

# COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



ANNUAL REPORT  
State Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Stephen M. Bender, 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; and,
- 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 2006-2007 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. The 2006 - 2007 Commission membership includes:

#### **Congressional Districts**

Vivian Stovall (District 1-D)  
Joseph Sims (District 1-R)  
Harriet Edelstein (District 2-D)  
Barbara Martig (District 2-R)  
Sheila Casey (District 3-D)  
Mary Jane Hangs (District 3-R)  
Mark Shelton (District 4-D)  
Gerald "Jerry" Wathen (District 4-R)  
Steve Bender (District 5-D)  
Linda Sanden (District 5-R)  
Maureen Robinson (District 6-D)  
Russ DenBraber (District 6-R)  
Frank Lay (District 7 – R)  
Marian Fairbank (District 7 – D)

#### **Member At-Large**

Karl Aguilera - R

#### **Senate Representative**

Honorable Paula Sandoval-D

#### **House Representative**

Honorable Tom Massey-R

### **Contact Information**

1575 Sherman Street, 10th Floor, Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-2800, TDD: (303) 866-2850, FAX: (303) 866-2696  
E-mail address: [Jamie.Malone@state.co.us](mailto:Jamie.Malone@state.co.us)



**SFY 06-07 Commissioners:**

**Bottom to Top:** Mary Jane Hangs, Marian Fairbank, Steve Bender, Maureen Robinson, Joe Sims, Harriet Edelstein, Mark Shelton, Rep. Tom Massey, Linda Sanden, Kathy Turley, Jeanette Hensley, Barb Martig, Jerry Wathen

Not Pictured: Sheila Casey, Sen. Paula Sandoval, Russ DenBraber, Jamie Malone

**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 (C.R.S. 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 2006-2007, 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, 2006 – June 30, 2007 were: **Stephen M. Bender**, Chair; **Sheila Casey**, Vice Chair; **Barbara Martig**, Legislative Chair; and **Mary Jane Hangs**, 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 four-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. 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.
12. 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.
13. Co-Sponsor the Senior Day at the Capital Event along with other aging network groups. Senior Day invites seniors from around the state to come to the capital to meet and greet their legislators, attend the morning legislative sessions and tour the capital.
14. Sponsor the Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Awards luncheon. This award is given to a senior that has been nominated by their peers and have made great contributions to the senior population in Colorado or in their local areas.

## **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 between regular Commission meetings, such actions will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.
4. Develop the CCOA meeting agendas.
5. Write letters to constituents, legislators, or the Governor when requested by the commission.

**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.
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 Montrose Colorado).
3. Participate in Senior Day at the Capitol.
4. Participate in the Eastern Plains Legislative Speak Out.
5. Participate in the Western Slope Legislative Speak Out.

**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.

## **2006-2007 Meetings**

### **CCOA meetings for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.**

July 13 & 14, 2006	Annual Meeting	Denver
October 5 & 6, 2006	Eastern Plains Legislative Speak Out	Lamar
November 9 & 10, 2006	Allen Buckingham Award Event	Denver
February 21 & 22, 2007	Senior Day at the Capitol Meeting to Follow	Denver - Capitol Westminster - Covenant Village of Colorado
May 10 & 11, 2007	Centenarians Celebration	Montrose

These meetings provided the Commission the opportunity to review legislation, state and federal public policies of social programs for citizens sixty years of age and older in our state. As a result of these meetings the Commission was able to meet its mandated purpose by advising the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing and Human Services, Division of Aging & Adult Services, concerning program changes, budgetary issues, and policy issues.

## **2006-2007 Year Review**

Fiscal year 2006-2007 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 the Statewide Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in Colorado; 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. 2006-2007 Legislation/Policy Decisions Impacting Older Citizens of Colorado**

During the legislative session, the Commission collaborated with statewide stakeholders by informing state legislators about the strengths and 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 Referenda C and D. Bills presented to the state legislative body were reviewed and the Commission chose whether to support, monitor, or oppose various bills.

The Commission studied and advocated for legislation on the Federal level pertaining to Older American Act programs and the reauthorization of the Older American's Act (OAA) now called the *Senior Independence Act*, H.R. 5293.

The following bills were supported, monitored or opposed by the Colorado Commission on Aging. Most of these bills have been signed by the Governor and have become law.

- SB07-001 – Generic & Nonpatented Rx Drug Program
- SB07-014 – State Nursing Home Funding
- SB07-022 - PUC Low Income Regulatory Consideration
- SB07-078 - Restore Mandatory Offer Hospice Care
- SB07-097 - Allocate Tobacco Settlement Moneys
- SB07-224 - At-risk Adult Protection Teams
- HB07-1022 - Rural Health Care Needs
- HB07-1043 - Telemedicine In Home Health Care
- HB07-1044 - Protective Services For At-risk Adults
- HB07-1064 - Find/Save Programs Cognitively Disabled
- HB07-1100 - Increase Funds For Older Colorado Cash Fund
- HB07-1106 - Elderly & Disabled Assistance Grants
- HB07-1136 –Alternative Medicaid Program For the Elderly
- HB07-1196 - Allow Smoking in Designated Area Assisted Living
- HB07-1211 - Create the Board of Commissioners of State & Veterans Nursing Homes
- HB07-1216 - Enhance Medicaid Funding

## **II. White House Conference on Aging**

Commission members representing Colorado as delegates to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) in Washington, DC included Barbara Martig, District 2, Mark Shelton, District 4, Stephen M. Bender, District 5, & Kathy Turley, At-large. Jeanette Hensley, Director, Aging & Adult Services (AAS) also attended as a Colorado delegate and Jamie Malone, AAS attended as a WHCOA volunteer. Colorado WHCOA delegates have continued to meet to develop a strategy for implementation of the Conference's top ten resolutions in the state of Colorado. Delegates shared recommendations and have requested that the commission take part in future projects with the delegation.

The final report from the conference was released on 9/11/06 and was presented to the President and Congress by June 2006. For a full listing of the 50 resolutions, visit [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov).

### **III. Eastern Plains Speak Out**

The Colorado Commission on Aging held their October meeting in conjunction with the Eastern Plains Speak Out which was held at the Cow Palace in Lamar, Colorado, October 5 and 6, 2006. After the daily seminars, a banquet was held with the keynote speaker Donna Rohde, Otero County Administrator & former Region 6 AAA director. Jerry Wathen, Commission member, performed dinner music before and after the banquet. A legislative forum was held and was moderated by CCOA commission member, Barbara Martig.

### **IV. Western Slope Legislative Round up**

September 18-19, 2006 in Grand Junction former State Representative Wayne Knox and Rich Mauro, Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst at the Denver Regional Council of Governments, reviewed State and Federal legislation which recently passed, and looked at that which likely lay ahead. Rich Mauro and Gayle Berry, at the time a lobbyist, discussed the role of the lobbyist. Doug Brown, for 23 years the director of the Colorado General Assembly's legal staff agency, the Office of Legislative Services, addressed the topic of "Why the Colorado General Assembly is Important to You". Jim Snyder, a field administrator for the Colorado Department of Human Services, joined Dave Norman, Director of the Northwest Colorado Area Agency on Aging, in a discussion of bureaucratic tangles. State Representative Bernie Buescher and former State Representative Gayle Berry addressed the role of the legislator in making government work for you.

As an important part of the day-and-a-half proceedings, a citizens' panel and a local government officials' panel each spoke of how they felt government could be made to work in the most effective ways for those they serve.

### **V. Centenarians Celebrations**

The Commission sponsors the annual Centenarian Celebration during the Older Americans Month in May. The Centenarian event is a promotional activity of the Commission on Aging to celebrate the lives of centenarians across the state, recognize their individual century of achievement, and focus the attention of all Coloradoans on the political and social issues of aging. This year's celebration "Through the Generations" was held at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose, Colorado on May 11<sup>th</sup> honoring 10 centenarians for their life long achievements.

Opening remarks were made by Sheila Casey, Vice Chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging followed by the National Anthem, sung by Peggy Stanley, Ms. Senior Colorado 2006. The guest speakers were Jan McCracken, Delta County Commissioner and Dr. Gene Dawson, Clinical Social Worker/Gerontologist who enlightened the audience with their perspectives on aging. Local story tellers Leal VanRiper, Carol McDermott and Deb Barr, Curator of the



Montrose County Historical Museum entertained the honored guests. The commencement ceremony was conducted by Jose Abeyta, Montrose City Councilman, with introductions and short biographies given by the Commissioners. Lee Bartlett, Director of Region 10 Area Agency on Aging and his team were instrumental in the planning of this annual celebration.

Life Care Centers of America and Volunteers of America - Laurel Manor Care Center were the co-sponsors with the Commission on Aging.



**Centenarian Mann Rawley with his great-great grandchild at the Centenarian Celebration in Montrose**

## **VI. Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture**

On November 9, 2006, the Commission sponsored the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Herb Homan. Herb grew up in the Bay Area of Northern California—after toddling at 6 months (he’s told) across the border from Arizona. He was working as a federal stenographer at an Army subsistence warehouse when he was drafted in WW II and served two years in Iceland as secretary to the Base Quartermaster. (Later he joined the Army Reserve for 25 years and retired as a Lt. Col. in Civil Affairs).

Herb attended the University of California at Berkeley under the GI Bill and graduated in 1948 with a degree in political science. Worked for Alameda County, the Naval Supply Depot in Oakland and the City of Hayward in statistical and personnel classification and management posts from 1948-1960. Herb came to Colorado in 1961 as Denver’s recruitment officer for 11 years. After gaining an MPA from the University of Colorado, he served as Personnel Director/Budget Officer and Asst. City Manager in Aurora 1972-78. He retired in 1985, after seven years with the federal government as an Administrative Officer in Interior’s local Office of Surface Mining. He’s been active with the Colorado Senior Lobby, the National Alliance of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), the Modernization of the Older Americans Act (MOAA), and the University Park Community Council—among other groups advocating for the public

good. His retirement hobbies have included gardening, biking, testifying at public hearings and writing articles about legislative and tax issues for several newsletters.

***In his own words:*** “My interest in legislative matters came after many years in “civil service.” I was ready for some *uncivil* service regarding policy decisions reached through uneasy compromises and seemingly short on sense. Can’t claim that my contributions have changed things much, but it’s been fun along the way. Since 1990, most of the efforts by seniors and similar advocacy groups have been directed at beating back and softening almost 15 years of travail in the wake of passage by voters of TABOR. This misbegotten measure, touted as restraining taxes and reducing the size of government, succeeded all too well. Life in Colorado was kept idling in neutral or--during the years since 2000--actually slipping backward. Finally, in 2005, a bare majority of citizens could see that TABOR was more harmful than good and approved Ref. C. The most satisfying retirement activity for me has been participating in that campaign for the five-year moratorium. Hopefully, by 2010, a more reasonable arrangement can be devised and adopted for funding government in the future. Achieving a proper balance between public and private enterprise is a never-ending challenge; both are essential to a good society.”

Other legislative changes he would like to see:

- 100% state-match funding by Colorado of Older American Act programs. If Utah and other states can do it, so should we. Baby-boomers joining our ranks should help.
- Tying more benefits, such as the property tax credit for low-income, to automatic cost-of-living adjustment instead of infrequent, grudging legislative action.
- A more open state budget process with better opportunity for public input.

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.



**Award winner Herb Homan receives congratulations from Betty Sweeney on behalf of Sen. Ken Salazar**

## **VII. Senior Day at the Capitol – 2007**

Senior Day at the Capitol was held on February 21, 2007. Attendance was excellent with standing room only by mid-morning. The featured speaker was Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. He discussed plans of the new administration and the importance of seniors to Colorado. Jeanette Hensley, Director of the State Office on Aging and Adult Services reported on the White House Conference on Aging delegation that continues to meet and plan for the aging of Colorado. Numerous state legislators spoke to the group on legislative issues and bills currently up for review. In addition, Speaker of the House, Rep. Andrew Romanoff, District 6 and State Senate President, Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald, District 6, also spoke to the group.

**Governor Ritter sporting his “Senior Power” button addresses a full house in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the 2007 Senior Day at the Capitol.**



## **VIII. Education**

The Commission continues efforts to learn perspectives on current public issues as well as state and federal programs that are 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. Educational programs presented this year to the Commissioners and the public include:

- Older Americans Act Reauthorization
- Colorado Department of Human Services – Regular updates including Adult Protective Services
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing – Medicaid & other updates
- Legislative priorities for 2007 presented by AARP, Colorado Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, Colorado Senior Lobby, DRCOG AAA, & the Older Americans Coalition/Alliance
- Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging – Issues updates
- Regions 1, 5 & 6 Area Agencies on Aging – Regional presentations
- Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Home update – Pinon Management

- Colorado Department of Local Affairs - State Demographer Presentation
- Medicare's Prescription Drug Card Update
- Federal budget updates
- Social Security
- Federal Congressional staffers report on federal aging issues
- Denver Mayor's Summit on Aging – Denver Office of Community Support
- AARP Elderwatch presentation
- WHCOA Delegates Follow-up Update
- Colorado's Old Age Pension – Colorado Center on Law & Policy

## **IX. Congressional Liaisons**

The Commission has open invitations for Colorado's congressional delegations to our regularly scheduled meetings. This year the Commission hosted staff presentations by staff representatives from Senators Salazar and Allard's office and Representative DeGette and Udall's offices.



The five Centenarians that attended the 2006 celebration pose for a group photo.

Contact Information for the Colorado Commission on Aging  
1575 Sherman Street; 10th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-2800  
Fax: (303) 866 2696  
E-mail: [Jamie.Malone@state.co.us](mailto:Jamie.Malone@state.co.us)  
[www.coloradoaging.com](http://www.coloradoaging.com)