

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Monday, October 9, 2017 - Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Riesberg (chair), Karen Brown (vice chair), Wade Buchanan, Coral Cosway, Gabriel Kaplan, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Karin Stewart, **By phone:** Ben Moultrie, Donna Baros, Dale Elliot, Josh Laipply, Jean Nofles, Dave Norman, and John Zabawa. **Sinergie Project Staff:** Gene Rose, Amber Minogue. **Planning Group Intern:** Jarett Hughes

Meeting called to Order

Chair Jim Riesberg called meeting to order at 12:00 pm and took roll; participating members constituted a quorum.

Approval of Agenda and August Meeting Minutes

Minutes accepted as submitted.

Introduction of New Members

Chairman Riesberg welcomed Coral Cosway from the Alzheimer's Association and Dr. Gabriel Kaplan from the state's Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch to the Planning Group.

Public Comment

Jayla Sanchez-Warren informed the Planning Group that services to seniors in the state were at risk because of the Federal Office of Management and Budget has not released funds to the state, and the comptroller has indicated that no funds will be released to Area Agencies on Aging in the state until those federal funds are received. Dave Norman and Jayla Sanchez-Warren said they had funds to continue services until December and January respectively, but services would have to be cut if state funds are not received by then.

Rich Mauro of DRCOG updated the Planning Group on the recent Eastern Plains annual seniors event and the associated legislative activities, which was well attended. Karen Brown also spoke at the event, providing information about the work of the Planning Group.

Diversity Presentations:

Daniel Ramos, Executive Director at One Colorado

Highlights:

- Cohort differences are vast between those in the LGBT community
- Issues of isolation and loneliness
 - Breakdown of family units, less children, less informal caregiving
- Invisible Report, 2011
 - Collected sexual orientation and gender identity information
 - Determined how LGBTQ communities interact with the health care system
 - Not common to inform doctors of orientation. Rural perceptions of LGBTQ community is different than in urban areas
- Health care providers think they're doing better than they are
- Education and awareness is important

- Behavioral health services are needed
- Group pushing for identity documents legislation, LGBTQ community needs to be able to update government documents easily
 - Targeting regulations when and how an adult can alter their gender/sex
- Housing issues for LGBTQ adults
 - Long term care service providers, shared room issues.
 - Stigma among other residents, how would living in assisted care facility look for LGBTQ older adults?
- Need continued research and data collection on the LGBTQ community
 - Federal level is ignoring currently, need advocacy and work at the state level
- Jayla Sanchez-Warren noted denial of Medicare payments for the continuation of mental health hormone treatments causes serious problems, particularly for LGBTQ elders
 - Need long-term care Ombudsman to deal with issues of negligence or unfair treatment
- End of life issues for LGBTQ older adults
 - Conversations are commonly held among families, are they having them?
 - How do we assist facilities and families?
 - How to solve these issues without litigation?
- DRCOG has an education program for LGBTQ older adults awareness

For more information on One Colorado, contact:

Daniel Ramos

Phone: 303-396-6171

Email: danielr@one-colorado.org

For more information on information provided by DRCOG, contact:

Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Phone: 720-375-1738

Email: jswarren@drcog.org

For more information on AARP information on LGBTQ issues for older adults, contact:

Jean Nolfes

303-520-9664

jnofles@msn.com

Daniela Young, Project Manager, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado

Highlights

- Focus on Latino older adults in Montbello community
 - Housing placement is a large issue
- 1.1m Latinos in Colorado, more than 200,000 are without a way to citizenship
- Barriers to service are dynamic and interrelated
 - Dental services are large issue- not covered by Medicare
 - CU Dental staff assisting Latino older adults
- How do we find opportunities for equity?
 - Collectiveness
 - Family involvement

- Some Latinos have sponsors, when apply to social programs the sponsors incomes are considered
- Some Latino older adults are more willing to go to Mexico than receive care in the community because of delays in getting appointments and language barriers

Question: what are the larger issues affecting Latino older adults?

- Underserved populations
- Engaging community leaders and local leadership, consulting them for public perception on providers
- Involving caseworkers to “get to know” the community
- Expanding on what family means
- Continue being evaluative of programs
 - Need research

Jayla Sanchez-Warren noted the need to pay attention to this large Colorado community

- Need to be more accurate with pinpointing underserved populations
- “quotas” are not effective at increasing service provision
- Must be able to communicate with the demographic we want to serve

Karen Brown suggested a need to find research on service provision to demographic groups

- Most programs don’t have the funding to do their own analyses/evaluations? We need a more scientific approach to service provision, evaluations and research

Jim Riesberg discussed the need for medical interpreters and that a matriarchal approach was effective in Weld County

For more information on Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, contact

Daniela Young
 Project Manager
 303-398-7447
 dyoung@rcfdenver.org

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

Jim Riesberg discussed the announcement that the Governor and Lt. Governor held a press conference to announce that Next50 has provided funding for a position focused on aging issues in the Governor’s office, which was the first recommendation in the Planning Group’s November action plan. The Executive Committee has been focusing on fundraising efforts and the execution of the regional meetings. He also noted that the November Planning Group meeting will feature a panel of state legislators.

Legislative Caucus Updates

Work continues on reaching out to state legislators, asking them to participate in the Legislative Caucus. Planning Group members have been reaching out to legislators, informing them of the opportunity.

Regional Meeting Updates

Three regional meetings are scheduled before the November Planning Group meeting: October 19 in Pueblo, October 25 in Fort Morgan and November 2 in Denver. A location for 150 people has been secured for the Denver meeting, Mountain West Dental Institute, 925 Lincoln St. This will allow 150 people to sit together at tables. Should the attendance exceed those expectations, the style of the room will change to theater seating. Planning Group members were encouraged to attend the meetings. Currently, the Pueblo meeting is short of Planning Group members to help facilitate the conversations.

Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittee on Implementation

The subcommittee has discussed a comprehensive state budget for aging issues and attempting to change the way state agencies approach the budget. Fully funding PERA may be a new goal. The priority listing of recommendations are being tracked by the subcommittee, and can be found online on the Planning Group's subcommittee's records page.

Subcommittee on Local and Regional Implications and Planning

The subcommittee notes that rural areas in the state want participation and recognition. There are major concerns that local governments aren't listening to the needs of their older adults. The subcommittee is working with the Sinergie Project intern to discover gaps and make an assessment of regional plans. In addition, the subcommittee continues to monitor and make recommendations on the regional meetings.

Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation

In lieu of the September meeting, the subcommittee participated in Denver Startup Week. Aging issues were well represented at the event that drew more than 18,000 people. Through Aging 2.0, Next50 Initiative and AARP Innovations@50+, which were sponsors of the meeting, a number of sessions were held promoting startup work in the aging space and the longevity economy.

Subcommittee on Workforce Development

No report.

Fundraising Discussion

Jim Riesberg is reaching out to Henry Sobanet about Planning Group budget, where he will make a formal request for a supplemental line item in the state budget request for 2018 operations. Sinergie Project will draft the request for submission.

In a discussion about state funds and the potential for departments to provide funding out of their respective budgets for Planning Group work, Gabriel Kaplan noted that donations/allocations from state agencies depend on their structure; the larger they are, the more flexibility/funds they will have.

An update was given about the establishment of a fiscal agent for the Planning Group to be umbrellaed under so that the Planning Group has more flexibility with fundraising sources. The Senior Resource Center may be used as a conduit for funds to the Planning Group and assist in financial tracking. Preliminary conversations have begun with the Senior Resource Center and a board meeting is being held soon, with hope for an answer by December 1 about the viability.

Other fundraising initiatives that are currently being pursued include Next 50, who is currently figuring out their goals and scope for funding over the next two years. They will open up their application process at the end of October, likely with about a one-month turnaround so that they can fund by the beginning of 2018. They are interested in vulnerable populations (e.g. socio-economic, racial minority, rural/urban, LGBTQ, etc) and innovative solutions that have the potential to be scaled or replicated. They expressed interest in attending the Ft. Morgan and Denver “Conversations on Aging”.

Sponsorship applications are in the works for DRCOG and AARP

Public Comment

Jenny LaPerriere from the Denver Public Library noted that the 2016 action plan did not include information about libraries. She noted that libraries are an important conduit of information and a place with resources that are popular seniors, and suggested the library is willing to work with the Planning Group to get information out about critical issues. She hopes that the 2018 action plan will note the value of libraries in the aging space.

Adjourn – 2:43 pm

Next meeting November 13, 2017.