

Update on Initial Recommendations

Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging: In September of 2017, the Governor announced that it was partnering with NextFifty Initiative to fulfill the SAPGA's first recommendation, a Senior Advisor on Aging within the Governor's office. In January of 2018, Wade Buchanan was hired for this position. This position was proposed by SAPGA in 2016 and secured in 2018 through funding from NextFifty Initiative.

Comprehensive State Budget on Aging: SAPGA opened the door to conversations with the Joint Budget Committee, Colorado Legislative Council, and Office of State Planning and Budgeting with meetings and preliminary work in 2016. With direction from the Senior Advisor on Aging, additional progress was made assessing the costs of the top eight aging-related programs. This was the second recommendation from the Initial Action Plan.

Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association: On June 4, 2018 Governor Hickenlooper signed SB18-200, a package of PERA reforms designed to reduce the overall risk of the retirement plan and fully fund the program over the next 30 years. SB18-200 accomplished a part of SAPGA's third recommendation.

Financial Security and Elder Abuse: Current efforts, put in motion by outgoing Attorney General Cynthia Coffman as a result of a large settlement agreement related to financial elder abuse, fraud, and exploitation led to the formation of a joint Task Force to focus on consumer protection, financial security, and education for older Coloradans – partially fulfilling another part of SAPGA's third recommendation. The AG's office, through dozens of meetings with aging-related stakeholders, including SAPGA, led to the formation of this group. SAPGA, via presentations made by the Chair and SAPGA Coordinator, prepared an overview of SAPGA's initial recommendations related to financial security, elder abuse, and fraud. A SAPGA representative has been asked to serve on the Task Force.

Colorado Work Force Development Council: A top priority for the SAPGA Workforce Committee, and the fifth recommendation, involved engaging the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) on aging-related issues. With the appointment of Phil Nash, Executive Director of Boomers Leading Change, to the CWDC in October of 2018 this recommendation was fulfilled. This position will focus on ensuring older Coloradans have opportunities to continue employment as they age and developing a workforce to support the needs of older Coloradans and their families.

County and Municipal Plans on Aging: With support through the *Lifelong Colorado* initiative, spearheaded by the Senior Advisor on Aging, cities and counties will be encouraged to develop age-friendly plans and provided funding support to implement. Supporting county and municipal plans on aging relates directly to the ninth recommendation in the Initial Action Plan.

Update on Efforts

2018 Action Plan Update: 2018 Action Plan Update will be available in January of 2019 with recommendations related to housing, transportation, workforce, a general discussion of findings related to the Senior Property Tax Exemption, and reference to long-term services and supports research.

Long-Term Services and Supports: [Research](#) commissioned by SAPGA and conducted by the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) explored state funding projections for long term services and supports in home and community-based, assisted, skilled nursing, and memory care settings. It also addressed trends related to where care for older adults is occurring.

Legislative Caucus on Aging: SAPGA organized and hosted three Legislative Caucus on Aging meetings focused on bringing together policy makers, staff, and advocates to learn about issues affecting older Coloradans. Topics included:

- General efforts of the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging
- [Conversations on Aging](#) (rural tour providing regional input on aging issues)
- [Colorado Seniors and Their Health: Where Are Older Adults Most Vulnerable?](#)
- [Housing and Care Setting Supply and Gap Research](#)
- Senior Property Tax Exemption

Senior Property Tax Exemption Forum - August 14, 2018: In partnership with the Colorado Senior Lobby and Colorado Gerontological Society, hosted an event, with locations in Denver, Grand Junction, and Fort Collins, with panels engaging the Joint Budget Committee, senior advocates, and more than 250 older Coloradans to seek input on the benefit, affordability challenges, and potential modifications.

[Senior Property Tax Exemption Resources](#)

Senior Property Tax Exemption Research: With support from Representative Rankin SAPGA, engaged Greg Sobetski, Senior Economist with the Legislative Council Staff, to explore various property tax relief programs across the United States. This research will be a resource for Colorado and national legislators, stakeholders, and advocates. [Property Tax Relief Programs for Senior Citizens](#)

Awareness and Collaboration with Stakeholders: The Legislative Caucus on Aging, Homestead Exemption Forum, and all SAPGA meetings have attracted interest from the business community, local and regional governments, aging stakeholders, older Coloradans, along with professional and family caregivers – broadening the collaboration among stakeholders.

State of Aging in Colorado: Participated in the inaugural summit hosted by the Colorado Coalition for Aging Research and Education (CO CARE). Academics and researchers in the aging field from six universities joined nearly 200 aging-related stakeholders from all levels of government, non-profits, the private sector, older adults, and caregivers to facilitate the growth of the aging network and encourage collaborative efforts.

Conversations on Aging: Public engagement and community input was the goal of meetings held in Grand Junction, Frisco, Pueblo, Fort Morgan, and Denver. Hundreds of local leaders, caregivers, older Coloradans, and advocates from around Colorado joined SAPGA members to discuss regional issues. [Conversations on Aging](#)

Integration of Stakeholder Feedback into Recommendations for 2018: Input received from the Conversations on Aging regional meetings held in 2017 has been reviewed and integrated into the 2018 recommendations.

Funding: Secured \$55,000 of funding in 2018 Long Bill to support SAPGA efforts to continue work on completing its charge under HB15-1033.

Newsletter: Distributed for eight months during 2018 from March through November to more than 1,500 Coloradoans. Meeting dates and times along with brief overview of an aging-related topic was covered in each iteration.

Key Research Reports Commissioned in 2016: [Caregiving](#), [Medicaid Cost Projections](#), [Community Supports](#), [Transportation](#), and [Housing](#).

Initial Action Plan: Published in November of 2016, the Initial Action Plan outlined eight major goals, nine recommendations, and more than 12 tactics associated with recommendations for Colorado. [Initial Action Plan](#)