

**Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Meeting
December 13, 2021**

Agenda

- 12:00 pm: Welcome & Roll Call
- Approve Agenda and November Meeting Minutes
- 12:05 pm: Member & Staff Announcements; Public Comment
- 12:10 pm: Comments on Older Coloradans Act Legislation, *Senator Ginal & Representative Mary Young*
- 12:15 pm: Update & Review of the Older Coloradans Act bill draft, *Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging*
- 12:30 pm: Discussion of SAPGA Sunset & SAPGA Priorities re Older Coloradans Act Modernization, *SAPGA Executive Committee*
- 12:55 pm: Group Discussion: SAPGA Priorities & Focus for 2022 (participant survey)
- 1:25 pm: Break
- 1:35 pm: Crisis Standards of Care & the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee, *Dr. Anuj Mehta, CDPHE, Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Commission*
- 2:05 pm: Group Discussion & SAPGA Input re Crisis Standards of Care
- 2:30 pm: Legislative Updates, *Coral Cosway, Alzheimer's Association; Rich Mauro, DRCOG; Andrea Kuwik, Bell Policy Center; Allison Hiltz, AARP*
- 2:55 pm: Public Comment; Chair offers closing comments
- 3:00 pm: Adjourn Meeting

Next SAPGA Meeting – January 10th – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

SAPGA Members: Ed Leary, Chair; Christian Itin, Vice Chair; Kelly Ostoff, Kara Harvey, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Tony Tapia, Claire Cruse, Hayley Gleason, Jean Noffles, Dave Norman, Karin Stewart, John Zabawa, Aisha Young, John Emerson, Gail Meehan

Public Attendees: Pat Cook, Bob Epstein, Rep. Mary Young, Senator Joann Ginal, Jodi Waterhouse, Gretchen Cerveney, Andrea Suhaka, Coral Cosway, Leslie Kalechman, Lorye McLeod, Eric Reinhardt, Eric Chess, Carol Cross, Sharon Courtney, Allison Hiltz, Ronica Rooks, Mark Levine, Ailli Miyake, Rich Mauro, Ben Moultrie, Peggy Stoltenberg, Deborah Lively, Diana McFail, Tyler Shankel, Karen Brown, Amber Minogue, Andrea Wilkins

Meeting Minutes:

- Meeting was called to order by SAPGA Chair Ed Leary at 12:02. Andrea Wilkins confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- Group approved the December meeting agenda (motion by Christian Itin, 2nd by John Emerson) and November meeting minutes (motion by Aisha Young, 2nd by Dave Norman).
- SAPGA Chair Ed Leary welcomed Sen. Ginal and Rep. Young and thanked them for their sponsorship of the Older Coloradans Act modernization. Ginal and Young provided remarks in regard to the bill and announced that it will be introduced in the House early in the 2022 legislative session. Both noted that it is important for SAPGA to stay involved and to speak up on the needs of older Coloradans.

Update & Review of the Older Coloradans Act Bill Draft, Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging (See [slides](#))

- Lifelong Colorado is the vehicle to advance strategies to guide aging policy and programs in the state. Improved access to the 8 domains of livability benefits all Coloradans.
- Review of OCA modernization legislation – 3 key parts: Colorado Commission on Aging, State Office on Aging, Strategic Action Plan on Aging & Lifelong Colorado.
- Bill has areas that are still outstanding and require more work including committee appointments, liaison role clarification, technical advisory committee clarification, clarification of data dashboard, Lifelong Colorado definition, general clean up of language.
- Overall, the structural pieces of what many stakeholder groups feel is essential have been incorporated.

Group Discussion:

- Skilled nursing must be part of our comprehensive plan on aging. This is critical for those who cannot get care in their communities. Could be incorporated into the bill language as a possible subcommittee. There are opportunities within the bill to illustrate the continuum of care – in-home care, assisted living, skilled nursing. Funding should be structured so as to support the entire continuum.
- Need to ensure that bill language is clear in its protection against financial exploitation of older adults.
- SAPGA Executive Committee discussed the need for a SAPGA recommendation that SAPGA will oppose the sunset recommendation if there is not an autonomous, multi-disciplinary body to replace it, should the OCA modernization bill not pass or get amended in a manner that removes key SAPGA priorities. A motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation was made by Jean Nofles, 2nd by Aisha Young, and approved by the body on a voice vote.
- Hearing on the SAPGA sunset may occur before it is clear if the OCA modernization bill will pass. SAPGA plans to testify to the need for SAPGA to continue unless there is an appropriate body to replace it.

SAPGA Priorities & Focus for 2022

- Members voted on priorities/possible subcommittee focus areas as follows: transition committee: 62%, policy & implementation committee: 58%, disparities: 56%, SAPGA recommendations review & prioritization: 44%, other topics: 15% (other areas mentioned include long term care, public health, housing, transportation, and the SAPGA sunset).
- SAPGA may want to review other state statutes that impact the older adult population that may need modernization. Should also assess how implementation has been carried out and if adjustments are needed. Not all existing statues have been fully utilized. AAAs are doing a strengths and needs assessment plus an assessment on the impact of COVID and the needs of older adults. This information could shed light on implementation and statutory modernization efforts.
- Transition should also include focus of how we successfully transition out of COVID. Could also assess how flexibility of COVID funds allowed for innovative services and programming.

Crisis Standards of Care & the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee, Dr. Anuj Mehta, CDPHE, Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Commission (See [slides](#))

- GEEERC was established by law in the early 2000s, members are appointed by the Governor.
- CSC for hospitals have not been activated at any point during the pandemic but have been activated for staffing.
- One out of every 100 older Americans has died during the pandemic. People over 65 make up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nation's COVID deaths.
- See slides for information on the crisis standards of care.

Legislative Updates

Coral Cosway, Alzheimer's Association

- Drafting of bill requiring dementia training is underway, stakeholding process to begin soon.
- CDPHE and HCPF will promulgate rules around requiring training.

Rich Mauro, DRCOG

- DRCOG is active in the OCA modernization effort. Also working with Sen. Danielson on legislation focusing on transparency in assisted living.
- Anticipating efforts to provide protections for mobile home park resident, many of which are older adults.

Andrea Kuwik, Bell Policy Center

- Active in efforts relating to the POWR Act (Protecting Opportunities & Workers Rights Act), making caregiver status a protected class, strengthening existing age discrimination protections in Colorado.
- Involved in efforts to develop legislation that would prohibit graduation dates on job applications.
- Also involved in efforts to address high-cost predatory loans.

Allison Hiltz, AARP

- New advocacy director at AARP. Working on OCA modernization, ban on graduation dates on job applications.
- Also involved in efforts regarding PERA solvency.