

## MEETING MINUTES

### STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING GROUP ON AGING

Monday, June 27, 2016

9:00am – 12:00pm

1290 Broadway

First Floor, Independence Conference Room

**Members present:** Jim Riesberg (chair), Rob Andresen-Tenace, Karen Brown, Jean Nofles, Sharron Williams, Ben Moultrie, Wade Buchanan, Claire Anderson, Jennifer Schaufele, Ky Agnew, Christian Itin, Dave Norman, Donna Baros

**By Phone:** Sallie Thoreson

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- I) Jim Riesberg called the meeting to order and took roll call. There was not a quorum of Planning Group members present.
- II) The meeting agenda for June 13 was approved with no objections or changes.

#### III) Presentations

The presentation is available on the website. Kelli Fritts introduced herself and AARP, describing the organization's mission and work. She said AARP has 650,000 members in Colorado, including a sizeable group of members under the age of 65. (Ben Moultrie added that the AARP has access to an immense amount of data and studies relevant to SAPGA's work. Jim Riesberg also noted that AARP was essential in the genesis of SAPGA.) Kelli also discussed the structure and history of AARP, including its more than 13,000 state-based volunteers.

Kelli discussed how Social Security would face challenges by 2033, when it will only be 75 percent funded. She said if no action is taken, benefits will be cut 25 percent in 2034. She said this is essential since one in seven Coloradans right now receive on Social Security. The program lifts 168,000 Coloradans out of poverty and is the only income for one out of every three seniors in Colorado.

Kelli said AARP is seeking to have presidential candidates and others discuss how they will lead on Social Security — especially since future generations could lose up to \$10,000 a year. Kelli stressed how Social Security is an **earned** benefit and not an entitlement. She laid out a series of possible changes to Social Security benefits as well as revenue that could support the program increase, including raising the retirement age.

Kelli noted that much of the information on AARP's work on Social Security and in the 2016 election is available on [2016takeastand.org](http://2016takeastand.org).

There are different trust funds for social security – this is the trust fund related to employment. Not currently talking about SSDI.

Question was raised related to why AARP has not taken a position on any of the options – trying to have the conversation, they want candidates to come out with a plan and address the issue.

Raising the age might impact certain groups versus others, i.e. those that do physical work versus office work. It is important to understand the impacts on all before moving ahead with a solution that works for all.

#### **IV) Chair Report**

Jim shared the new flyer for SAPGA – copies are available on the website under resources.

Jim asked the group to please get in travel reimbursements as the fiscal year ends at the end of June – need to get these to DOLA. Jim also prepared an outline of future meeting dates and work already identified around the scopes.

Ben asked if there will be additional contractors/ research – Jim responded that there are additional research dollars. Lorez followed up that given the process to onboard researchers has been lengthy; it is unlikely we can get additional researchers on board prior to the first report.

We need to start building the case for continued work. Jim shared his notes from the several presentations being made and shared comments related to each of the workgroups.

#### **V) November Report**

We need to identify the audience, goals and themes. This report is the introduction to the issue. Need to make updates to this report especially as other things change.

Wade and the communications committee have been having the same conversations: A report and two updates is what are required in the legislation. Might look instead like three drafts. The legislation requires the report to go the Governor and the legislature. In addition, the local governments, media, families, businesses/ employers, and non-profit sector are important audiences. The report itself will be targeted to Governor, legislature, and local governments with the executive summary being more accessible. Wade added this also depends on the final recommendations that end up in the report.

Jim went back to the legislation - by November 30 must submit to the Governor, legislature, agencies impacted by recommendations. The recommendations can be legislative or regulatory.

Ben commented for this first pass there is a particular focus that the report has. Think of as a movie series with certain content and introduce characters that are compelling to see the next.

Jean - the report could be formatted in a way that makes it accessible for audiences – with pop outs.

Claire – agree with what has been said. Going through a similar process. Might be able to leverage the website.

Wade – needs to have the constituencies in mind as the report is put together.

Ben – has the communications committee looked at the outreach plan related to concepts raised for future drafts to set that up?

Wade - How do we tell stories? Jim related to a story and how do we make it relevant?

Christian – graphics would be important, important to be concise.

Donna – info graphics as a way to convey information.

Jim – identified that there might be resources available to hire someone for graphics if planning members thought it was important.

Wade – the report is what we have to produce, need to make as impactful and accessible as possible. The things around the report should be thoughtful and ambitious but what can members bring to the table. Need to leverage skill set around the table.

**Themes:**

**Workforce development** is the biggest potential shortage as it relates to health care, variety of potential older adults might want related to remaining in the workforce – not a singular audience. Transitions in the workforce are natural. Businesses need to recognize the transitions and how to align with business needs. What part of this is driven by enterprise (by business) versus government?

Wade – important to understand local impacts not just statewide impacts.

Important to connect with DOLA related to research might be able to provide given researchers will not cover this topic given limited time.

Christian - State policies sometimes get in the way of rural workforce needs.

Ben – need for entrepreneurial support/ support for that ecosystem and an ability to engage in new ventures – how do we enrich that?

Wade – Certain jobs that are hard and lets not lose track of those and their needs.

**Family Economic Security** – getting people to save more and understand why need to save more, about access. Planning is important. Can provide resources but comes down to personal responsibility – how do you incent people to leverage the knowledge for their benefit and benefit of families.

Jim – cross over of how do you incent people – “salt the oats”

Wade – Need to capture the cost of caregiving as well , the opportunity cost of caregiving – understand this will be one of the areas. Challenge of how much focus to place on personal responsibility – have not been enough tools and not always a reality for all.

Ben – cross over to caregiving and workforce – related to accommodation of workplaces and how we work.

Christian – hitting on value divides – might want to have deeper conversations i.e. personal responsibility versus institutional barriers.

**Physical Community** – connectedness, mobility – it is the environment and infrastructure. Ties into health care – clinic and telemedicine...mobility is about a mental change for people. The fears and bias are not all valid – transportation of all types. What resources are needed to feel safe?

Issues can be across regions but working on that now – but potentially how can we address that statewide. Talked to 211 to help but might be a need for a regional call center – could 511 be a resource.

**Health and Wellness** – all Coloradans have access to care regardless of where they are in the state. People are educated on health and wellness, and people with chronic disease are given the tools they need to stay healthy and at end of life people understand what tools and resources are available as well as being able to access those. Personal responsibility came up as a theme. Health is a continuum. Challenge with the term of health – while define broadly at the beginning, how help people understand it is inclusive of primary, oral, and behavioral health.

Ben – Incentives for wellness present - yes

Sallie – additional themes: the coordination of care and information, reimbursement strategies to incent wellness, payment to support efforts, more training to providers around caring for older adults.

Wade – are family and caregivers included in the framework? Lorez responded that they were included.

**Public Finance** – ultimate cross over issue. Timeliness of the presentation from AARP and the importance of social security in senior well-being, but additionally other federal and state programs – these programs need to be sustainable. Structural imbalance of revenues and expenses – not driven by this but creates a challenge to fund senior services and Medicaid and how to do in a way that does not take away from other critical programs. Education is needed related to decision makers and the relationship of these issues and the fiscal imbalance.

Does the research look at other mitigations/ changes to programs? No, research focused on the revenue and expense side of the question. Might drive us to other areas to look at in the sequel – introducing as other scenarios.

**Supportive Communities** – looked at what has been done with Community Living Advisory Group and others but the lack of implementation due to lack of resources. Thought about identifying champions across the agencies and trying to coordinate efforts and information in regions. Access to caregiver respite care – the committee discussed endorsing the recommendations of the department's respite report. Additionally, wanting them to be free of abuse. How to implement – 14 designated areas and

look at those areas to work plans in those areas? Can there be a state coordinating council? Caregiving as a cross over area and how do you pay for that caregiving – respite a key issue. Elder abuse as a cross over with public finance. Looking at the need for manpower for caregiving in the home.

Ben – from a workforce also carries over into employee benefits and accommodating for caregiving.

TDAF – a program that pays for caregiving out of Medicaid but not all are eligible for Medicaid so what is the way to expand?

Jim encouraged all to think about this and how we prioritize the work. These cross walks might be a place to help with this. Might want to use some of the time at the next meetings to revise that.

Wade reminded us this is the first draft of the plan rather than focusing on the report.

#### **VI) Public Comment**

No public comment

#### **VII) Other Business**

Next 50 initiative wanted to follow up. Board members are voluntary. They received feedback that the board is potentially too connected to Innovage so wanted to share information back with the Planning Group.

OneColorado as a possible presenter to SAPGA. Lorez and Jim will follow up.

Need to think about the diversity of the aging community – geographic, economic, ethnic, glbt

**VIII) Next Meeting:** July 11, 2016, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**IX)** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm