



# Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2020

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

**Not in Attendance:** Tony Tapia, Sophie Shulman, and Hayley Gleason

**Public Participants:** George Maxey (Commerce City Senior Commission), Ed Leary (Osher Lifelong Learning), Claire Cruse (Deloitte Health Solutions), Erica Reinhardt (Department of Human Services), Diane Meyer, Teresa Falagradý (Denver Office of Economic Development), Rena Soller (CU School of Public Health-MPH Candidate), Glen Krause (Department of Transportation), Lisa Streisfeld (Department of Transportation), Mark Levine, Rich Mauro (Denver Regional Council of Governments), Kara Harvey (Department of Human Services), Kari Degerness (CIHVC), Bob Brocker (Colorado Senior Lobby), and Janice Blanchard (Governor's Office)

## Action Items:

- Kara Harvey (CDHS), will join the Planning Group as the designee from the Department
- Jarett Hughes will work with Executive Committee on next steps for category rankings

## Meeting Notes

### *Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes*

- Meeting called to order by Christian Itin at 12:06 pm
- January meeting minutes and February agenda approved

### *Bylaw Amendment and New Member Vote*

Christian Itin introduced the potential bylaw amendments for discussion. There were concerns raised by Janice Blanchard, Senior Policy Advisor on Aging, about not passing these bylaw changes through the Boards and Commissions Office. The bylaw changes are being proposed because of the decision made by the Boards and Commissions Office to not appoint members themselves, so, the Executive Committee views the bylaw changes as necessary given this decision. Janice was encouraged to bring the issue to the Boards and Commissions Office. There were no concerns raised by Planning Group members. John Zabawa made a motion to approve and John Emerson seconded the motion. The bylaws passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee, functioning as a Nominations Committee, recommended three candidates for appointment to the full Planning Group: Ed Leary, Aisha Young, and Claire Cruse. With a motion by Jayla Sanchez-Warren and second by Karin Stewart, all members voted to approve Ed, Aisha, and Claire as full voting members of the Planning Group.

### *Budget Update and Overview*

Jarett Hughes provided a brief update on the Planning Group's budget. Link to [Budget Overview](#). Jarett Hughes and Rich Mauro had the chance to meet with the Joint Budget Committee Chair, Representative Daneya Esgar, and Vice Chair, Senator Dominick Moreno, to provide a brief update on Planning Group's work efforts.



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### *Regional Meeting and Aging Caucus Update*

Jarett Hughes provided an update on dates for upcoming regional meetings and caucus meetings. They are as follows:

Sterling, CO 3/13 CSU Regional Engagement Center 9:30-11:30 am

Durango, CO 4/24 Location TBD 9:30-11:30 am

Salida, CO 5/18 Location TBD 9:30-11:30 am

Aging Caucus: 3/11 Colorado State Capitol SCR 352 7:30-8:30 am

The 3/11 Aging Caucus meeting will focus on research related to older Coloradans in the workforce. The research, funded by Next Fifty Initiative, and conducted by the TransAmerica Institute and University of Iowa will be available to the public on Thursday, February 27.

### *Review of Planning Group Recommendation Rankings*

Prior to the February 10 meeting, Planning Group members were asked to rank recommendation categories. The goal of ranking these categories was to establish priority areas to inform efforts by the Senior Advisor on Aging within the Governor's Office.

The top 5 categories were: 1) Lifelong Colorado/age-friendly planning, 2) Developing a workforce to support older Coloradans, 3) Funding for long-term services and supports/Area Agencies on Aging, 4) State Planning and Governance, 5) Family caregiving.

Planning Group members felt comfortable with the top 5 rankings. Although, it was mentioned that retirement security/savings seemed to be a bit low. It was noted that supporting saving and retirement security is a fundamental component to addressing various demands in later life (e.g., increased cost of living, medical expenses).

The big question remains: How do we pay for these ideas and their implementation?

### *State Structure and Governance Report Out*

The first recommendation included in the 2019 Strategic Action Plan on Aging revolves around creating a working group tasked with exploring the state structure and governance as it relates to the coordinating existing aging-related services and structurally integrating current efforts so that the work of the Planning Group and Senior Advisor on Aging are not temporary. Janice Blanchard, from the Governor's Office, suggested that we must begin to reconsider how aging policy is development, coordinated, and implemented in Colorado.

**Group 1 Notes and Comments:** Barriers related to long-term planning within the context of short-term funding constraints; consider an Executive Office on Aging with an executive director with authority to coordinate aging services across departments; we have to consider what happens post-Planning Group and Senior Advisor on Aging; explore the idea of an "aging coordinator" in each department; life course planning approach focusing on prevention and early interventions; what is best for progress; does the



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Planning Group become an implementation committee or an advisory committee to implementation; use the long history of dollars spent on Boards and Commissions as rationale for implementation – we cannot afford to do this again in 10 years; the aging space must speak with one, unified voice – however we have to be careful to not cancel out other’s perspectives – need clear and open channels of communication; we are currently trying to do too much with too little resources – must prioritize spending on aging-related issues; do we need to fit this into the Governor’s four buckets; have to fit for funding to be priority, actively advocate for this reprioritization.

Group 2 Notes and Comments: Mobile preventative healthcare – housed in CDHS or HCPF, would be limited by payment models with regard to private– evolve telemedicine; cabinet level position in an Office on Aging could influence policy decisions and planning – create a comprehensive budget; each state department have a designated older adult policy advisor and they would meet regularly to inform direction from Governor’s Office; any recommendation needs public buy-in and support; public awareness campaign – positive aging across the life course.

### *Update on Working Groups*

State Structure and Governance: Christian Itin and Jane Barnes are co-chairs. This will be a standing item on agendas moving forward when we have time for discussion. There has been conversation about seeking funding or pooling resources for professional facilitation of this working group. There is no meeting plan yet.

Rural Transit: Jim Collins is chair and Sophie Shulman has engaged with the Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) to provide support and input. The committee will develop on a “blueprint” or “roadmap” capturing Jim’s experience providing transportation services with blended resources including Older Americans Act, Community Service Block Grant, Medicaid, etc. Other work will involve coordinating with CDOT and DTR to identify gaps, barriers, and solutions related to their work in rural regions of the state.

Long-Term Services and Supports: Jayla Sanchez-Warren and Jarett Hughes met prior to the Planning Group meeting to discuss possible steps. Based on topics generated at the October 2019 Planning Group meeting the starting topics are: state respite care models, financing for LTSS, transitions from care settings, and assisted living reimbursements.

**Meeting adjourn at 2:50 pm**