



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Office of Community Living
1570 Grant Street
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To: All Stakeholders

From: John Barry, Stakeholder Relations Manager
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Subject: COMMUNICATION BRIEF
Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) 2017 Regional
"Conversations on Aging" Report now available

Colorado's Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) has issued a report, "Conversations on Aging: Coloradans Identify Gaps, Needs and Hopes for an Aging Population," based on a series of five regional meetings held last fall across the state to listen to residents tell their stories about aging in Colorado.

Colorado's seniors and service providers want to be sure they are being heard as the state prepares for a significant demographic shift where nearly one out of every five Coloradans will be 65 years or older by 2030. The SAPGA, established by [House Bill 15-1033](#), has been charged by the Governor with helping the state strategize and plan for the 2030 demographic shift. SAPGA membership includes representation from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

Citizens contributed nearly 450 ideas during the five regional meetings, providing the Planning Group with valuable information on key subject areas. Older adults, families, caregivers, and stakeholders affiliated with the aging network participated in Conversations on Aging based in Grand Junction, Frisco, Pueblo, Fort Morgan, and Denver. The meetings were engaging and interactive, allowing community members from around Colorado to voice their thoughts to SAPGA members.

"The Conversations on Aging created a unique environment where participants could engage in substantive discussions," said 2017 SAPGA Chair Jim Riesberg. "We were there to listen, and those that attended our forums provided us tremendous insights to gaps that exist in services and regions."

Two major themes emerged from the meetings. First, citizens have a perception that the needs of seniors are not a top priority for elected officials from the state to local level. Second, they believe a proactive outreach campaign needs to be launched to



bring better awareness of available services and to create awareness of the challenges and opportunities this large influx of aging Coloradoans will bring.

The full report may be viewed online at:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/SAPGA%20Regional%20Report%20FINAL%20SPTC.pdf>.

Contact Information:

Coloradans may send a message to agingstrategy@state.co.us for more information or to offer additional comments on the SAPGA. The SAPGA homepage can be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agingstrategy>.

SAPGA members are available to provide presentations to groups across Colorado.

