

**Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Meeting
April 12, 2021**

Agenda

- 12:00: Welcome & Roll Call
- Approve Agenda and March Minutes
 - Update on March 26 LCOA Meeting; Next LCOA Meeting
 - Regional Meetings Dates & Locations
- 12:10 pm: Jarett Hughes, Governor’s Senior Advisor on Aging, Updates
- 12:30 pm: State of Senior Living & Long-Term Care – Presentation and Q & A
- Doug Farmer, Colorado Health Care Association
 - Nicole Schiavonne, Colorado Assisted Living Association
 - Deborah Lively, LeadingAge
- 1:30 pm: Break
- 1:40 pm: Reconvene & Public Comment
- 1:45 pm: Subcommittee Updates by Chairs/Co-Chairs
- Workforce
 - COVID
 - LTC/CG
 - Disparities Task Force
 - State Structure Discussion SAPGA-CCOA
- 2:00 pm: American Rescue Plan & Colorado Funding Priorities – Presentation and Q & A
- Lauren Larson, Director, Office of State Planning & Budgeting
- 2:25 pm: Group Discussion/Breakout Groups – SAPGA Priorities re Federal Stimulus Allocations
- 2:45 pm: Reconvene & Report Back
- 2:55 pm: Public Comment, Chair offers closing comments, Adjourn Meeting

Next SAPGA Meeting – May 10th – Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Next LCOA Meeting – April 23rd – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Planning Group Participants: Ed Leary, Chair, Christian Itin, Vice-Chair, Andrea Kuwik, Kelly Osthoff, Kara Harvey, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Tony Tapia, Claire Cruse, Hayley Gleason, Sarah Elliott, Steve Child, Jean Nofles, Dave Norman, Karin Stewart, John Zabawa, Gabriel Kaplan, Jane Barnes, Aisha Young, John Emerson

Public Participants: Jarett Hughes, Bob Murphy, Pat Cook, Jodi Waterhouse, Doug Farmer, Eileen Doherty, Karen Ramey-Torres, Audrey Krebs, Phil Cernanec, Sharon Courtney, MaryAnn Sterling, Leigh Hull, Rachel Cohen, Michael Hare, Erica Reinhard, Diana McFail, Rich Mauro, Lindsay Parsons, Leslie Kalechman, Brooke Murphy, Ronica Rooks, Lorye McLeod, Nancy Schwalm, Nicole Schiavonne, Yolanda Webb, Ben Moultrie, Geoff Alexander, Maria Madrid, Peggy Stoltenberg, Danette Purdy, Bob Epstein, Amber Minogue, Andrea Wilkins, Karen Brown

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by Ed Leary
- Ed welcomed planning group members; Andrea Wilkins verified that there was a quorum.
- March minutes and April agenda approved (motion to approve made by Jean Nofles, seconded by John Zabawa).

LCOA Recap: The event was chaired by Rep. Young and Sen. Ginal, and had almost 100 attendees.

Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging

- Lifelong Colorado plan in process with announcement forthcoming.
- Older American Month is May, Senior Lobby will be sponsoring a Livable Communities webinar
- Provided update on data and research efforts underway relating to Colorado's older adult population; coordination with AAAs, HCPF/Healthy Aging Community Profiles, DHS, CDPHE
- Updates on Serve Colorado – Jarett has been working with this group around inter-generational opportunities (tutoring corp, statewide needs assessment to outreach and integrate older adults into this program)
- COVID update was not given because numbers were over 3 weeks old however slide presentation includes status.

For additional information, see [presentation slides](#).

Doug Farmer, Colorado Health Care Association

CHCA represents 90% of assisted living in Colorado. Discussed disproportionate impacts of COVID on elderly – COVID seriously disrupted services, long-term care, and expenses increased dramatically. Visitation and programming were interrupted. Currently, state Long Term Care census is down at approximately 67%—82% is normal rate. We are down by about 3000 residents which equates to \$200 million in lost revenue. 21 nursing homes are below 50% census, looking at closure—4 closed in 2020. 35 nursing homes are changing ownership. There is a lot of change in the sector in all realms. This is resulting in concerns about access to services – will care be available in the communities that need it? (esp. rural communities) Very few insurers will cover LTC facilities in Colorado and they are excluding infectious disease. Insurance issues threatens centers' viability and operations. A return in consumer confidence is also needed in order for industry to normalize. Very difficult to find nurses and CNAs right now. For more information, contact Doug at dfarmer@cohca.org

Nicole Shiavonne, Colorado Assisted Living Association

CALA represents small assisted living centers. Staff training is needed in relation to a level of caregiving they have never had to provide before. PPP acquisition was very challenging in the beginning. Post-COVID, centers are struggling to remain open. Staff is struggling with grief and loss. Return of community events is hopeful. Many clients are choosing to get vaccinated – this is also promising. Shared-room centers are common and vaccinations are helping ease distancing requirements. Workforce issues exist and it is a struggle to compete with bigger organizations.

Hayley Gleason, HCPF

State is seeing a lot of the same issues and concerns mentioned by speakers, particularly for the rural providers. Census is a concern for solvency – state cannot lose these services in the communities that need them most, especially in rural areas. If we lose a rural center, residents may need to drive 2.5 hours or more to find available care. Innovations are occurring in response to COVID – increased use of telemedicine, especially in rural areas. There is uptake in other technology as well including health monitoring software, which can alleviate the burden on the workforce while maintaining services. Mental health supports can be supplemented with telehealth but there is no replacement for one-on-one communication/visits. Regulator challenges can sometimes prevent innovation – this is being explored by state. Participant discussion of nursing home fines being redirected to help with costs and resident needs, including wages and insurance. Discussion of stimulus funds to be used for technology purchase to facilitate telehealth. Ways to establish more private rooms? This would help with prevention of spread of illness/disease.

Public Comment:

Phil Cernanec - legislative update — Sen. Ginal tried to add \$10 million to the Colorado Older Americans line item but it did not pass, it will remain at 2019 levels. HB 1109 - Broadband deployment and SB 158 - Geriatric Specialists for rural areas, are both bills to keep an eye on.

Subcommittee Updates

Workforce Committee:

Group met in March, discussed Talent Pipeline Report, need for more data on 65+ population in workforce, discussed need for data in the upper age range and tracking related to the gig economy.

COVID Committee:

Group is identifying key areas of focus, identification of lessons learned, including the need for a more robust public health infrastructure.

Long-Term Care/Care-Giving:

Group will be meeting Wednesday April 14, focusing on LTC initially. Anticipates cross-over with COVID and Workforce committees. Examining alternative care models, innovative models in homes and congregate care settings.

Disparities Task Force:

Group to meet on April 21. Looking at strategies for data collection. State Office on Aging will present to group.

Presentation & Q & A: American Rescue Plan & Colorado Funding Priorities, Lauren Larson and Geoff Alexander, OSPB

Overview of ARP Act – three categories:

1. Households and business
2. Direct funding to specific state and local programs
3. Aid to state and local governments

Colorado to receive \$3.9 billion for public health, economic relief and recovery for households and business, revenue backfill. State is still waiting for guidance from the Federal government, however we know it must be used for infrastructure development, and cannot offset tax cuts. Governor is thinking about transformational investments that will improve Coloradan's way of life and tackle hard to solve problems that need investment.

Funding boosts state economy by more than 10% as a result of last two stimulus packages. Amount of funding is transformational in key areas including housing, education, utilities assistance and child care. State stimulus efforts are intended to compliment federal spending. What priorities are missing, and what should be elevated to the governor's attention?

See [slides](#) for more information.

SAPGA Member Survey – Spending Priorities

Priorities include funding for senior advisor on aging, age-friendly workforce infrastructure, age-friendly transportation infrastructure, broadband access statewide, supports for underserved including women, BIPOC.

State Structure Update – SAPGA-CCOA:

Groups have met twice, still working on a common vision. There is agreement to continue working together and priority is on maintaining the senior advisor on aging position. Need for a public education campaign.