



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2019

Participants: Christian Itin (chair), Maureen McDonald (vice-chair), Karen Brown, Jayla Sanchez Warren, John Zabawa, John Emerson, Hayley Gleason, Karin Stewart, Chris Lee, Jim Riesberg, Coral Cosway, Mindy Gates, Tony Tapia, John Laipply, Sarah Elliott, Steve Child (phone), Dave Norman (phone), and Jean Nofles (phone)

Not in Attendance: Gabriel Kaplan, Steve Grund, Jim Collins, and Kathleen Hall

Public Participants: Leigh Hull (Innovage), Ed Shackelford (Colorado Senior Lobby), Andrea Kuwik (Bell Policy Center), Ed Leary (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), George Maxey (Adams County Aging Network), Doug Krug (Denver Commission on Aging)

Action Items:

- Executive Committee to establish SAPGA representative to participate in CCI Summer Conference panel on aging and age-friendly planning
- Jarett Hughes to keep SAPGA members updated on funding developments as JBC finalizes the Long Bill
- Christian Itin, Maureen McDonald, and Jarett Hughes to meet with Janice Blanchard, Senior Advisor on Aging.

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Christian Itin at 12:06 pm
- March minutes approved
- April agenda approved

Public Comment

Ed Shackelford, Colorado Senior Lobby, encouraged SAPGA to focus on the long-term. What we doing to address poverty among adults and how are our recommendations working towards ensuring the more effective spending of state dollars, especially through Medicaid? Ed also indicated a clear need for more PhD's in the field of aging to perform state-level research.

Budget Update

SAPGA was able to get an amendment adopted in the Senate version Long Bill with support from Senator's Larry Crowder, Bob Rankin, and Joann Ginal. Representative Chris Kennedy did introduce the same amendment during the House version but ended up withdrawing the amendment on the floor. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) will be meeting to reconcile the Senate and House Long Bill versions in the coming week. The JBC will vote on whether or not to adopt or omit amendments. If SAPGA's



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amendment fails, the appropriation for FY19-20 will be \$55,000 versus \$110,000 if the amendment is adopted. Jarett Hughes will keep the group updated.

Update from Wade Buchanan and Introduction of Janice Blanchard, Senior Advisor on Aging

In April of 2018, Janice Blanchard was hired as the Senior Advisor on Aging within the Governor's Office. Top priority projects include: a) SAPGA b) Lifelong Colorado c) Financial Security for Older Coloradans Task Force and d) potential Aging Summit. Christian Itin, Maureen McDonald, and Jarett Hughes will be meeting with Janice to further discuss priorities and working relationship between SAPGA and Senior Advisor.

Colorado Counties, Inc. and Summer Conference – Gini Pingnot

Steve Child, Pitkin County Commissioner and SAPGA member, will be moderating an aging-focused panel at the CCI Summer Conference in June. The panel will consist of a representative from SAPGA, a county commissioner from Larimer county, and AARP. The panel will be from 10:00- 10:50 am on Wednesday June, 5. The goal is to share age-friendly best practices with county commissioners along with how efforts at the state-level really require local buy-in and implementation.

Healthy Aging State Scan – Andrea Kuwik, Bell Policy Center

Andrea Kuwik from Bell Policy Center presented some highlights from her research with the Bell Policy Center. Through a grant from the NextFifty Initiative, and in partnership with Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, the Bell is working on 1) a state scan of health aging best practices 2) developing an aging roadmap to raise awareness on the impacts of aging and 3) developing an aging policy agenda.

There was significant discussion regarding Washington state and their recent steps involving home care workers. In 2018, Washington state passed a bill that would make individual provider home care workers managed by a private entity, called a Consumer Directed Employer (CDE), rather than the state. This entity will serve as the employer for Individual Providers of in-home personal care and respite for the state. According to Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, this can happen no sooner than July 1, 2020. The CDE will be responsible for credentialing, conducting background checks, payroll and other administrative tasks currently handled by the Aging and Long-Term Care Administration, Developmental Disabilities Administration, and the Area Agencies on Aging. There is concern that the private status of the CDE and workers would allow the SEIU 775 union to create a shop where home-care workers must pay either dues or agency fees if they don't claim an exemption. Seventeen other states use a similar third-party model for home care administration. The Department is also providing informational webinars monthly to update stakeholders and interested parties.

The first piece of these three stages was shared with SAPGA during this presentation. The goal of the state scan was to present promising ideas by identifying best practices adopted/explored by other



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states. The full report and slide deck presentation are available alongside the meeting minutes and agenda for the April 8 meeting on the SAPGA website.

Small Group Work based on Healthy Aging State Scan – Potential Focus Areas

Group One:

Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral (TCARE); workforce development issues; look into Senior LinkAge Line in Minnesota (similar to No Wrong Door); connect foundations with groups to research more evidence-based practices

Group Two:

More information about direct care workers - look into consumer directed care workers – what settings are they in? – what training is required and what else is needed; tiered rates for assisted living; connect with TCARE and Easter Seals

Group Three:

How does SAPGA share our recommendations and best practices; what the subcommittees working on; focus on education and share our work; continue and expand engagement with AAA's and counties; TABOR; engage with Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Group Four:

Washington state's experience with home care workforce and long-term care insurance act; training for home care workers; career advancement and pathways for home care workers; Veteran's and the prevalence of traumatic injury and risk for dementia; are we actually providing integrated care; balancing the needs of low income older adults with those who are better off financially; older parents providing care to adult children with intellectual or development disabilities; TCARE; older adults with dementia and no informal support system

Meeting Adjourned 2:58pm