

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

June 11, 2018

Participants: Karen Brown (chair), John Zabawa (vice chair), Natalie O'Donnell Wood, Ben Moultrie, Maureen McDonald, Donna Baros, Steve Child (phone), Sharron Williams (phone), Coral Cosway (phone), Jean Nofles (phone), Dave Norman (phone), and Jarett Hughes

Not in attendance: Jim Riesberg, John Barry, Tony Tapia, Christian Itin, Sarah Elliott, Dale Elliott, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Karin Stewart, Mindy Kemp, Claire Anderson, Gabriel Kaplan

Public Participants: Barbara Wells (CCHI), Rich Mauro (DRCOG), Wade Buchanan (Governor's Office), Ed Shackelford (Colorado Senior Lobby), Jeanette Hensley (Colorado Senior Lobby), Ashley Taeckens (MSW), Gretchen Cerveney (former mayor of Wheat Ridge and former Colorado Commission on Aging member)

Action Items

- SAPGA to engage with Colorado Health Institute, Bell Policy, DRCOG, and Colorado Consumer Health Initiative over long-term care research to avoid duplication and leverage resources/outcomes
- Natalie Wood O'Donnell to put Jarett Hughes and Karen Brown in touch with Kate Blackfoot, Bell Policy Center Outreach Coordinator
- Pursue budget/funding request for 2019 with state department sponsor, Governor's Office, or Colorado Commission on Aging
- Jarett Hughes to have a housing write-up and potential language for a bylaw which would create a nominations committee prepared by the July 9 meeting.

Meeting Notes

Welcome

- Meeting was called to order by Karen Brown at 12:05
- A quorum was not present and May meeting minutes could not be approved

Website Overview

Jarett Hughes provided a brief overview of the SAPGA website. Meeting times/dates, previous minutes/agendas, and previous research/presentations done for SAPGA were highlighted. There is a wealth of information available on the SAPGA website and may be valuable to members as they engage with their own or other organizations.

Update on SAPGA Recommendations

Jarett Hughes, with support from Karen Brown and Natalie O'Donnell Wood, discussed legislation that directly related to SAPGA recommendations outlined in the Initial Action Plan.

The Colorado Secure Savings Plan, HB18-1298, dealt directly with Recommendation #3 which suggests taking steps through public-private partnerships to increase the availability and accessibility of

workplace retirement plans. This bill did not make it out of the State, Senate, and Military Affairs committee. Also pertaining to Recommendation #3 was the Modifications to PERA to Eliminate Unfunded Liability, SB18-200. This bill passed on the final day of the 2018 legislative session. It seeks to cover PERA's \$32 billion shortfall over the next 30 years.

The Family Medical Leave and Insurance (FAMLI) program, HB18-1001, related to Recommendation #6 which encourages better supports for informal/family caregivers was discussed. The FAMLI program would have created a program that would have provided partial-wage reimbursement for those taking work leave to provide medical care for family or friends. Reimbursements would be funded by a payroll deduction between .33% and .99% of annual income. The economic impact of informal caregiving in Colorado is immense and growing. This bill was postponed indefinitely in the State, Senate, and Military Affairs committee.

Karen Brown also mentioned that the Colorado Attorney's General Office is seeking to fund and implement programs around the state aimed at financial education, awareness of elder abuse, and financial fraud. This pertains to part of Recommendation #3 which supports the development of aggressive statewide financial education programs.

Legislative Update from the Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)

Ed Shackelford provided an overview of CSL's work this legislative session. CSL can be an important partner for SAPGA as its members fully engage in lobbying for bills and policies that support older adults and their families.

Legislative priorities in 2018-2020 for CSL include: financial/physical protections for older adults; workforce issues (e.g., hiring, retraining, mentoring); improved healthcare access, quality, and cost; dementia concerns; affordable and safe housing; and access to affordable and safe transportation. CSL tracked nearly 100 bills during the 2018 legislative session. Most of the bills revolved around healthcare, prescription drugs, and housing. Workforce development, elder abuse, and transportation seem to be less popular issues within the General Assembly.

For the upcoming 2019 legislative session, CSL expects affordable housing, forced arbitration, elder abuse, and prescription drugs to be major topics. CSL has taken the lead on addressing low-income renters through work on the PTC rebate and CSL/SAPGA are both interested in the future of the Senior and Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption.

Diversity Discussion and Engagement

SAPGA would like to gather more input from diverse populations in the upcoming Action Plan. It was noted that through the Conversations on Aging events that SAPGA was unable to draw diverse attendees. It was discussed that the best way to engage with diverse populations (e.g., blacks, Latinos, LGBT, etc.) was to seek them out and attend standing meetings or events instead of expecting them to come to us.

It was suggested from SAPGA members that we be very clear with what we want to convey and what we want to achieve. Wade Buchanan pointed out the importance of maintaining a dialogue or setting

the stage for continued engagement as opposed to a one-time meeting. It was mentioned that perhaps instead of targeting “groups” we focus on “communities”. Inquiring about how could SAPGA or the state of Colorado better serve these communities?

Various SAPGA members mentioned that business chambers are not the best partners for this type of outreach. However, it may be the case that those within a particular chamber of commerce are knowledgeable about who we should be in touch with. Faith-based groups and religious/community leaders were brought up as a great starting point. Churches or community centers have established participants and trust within the community. SAPGA will review the various groups mentioned above and consider approaching one or several of these groups about a presentation and public input forum. One perspective that was shared was it may be more important to focus on information about, concerns, and issues within the community as opposed to discussing the Initial Action Plan.

A final point was made that instead of talking about increased diversity, SAPGA seek greater inclusion. This focus on language falls in-line with similar work being done to reframe the ways we discuss aging.

Homestead Exemption Forum

SAPGA and CSL, and potentially Colorado Gerontological Society, are planning an educational, public input forum regarding the Senior and Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption and the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit (PTC) rebate. Planning is in the early stages but making progress as the core team meets weekly to plan and discuss the event. Tentative date is set for August 14.

Long-Term Care (LTC) and Long-Term Support and Services (LTSS) Cost Research

Lt. Governor Donna Lynne offered perspective that more work done on LTC cost projections for the state would be valuable. Funding secured through the General Assembly was earmarked for cost projection research from the Colorado Health Institute (CHI). There are a few organizations currently engaged in LTC research. CHI, Bell Policy, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and DRCOG are all involved in various ways researching LTC in Colorado. All previously mentioned organizations will engage in a discussion outlining their scope of work in order to better collaborate and avoid duplication and capitalize on each other’s data gathering. The Colorado Respite Coalition may have new research and data available in the coming months that will be of interest to SAPGA.

Aging Summit

The Aging Summit has been pushed back until Spring or Summer of 2019. There was an effort to combine events with the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). The C4A will be presenting their findings from the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) in Breckenridge on October 18. They will also be starting their 4-year plan work. Due to the importance of their 4-year plans and the amount of time such planning takes, the C4A felt uncomfortable modifying the structure of their event to add another element. The focus on the 2019 Aging Summit will most likely be on making Colorado an age-friendly state and improved networking/collaboration among stakeholders in the aging space.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:56