



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Meeting June 14, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 839 4037 4338

Passcode: 603985

Agenda

- 12:00: Welcome & Roll Call
- Approve Agenda and May Minutes
 - 1st Regional Meeting June 22 – Save the Date!
- 12:10 pm: Member & Staff Announcements; Public Comment
- 12:25 pm: Regional Meeting Agenda Overview & Role of SAPGA Members
- 12:30 pm: Jarett Hughes, Governor’s Senior Advisor on Aging, Updates & Opportunities for Collaboration
- 1:00 pm: Elizabeth Mullins, Director, Division of Veteran’s Community Living Centers, CDHS
- VCLC Needs Assessment; Considerations for Age Friendly Community Efforts
- 1:30 pm: Break
- 1:40 pm: Presentation & Discussion: Keiva Hummel, Program Director, National Civic League
- Enhancing the Equity and Inclusiveness of Age Friendly Initiatives (see presentation outline below)
- 2:55 pm: Public Comment, Chair offers closing comments
- 3:00 pm: Adjourn Meeting

Next SAPGA Meeting – July 12th – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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

Public Participants: Jarett Hughes, Andrea Suhaka, Kelly Horton, Laura Ringo, Nancy Schwalm, Elizabeth Mullins, Lorye McLeod, Lorrie Valencia, Coral Cosway, Conor Kelley, Keiva Hummel, Ronica Rooks, Diana McFail, Rich Mauro, Bob Murphy, Lindsay Parsons, Peggy Stoltenberg, Bob Epstein, Laura Kinder, Rachel Cohen, Steve Graber, Jodi Waterhouse, Karen Ramey Torres, Kris Geerken, Leigh Hull, Dymond Ruybal, Sharon Courtney, Maria Madrid, Pat Cook, 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.
- May minutes approved (motion to approve made by Christian Itin, seconded by Tony Tapia).
- June agenda approved (motion to approve made by Christian Itin, seconded by Karin Stewart).

Member & Staff Announcements:

Hayley Gleason lead a tribute to Chris Lee, recognizing his dedication and contributions to the health care field in Colorado.

Karen Brown shared information on Age Inclusive Management Strategies website launching and meeting.

Update From Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging

See Presentation Slides [here](#).

- Overview of legislation that was passed during the 2021 legislative session impacting older adults including HB 1097, 1187, 1264, 1271, SB 118, 137, 146, 148, 158, 175, 181, 251, and 290. The Governor is expected to sign all bills and all will become law. Additional information can be accessed on these bills through the General Assembly [website](#).
- More decisions over state spending, allocation regarding federal stimulus dollars to take place during interim. Workforce development funding will support adult education, upskilling and reskilling; a lot of housing-related investments expected; \$15 million set aside for AAA's – new grant program (via SB 290) to allow for infrastructure investments.
- More updates to come on interim activity, ARP allocations, and bill implementation.
- Updates on American Rescue Plan – not all spending decisions will be made at once. Spending needs to be obligated by 12/31/24 and spent by 12/31/26. Interim committees will meet heavily in August and September; expect a lot of activity from committees dealing on behavioral health, workforce and affordable housing issues. Information on interim committees can be found [here](#).
- SAPGA has submitted initial spending priorities, **members are encouraged to continue sharing priorities with Jarett and House and Senate leadership and with your state legislative representatives and senators.**
- Jarett working with CDOT Office of Innovative Mobility (pilot program) to investigate how program can support older adults. More information is forthcoming.
- Lifelong CO efforts continue, plan approved by Governor and AARP national office.
- AARP is conducting a meeting on July 14 on age friendly strategies on affordable housing from 10-12 pm.
- General fund money has been identified to support Jarett's position through July 1, 2022.

Elizabeth Mullins, Director, Division of Veteran's Community Living Centers (VCLC), CDHS

See Presentation Slides [here](#).

- Five VCLCs in CO – Huerfano, Fremont, Rio Grande, Garfield, and Denver/Arapahoe counties.
- VCLC Needs Assessment report can be accessed [here](#). Key questions explored include what are the health and long term care needs of CO veterans? How can VCLCs improve health care for the growing population of veterans? Are there enough VCLCs?
- Key take-aways of assessment: many veterans have long term health care needs that require long term support; VCLCs could expand services and adapt their care model to veteran's preferences and needs; no present need indicated for increased bed capacity within VCLC system.
- Veteran population is changing. There are many more female vets and vets who are people of color. Veteran population is getting younger.
- Vets have higher rates of chronic disease compared to the general population; different behavioral health needs, especially among vets who are female and POC.
- Future of long term services is uncertain – COVID changed so much.
- In general vets have a preference to remain in their homes if possible.
- To create more age-friendly, vet-friendly communities, it is important to understand who vets are, and understand that there is a strong military culture. Important to monitor system capacity and respond accordingly; engage community partners and policymakers across the state.

Keiva Hummel, Program Director, National Civic League

See Presentation Slides [here](#).

- In trying to enhance equity and inclusiveness in age-friendly community efforts it is important to consider how we are engaging older adults and older adults of color. Engagement is difficult to measure but very important to understanding the impact and success of age-friendly planning.
- Breakout discussions: What are the challenges and barriers to full, inclusive community engagement? What has SAPGA done to engage older adults of color? What's missing from usual engagement efforts? What are the challenges to full participation? Equity will not happen unless we are strategic and intentional.
- Breakout group take-aways and report back: outreach must be intentional, need an inclusive approach to public participation, it is difficult to achieve meaningful participation and engagement especially if there is no pre-existing relationships with communities of color, tribal outreach requires a specific approach – it is helpful to connect with those that have relationships in the community and can facilitate connections; past efforts have been met with mixed success, ongoing struggles with tokenism, need to acknowledge history and proceed with commitment to long term relationship building.
- NCL Better Aging Civic [Index](#) – provides a framework for discussing and measuring a community's civic capital. BACI is intended to combat ageism, fight loneliness and isolation, encourages intergenerational collaboration, and infuses an equity lens into aging work.
- Community engagement is most effective when it is co-created community and older adults play an active role in shaping decisions and civic affairs.
- Helpful to explore use of BACI in other contexts – in relation to implementation of specific legislation, implementation of Lifelong CO, etc.

Meeting Adjourned by SAPGA Chair at 3:00 pm.