



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Meeting
November 8, 2021

Agenda

- 12:00 pm: Welcome & Roll Call
- Approve Agenda and October Meeting Minutes
 - Present Slate of Nominees for 2022 SAPGA Executive Committee
- 12:05 pm: Member & Staff Announcements; Public Comment
- 12:15 pm: Discussion of Aging Services Coalition of Northwest Colorado Services Barriers and Gaps Report, *Leigh Hull, Aging Services Coordinator, Northwest Colorado Health*
- 12:35 pm: SAPGA Subcommittee Recommendations: Review & Final Approval
- COVID Subcommittee Recommendations
 - Long-Term Care & Caregiving Recommendations
 - Additional Disparities Task Force Recommendations
 - Update to Workforce Committee Recommendations
- 1:05 pm: Break
- 1:15 pm: Highlights from Governor's 2022 Budget Request, *Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging*
- 1:20 pm: Overview of SAPGA Revisions to the Older Coloradans Act & Sunset Recommendations, *Ed Leary & Christian Itin, SAPGA Executive Committee*
- 1:40 pm: Update on Older Coloradans Act Revisions & Next Steps, *Jarett Hughes, Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging*
- 2:00 pm: Comments from Yolanda Webb, Director, Office of Adult, Aging and Disability Services & CDHS Representatives
- 2:10 pm: Full Group or Breakout Discussion on Older Coloradans Act Revisions & Stakeholder Input
- 2:40 pm: Report Back & Next Steps
- 2:50 pm: Public Comment
- 2:55 pm: Chair offers closing comments
- 3:00 pm: Adjourn Meeting

Next SAPGA Meeting – December 13th – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

SAPGA Members: Edward Leary, Chair; Christian Itin, Vice Chair; Andrea Kuwik, Kelly Osthoff, Kara Harvey, Tony Tapia, Hayley Gleason, Sara Elliott, Steve Child, Jean Nofles, Dave Norman, Karin Stewart, John Zabawa, Tara Trujillo, Aisha Young, John Emerson, Diana Conner Reed, Gail Meehan

Public Attendees: Phil Cernanec, Andrea Suhaka, Leigh Hull, Diana, Jodi Waterhouse, Brittaney Wilburn, Carol Cross, Laura Kinder, Coroal Cosway, Sawn Small, ERica Reinhard, Kari Degernuss, Leslie Kalechman, Mark Lorre, Sharon Courtney, Susan Hill, Gretchen Cerverny

Meeting Minutes:

- Meeting was called to order by SAPGA Chair Ed Leary at 12:03. Andrea Wilkins confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- Group approved the November meeting agenda and minutes (motion by John Emerson, second by Gail Meehan).

Presentation of slate of SAPGA Executive Committee Candidates - *Jean Nofles and Dave Norman*

- Candidates include Edward Leary, Christian Itin, Karin Stewart, John Emerson and Steve Child.
- Motion to approve candidates made by Dave Norman, second by John Zabawa.
- Slate of candidates for the 2022 Executive Committee is unanimously approved.

Presentation by Leigh Hull, Northwest Colorado Health ([see slides](#))

- Important that SAPGA understand NW Colorado needs – seniors make up a higher percentage of the population in this area than in other parts of the state. Many needs relate to the challenges of living in a rural area.
- Needs assessment (supported by NextFifty) conducted to determine what is needed for seniors to continue living independently.
 - Found need for education and communication about existing resources
 - Transportation
 - Supportive services (e.g. handyman services for home modification, etc.)
- Discussion of three initiatives: aging services hub; identify and implement resources; educate community providers, policy makers, and leaders about creating an older adult-friendly mindset.
- Resources needed: Senior “Blue Book”, 2-1-1 provider information line, housing resource guide.

SAPGA Subcommittee Recommendations

Workforce Committee and Disparities Task Force Committee ([see attached edits](#))

- Group discussed and approved an addendum to the Workforce Committee recommendations regarding the increase in pay by the state for direct care workforce.
- Group discussed and approved an addition to the Disparities Task Force recommendations.

Long-term Care and Caregiving Recommendation ([see attached recommendations](#)):

- Sarah Elliott presented the final recommendations from the Long-Term Care and Caregiving Committee.

- Noted overlap of issues with COVID, Workforce and Disparities Taskforce.
- Looking away from institutionalized care.
- Focus of recommendations was on upstream solutions, with an eye towards is most actionable now.
- After discussion and questions, a motion to approve made by John Emerson, seconded by Steve Child.
- The recommendations were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

COVID Committee ([see attached recommendations](#)):

- Edward Leary and John Emerson presented the final recommendations from the COVID Committee.
- Group discussion raised the needs for integrated public health, and for education and training on technology needed to facilitate both tele-health and to foster social connections.
- Jarett Hughes notes that the federal infrastructure bill includes support for digital equity and technology training.
- A motion to approve the recommendations was made by Gail Meehan and seconded by Jean Nofles.
- The recommendations were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Highlights from the Governor's 2022 Budget Request ([see slides](#))

- Jarett Hughes provided an overview of the budget request and directed attendees to the [OSPB website](#) for more detail.
- It is anticipated that the general fund structural deficit will reach \$2.1 billion by 2027 (general fund demands to meet existing obligations vs point where we will reach the TABOR cap), meaning the state will have insufficient funding to meet our existing spending obligations.

Update on the Older Coloradans Act Revisions ([see summary](#))

- SAPGA's past recommendations and work have been used to shape the revisions to the OCA. Key components include: new commission must be autonomous, must be diverse racially, geographically, and reflect a variety of experience and skill sets in its composition; the commission must have ability to hire independent contract staff; reframing aging as an opportunity; multigenerational, lifelong approach to aging; ability to advocate for and implement recommendations.
- More stakeholder engagement is planned in the coming weeks.
- Kara Harvey and Yolanda Webb with CDHS addressed the group after Jarett's remarks and voiced support for the effort to modernize the OCA; CDHS is committed to exploring ways the state can be more innovative in its work around aging. State has a duty to support aging in a holistic manner.
- Revision and modernization of OCA must be a bipartisan effort.