

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging
September 11, 2017
Noon until 3 pm

1290 Broadway, First Floor Independence Pass Conference Room
Call in: 515-739-1034, access code 216470#

Agenda

- 12:00 Welcome and Roll Call
- 12:05 Approval of August Minutes (pages 4-8)
- 12:15 CDOT Presentation Q&A, Identification of Strategies to Leverage Information
- 12:30 Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention Panel
Speakers: Maro Casparian, Denver District Attorneys Office; Cary Johnson, Jefferson County District Attorneys Office; and Karen Bliss, State Attorney General's Office.
- 1:15 Break
- 1:30 Committee, Subcommittee and Administrative Reports and Action Items
- A. Executive Committee
 - B. Legislative Caucus Update
 - C. Reimbursement Procedures
 - D. Regional Meeting Updates; Grand Junction Summary and Media Coverage (pages 9-16)
 - E. Fundraising Updates
 - F. Subcommittee on Implementation
 - G. Subcommittee on Local and Regional Implications and Planning
 - H. Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
 - I. Subcommittee on Workforce Development
- 2:15 Priority Survey Results Breakout Groups (15 min) (page 17)
Group Reports & Action Item Identification (15 min)
- 2:45 Public Comment
- 2:50 Other Business
- 3:00 Adjourn
Next meeting October 9, 2017

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Member Roster – August 11, 2017

Executive Committee

James Riesberg, Chair
Greeley
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Appointed: 8/4/15
Term Ends: 8/1/19

Karen M. Brown, Vice Chair
Seniors Matter / Aging2.0 Denver
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Appointed: 8/4/15
Term Ends: 8/1/19

Wade Buchanan
Former president, Bell Policy Center
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Appointed: 8/4/15
Term Ends: 8/1/19

David Norman
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Appointed: 8/4/15
Term Ends: 8/1/17

John Zabawa
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Term Ends: 8/1/18

Members

Claire Anderson
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Term Ends: 8/1/18

Donna Lee Baros
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Term Ends: 8/1/18

John Barry
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Term Ends: 8/1/21

Steve Child
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Term Ends: 8/1/17

Gregory P. Coopman
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Term Ends: 8/1/19

Dale Elliott
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Term Ends: 8/1/18

Jayla Sanchez-Warren
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Christian Marcel Itin
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Karin Stewart
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Term Ends: 8/1/21

Mindy Kemp
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Term Ends: 8/1/19

Tony Tapia
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Term Ends: 8/1/19

Joshua Laipply
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Term Ends: 8/1/18

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Term Ends: 8/1/18

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Term Ends: 8/1/18

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Term Ends: 8/1/17



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Monday August 14, 2017 - Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Riesberg (chair), Karen Brown (vice chair), John Zabawa, Wade Buchanan, Jean Nofles, Ben Moultrie, Karin Stewart, Josh Laipply, Tony Tapia, Christian Marcel Itin, Mindy Kemp, Sharron Williams, Donna Baros, John Barry. **On Phone:** Sallie Thoreson, Steve Child, Dale Elliott, Claire Anderson **Sinergie Project Staff:** Amber Minogue, Andrea Wilkins

Meeting called to Order

Chair Jim Riesberg called meeting to order at 12:02 and took roll; participating members constituted a quorum.

Approval of Agenda and July Meeting Minutes

Accepted as presented.

Public Comment

Francis Legasse, Founder and Administrator of Sevens Home Care, and Sevens Memory Care asked the Planning Group to consider looking at tiered Medicaid programs that are being done in other states. Because we see bed shortages across the board, he is questioning what might be done if the state considered a tiered Medicaid program to help increase access of beds to a range of patients with a variety of needs.

Advocacy Policy and Procedures

An overview of changes to the policy and the reasoning for the changes was presented by Andrea Wilkins. The planning group discussed the changes and made following suggestions for edits.

- Edit bullet 3 on page two to say "...consistent with the strategic action plan or the intent of Enabling Legislation...".
- In the third paragraph on page two, the sentence "The meeting may be conducted in person, by phone, or by any other technology the planning group chooses."
- The third paragraph should be further edited to include "abstain" to the ways that members can vote on actions.

It was noted that the changes suggested would also impact the Planning Group's bylaws and could thereby need amending at a future date. John Zabawa made a motion to accept the Advocacy Policy with the suggested changes, and Wade Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sinergie Project staff will make changes to the policy and distribute amended version to Planning Group members.

Committee, Subcommittee, and Administrative Reports

*Please consult August Planning Group Agenda Book for individual sub-committee updates.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) continues to discuss convening legislators for a Legislative Caucus. A meeting just prior to the Planning Group meeting helped to identify members to contact, however it was also decided that all General Assembly members should be extended an invitation to the Regional Meetings, and to participate in the Caucus.

The EC also focused on implementation strategy for 2017, working with Sinergie Project staff on regional meetings, fundraising, and Planning Group meeting administration. They have had one meeting with the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and are working to schedule a second meeting that will focus on what state funds are committed towards aging programs. The EC has also provided oversight to the development of the Advocacy Policy, the coordination of the Transportation presentation for the July/Aug meeting, and the direction and implementation of a survey to Planning Group members on their perceptions of process, and of the priorities for 2017 Action Plan implementation.

Action Items: Each Planning Group member will be charged with contacting 4 legislators to orient them to the work of the Planning Group and extend an invitation to attend one of the upcoming Regional Meetings.

Implementation Sub-Committee

Action Items: The Implementation Subcommittee has created a spreadsheet that crosswalks the Action Plan recommendations with the action steps and progress towards goals, and they are using that spreadsheet to track their work. The spreadsheet was shared with the Planning Group and chair, Mindy Kemp, invited other committees to add and adapt the spreadsheet so that there is more communication and collaboration about what each sub-committee is doing.

Innovation and Technology Sub-Committee

Action Items: None at this time. Subcommittee will provide recommendations to the Planning Group at the end of the year.

Local and Regional Implications and Planning Sub-Committee

Action Items: Reach out to Roberto Ray with Livable Communities Initiative if you are interested in participating in their Conference on Housing.

Workforce Development Sub-Committee

Extensive discussion on barriers to the development of a sustainable workforce, including hourly wages, professional pathways, community college/higher education participation, and private sector collaboration.

Action Items: None at this time.

Sinergie Project

- General provision of administrative and consulting support to the Planning Group and the Executive Committee.
- Drafted a Fundraising Plan identifying several tiers of potential foundations that are mission aligned, and then from that, highlighting a top tier that we can submit proposals to by the end of the year.

- Developed a “Case for Support” that we will be sharing when we begin identifying prospects (businesses and individual donors) to help inform them about the Planning Group and build the case for why they should support the Planning Group.
- Editing and vetting the Advocacy Policy for approval.
- Reviewing the Enabling Legislation and Bylaws to look for areas of non-compliance.
- Coordination with Lisa Carlson around Sub-committee work
- Media development including updating the website, and media relations for the upcoming regional meetings.

Priority Survey Results: Developing Action Items for Top Priorities

Planning Group members broke into small groups, members participating by phone constituted an additional group. This discussion was continued from the July Planning Group meeting where the breakout groups reviewed the top 5 priorities that were identified in the 2017 priority survey. In August, the next 5 priorities were used for discussion and the group discussion summaries are as follows:

Group 1 – priority 6/recommendation 4: (To) help communities reinvent themselves so that Colorado seniors have more opportunities to age in place and remain active, the General Assembly should...support the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) State Coordinating Council in coordinating among the wide range of programs that help serve the transportation needs of Colorado’s aging population. The Council should be charged with making specific regulatory, legislative and funding recommendations to improve the reach, effectiveness and efficiency of existing programs.

Ben Moultrie reported on behalf of Group: Discussion focused on universal design and perceptions of higher costs for builders. Education is needed to bring more builders into this arena, while also making homes affordable. Focus should be on how simple things can be done (at a low cost) to improve design for seniors (e.g. levers instead of knobs, grab bars, etc.). Industry partners need to be brought together to explore this. Planning Group can serve as a convener/facilitator to activate education in these areas by partnering with the Koebel Center and the University of Denver or the Columbine Center for Healthy Aging at CSU, in addition to connecting with builders that are doing this kind of work. Also need to educate city planners.

Group 2 – priority 7/recommendation 6: To provide support to the growing number of Colorado workers who are also caregivers for aging loved ones, the General Assembly and Governor should...fully fund the recommendations made by the Respite Care Task Force in their January 2016 report.

John Zabawa reported on behalf of group: Discussion focused on financial incentives to caregivers (tax credits, etc.), similar to child care tax benefits that exist. Discussion also focused on importance of the Family and Medical Leave Act, development of public/private partnerships, and design elements that can be implemented within homes to keep older family members living at home as long as possible, and alternative living arrangements such as mother-in-law apartments, etc., that provide for a supportive living environment. This is another important aspect of caring for family members in community. Planning for long-term care needs. CLASS Act proposed as a financial model to encourage people to save for their own long-term care – more effort needs to take place in this arena. Financial resources are needed to help people with costs associated with long-term care. Group also discussed dementia-friendly initiatives and the White House conference on aging. Needs to be greater public awareness of the signs of dementia and efforts to provide more supportive environments were families can go

(businesses certified as dementia-friendly). More caregiver education is needed and strategies for dealing with caregiver burnout. (Alzheimer's Association is hosting a caregiver forum on Aug 22.)

Group 3 – Priority 8/Recommendation 3: The General Assembly should (help) increase retirement savings by Coloradans of all ages by creat(ing) a public-private partnership to design and offer a workplace retirement saving plan for employees who currently do not have access to one. This plan should be portable and should emphasize the essential ingredients of availability, automatic enrollment, automatic investment, and automatic escalation.

Christian Itin reported on behalf of the group: Planning Group does not have subject matter expertise to address the key issue associated with solutions in this area, which is tax law. Believes Planning Group should meet with individuals who drafted the work and save legislation (attempted 3 times and failed). Planning Group should also explore other ways that we can draft legislation to help people save pre-tax dollars for retirement. Other issue is education – how do you get people to even consider saving? Group is interested in exploring if there is some way to take the concept of a public-private partnership and do something similar to the ombudsman bill and run it as a pilot. May need to repackage legislation. Helpful to have bill drafters come in and have dialogue with subcommittee or Planning Group as a whole. Concept of personal responsibility that is tied to the idea of saving for retirement seems to be an area ripe for bi-partisanship and this may help alleviate one of the barriers to passage. Bell Policy Center has been lead on this. Bell would be happy to come and discuss this with the subcommittee or Planning Group. In terms of pilot, Natalie Wood thinks there may be some communities that have tested this out. She will look into possible examples and report back to group. Most effective way to get people to save for retirement is through their employer. But many people don't have this option. (3/4 of a million people) How do we pull them in?

Group 4 – Priority 8/Recommendation 8: To ensure older adults are free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, Colorado should...support programs to raise awareness and train law enforcement personnel, district attorneys, service providers, caregivers, and other key audiences in how to identify and prevent elder abuse.

Natalie Wood (Bell Policy Center) reported on behalf of group: Much of the work surrounding implementation of this recommendation has been started by the Implementation subcommittee (see subcommittee report on page 15 of agenda book). Many of the barriers identified and discussed relate to funding. Group questioned what formula counties use to allocate funding for adult protective services? Mindy Kemp reports that caseload ratio plays into this. Mindy can provide more information on funding and capacity at a future Implementation subcommittee meeting and share with the full Planning Group.

Group 5 – Phone – priority 10/recommendation 7: The General Assembly should work with the appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure state laws and regulations are adequate to protect consumers, including seniors, from predatory financial practices...The General Assembly and the Governor should support the U.S. Department of Labor fiduciary rule to protect workers from business practices that cost American families excess fees and charges.

Phil Cernac (Arapahoe County) reported on behalf of the group: Group feels it is important to identify committees of reference in legislature (regarding legislation relevant for Planning Group) and request 15 minutes with committee chair. Need to identify legislators with interest in addressing issues relevant to Planning Group. Should review Colorado and federal legislative activity and identify gaps. (real vs perceived). Need to increase financial literacy among all ages. Planning Group should work in

conjunction with AARP and the Colorado Senior Lobby. Rich Mauro may be able to facilitate connections.

Regional Meetings

Amber Minogue with the Sinergie Project provided updates on the Regional Meeting planning. All dates have been confirmed (Grand Junction - Aug 24th; Frisco - Sept. 13th; Pueblo - Oct. 19th; Fort Morgan October 25th; Denver - Nov 2nd). Sinergie Project staff have met with AAA Directors to coordinate planning and identify channels for ongoing communication and collaboration. Valerie Koehn with the Pueblo AAA would like to tie into local/regional subcommittee to discuss Pueblo's senior transportation program and would like Planning Group representative to attend their monthly stakeholder meeting. Ft. Morgan meeting date has been changed to October 25. Denver meeting will take place November. 2 but will still need to identify location. Would like to explore opportunity for remote participation during this meeting. Need 3-5 Planning Group Members at each meeting. Breakout groups will be facilitated by Planning Group members. Need to circulate sign-up sheet again. Karen Brown reports that there is some concern about the likelihood of the Lt. Governor's attendance at the regional meetings.

CDOT Transportation Presentation - Joshua Laipply

Colorado has had significant population growth in 25+ year—from 3.3 million in '91 to 5.4 million in 2015. Last time we did a gas tax increase was in 1991, the primary source for transportation revenue. Faster transit in 2009 was first funding dedicated to transit money. Within that, 3 programs that are mandated - service treatment, maintenance, and bridges.

In preparing for the future, we must consider that congestion will be 2-3 times worse in the future. We also prioritize mobility, safety and the experience of the traveler. Our approach is a Healthy multi-modal system that provides more distance options based on other existing systems that can be connected to RTD (eg Glenwood Springs, Ft. Collins).

See <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9cWAMXYXA4BeUQ4SDVyTHJLN3M> for more information.

Action Item: Open next Planning Group meeting with transportation questions. Planning Group members can email their questions to the Sinergie Group and they will compile them for consideration at September's meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Jim Riesberg adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2017

Summary of Grand Junction Breakout Group Discussions

Red Group (facilitated by Steve Child)

Priorities and Gaps in Services:

1. Financial supports for seniors/financial insecurity
2. Expenses associated with medical care
3. Medicaid eligibility concerns/refusal by providers to accept Medicaid
4. Caregiver supports/quality homecare
5. Quality long-term care/need to address workforce issues and problems with employee turnover
6. Advocacy for senior services within community
7. Affordable housing
8. Access to resources/need for centralized source/need to educate the public about what services are available
9. Create livable communities
10. Transportation options, including services for disabled
11. Need for different transportation funding formula outside of Front Range
12. Need to address urban-rural disparities/ensure adequate services in rural communities
13. Need to address accessibility of services/lack of access forces reliance on family
14. Better use of technology to improve access to services/need to address lack of internet access in some rural areas

Solutions:

1. More supports to help seniors remain in their homes for as long as possible
2. Technology
3. More money to AAAs to support transportation and mobility options
4. Reliance on senior volunteers to fill gaps in service providers
5. Two-gen/multigenerational approach to volunteerism/support opportunities for two-way education/reliance on youth service organizations (key club, girl scouts, boy scouts)

Yellow Group (facilitated by Mindy Kemp)

Priorities and Gaps in Services:

1. Training for support staff (CNAs) and protective services staff
2. Improved level of care in nursing/assisted living facilities, more support and training for staff
3. Provider shortage in nursing/assisted living facilities
4. More supports needed to help seniors age in place
5. More opportunities for social and recreational interactions
6. Improved transportation options
7. Affordable housing
8. Need to address problems associated with limited state funding/population growth increases demands on public funding
9. Need to improve treatment and placement options for older adults with behavioral health issues
10. Need to help/encourage migrant workers to access services

Solutions:

1. Establish sin tax to raise revenue
2. Marijuana Tax Cash Fund (MTCF) used to purchase old buildings that can be converted into senior care facilities
3. Increase use of community collaborations to address problems/needs in community
4. Higher wages and better training to reduce provider shortages and turnover
5. More training and supports for family care providers
6. Immigration reform/more people needed to fill jobs
7. Prioritize aging issues
8. Broaden scope of volunteer pool (jails?)
9. Integrated affordable housing (seniors with younger populations - i.e. college students) (DU experimented with co-location of seniors and students within dormitories - outcome?)
10. Educate public on how to support seniors in local neighborhoods
11. Need to encourage/support early retirement savings
12. Need to build homes that are age-friendly
13. Need state aging coordinator
14. Need more input from rural communities
15. Need to change perceptions of aging within our culture
16. Responsibility for aging population needs to be shared among all levels of government

Blue Group (facilitated by Gene Rose)

Priorities and Gaps in Services. There is a need for more:

1. Professional behavior services, including psychiatric and mental care in Western Slope
2. Affordable housing for seniors, including ADA accessible
3. Doctors that accept Medicaid
4. Financial resources for senior centers
5. Transportation options for seniors
6. Transportation programs in rural areas
7. Standardized curriculum on senior issues
8. Deregulation of duplicative regulations
9. Qualified caregiver services
10. Of a central, accessible location for information on health care
11. Marketing of available services to seniors
12. Actions to lift Medicaid restrictions
13. Education on available technology options for seniors
14. Funding/incentives for new and creative solutions to address aging issues
15. Training for local caregivers
16. Options for health care services
17. Respite Care and caregivers

Solutions:

1. Housing
 - a. Rent is prohibitive, need for Homestead Act to go away
 - b. Create incentives for landlords and developers to create living spaces for seniors
 - c. Get housing authority to take more active role in promoting and requiring housing for seniors

- d. Reduce waiting lists for housing
- e. Stop housing spaces designated from seniors be given to other renters
- f. Create senior housing where none exists, such as Palisade and Fruita
2. Behavioral Services
 - a. Create mental health services for region; none currently available -- many shipped to Eastern Plains (average of 15 people denied services per month)
 - b. Build a behavioral center in Western Slope or convert an existing facility into a center
 - c. Create incentives/requirements for doctors to follow patients into care facilities
 - d. Facilitate conversations with providers to coordinate services; currently services are fragmented
3. Caregivers
 - a. Address high mortality rate for caregivers
 - b. Provide more education for caregivers, particularly before a crisis
4. Address the disciplinary climate, which restricts those providing care
5. Break molds of current system and look for innovative solutions
6. Create pilot program funding sources so communities can try new solutions to existing problems
7. Protect critical programs when the economy goes bad
8. Public / Public Officials
 - a. Help regions understand the process it takes to make changes
 - b. Provide advice on how to communicate with key decision makers, such as county commissioners and state legislators. We need to know how to lobby effectively.
 - c. Educate commissioners, state legislators on what it is like to live like a senior
 - d. Help public understand senior issues

Green Group (facilitated by Ben Moultrie)

Two overarching themes from the needs/gaps session:

- Independence - what types of things can we do to improve and ensure independent living for those who desire to continue living independently as they age? This includes access to services, transportation, housing, retirement, caregivers, etc
- Community based problems & solutions -- things like disparities between urban (Grand Junction) and rural (outlying communities) workforce development, caregiver respite will need to come from the community. More public education, and in particular, education of legislators, needs to happen so that there is better understanding about the community and system needs so they in turn support the development of infrastructure and the provision of funds when communities are strategically planning and addressing aging system needs.

Solutions:

- Shift our perceptions and ideas about retirement--people living and working longer
- Address elected officials varying sensitivities and knowledge about aging issues
- Address negative stigma of considering GJ as a 'retirement community' -- look to Colorado Springs who has been able to show positive economic benefits to having an aging population.
 - Planning Group could provide data about the wealth of the aging population to help negate the negative economic development argument of being defined as a retirement community.
- Making sure aging services and resources are well utilized and that they are easy to access
- Coordinating and building awareness about the human resources and capacity that supports the aging community

- 211 is underutilized - how do we make more people aware about the different resources that exist to support services?
- Make grant dollars and/or program dollars criteria more specific to the differences that exist in rural communities. Most are geared toward big communities and/or big urban problems and programs delivery.
- Engage the state's community foundations on the community level needs around aging specifically (collectively or individually).



Email received following Grand Junction meeting

September 5, from Chelsea Carnoali <chelseacarnoali@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon!

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude and satisfaction with the recent Regional Meeting I attend in Grand Junction on August 24th. The event was productive, interactive, and appeared to be very helpful in identifying community needs in aging services and producing possible resolutions.

My purpose in reaching out to the Group is to share some ideas I had after participating in this event and to start a conversation about wider implementation of a project pending success of this experiment. Some of the shortcomings in meeting senior's needs were identified as:

- Better community interaction and involvement
- Growth in awareness and interest in youth for working with seniors (this will be imperative as the rate of aging adults grows substantially every day- one person turns 65 every 8 seconds!)
- A solution to allow seniors to age in home while alleviating financial stresses

My thoughts on achieving these goals lie with the volunteer needs of students in our schools. The idea is to make a lasting relationship and go-to volunteer opportunities for pupils needing the experience with the senior community who adversely needs assistance but does not have the availability of funds. This also allows the community interaction that is proven to be beneficial for all generations involved. I have contacted our school district's School Board president as well as several principals to share thoughts on forming a partnership between the city's senior services and school district. I believe this model could be adopted by other communities, allowing lasting relationships and ongoing multi-generational support as a standard for future generations.

One major goal for many seniors is technology education. This generation wants to better understand the main method of communication that their children and grandchildren now use, they want to feel relevant and stay informed the same way the rest of us do. A meaningful connection between the youth via individualized instructions on how to use their phones, how to sign up and check Facebook would be excellent. Perhaps a class could meet a group of seniors at the library?

Of course, the possibilities are endless. Thank you for your time and the incredible work being done at this state level. Please let me know if you would like to meet/have contact on updates regarding this subject, I would be happy to come to another meeting or facilitate a phone call.

Warmest Regards,

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Summary of Grand Junction Media Coverage

- Pre-advance article in Grand Junction Sentinel
- Meeting summary article in Grand Junction Sentinel (text attached)
- News segment on KJCT-TV, 6 and 10 pm newscasts, featuring Karen Brown and B-Roll of meeting
- Radio interview with Karen Brown with Jack Taylor of KOOL 107.9, and played on four other channels in the network
- Radio interview with Gene Rose with Dave Andrews on KJOL that aired for two consecutive days
- Online articles on KJCT-TV and KKCO-TV websites (text attached)
- Article on regional meetings appeared in the La Junta Tribune-Democrat on August 15, 2017 (text attached)

(Grand Junction Sentinel)

Seniors meet in GJ to discuss health, housing

Transportation, financial security among other concerns for elderly

By Erin McIntyre

Thursday, August 24, 2017

A lack of psychiatric services, geriatricians and health care providers who will accept Medicare and Medicaid, as well as a shortage of affordable housing for senior citizens, topped the list of concerns voiced by participants at the first Colorado Conversations on Aging meeting in the state held Thursday.

About 60 attendees met in Grand Junction and discussed a variety of issues, including transportation, caregiving, financial security and health, with the idea that these concerns and potential solutions for problems the state faces with its rapidly aging population will be considered by those charged with advising lawmakers.

The conversations are a way for anyone who is concerned about aging issues to share ideas and concerns with members of the state Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging, which was tasked by the Legislature with making recommendations to elected officials regarding age-related issues.

Several of the participants voiced concerns that the region does not have enough mental health providers for the aging population, and that the services that exist are not meant to provide the daily care that elderly patients require and would receive in a skilled nursing facility such as a nursing home.

Melissa Latham, administrator of Larchwood Inns, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, said her focus group prioritized mental health needs because many times patients who have multiple diagnoses including dementia, coupled with behavioral issues, don't have a local option for placement and must go elsewhere.

A lack of mental health resources in Mesa County has been an ongoing issue for the community. Only one 32-bed psychiatric facility, West Springs Hospital, exists to serve the entire Western Slope, and it is not focused on long-term care for elderly patients.

The next Colorado Conversations on Aging meeting will be held in Frisco on Sept. 13. Three other meetings are scheduled this year in Pueblo, Fort Morgan and Denver. All the comments gathered at the meetings will be considered by the planning group, which will make recommendations to legislators.

Anyone is invited to share comments or concerns about how Colorado should be meeting the needs of the aging population and other aging issues by emailing agingstrategy@state.co.us. Visit colorado.gov/agingstrategy for more information.

KJCT-TV and KKCO-TV online article

Colorado is preparing for a 68 percent increase in people age 65 or older, with the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging.

The group wants to hear from our older community around the state to build on the state's current plan for seniors.

They stopped in Grand Junction yesterday, which was their first in a series of meetings. Local people say they are facing issues when it comes to things like affordable health insurance and work place options.

"What are you seeing in your community here? Talk to us what you see the challenges being. Are you seeing the younger people saving money, are you seeing or hearing from the older population saying they have inadequate resources" Karen Brown said about the topics and questions discussed.

There will be another meeting September 13th in Summit County and others across the state.

La Junta Tribune-Democrat article

Conversations on Aging statewide tour

Series designed to bring local-level insights into plans for addressing increasing needs of the state's growing aging population

DENVER – As part of its continued effort to prepare the state for the nearly 68 percent increase of people more than 65 years old by 2030, the State’s Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging will begin a series of meetings across the state to gather input from local residents responding to, and building on, the Planning Group’s Initial Strategic Action Plan on Aging for Colorado, released this past November.

The first stop on the “Conversations on Aging” tour will be in Grand Junction on Aug. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Two Rivers Convention Center. The meetings are open to the public, with a special invitation extended to older adults, caregivers, service providers, elected officials and advocates who work with seniors. Other meetings include Frisco (Sept. 13), Pueblo (Oct. 19), Fort Morgan (Oct. 25) and Denver (Nov. 2).

The Planning Group seeks opinions, suggestions and guidance on issues facing our aging public that it can use to support local initiatives that improve the lives of seniors in the area.

“Addressing the complexities of Colorado’s rapidly growing aging population requires an ongoing dialogue with community stakeholders,” said Jim Riesberg, chair of the Planning Group. “This series is just the beginning of what I hope will be an ongoing conversation with communities around the state to seize on opportunities to develop innovative solutions for our aging population.”

Various members of the Planning Group, made up of a cross-discipline collection of experts designed to address the broad range of issues that are presented around the state’s fast-growing aging population, will be attending the meetings.

For Colorado residents interested in participating at any of the regional meetings, send an email to agingstrategy@state.co.us for more details.

For more information, contact: Gene Rose agingstrategy@state.co.us (720) 355-2933.

**Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging
Priorities Survey: Priorities 11-17**

Group 1

11. (T) To provide support to the growing number of Colorado workers who are also caregivers for aging loved ones, the General Assembly and Governor should...create and promote a partnership among state and local governments, employer groups and educational institutions to identify and promote best practices for educating and supporting employees who are also caregivers.

Group 2 (combined priorities)

11. (T) The state should build on the effective talent development strategies already in place to identify workforce needs and develop career pathways (including those related to aging services), led by the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC). The General Assembly also should identify an entity to advocate for workforce development in industries serving older adults and for services to older workers; that entity should collaborate with the CWDC to utilize existing talent development strategies and infrastructure to ensure Colorado's future workforce meets the needs of older adults.

13. The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) also should ensure that older workers have access to training and support services required for meaningful employment.

Group 3

14. To provide support to the growing number of Colorado workers who are also caregivers for aging loved ones, the General Assembly and Governor should...establish family leave policies that set standards for compensating employees who are caring for aging family members. This might include a Temporary Caregiver Insurance Program through employee payroll deductions, such as those in California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

Group 4

15. The General Assembly should work with the appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure state laws and regulations are adequate to protect consumers, including seniors, from predatory financial practices...The General Assembly and the Governor should support the Colorado SeniorSafe Program developed by the Colorado Division of Securities and Division of Banking and Financial Services.

Group 5 (combined priorities)

16. The General Assembly should (help) increase retirement savings by Coloradans of all ages by fully meet(ing) the state's obligations to fund the retirement plans of its own employees and to ensure that the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) remains sustainable over the long term.

17. The General Assembly should (help) increase retirement savings by Coloradans of all ages by (requiring) local government entities...to fully meet funding obligations to county, municipal and other public employee retirement plans (e.g., the Fire and Police Pension Association) to ensure that plans remain solvent over the long-term.