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Meeting Minutes

STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING GROUP ON AGING
September 12, 2016

First Floor, Independence Conference Room

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Member present: Jim Riesberg, Donna Baros, Ben Moultrie, Karen Brown, Christian Itin, Mindy Kemp, Susan Franklin, Jean Nofles, John Barry, Tony Tapia, Wade Buchanan, Sharron Williams
By Phone: Doug Farmer, Greg Coopman, Rob Andresen-Tenace, Steve Child, Ky Agnew

I)   Call to Order. Quorum of members present.

II) The agenda for the September 12 meeting were approved.

III) The minutes of August 22 were approved as submitted.

IV) Public Comment
   A) Nadejea Sena – at the meeting as an older aging person living in assisted living in Boulder, GIS specialist struggling to find a permanent job since last recession, recent graduate of certificate program of emergency management and assistance. Created a stop bullying foundation focused on issues of bullying older adults; works with local governments nationwide. Currently the associate coordinator for Colorado and bringing the issue to the state.

   Additional comments: Would be nice to develop a geospatial model for the database. There is a huge issue related to preparedness for elderly people related to emergency disasters. There have been a lot of litigation in New York after hurricane Sandy to address special needs populations.

   Ben Moultrie: Within regulated industries housing older adults, are they required to have disaster recovery plans or anything of that nature?
   The home healthcare industry is requiring all home healthcare agencies to make sure clients have an emergency preparedness plan in place.
   The state of Washington requires a plan and they must conduct evacuation plans. It probably varies by state.
   The homes in Weld Co. have plans and regular "fire drills."
   This is something we need to look into and is important. A major difficulty is night staff which have less numbers and could create more problems.
   This is something we should look at and whether it is voluntary or mandatory.

V) Committee Report-outs and Recommendations
   A) **Workforce** – Christian Itin
      1) Goal 1: Older adults are able to stay engaged in the labor force as long as they want and need.

       (a) Keep the workplace in mind

2) Goal 2: Colorado seniors can work in the paid and volunteer sectors for as long as they wish and are able to contribute
   - (a) Media or educational campaign to better understand the value of seniors as paid and volunteer workers.
   - (b) Task agency to support development of volunteerism.

3) Goal 5: There are enough skilled, educated and trained workers to meet the needs of employers and industries serving Colorado's growing senior population.
   - (a) Understand what workforce dollars are available and how to access them.
   - (b) Partner with colleges and universities to better fund workers to go through the educational process.
   - (c) Educate potential workers on benefits of working with older adults.
   - (d) Support market to make changes
   - (e) Develop best practices for industry
   - (f) Build infrastructure to work with chambers of commerce

4) Priority areas for workforce development
   - (a) Identify benchmark data of older working adults. There is a lot of data out there collected, but need help identifying if there are problems and research identifying what are the constraints and how to move forward.
   - (b) Identify and educating changes in workplace to support more older adults in the workforce
   - (c) Change understanding of what it means to be an older adult in the workforce

5) Planning Group Comments/Discussions:
   - (a) There are a lot of older people who need to keep working, not just wish to keep working.
   - (b) The data piece is very important to understand
   - (c) Unsure of what the financial impact would be. The belief is there are a lot of dollars out there for training that need to be better coordinated to better develop the workforce, but this is not known for a fact.

B) **Physical Community** – Rob Andresen-Tenace
1) Transportation elements:
   - (a) The systems we operate now are very restrictive and there are barriers to eliminate. Identify barriers and find ways to eliminate or mitigate them. Look at how to influence federal decisions on funding.
   - (b) Develop a more welcoming environment for everyone on all levels particularly looking at planning - how to make more walkable communities, planning at the front end of infrastructure.

2) Housing elements:
   - (a) Desire to influence and change the focus of planners, builders and designers to be more inclusive. Walkable communities, amenities provided, etc. to make seniors feel more comfortable in environments.
   - (b) Development and promotion of Universal Design. Short-term, low-hanging fruit.
   - (c) Need more affordable housing and resources for affordable housing.

3) Planning Group Comments/Discussion:

(a) There is a need for a simplified lifestyle – going from a family home to a one level home without a lawn to care for. There's a transitional aspect with a spectrum of options needed.

(b) "Housing and transportation" are critical issues for seniors, these words need to be incorporated into Goal 1.

(c) There is an increasing need for rentals among seniors.

(d) Rehab is a key issue to make houses more user-friendly for seniors, the majority of the cost for rehab comes from the occupants.

C) **Supportive Community** – Dave Norman
   1) Recommendations
      (a) Key issue is around respite care, legislature should make it a priority to develop programs and create a pilot program
      (b) Adult protection recommendations are important and a program should be implemented and fully funded
      (c) Seniors should have access to programs and better ability to find what they need
      (d) Each state department should do strategic planning to coordinate and assist leadership in understanding of what resources are available in different regions throughout the state.
      (e) Education on retirement planning through employers
   2) Planning Group Comments/Discussion:
      (a) Recognition of work already done by other groups is an important aspect of this committee's recommendations.
      (b) Important to make sure there is a mechanism to achieve goals of program implementation.
      (c) There is a need for consistency in reporting standards and response from departments.
      (d) It seems there could be adjustments to Medicaid assisted living reimbursement rates to better accommodate the different levels of assistance people need.

VI) Caregiving Research Report

VII) Executive Committee Update: Continuing to work on what the final report will look like, identifying benchmarks and data. Have things for elected officials, nonprofits, NGOs and the business community. Will need to look at what are the expenses of moving some of these ideas forward. Will also look at revenue for the SAPGA moving forward.

VIII) Other committee updates:
   A) Communications committee: continue to do social media outreach and cultivation on various media outlets and how to create more anticipation about the report pre-release of the report.
   B) Operating principles should include one more – say as much as possible to consider and be mindful of unintended consequence resulting from our recommendations.

IX) Public Comment
   A) Katherine Dockery, Denver Office of Aging: In process of conducting Boomer Bond. Citywide discussions over last several months with multi-agency groups. City is now conducting update of

4 city plans to better incorporate older adult needs and align language. Would like to better align city process with the SAPGA process. The Boomer Bond report is due at the end of the year. How can the City be involved with the SAPGA recommendations? Aging of the criminal justice system doesn't come up a lot and needs to be addressed as both a victim and defendant going through the system. Would like to bring this issue to the group.

B) Nadejea Sena: I have a lot of knowledge and networking in different areas talked about in the different areas. In order to find solutions need to correlate the different data sets to analyze and try to find the underlying issues. This requires very professional expertise and there should be professional involved and don't see data and technology specialists involved. Is it possible to allocate funds for a Public-Private Partnership to tackle this project?

X) Next meeting September 26

XI) The meeting adjourned at 12:11pm