

# Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

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Monday November 13 2017 - Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** John Zabawa, Wade Buchanan, Mindy Kemp, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Ben Moultrie, Jean Nofles, Coral Cosway, Christian Itin, John Barry, Josh Laipply, Sharron Williams, Gabriel Kaplan. On phone: Donna Baros, Steve Child, Dave Norman, Karin Stewart, Tony Tapia. Sinergie Project staff: Gene Rose, Andrea Wilkins

## Meeting called to Order

John Zabawa called meeting to order at 12:02 and took roll; participating members constituted a quorum.

## Approval of Agenda and October Meeting Minutes

Accepted as presented.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Committee, Subcommittee, and Administrative Reports

Workforce Subcommittee Updates provided by Christian Itin. Updates and Planning Group Member discussion included:

- Attended Talent Found event in Keystone
- Developing an expanded view of workforce in Colorado, it is broad yet not connected
- Where is the conversation regarding older adults? Currently not a common topic
  - Deals with older adults in the labor force and those working on behalf on older adults
  - Most regions have healthcare related groups but some do not
  - Distinctions between traditional work context and those who serve older adults (e.g. nurses in LTC vs hospitals)
- Should they continue?
  - More work to be done regarding how aging works into the state economy

Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Updates provided by Ben Moultrie. Updates and Planning Group Member discussion included:

- Group has been focused on transportation issues since Spring
- Compiling takeaways from various presentations dealing with challenges and opportunities
- Next meeting will revolve around how to organize this information
- How can innovation activate change and address relevant aging issues?
- Practical application of technology in everyday life
- Bloomberg report on senior technology education efforts supported by Best Buy. Home automation services are available through Best Buy as well as other vendors.
- Technology implications for home care services

- Affordability issues
- Annual showcase for entrepreneurial, innovative technologies that can assist with aging issues
- Suggestion made that there needs to be greater efforts to support connectivity statewide. Not every community has infrastructure in place to make use of technology and innovation.

Local and Regional Implications Subcommittee updates provided by Dave Norman and Steve Child. Updates and Planning Group Member discussion included:

- Discussion of regional planning
- AAA report analysis in the works
- Last meeting focused on discussion of Pueblo meeting
  - Retirement
  - Continuity of medical care
  - Rural parts of the state are feeling ignored
- Pueblo and Grand Junction are both seeing a lot of people move into communities after retirement. State demography office is looking at trends in these areas.
- Denver meeting was unique in its format and should result in useful information
- Connecting with AAAs should be a key priority for Planning Group.

Implementation Subcommittee updates provided by Mindy Kemp. Updates and Planning Group Member discussion included:

- Had a presentation on PERA
- Lots of potential changes to PERA likely to be presented during upcoming legislative session
- One of the initial Planning Group recommendations was fully funding PERA
- Need to make changes to become more actuarially sound
- Contribution and reimbursement model adjustments need to be considered
- Cost of living adjustment (COLA) changes
- Have established models for how to be fully funded in 30 years
- How will PERA respond to market changes?
- Downturns in the market affect all older adults, especially those with more market-based plans
- 20-25% of Coloradoans rely on PERA benefits to some extent\*
  - Concerns and suggestions of PERA beneficiaries?

\*NOTE: This number was stated from memory and is incorrect. The actual number of Coloradans who rely on PERA for their retirement is 10%, with 9% of all Coloradans being members of PERA.

Executive Committee updates provided by John Zabawa. Updates included:

- Primary focus is pursuing grant and funding opportunities
- Fiscal partnership with Seniors Resource Center
- Discussed planning retreat focusing on the upcoming calendar year and full Planning Group meeting on December 11
- Meeting with Henry Sobonet's staff on December 13 regarding state support for Planning Group

## Regional Meetings

Gene Rose with the Sinergie Project notes that Sinergie is working on a summary report and will present to Local and Regional Implications Subcommittee by the end of November. A presentation on the report will be made to the full Planning Group in

December. Wade Buchanan provided a summary update on the regional meetings noting that attendance was good overall. Process will continue next year, with a priority placed on meetings having a broader reach into other areas of the state, especially rural areas. Group made a promise that Planning Group will continue communication and this was appreciated by the communities. Now the obligation is on Planning Group to show that we are continuing to communicate back. How we do this should be a primary focus of our November strategy session and the December Planning Group meeting.

### Fundraising Update

Andrea Wilkins with Sinergie Project provided updates on the Group's continuing work with the Senior Resource Center to secure fiscal sponsorship. The Executive Committee is actively engaging with AARP, DRCOG and Next50 regarding support. Meeting with Therese Ellery with the Rose Community Foundation will take place December 11 prior to the Planning Group meeting.

### Legislative Panel

Rep. Joann Ginal & Sen. Beth Martinez Humenik, panel moderated by Rich Mauro, DRCOG

Sen. Beth Martinez Humenik

- Colorado issues seem to be the same as other states
  - Housing is a major issue- senior housing developers need to see a ROI
  - InnovAge has a 500-person waiting list for housing
- Expect to see more healthcare related legislation involving transparency in medication pricing
  - Increased education how pricing works
- Nutrition and food programs are critical
  - Appetite loss is normal age-related change but continued nutrition is even more important
    - How does dental care factor into this?
  - Transportation to medical appointments
    - Improved transit options
- This process of seeking funding and solutions will be continuous and become increasingly important

Rep. Joann Ginal

- Works closely with Fort Collins AAA
- Various input regarding transportation
  - Non-medical emergency transportations services
  - Fort Collins has services provided from Denver
  - Why isn't there better coordination locally?
- Affordable housing in Fort Collins
  - Manufactured homes being sold to corporations and rent is being increased without warning
  - How can tiny homes help?
- Advance care directive registry legislation is being developed
- Assisted living and skilled nursing assessments
- Elder abuse and guardianship issues

- Health care is the bottom line
  - Dental and vision are important for quality of life and independent living, not covered under Medicare
  - Respite care
- Chronic health problems are driving up healthcare costs
- Work closer with General Assembly to address Planning Group priorities

#### Sen. Martinez Humenik

- Older adults in the corrections system is a growing issue in the state
  - Will have greater health care needs and less resources
- We must increase the voices of older adults
- Utilize town halls events in various parts of the state
  - Can be panel based and usually an effective means of communication and education
- We need better community awareness and education
- Decrease in Medicaid reimbursements for HCBS and minimum wage increases are a concern for home health care
- How do we make positive changes that allow program/service providers to remain effective
- Medicaid reimbursements are lacking behind significantly, but why?
  - Is it federal reimbursement or state? Have they reduced reimbursement ratio roughly 75 cents to the dollar?
- Medicaid money will not be adequate for meeting Colorado's aging needs

#### Discussion

- Is there desire in the Capitol to address long-term fiscal solvency for healthcare?
  - We must educate younger adults and legislators about the issues of aging
- Increase advocacy for older adult issues must continue
- Aging in place versus community independent living?
- Be more strategic about approaching legislators
  - What kind of information and data can we provide them?
- TABORs effect on General Fund will continue to result in underfunding by 20-25%
  - Is it ever possible to overcome fiscal shortcomings? Must continue to push for our priorities
- Utility costs issues
  - PTC Rebate legislation seeking to be expanded this session
- Need to expand PACE ombudsman program
- Does the Planning Group continue a comprehensive plan for aging or focus on a few issues?
  - The Action Plan may be too broad in its focus?
  - Prioritize issues with a timeline of focus?
  - Focus on biggest need, prioritize two or three issues
  - Bring forth solutions
  - How can we partner with private sectors? Valuable resource in the face of funding issues
- Utilize university and high school human resources
  - Utilize older adults as resources for developing solutions and implementing them
- Fort Collins will be implementing broadband
  - New possibilities?

- Expected to introduce a bill that will allow retired teachers to more easily act as substitutes for early education
- Important to appreciate the economic relevance of older adults, older adults contribute significantly to our economy
- Are we effectively using the resources that we have?
- A cultural change towards caregiving

## Election of New Officers

Wade Buchanan provided overview of requirements and bylaws provisions. Members should provide nominations to Sinergie Project staff.

## December Planning Group Meeting

Gene Rose with the Sinergie Project provided an overview of the format for the December 11 Planning Group meeting. It will be structured as a strategy session focused on goals and priorities for 2018 and will be facilitated by Sinergie Project staff and Lisa Carlson. More significant discussion of subcommittee activity will take place at this meeting. Members must attend in person - no call-in option will be available. Meeting will extend until 3:30 followed by a celebration.

## Public Comment

Ed Shackelford

- Lobbyist training being provided by the Colorado Senior Lobby on Wednesday, November 15
- Important on utilizing our time as effectively as possible
  - We must prioritize our current funding as best as possible
  - Remember that we will need to care for twice the people with perhaps the same funding
- Why is no one addressing end-of-life care?
  - Majority of health care expenses occur here
- State funding becomes a major problem once adults reach their 80s
- Must continue to educate legislators and the community

Jayla Sanchez-Warren

- AAA funding stop-drop dates because lack of federal funds
  - Service providers need reimbursement and need to pay staff
- Senators Gardner and Bennet were contacted and federal funds were released but only for two months
- Continuing resolution funds only budgeted until March
- Approach state controller about changing position?
- Rainy day fund for AAA funding?

Phil Cernanec

- Prioritization of funding
- How do we put a face on aging?
  - Better educating senators and representatives

- Focusing on the costs of frailty and those in later life (80+)
  - Becomes larger costs for state care because Medicare doesn't cover LTC

### Adjourn

John Zabawa adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.

**Next Meeting:** December 11, 2017