm November 9 and send to Jennifer Chavez for final round of edits

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Karen Brown at 12:01 pm with a quorum present
- October minutes approved with edits
- November agenda approved

Nominations Committee Slate

Jim Riesberg and Karen Brown offered comment on the Executive Committee slate created by the 2018 Nominations Committee. The 2019 Executive Committee slate will be: Christian Itin for chair, Maureen McDonald for vice chair, Steve Child, John Zabawa, and Sarah Elliott.

Older Adult Policy Advisor – Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance

SAPGA member and HCPF representative John Barry introduced Hayley Gleason, who was recently hired as the Older Adult Policy Advisor for HCPF. Hayley Gleason will be replacing John Barry as the HCPF representative on SAPGA.

Proposition 109 versus Proposition 110 – Josh Laipply

SAPGA member and chief engineer at the Colorado Department of Transportation provided a brief overview of what propositions 109 and 110 would fund. Prop 109 would be used solely for highway repairs while 110 funds would be available for some discretionary spending including multimodal transportation and funding existing services.

Bylaw Update

In order to fall in-line with HB18-1198, SAPGA needed to make some general additions to existing bylaws. It was noted that one reference to CRS 26-11-101-106 needed to be changed to CRS 24-32-3401. Upon condition of editing the CRS reference appropriately a motion was made by Maureen McDonald, with a second by John Emerson to approve amended bylaws. Bylaws amendments were approved unanimously.

Housing Recommendations

Discussion revolved around the following housing recommendations. For recommendations where changes were made, redacted language is struck through with new language in red:

Recommendation 1 -The State of Colorado, in partnership with the private sector and local governments, should ensure a supply of affordable, accessible, and manageable housing to meet the needs of older Coloradans.

Recommendation 2 - To improve the understanding of options that exist for senior living, the State of Colorado, along with the private and non-profit sectors, should create and/or enhance access to information on living options for older adults.

*Recommendation 3 - The State of Colorado, along with other senior housing experts, should further assess and analyze existing affordable, accessible, **safe**, and manageable housing stock for older adults. ~~including intergenerational, rental, existing home ownership, assisted, independent, assisted memory, and new living environments county by county and statewide.~~*

*Recommendation 4 - The State of Colorado, along with local governments and the private sector, should support partnerships to promote and develop the expansion of community-wide efforts to make all of Colorado an **age-friendly state in-line with the Lifelong Colorado Initiative.***

With the inclusion of language relevant to Lifelong Colorado, SAPGA members decided recommendation 4 should be removed from the "Housing" section because it involves much more than just housing. Supporting, encouraging, and funding local involvement in Lifelong Colorado was brought up as an important direction.

With a motion from Kathleen Hall and second by Chris Lee housing recommendations 1-4 were approved unanimously.

Transportation Recommendations

Discussion revolved around the following transportation recommendations. For recommendations where changes were made, redacted language is struck through with new language in red:

Recommendation 1 -The State of Colorado, in collaboration with partners delivering transportation services to older adults, should ensure that existing state and federal dollars for transportation for the older population are maximized and used most effectively and efficiently.

Recommendation 2- The State of Colorado, along with its aging-related transportation partners and work groups, local governments and the private sector should pursue and publicly document innovative partnerships to expand funding streams and ridership opportunities for older adults (leveraging existing funding streams and mechanisms).

Recommendation 3 - The State of Colorado, along with its aging-related transportation partners and work groups, as well as aging-related stakeholders should ensure that any new transportation legislation (including the ~~ballot initiative 110~~) will provide additional funding to enhance transportation funding for older adults to a level equal to growing needs with an emphasis toward focusing on mobility as a service.

*Recommendation 4- The State of Colorado, along with its aging-related transportation partners and work groups, as well as aging-related stakeholders should research the challenges and opportunities for autonomous **and connected** driving vehicles for Colorado's aging population. Assess whether there are "requirements" to meet the needs of the aging population for ADA compliance. Such research would yield guidelines and parameters to improve the experience, ensure safety, and promote adoption for older Coloradans.*

It was mentioned that a potential strategies box for Recommendation 1 be included that offers examples, such as but not limited to, a coordinator or technical advisor position.

With a motion from John Zabawa and second from Jayla Sanchez Warren transportation recommendations 1-4 were approved.

Workforce Recommendations

Discussion revolved around the following workforce recommendations. For recommendations where changes were made, redacted language is struck through with new language in **red**:

*Recommendation 1 -The State of Colorado along with its partners in the public and private sectors should further **structurally integrate** ~~institutionalize~~ the capacity for workforce development given the state's changing demographics. Existing structures, systems, and entities within the state should be supported to develop the necessary infrastructure to address the needs of older workers needing and wanting to stay in the paid and/or volunteer labor force. Furthermore, the state should support the growing need for a workforce to serve older Coloradans.*

Recommendation 2 - The State of Colorado along with its partners in the public and private sectors should aid the state educational system in addressing the needs of older Coloradans who want or need additional education and training as a part of remaining in the workforce. Furthermore, the state should work to ensure that the state educational system has the capacity to educate and train a workforce to serve older Coloradans.

*Recommendation 3 - The State of Colorado along with its partners in the public and private sectors should assist the business community in adopting **best** practices that ~~assist~~ **attract, retain, and protect** older workers who want or need to stay in the workforce. Furthermore, the state should work with the business community to develop programs and **best** practices addressing existing and future workforce shortages in sectors to serve older Coloradans as they age in their communities.*

With a motion by John Emerson and a second by John Zabawa workforce recommendations 1-3 were approved unanimously.

Senior Property Tax Exemption Discussion

SAPGA has engaged with various groups regarding the Senior Property Tax Exemption, such as the Colorado Senior Lobby, Colorado Gerontological Society, the Joint Budget Committee, and Legislative Council Staff. Through research and a public input forum SAPGA has gathered information, perspectives, and a general understanding how what the tax exemptions work in Colorado and across the country.

Through discussion and review, SAPGA members chose to have the 2018 plan offer an overview of our work on the senior property tax exemption along with findings from our survey and public forums. Work will continue into 2019 to further define parameters that are important to consider in any potential changes to the program – such parameters will serve as our guidance in recommendations for potential changes. At least one member felt more work could be done to offer scenarios of change and the impacts on state revenue and expenditures connected to any proposed change. This information would be important to consider. It was also brought up that SAPGA should further refine the issues and/or problems to be addressed with any modification to the tax exemption.

Through HB17-267 the tax exemption became the first tax benefit mechanism to be counted as a TABOR refund. This further complicates the likelihood of the General Assembly addressing the benefit given higher projections of state revenue in coming years which may trigger TABOR refunds. In years where the state exceeds the TABOR limit, as is the projection for this upcoming year, the senior property tax exemption is the first to count towards the overall TABOR refund, which allows for more state spending in TABOR refund years.

It was suggested that SAPGA remain at a high-level when discussing the tax exemption. SAPGA is best positioned to provide guidance, values, and offer a picture what a good policy may look like. Ideas such as fiscal sustainability or the need for appropriate/affordable housing along with the realization that some homeowners truly need the benefit and that renters also need significant assistance should be kept in mind. Currently, renters receive no support through the Senior Property Tax Exemption.

SAPGA members did discuss the importance of the other programs available to older Coloradans: the property deferral, the property tax work off, and the property tax/ rent/ heat (PTC) rebate. It was suggested that a description of these programs along with links to these programs be provided in a breakout box.

Long-Term Care Cost Study – Colorado Health Institute, Emily Johnson

Emily Johnson joined SAPGA to provide a final presentation on their research to explore and project LTSS service utilization, expenditures, gaps, and future considerations as the state anticipates an increase in adults utilizing these services. The full report can be found [here](#).

Strategic Planning Sessions

During the December and January meetings SAPGA will engage Janine Vanderburg to facilitate strategic planning sessions. The goal is lay out a path for SAPGA efforts into 2019. It was suggested that SAPGA use the original legislation, HB15-1033. The statute outlines areas for exploration and focus, some of

which have yet to be addressed or have just begun to be explored by the group. It was also noted that it may be useful to integrate efforts as the State Unit on Aging begins their 4-year State Plan, HCPF begins their Medicaid Strategic Plan, and review the recent CASOA work commissioned by the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Action Plan Update

Members were provided with an Executive Summary and list of successes to date for review and input. The goal is to combine these documents into one letter to be delivered to both incoming and outgoing legislators to go out mid-November. The official update to the Action Plan will be available in January of 2019.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm