

STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING GROUP ON AGING

Monday, December 7, 2015

12:30 – 3:30pm

1290 Broadway

First Floor Independence Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Planning Group members present: Rob Andresen, Claire Anderson, Donna Baros, John Barry, Karen Brown, Wade Buchanan, Steve Child, Dale Elliot, Elizabeth Garner, Mindy Kemp, Linda Mitchell, Jean Noflles, Dave Norman, Jim Riesberg, Jennifer Schaufele, Sally Thoreson, Sharron Williams

By phone: Doug Farmer, Ben Moultrie, Barbara Raynor

Action Items/Follow-up:

- Members to be provided one-pager on the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging that can be tailored for various speaking engagements and presentations.
- Committees to devise qualitative questions for the data RFP to be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee by Monday, December 21st.
- Executive Committee and Keystone to develop a timeline on the work of the Planning Group before January 11th meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 11th, 1:00 – 4:00pm at DRCOG, 1290 Broadway

Meeting Summary

- I. Chairman Jim Riesberg called the Planning Group to order and took roll call.

Jim noted that the meeting fell on Pearl Harbor Day and took a moment to pay respects. It is also notable that the oldest living survivor of Pearl Harbor resides in Colorado Springs.

It was also announced there are three openings on the Commission due to vacancies from Anne-Marie Braga, Vicki Rodgers and Eliza Lanman. Anne-Marie's position will be filled by the Department of Public Health and Environment. The Planning Group will be accepting applications for the other two vacancies. People who are interested in those positions would fulfill the same term as those leaving and must meet the position requirements from HB15-1033. Priority will be given to Republican or Unaffiliated applicants because the Planning Group needs more diversity as required by the legislation.

- II. The meeting agenda for December 7th was approved with unanimous consent.
- III. The meeting minutes of November 23rd were approved with unanimous consent.
- IV. No Public Comment was provided during this time.

- V. Mike Saccone, Keystone Policy Center, provided an overview of the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging [communications memo](#) which outlines the media and outreach strategy for the Planning Group.

Planning Group members are encouraged to share relevant media and news story information with the Group. Members are also encouraged to speak about the Planning Group and help spread the word about the work of the Group when possible. Additionally, the Planning Group invites all Coloradans to share their input on how to deal with aging in Colorado.

Member discussion included a request for a one-pager on the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging to be shared with members that can be tailored to groups members are presenting to.

VI. Presentations

A. Senior Housing Issues, Colorado Division of Housing – Alison George

Alison George, Director of the Division of Housing in the Department of Local Affairs provided a presentation on senior housing in Colorado and various state housing programs related to senior housing. The Division of Housing provides operating subsidies, grant and loan funds to acquire and construct affordable housing, administers the Fort Lyon supportive housing program, and serves in a regulatory role as the state building department. The presentation provided by Ms. George can be found on the Planning Group [website](#).

Member discussion included any strategic plans completed by the Division of Housing that could inform the Planning Group. The Division does put together a [HUD consolidated action plan](#) focused on four specific resources. Another strategic initiative within the Division is an increase in affordable housing that is a planning tool used by the Division.

Members asked Ms. George her advice for the Planning Group. Alison suggested the Group should work to understand what the needs are of the population the Group is representing. Housing is a challenging issue, keeping people in homes as long as they can. Providing community living resources is very important, as well as ensuring there is sufficient funding to keep folks in their homes along with needed modifications and repair programs. The Group should look at communities that provide home ownership, rental and assisted living centers where folks know their neighbors; it is important to find those developers and resources to keep those things going.

Additionally members asked what the Division of Housing could use support on. It was noted the Division could use help with their affordable housing wait list, voucher programs, gap funding, and land for donations.

Other discussion from members included if tax programs be used for remediation and remodeling and if this was something the Division would look at; as well as, counseling for homeowners about what to do with the equity in their homes. It could be similar to counseling programs for first time home buyers, but something more tailored for seniors.

B. Transportation Issues, DRCOG – Brad Calvert, Matthew Helfant and Jayla Sanchez-Warren
Brad Calvert, Matthew Helfant and Jayla Sanchez-Warren of DRCOG provided a presentation on transportation issues for older adults in the Denver Metro area. The presentations from both Matthew and Brad can be found on the Planning Group [website](#).

Jayla Sanchez-Warren spoke about affordable housing issues across counties in metro Denver and that housing is key for many older adults to get needed services because they can't get services without an address. DRCOG is hosting an event on December 15th at Colorado History Museum from 1-3:00 p.m. on "the Affordable Housing Crisis: Tools for Delivering Bad News." Jayla also noted that transportation is a major problem in metro Denver area; there are funding silos for who can provide services to whom and the area needs a better coordinated system.

Matthew Helfant spoke about strategies to improve transportation for older adults and those with mobility challenges which included better coordination and removal of barriers. It was noted the state knows of approximately 42 transportation programs, most of which are through churches and other charitable organizations.

Brad Calvert provided an overview of the current housing crisis for both renters and owners in the Denver Metro area and an overview of housing challenges related to senior housing. The Physical Community committee was also encouraged to draw in folks that can think creatively about solutions and funding for transportation and affordable housing for older adults.

Member discussion included:

- Many older folks are moving back to rural areas of Colorado due to housing costs in the Denver area and to relocate by families in those areas, but the needed services aren't necessarily available in those rural areas.
- Concern with oversaturation of assisted living centers in Colorado. Developers are spec building assisted living centers because they see the population of Boomers, but folks don't usually need assisted living until they are in their 80s or older. Developers are building facilities at the wrong time before they are really needed.
- Colorado is not getting its fair share of federal dollars from the Older Americans Act. Colorado has a faster growing population in this demographic which is not being accounted for in the distribution of funding. The Colorado delegation have all signed onto a letter requesting additional funding.
- The recently passed Federal Transportation spending bill (FAST) which is funded through the Highway User Trust Fund. From the new bill, there are specific amounts of money going to specific programs for enhanced services for seniors and folks with disabilities. To get the money, programs must not have government behind them. The money can also be utilized to provide direct operating support, up to 45 percent of funding, which is a new allowance. The bill will increase Colorado's budget 1.8

percent for 2016 with overall minor increases through 2020 for seniors and those with disabilities.

- This year was the first year that older Coloradans Fund went into effect from the Senior Property Tax Exemption. This fund is created from those who qualify for tax exemption but opt out so the funding will go to the Older Coloradans Fund. The fund is expecting to generate about \$1.5m this next year.

VII. Reports

A. Executive Committee

Jim Riesberg provided an update on the Executive Committee. The Committee encourages members to bring to their attention interesting speakers on topics of importance to the Planning Group. During the last Committee meeting, there was discussion on member expectations in 2016 and meeting frequency and the Committee will continue to take member comments on meeting frequency; the Committee was unsure of the ability to cut the time and frequency of Planning Group meetings in order to put together a strategic plan by November. With regards to the Planning Group vacancies, the Governor's Office will welcome the Group's suggestions of applicants to fill vacancies on the Planning Group. Executive Committee members are encouraged to help with input on the RFP for data. There is a need for the Planning Group to expand outreach to other areas and interests - i.e., the business community - and should actively to bring them into the discussions in order to provide robust recommendations. Additionally, there may be a need to get around the state and organize meetings in different places around Colorado with two or three Planning Group members.

B. Technical Advisory Committee

Karen Brown provided an update for the Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee discussed the technical RFP and creating a resource list online. Planning Group members should enter relevant reports into the google drive spreadsheet ("[Information Catalog](#)") and also provide suggestions of presenters for the Planning Group. Each committee of the Planning Group should be creating qualitative questions to include in the technical RFP. The Committee may also need to look at how to fund statewide tours/meetings. Wondering if it would be beneficial to have someone hired to gather information and reports to include on the spreadsheet?

It was discussed if other committees felt they are moving in direction towards knowing what they want for the RFP and perhaps committees should be given a timeline to have this information put together for the RFP. The Planning Group decided that it would be appropriate to have information from each committee for the RFP by December 21st.

C. Outreach and Communications

Wade Buchanan provided an update on the Outreach and Communications Committee. The outreach memo presented earlier in the meeting was a reflection of the first meeting of the Committee. The group has not met in the interim and will have a broader task of looking at how the Planning Group gets around the state.

D. Workforce Development

Elizabeth Garner provided an update on the Workforce Development Committee. The Committee recently met and invited others to join the committee; they are still looking to include additional folks to the committee. The Committee is developing a series of questions to refine and provide a detailed list of questions for the data RFP list.

E. Family Economic Security

Donna Baros provided update on the Family Economic Security Committee. The Committee's first meeting was last Thursday where they established two outcomes and are continuing to develop more. The Committee is looking at more than current financial security, and also want to look backwards and forwards to the financial impact retirement can have on individuals and their families. It's about education, understanding financial impact on families and loved ones.

F. Physical Community

Rob Andresen provided an update on the Physical Community Committee. The Committee designated a standing meeting arranged for the third Monday of every month from 8-9 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, December 21st.

G. Health and Wellness

Sharron Williams provided an update on the Health and Wellness Committee. The Committee lost two Planning Group members – Vicki and Eliza - and looking for new members from Planning Group, if interested. The Committee would like more help in getting folks from the health care industry to join the group and are looking to set regular meetings possibly for the third Thursday in the afternoon.

H. Public Finance

Wade Buchanan provided an update on the Public Finance Committee. The group is looking to convene again this week and will discuss additional members.

I. Supportive Community

Dale Elliott provided an update on the Supportive Community Committee. The Committee is meeting the second Friday of each month. The group is looking at strategic plans from various state departments. One big issue to address is accountability and are looking at what those plans say and what can actually be accomplished within the plans. The group would like to look at putting together an inventory of what other communities are doing in Colorado.

VIII. Other Business

- A. An overall timeline on the work of the Planning Group would be useful for members to understand what needs to be done and by when. This should be put together before the next Planning Group meeting on January 11th. The Executive Committee and Keystone would work together on developing the timeline.

IX. Public Comment

- A. Mary Delores Young - travel trainer for via mobility services, member of Colorado Latino Age Wage, and Mayor Pro Tem City of Boulder: Many of the most vulnerable people don't have resources to move into the housing projects mentioned earlier in the meeting; transportation needs to come to those folks. Many sidewalks with missing links are in poor neighborhoods, and sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner who don't have resources to fix them in those neighborhoods. Money could be put into Uber-like services for transportation. Portland, OR has an emerging model called Ride Connection. I have found with travel training programs that it is very difficult to work with seniors once they have to give up their driving privileges. Knowing how to link multi-modal trips is something important for seniors to understand. The Group should look into driverless cars and the possibilities there – only four states have passed laws to allow driverless cars. Colorado should do this and begin with driverless car programs that are focused on older adults.
- B. Jeff Hart, resident of metro area and candidate for State House District 6: Would the savings mentioned during the Division of Housing presentation to keep folks in their home longer be to the state or Medicaid? (Answer: Savings would be to Medicaid). To DHS, once I found the Colorado State Plan on Aging on the internet but have had trouble finding where the plan is now located on the website (Answer: the website recently changed and is now on the updated webpage). Appreciate comments on accountability and the state plan talks about performance metrics which is important to measure progress and benchmark progress made. Finally, I'd be interested in joining the physical community committee (Response: those interested in joining a committee should send their interest to agingstrategy@state.co.us).

X. Next Meeting: January 11th, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

XI. Adjourned at 3:35pm