



Strategic Action

**Planning
Group on
Aging**

**Legislative Caucus on Aging
Convening, Collaborating, and Catalyzing
Efforts to Improve the Lives of Older
Coloradans**

STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING GROUP ON AGING

Edward Leary , MD, Chair- Consumer

Christian Itin, Vice Chair – Metropolitan State University of Denver

Jane Barnes – Benefits in Action

Claire Cruse – Long-Term Care/Community-Based Health Care Representative

Steve Child – Pitkin County Commissioner

Jean Nofles - AARP

Jim Collins – Mayor Las Animas

Dave Norman – Northwest Colorado Area Agency on Aging, Retired

Sarah Elliott – Vivage Senior Living

Kelly Osthoff – Alzheimer’s Association

John Emerson – Flying Cloud Health and Aging 2.0

Aisha Young – Nonprofit Representative

Kara Harvey – Department of Human Services

Karin Stewart – Aging and Adult Services, Jefferson County

Hayley Gleason – Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Tony Tapia – Latino Age Wave

Gabriel Kaplan – Department of Public Health and Environment

Jayla Sanchez Warren – Denver Regional Council of Governments Area on Agency on Aging

Andrea Kuwik – Bell Policy Center

John Zabawa – Seniors’ Resource Center, Retired

COLORADO STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING GROUP ON AGING ACT

“It is therefore the intent of the General Assembly to establish a multi-disciplinary private and public sector stakeholders group to develop a comprehensive Strategic Action Plan on Aging in Colorado through the year 2030. The group shall provide to the Governor and General Assembly comprehensive data on and specific recommendations regarding private and public options for addressing this demographic shift for the state to consider.”

- Legislative Declaration from House Bill 15-1033

2020 ACTION PLAN UPDATE



“A growing aging population impacts every department in the State, from Transportation to Natural Resources.”

- Office of State Planning and Budgeting, FY 2020-2021 Budget Request

SAPGA'S PERSPECTIVE

- Historically aging has mostly focused on those who are frail and/or poor
- Most state resources have focused on this group (which is about 10% of older Coloradans)
- SAPGA's approach has included this historic group; but also, the totality of older Coloradans
- We have been heavily guided by Goal One: "Colorado seniors will be able to live and fully participate in their communities of choice for as long as possible."

2020 ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Colorado is the 2nd fastest growing 65+ population in the US

- State Structure Recommendations to Focus on Growing Aging Population & Implementation of the Recommendations from SAPGA and Other Entities
 - 2016 – a person or office in the Governor’s office
 - 2019 – an Office on Aging
 - **2020 – an Office on Aging with high level duties and responsibilities**

GOVERNANCE AND STATE STRUCTURE: NEXT STEPS FOR COLORADO

- Structurally integrate current efforts into state structure
- Effective and strategic implementation of recommendations
- Coordination and collaboration of existing programs and services

OTHER KEY 2020 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Re-energize Lifelong Colorado
 - Implement funding at the level previously recommended in 2019
 - Supports specific staff
 - Supports local grants

OTHER KEY 2020 RECOMMENDATIONS

Covid Related:

Universal access to allow for the use of telehealth services

Flexibility in Older Americans Act Funds

State continues to maintain and expand community engagement

An emphasis on public health (and age friendly public health strategies)

Equitable distribution guidelines for vaccine

IMPLEMENTATION OF PAST KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Retirement Security:

Passage of Secure Savings – SB20-200

Public private partnership

Requires employer retirement plans

(Nearly ½ of people 65 or over have no retirement savings)

PRIORITIES FOCUS AREAS FOR 2021

- COVID Related Impacts on Aging
- Disparities (Race – Ethnicity – Rural/Urban)
- Long Term Care and Caregiving
- Workforce



PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS FOR 2021

Promote continued funding of Senior Advisor on Aging Position

Prepare for Sunset Review

CALL TO ACTION – JOIN US

SAPGA Meetings – 2nd Monday of every month

Next SAPGA meeting April 12th – 12 noon to 3 pm

Focus on Long Term Care Communities and Federal Stimulus Dollars

Committees: Workforce – Long Term Care – Covid – Disparities

Next Legislative Caucus on Aging: April 23rd, 7:30 am to 8:45 am

CURRENT LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS & RELEVANT SAPGA GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

SB21-075 – Supported Decision-Making Agreement

- Bill allows an adult with a disability to enter into a supported decision-making agreement with a member of the supportive community as an alternative or supplement to a guardianship.

Related SAPGA Goal and/or Recommendations

- Goal 4 – Coloradans will be prepared for the challenges of caring for an aging loved one and will be able to do so without endangering their own health or well-being or the health and well-being of the recipient of care.

CURRENT LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS & RELEVANT SAPGA GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

SB21-118 – Alternative Response Mistreatment At-Risk Adults

- Bill creates an alternative response pilot program that can be utilized to respond to a report of self-neglect or mistreatment of an at-risk adult.

Related SAPGA Goal and/or Recommendations

- **Recommendation 8 (2016)** - To ensure older adults are free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, Colorado should ensure quality, effective Adult Protective Services (APS) are available and provided to all vulnerable adults in Colorado.
- **Goal 8** – Colorado will empower and protect older adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

CURRENT LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS & RELEVANT SAPGA GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

SB21-176 – Protections for Colorado Workers Against Discriminatory Employment Practices

- Bill allows an employment discrimination claim to be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county or district where the alleged discriminatory or unfair employment practice occurred. Repeals limits on remedies in cases involving age discrimination.

Related SAPGA Goal and/or Recommendations

- **Recommendation 6 (2020)** In order to support older Coloradans that want to or need to remain engaged in the workforce the state of Colorado should incentivize the adoption of diversity, equity and inclusion policies that include the hiring of person aged 50+ in the private and nonprofit sectors, building on the diversity, equity, and inclusion framework that addresses racial, ethnic, and economic disparities. Additionally, state governmental, local governments, and employers with government contracts should be required to adopt age inclusive DEI policies.
- **Recommendation 11 (2019)** The State of Colorado along with nonprofit and private sector partners should define, develop, and implement a program to help employers create age-friendly workplaces. Furthermore, employers who receive government contracts should be required to implement age-friendly workplace practices.
- **Recommendation 11 (2018)** The State of Colorado along with its partners in the public and private sectors should assist the business community in adopting best practices that attract, retain, and protect older workers who want or need to stay in the workforce.
- **Goal 2 –** Older Coloradans will be able to stay engaged in the labor force and volunteer sector for as long as they want or need.



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

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