



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020

Participants: Christian Itin (Chair), John Emerson (Vice Chair), Sarah Elliott, Karin Stewart, Hayley Gleason, Ed Leary, John Zabawa, Claire Cruse, Andrea Kuwik, Jean Nofles, Karen Brown, Gabriel Kaplan, Kelly Osthoff, Kara Harvey, Dave Norman, Steve Child, Jim Collins, Jane Barnes, and Aisha Young

Not in Attendance: Sophie Shulman, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, and Tony Tapia

Public Participants: Pat Cook, Gail Meehan, George Maxey, TJ Burr Rich Mauro, Coral Cosway, Erica Reinhardt, Diana McFail, Lisa Streisfeld, Leigh Hull, Laura Newman, Leslie Kalechman, Jodi Waterhouse, Doug Krug, and Bob Brocker

Action Items:

- Jarett Hughes to follow-up with committee members and public participants about involvement in advocacy working groups
- Jarett Hughes to coordinate a meeting with the Child Protection Ombudsman Office

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- Meeting called to order at 12:04 pm by Christian Itin
- May meeting minutes and June agenda approved

Bylaw Amendment

A bylaw amendment outlining duties of Executive Committee members was introduced to the Planning Group. One of the primary reasons for bringing this amendment to the Planning Group was to formalize a process for “signing on” to letters of support for other organizations. It was decided that the Planning Group’s Executive Committee should only support an effort if it directly relates to previously stated goals and/or recommendations. There was a comment and subsequent addition to the bylaws that require the Executive Committee to share the letter of support with the full Planning Group after approval. The amendment was passed unanimously with a motion by Dave Norman and second by John Zabawa.

Budget Update

Jarett Hughes shared a budget update with the Planning Group. Link to [slides](#). Additional updates were included from members and public participants:

- \$28M in total funding for Area Agencies on Aging network
- Department of Public Health had a lot of Cash Funds reverted to the General Fund
- Local transit agencies were eligible for some CARES Act funding



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Task Force Updates

Hayley Gleason provided an update on the Residential Care Strike Force – see link to [slides](#). Kara Harvey offered a quick overview of the COVID-19 Response Team for Older Adults, noting that the focus is on agency coordination related to older adults and persons with disabilities and that they are working directly with the Lt. Governor's Office.

Advocacy Discussion

Christian Itin and John Emerson led a discussion around the Planning Group taking “rapid” active positions on rules, guidance, and policies related to older Coloradans and COVID-19. This work would be done quicker than the typical timeframe for formal recommendations. Stating these positions may take the form of memos or one-pagers relating back to previous Planning Group recommendations and/or goals. Examples include: Crisis Standards of Care, Adult Protective Services and Long-Term Care Ombudsman being considered essential workers, guidance discrepancy between Adult and Child Protective Services, and the Governor's Stay at Home Order for Adults 65+.

It was mentioned that it is important to take stances on these issues for the Planning Group. The question was also raised, how we do effectively get the attention of policy makers? It was noted that the State Demographer's Office has updated demographic data that may be useful.

The group supported moving ahead with the advocacy-focused small group work. Jarett Hughes will coordinate with members and public participants about forming the two groups and establishing a process to move the work efforts forward. See [link](#) to context setting document.

State Structure and Governance Discussion

Jarett Hughes provided a brief overview of the Child Protection Ombudsman Office with the Judicial Department. This model is unique in that it operates independently and autonomously from the Judicial Department, giving it the ability to work directly with the legislative and executive branches of state government. See link to [slides](#).

Report Out:

Group One: Supports the notion of an independent office in a department as opposed to the Governor's Office – Governor's interests may suppress the action of work efforts as we currently see; potential for office to be viewed as non-partisan in a department; independence in hiring and budget is important; an effort must focus down on specific priorities with feasible timelines such as minorities and equity issues and engaging younger adults with an aging/life course focus; need to identify legislative champions and explore appropriate departments for placement; identify thought leaders to inform office.



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Group Two: Concerns- need to define the purpose/goals of the office before we establish how it will be setup/organized; could a standalone office bring together other departments and offices; authority/ability to implement change may be hampered without executive power; are their unmet needs that aren't addressed due to organization/focus? Other thoughts/questions- is there more background we can collect on how they arrived at this model?; how long would it take to setup an office like this?; how would SAPGA interface with an office such as this – like the idea of body that can draw on insights and perspectives from outside the office

Group Three: Possibility to merge Planning Group and Colorado Commission on Aging as a governance board/advisory council; how do we ensure this office structure gets “heard” or has the power to implement?; important to get feedback from Janice and Wade on pros/cons of their positions.

Group Four: Autonomy from Governor's Office would be good; is it possible to structure the group so that they would be eligible for grants?; concerns over whether it would be able to coordinate and have buy-in from other departments and agencies; may be useful to do a side-by-side analysis of Child Protection Office, Suicide Prevention, and office underneath the Governor; need start-up dollars – possible that SAPGA dollars support the office?

Update from Workings Groups

Committees expect to bring draft recommendations to full Planning Group in August.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:02 pm