

COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



ANNUAL REPORT
State Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

Mary Jane Hangs, Chair

Information about the Colorado Commission on Aging

The Older Coloradans Act provides authority for the Colorado Commission on Aging to carry out the following purposes:

- Conduct, and encourage other organizations to conduct studies of the problems of the state's older people;
- Assist governmental and private agencies to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order to reduce duplication and waste of effort;
- Promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged. The Commission shall assist governmental and private agencies by designing surveys that may be used locally to determine needs of older people; by recommending the creation of services; by collecting and distributing information on aging; and by assisting public and private organizations in all ways the Commission deems appropriate.
- Conduct promotional activities and programs of public education on issues facing the aging;
- Review existing aging programs and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for improvement in such programs;
- Advise and make recommendations to the State Department, the State Office on Aging, created pursuant to part 2 of this article, on the problems, programs, and services for the aging and aged.

SFY 2004-2005 Membership

The Commission consists of seventeen members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. Two members must be appointed from each congressional district (one from each major political party and when a vacancy in District 4 occurs, one member must be from west of the continental divide). One member must be appointed from the state at-large, one member must be appointed from among the membership of the senate and one member must be appointed from among the membership of the house. All members are appointed for terms of four years each, commencing July 1 in the year of appointment. Effective July 1, 2004, Commission membership includes:

Congressional Districts

Danette Reitz (District 1-D)
Joseph Sims (District 1-R)
Bruce Eller (District 2-D)
Barbara Martig (District 2-R)
Sheila Casey (District 3-D)
Mary Jane Hangs (District 3-R)
Scott Holwick (District 4-D)
Gerald "Jerry" Wathen (District 4-R)
Steve Bender (District 5-D)
Richard Larsen (District 5-R)
Zach Sahker (District 6-D)
Daphne Bernstein (District 6-R)
Marian Fairbank (District 7 – R)
Vacant (District 7 – D)

Member At-Large

Kathy Turley - R

Senate Representative

Honorable Paula Sandoval-D

House Representative

Honorable Mark Larson-R

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SFY 04-05 Commissioners:

Back Row (L to R): Danette Reitz, Zach Sahker, Scott Holwick, Bruce Eller, Joe Sims, Steve Bender, Mary Jane Hangs, Jamie Malone

Front Row (L to R): Sen. Paula Sandoval, Barb Martig, Kathy Turley, Jerry Wathen, Jeanette Hensley

Not pictured: Rep. Mark Larson, Rich Larsen, Daphne Bernstein, Marian Fairbank, Sheila Casey

Mission

The mission of the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) is to inform and advise decision-makers and to advocate for better quality of life for all seniors.

Authority and Appropriation

The CCOA is established under the authority of the Older Coloradans Act (Sections 26-11-100.1 to 26-11-106) to serve as the primary advisory body on all matters affecting older persons. The CCOA is a volunteer organization of seventeen people appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate committee to serve for four years and not more than two terms. There is a Republican and a Democrat representing each of the seven Congressional Districts, one at-large Commissioner, and one member each of different parties from the State Senate and House.

In fiscal year 2004-2005, the Legislature appropriated federal and state general funds to the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities. The source for federal funds is the Older Americans Act. Members of the CCOA do not receive compensation for their services, but are reimbursed for expenses incurred by the performance of their official duties. Reimbursements are provided in accordance with the State's fiscal rules and policies.

Officers

Officers for Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005 were: **Mary Jane Hangs**, Chair; **Stephen M. Bender**, Vice Chair; **Barbara Martig**, Legislative Chair; and **Richard L. Larsen**, past Chair.

Commission Roles and Responsibilities

Following are the roles of each committee.

Colorado Commission on Aging's role is to:

1. Represent all of Colorado's 60+ population and their caregivers with specific focus on rural and frail elderly.
2. Address health and social needs and issues, using a broad-based approach.
3. Support or oppose issues through education, dialogue, and advocacy activities.
4. Focus on understanding the issues and needs of Colorado's 60+ population; understand federal policies as they impact Colorado and its 60+ population; and maintain awareness of other states' programs as these may provide ideas or models for serving Colorado's 60 + population, including the study of demographic changes.
5. Collaboratively work with the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Aging and Adult Services Division, recognizing that occasions may arise at which time Department/Division and Commission perspectives may not be in harmony. Recommend state aging priorities to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Colorado Department of Human Services, Governor and Legislature.
6. Take positions on selected issues and collaborate with the efforts of other community-based senior organizations.
7. Support activities such as public hearings and recognition programs as available and appropriate.
8. Review issues related to the Old Age Pension Health Care Program.
9. Support changing the \$10 million cap of the Old Age Pension Health Care Program through broad-based support to be sought from Colorado's aging services network. This includes the possibility of recommending a constitutional amendment to address this issue.
10. Participate in public hearings in conjunction with the Area Agencies on Aging and the State Unit on Aging in the development of the State's 4-year plan. Review Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) programs and funding to address issues and priorities for Planning and Service Areas (PSA) in Congressional Districts.
11. Initiate and participate in a Colorado Conference on Aging activity, to coincide with national efforts of a White House Conference on Aging to be held December 11 - 14, 2005.
12. Be knowledgeable of priority issues in aging at the National Level and make recommendations when appropriate including the review of Long-Term Care reform in reference to Medicare/Medicaid changes.
13. Conduct Older Americans Month event. Sponsor and promote the Centenarian Program. Commissioners are actively involved in identifying Centenarians, and participate in the recognition for seniors who are celebrating their 100 or 100 plus birthdays.

Committee Roles and Responsibilities

The Colorado Commission on Aging is comprised of four committees:
Executive, Policy/Legislative, Community Relations, and Strategic Planning.

Executive Committee role is:

1. Provide leadership to Commission members concerning duties/responsibilities and strategic planning.
2. Provide input in the hiring of a new State Aging and Adult Services Division Director when necessary, and serve as the liaison with the Division of Aging and Adult Services.
3. Be empowered to act on emergency matters as intervals between regular Commission meetings, such action to be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.
4. Develop the CCOA meeting agendas.

Policy/Legislative Committee role is:

1. Stay informed and involved on legislative initiatives for older citizens of Colorado.
2. Collaborate with organizations that represent the interests and needs of Older Coloradans.
3. Monitor initiatives for Improving Quality of Care in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Residences.
4. Provide input to Colorado Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Division and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in maintaining existing programs for older citizens in Colorado as legislators struggle with budget shortfall.
5. Participate and educate public officials, the general public and older citizens in Colorado on senior issues and initiatives pertaining to legislation.
6. Review and provide input on Long-Term Care Reform.
7. Participate in legislative action organizations/groups as appropriate.
8. Advocate for Old Age Pension recipients as well as programs.

Community Relations Committee role is:

1. Sponsor the annual Allen M.A. Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture Award.
2. Sponsor the Older Americans Month Centenarian Celebration. (This year it was held in Denver).
3. Participate in Senior Days at the Capitol.
4. Participate in the Eastern Plains Legislative Speak Out.
5. Participate in the Western Slope Legislative Speak Out.
6. Coordinate the White House Conference on Aging State Conferences.

Strategic Planning Committee role is:

1. Set direction and priorities for the Commission.
2. Establish goals and objectives.
3. Establish action plans on achieving the goals and objectives.

2004-2005 Meetings

The CCOA meetings for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 included five Commission meetings at the Warwick Hotel in Denver, one at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, and one meeting at the Senior Resource Center in Lakewood. These meetings provided the Commission the opportunity to review legislation, state and federal public policies of social programs for citizens sixty and older in our state.

As a result of these meetings the Commission was able to meet its mandated purpose by providing input to the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing and Human Services, Division of Aging & Adult Services, concerning program changes, budgetary cuts, and policy issues.

2004-2005 Fiscal Year Review

Fiscal year 2004-2005 presented another year of significant fiscal challenges for social programs to support the quality of life for older Colorado citizens. The Commission's focus was to collaborate with state-wide senior advocacy representatives to support a State Needs and Strengths Assessment of Older Adults in our state; to organize six regional conferences/events to prepare for the Colorado Governor's White House Conference on Aging, which will finalize the agenda Colorado's delegates will take to the White House Conference on Aging in December 2005; to celebrate and recognize the centenarians in our state; and to work with our state Legislators, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and the Colorado Department of Human Services to keep existing Medicaid programs intact; to encourage state departments to maintain the integrity of programs for the frail, elderly, blind, handicapped, disabled, most vulnerable populations, and low-income seniors.

I. 2004-2005 Legislation/Policy Decisions Impacting Older Citizens of Colorado

During the legislative session, the Commission collaborated with state-wide stakeholders in trying to educate state legislators on the needs of older citizens in our state, the importance of adequately funding these important programs, and the need to focus on preventive health care supportive programs such as Home & Community Based Services to keep people in their homes and out of costly health care settings.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the effects of TABOR and Amendment 23. Bills presented to the state legislative body, were reviewed and a vote taken by the Commission on whether to support, monitor, or not support the bill.

Many bills that the Commission supported or opposed were either postponed indefinitely (PI'd) or vetoed by the Governor. The following bills were signed and will become law.

HBO5-1194 – State means of funding budgetary needs (signed by the President of the Senate).

HB05-1243 – Consumer directed care under Medicaid.

SBO5-001-- Optional Low-Income energy assistance.

SB05-173 – Long term care services under Medicaid.

II. State Strengths & Needs Assessment

The Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in the state of Colorado was a 20-minute telephone survey of 8,903 older adults developed in collaboration with the Denver Regional Council of Governments, Colorado Division of Aging and Adult Services, and Boulder County Aging Services. The report will enable the state of Colorado, local governments, and other policymakers to understand more accurately and predict the services and resources needed to serve the increasing aging population. The objectives of the report were to: identify the strengths and articulate the needs of older adults in Colorado; develop estimates of and projections for the cost of meeting the needs; and provide useful, timely and important qualitative and quantitative information for planning, resources development and advocacy efforts.

The assessment was supported in part by the Daniels Fund, the Jan and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, HealthOne Alliance, Rose Community Foundation, The Colorado Trust, and the 16 Area Agencies on Aging.

In 2000, there were over half a million older adults living in Colorado, this was 13% of Colorado's population. This number is expected to grow to 852,000 by the year 2012, an increase of 51% in this 12 years period.

The report demonstrates that 89% of seniors in Colorado reported their overall quality of life as "very good" or "good". And the value of unpaid contributions by senior Coloradans is over \$1.6 billion. These contributions include volunteer work, help to family, friends, and neighbors.

Based on the current community-based service delivery systems, the total yearly expenditure is projected to grow from \$24 million in 2004 to \$41 million in 2012. The cost to meet all the needs as identified in the survey would grow to \$162 million by 2012.

The Strengths and Needs Assessment will be used to set priorities for programs and services for older adults as plans are made to accommodate the increasing population of older adults in Colorado.

You can access the full State report at www.cdhs.state.co.us/ADRS/AAS/index1.html

III. Colorado Governor's White House Conference on Aging

The Colorado Commission on Aging provided leadership and direction in organizing regional events and the State conference. See page 12 for a listing of the conference Steering Committee members. The Colorado Governor's White House Conference on Aging Solution Forum was a statewide event held in preparation for the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) to be held in December in Washington, D.C. The statewide event "*From Strengths & Needs to Action*" was held on June 23, 2005 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

The major sponsors were: Colorado Commission on Aging, Colorado Department of Human Services-Aging & Adult Services, Rose Community Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, The Colorado Trust and Senior Care of Colorado.

Earlier this year, six Colorado regional (Metro Region, Southern Region, Western Region, Eastern Plains Region, Larimer and Weld Counties) conferences/events were held. These events were responsible for developing recommendations specific to Colorado and were presented at the Colorado Governor's White House Conference on Aging to White House Policy Committee members and over 300 attendees.



The Denver Metro/Boulder Regional conference drew a full house at the Colorado Convention Center May 13, 2005. There were approximately 250 attendees.

The White House Conferences on Aging (WHCOA) is held every ten years to develop recommendations for the President and Congress on issues, policy, and research in the field of aging. Past WHCOAs have contributed to the establishment of many key aging programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, the National Family Caregivers Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Program. WHCOAs have been instrumental in Social Security reforms, the establishment of the National Institute on Aging, the creation of a national nutritional program for older persons, and the establishment of the national aging network.

The information gathered at the regional conferences focused on six topic areas prepared by the federal WHCOA Policy Committee:

Planning Along the Lifespan

- Public & private financing of services and benefits for current and future Older Americans
- Increased personal savings and investments for retirement
- Continuing care giving responsibilities, and long term care insurance

The Workplace of the Future

- Flexible work arrangements
- Re-employment
- Maximum use of technology

Our Community

- Housing
- Transportation
- Access to supportive services
- Livable Communities Health and Long Term Living

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Chronic Diseases Management
- Focus on Nutrition Needs and Education
- Home Care and Institutional Care

Social Engagement

- Community Service and Volunteerism
- Leisure Activities
- Lifelong Learning

Marketplace

- Responses to Consumer Needs and Demands
- Product Development (consumer products, consumable supplies and services)

Health and Long Term Living

- Increasing cost of health care
- Long term care issues
- Limitations of and changes to Medicare and Medicaid
- Prescription drug issues
- Rural and urban issues
- Preventive care
- Mental health, alcohol and drug abuse
- Impacts of care-giving on caregivers



Dorcas Hardy, Chair of the White House Conference Policy Committee addresses the delegates of the Colorado Governors White House Conference on Aging event.

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) will address these issues and solutions at the national conference to be held in December 2005. The following Commissioners have been appointed as WHCOA delegates:

Gubernatorial Delegate

– Kathy Turley

Representative Mark Udall

– Barbara Martig

Representative Joel Hefley

– Stephen Bender

IV. Eastern Plains Speak Out

The Eastern Plains Speak Out was held in Burlington, October 1-2, 2004. After daily seminars a banquet was held with the keynote speaker being Percy Divine, Regional Manager, Region 8, United States Administration on Aging. A legislative forum was held and moderated by CCOA Commission member Barbara Martig with panel members Senator Mark Hillman, Representative Diane Hoppe, Deb Carlstrom (aide to Congresswoman Musgrave), an aide for Senator Wayne Allard, and Mac McGraw who campaigned for Stan Matsunaka. CCOA Commissioners Barbara Martig and Jerry Wathen reported on the activities of the Commission at the Speak Out.

V. Centenarians Celebrations

It's no small feat to live to 100 years or more. This year's Centenarian Celebration brought together a group of twenty delightful persons who have mastered the art of a long life. An additional twenty-five Centenarians that could not attend in person were represented by family, friends or facility staff. They joined together for a brunch at the new Belmar Event Center in Lakewood on May 5, 2005.

Opening remarks were made by Mary Jane Hangs, Chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging followed by an opening prayer by Sam Miller, Director of Chaplains at Porter Adventist Hospital. Special guests were the Honorable Bill Owens, Governor of Colorado and the Honorable Steve Burkholder, Mayor of Lakewood. Kathy Turley, Chair of the Community Relations Committee for the Colorado Commission on Aging acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the day. The entertainment was by the UltraSoniX quartet who performed golden oldies familiar to our guests.

Governor Bill Owens pointed out in his remarks, the life expectancy in 1905 was only forty years. He talked about Colorado 100 years ago and the changes that this group of one hundred plus year olds has seen.



Commissioner Rich Larsen with centenarian honoree Mary Frawley, age 106.

Mayor Burkholder welcomed the group to his new community and event center. He commented that the Belmar area was designed to be friendly to people rather than the automobile. This setting looks like an old neighborhood, and with the emphasis on people, it was a great place to hold this event.

Closing remarks were made by Bob Jones, Vice President of the Mountain States Division of Life Care Centers of America. Life Care Centers of America was a co-sponsor with the Commission on Aging for this event.

VI. Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture

On September 23, 2004, the Commission sponsored the 11th annual Allen M. A. Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy award at the Warwick Hotel, Denver, Colorado. This year the Commission was pleased to recognize the contribution of Robert L. "Bob" Dey. Mr. Dey has lived over the years in a number of Colorado communities. The University of Denver awarded Bob the B.A. and M.A. degrees. He was the Director of Programs on Aging at Colorado Northwestern Community College where he planned and in most cases directed some 28 conferences, workshops and training sessions for senior citizens and service providers. He was instrumental in founding the Western Colorado Consortium on Aging Service Education, which included AAA directors, Regions 9-12, and western slope higher education institutions. While on the Rangely town council, Bob represented Rio Blanco County for a time on the Colorado West Area Council of Governments. He also served on the Rangely Home Health Care Advisory Committee, and was instrumental in bringing Community concerts to Rangely and initiated a nursing home visitation program, a grief support group and the Bright Beginnings program. He has served as an AARP Chapter Specialist, on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Retired School Employees Association, the Legislative Committee and the Pre-retirement Planning Committee. Currently, he serves on the Benefits Committee. He has been a long-time member and supporter of the Colorado Senior Lobby and serves as a PERA Ambassador.

The Senior Legacy Lecture was originally awarded to Allen Buckingham posthumously in December 1998 and the event was renamed in his honor. Allen promoted the needs of older persons, especially that they live in dignity, have freedom and choice and realize full and active participation in their society. The spirit of his legacy is celebrated annually. The above criteria is used by the commission in selecting each year's recipient.



Recipient of the 2005 Allen Buckingham Award Bob Dye, pictured with his family.

VII. Senior Day at the Capitol – 2005

The 25th annual Senior Day at the Capitol took place Wednesday, March 16th, 2005 in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. Mike Drake, President of Colorado Senior Lobby, welcomed the 200 participants.

Each year during the Legislative session the Colorado Senior Lobby in cooperation with other senior organizations, including the Colorado Commission on Aging, host Senior Day at the Capitol. Participants come from through out Colorado to see the legislative process at work, to meet the legislators and to learn more about current legislation. All state legislators are invited to attend. At Senior Day 2005 over 25 Legislators and elected officials spoke to the participants.

Bob Robinson of Colorado Senior Lobby was honored as one of the Founders of Senior Lobby and of Senior Days.

A lunch was served across the street at the First Baptist Church. Other sponsors of Senior Day at the Capitol were AARP, Colorado Retired School Employees Association, Older Americans Coalition, National Association of Retired Employees, and the Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans.



It was a packed house at the 2005 Senior Day at the Capitol Held in the Old Supreme Court Chambers.

VIII. Education

The Commission recognizes that continuing education on public issues, state and federal programs, is crucial to our ability to function as a credible advisory board. As such, the Commission is dedicated and committed to make education a part of each of the scheduled meetings. Some of the educational programs provided to the Commissioners and the public include:

- OAA Reauthorization Principles
- AARP Legislative priorities
- Reports from the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Home update
- Tabor Initiatives & Amendment 23 fiscal issues
- Veterans benefits
- Medicare's Prescription Drug Card Update
- Federal budget updates
- Social Security
- Consumer directed care for the elderly (CDCE)
- Nursing facility and assisted living regulation updates

2005 Colorado White House Conference Steering Committee

Kathy Turley

Kaiser Permanente
Colorado Commission On Aging Commissioner, Member at Large

Jeanette Hensley

Colorado Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services

Jamie Malone

Colorado Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services

Dianne Primavera

Colorado Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services

Stephen Bender

Veterans Administration, Medical Social Work Services
Colorado Commission on Aging Commissioner, District 5

Sue Bozinovski

Denver Regional Council of Governments, Area Agency on Aging

Courtney Hoskins

United States Administration on Aging, Region VIII

Barbara Martig

Boulder County Aging Services Division
Colorado Commission on Aging Commissioner, District 2

Dave Rivera

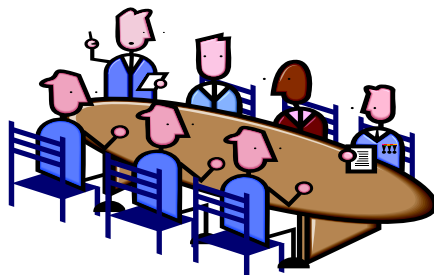
Colorado Governor's Office

Bob Robinson

Colorado Senior Lobby

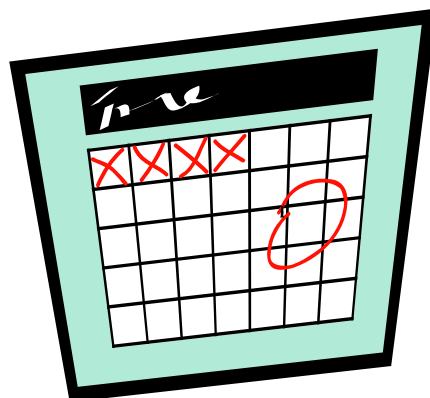
Karen Thorne

Seniors! Inc.



**COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Schedule
Fiscal Year 2004-2005**

July 21 & 22, 2004	Annual Meeting - Warwick Hotel	Denver
September 23 & 24, 2004	Allen Buckingham Awards - Warwick Hotel	Denver
November 18, 2004	CCOA Meeting - Warwick Hotel	Denver
February 10, 2005	CCOA Meeting - Warwick Hotel	Denver
March 16 & 17, 2005	CCOA Meeting – Adam’s Mark Hotel Senior Days at the Capital – State Capital	Denver
April 14 & 15, 2005	CCOA Meeting - Warwick Hotel	Denver
May 5, 2005	CCOA Meeting – Seniors Resource Center Centenarians Celebration – Belmar Center	Lakewood



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