



COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



Advocating for Seniors

Colorado Commission on Aging Annual Report

2014-2015

Report from the Chair, Ruth Long

This was a unique and challenging year for the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA); however, we were able to accomplish most of the goals we set for ourselves, as you will see in the following reports from committee chairs. In response to the changing demographics in Colorado and the impacts of those changes on older adults in the state, we were requested in July, 2014, by Reggie Bicha, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), to partner with the Department to develop a "framework on aging." An ad-hoc committee, headed by CCOA member Ben Moultrie, worked closely with Joscelyn Gay, Interim Associate Director, Office of Behavioral Health Interim Deputy Director for Operations, Office of Behavioral Health, to develop the Colorado Aging Framework (CAF) which was approved by the Commission at the end of July, 2015. We greatly appreciate the work of both Joscelyn and Ben in the completion of this project. In September, 2014, the CCOA attended the Western Slope Legislative Roundup in Grand Junction, where we were able to announce the upcoming development of the CAF. In addition, the Commissioners worked on a Strategic Plan for the CCOA, developing goals for the coming year. Our thanks to Scott Akers, of Mesa County Department of Human Services, who facilitated our planning session. One of our goals was to review and update the Commission's bylaws, a task which was completed by May, 2015, led by the Bylaws Committee, which was chaired by Alice Langley. We also set a goal to develop policies and procedures for the CCOA in order to provide guidance to Commissioners of the future on how the CCOA's tasks are accomplished. While several procedures have been developed, there are several in process and this will be an on-going goal. Every year, the Commission reviews programs that impact older adults in Colorado, and this year we chose three areas of concern: elder abuse, senior housing and mental health. Speakers at each of our meetings reflected these themes and included Elizabeth Borden, The Highlands Group, and Patrick Coyle, of the Department of Housing, on senior housing. Peggy Rogers, of the Adult Protective Services program at CDHS, updated us on the impacts of the new mandatory reporting law, and Kirk Wilson, Commander of the El Paso Police Department, informed us of how the law is affecting law enforcement. We also had presentations from Anne Meier, the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and Scott Bartlett, Lead Ombudsman for the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, who updated us on the state and local ombudsman programs that also work with elder abuse and residents' rights. Todd Coffey has been the administrator for the CCOA for the past three years in his role as interim Director of Aging and Adult Services. We would like to express our appreciation for all the support given to us by Todd, who continues to serve as the Director of the State Unit on Aging.



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

In January, 2015, we were joined by Mindy Kemp, who is the new Director of Aging and Adult Services, CDHS. We would like to welcome Mindy, who has assumed her responsibilities wholeheartedly and with whom we look forward to many years of leadership! During 2014-2015, we lost three members due to resignation, Bob Spuhler, CD3; Bobbie Sampson, CD6; and Jeanette Hensley, CD3. Sara Canfield, CD4, served out the term of her appointment. We were joined by Senator Nancy Todd, who is now our appointed representative from the State Senate. We want to thank all of our former members for their contributions to the Commission and we look forward to new members who will join us in 2015. I would very much like to thank the Chairs of the committees that did so much of the work during this year: Joe Urban, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee; Jeanette Hensley, Chair of the Public Policy Committee; Sara Canfield and Judy Hensley who both chaired the Community Relations Committee, as well as the chairs already named. Liaisons to other organizations included Jeffrey Moulton, who represented CCOA on the Aging Policy Advisory Committee (APAC); Christina Johnson, HCPF Adult Stakeholders; and Paulette St. James, Assisted Living Advisory Group. In addition, each of the Commissioners represented the CCOA in their respective communities, attending Area Agency on Aging meetings, as well as other events, to learn about the needs of seniors and convey concerns back to the Commission. I am appreciative of all of the efforts made by all members during this past year. In looking to the year ahead, I am excited to follow the progress of the HB 15-1033 Strategic Action Planning Group, as they begin their work, and look forward to reports from Ben Moultrie, who will represent the CCOA on this group. We will continue our goals of reviewing programs that impact aging services in Colorado and make recommendations as needed. We will continue to develop procedures that will guide Commissioners now and in the future as we work to meet our statutory obligations. We will also follow the use of the CAF in the development of aging policies that will impact services for older adults into the future.

~Ruth Long (CD-2), CCOA Chair

Report from the Chair of the Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee reviews state and federal legislation pertaining to aging policies and programs for the CCOA. The committee members were Jeanette Hensley, Chair, Ruth Long, Ben Moultrie and Christina Johnson. The Committee reviewed and followed 30 House bills and 25 Senate bills through the Colorado legislative session. They focused on House Bill 15-1033, concerning long-term strategies to address Colorado's aging population, creating a strategic action planning group to develop a comprehensive, long-term action plan for Colorado's aging population, and House Bill 15-1100 related to sales tax revenue for older Coloradans cash fund. In addition, the Committee followed the Federal Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act in Congress. The Commission requested the Governor to solicit support for the passage of the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act from the Colorado Congressional Delegates. Colorado saw the population of individuals 85 and older increase by nearly 45% from 2000 – 2010. The Older Americans Act helps fund many of the in-home services for this population. At the same time, House Bill 15-1100 was going through Colorado's legislative process to increase state funding to the same in-home services by \$4 million. This bill did not pass. House Bill 15-1033 did pass and was signed by the Governor, creating a task-force to address the issues related to the rapid increase of the older adult population and to develop a comprehensive strategic action plan on aging through 2030.

~Jeanette Hensley (CD3)

Senior Day at the Capitol April 2, 2015

The Commission helped with the planning and sponsoring of the Senior Day at the Capital, which took place on April 1, 2015, in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. The Commissioners assisted with welcoming, directing and locating seating for the seniors who attended this annual event. This event draws seniors from all over the state, with many coming from outside the Denver metro area. This year Ruth Yoshiko Yamauchi, 99, delivered the Pledge of Allegiance, then Governor Hickenlooper spoke to the seniors and took questions. In addition over 20 legislators addressed the many pieces of legislation that could have an impact on seniors' lives.

~Jeanette Hensley (CD3)

Report from the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee in 2014/2015 sought to refine the planning process to a level that would ensure a solid set of goals and at the same time set a foundation for the future. Emphasis has been put on ensuring that the commission's strategic planning process is a dynamic rather than static process that it adapts to changing needs. At the same time, many goals were accomplished this year in conjunction with the other subcommittees, as outlined in the chairperson's report, and an ambitious set of goals was put forward for the 2015/1016 year.

Much of the past year involved anticipation of the passage of House Bill 15-1033, as well as the Aging Framework that was developed by the State Unit on Aging in conjunction with the CCOA. It is hoped that these structures will set a course for future areas of involvement of the commission. Emphasis in planning for the upcoming year has been given to target areas that are at the forefront of ensuring that the Aging Framework and efforts of the House Bill 15-1033 Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging are as effective as possible. They include:

- *Supporting the state unit in looking at data collection methods to get the best possible information about service utilization
- *Continuing to support the Area Agencies on Aging in their efforts to reach as many needy seniors as possible
- *Reaching out to become more informed about housing issues and growing prevalence of homeless seniors
- *Continued monitoring of progress around the challenges of transportation and elder justice, in particular implementation of mandatory reporting guidelines
- *Exploring the variety of issues related to mental health and access to mental health services for seniors.

Future efforts will involve staying abreast of an ever changing set of service delivery systems as well as an evolving and growing senior population.

~Joe Urban (CD-5)

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**From the Chair of the
Community Relations Committee**

**The 21st Annual Allen Buckingham
Senior Leadership Legacy Award
November 15, 2013**

On November 21, 2014, the CCOA hosted the 21st annual Allen Buckingham Awards Luncheon. The Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Award is named for Allen M. A. Buckingham, who served on the CCOA from 1986 to 1998. It is given annually to an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to seniors in Colorado. The 2014 recipient of this honor was Joy Young, an RN who began her career in long-term care in 1981. She has served in a wide variety of nursing positions, and was nominated for her compassion for patients and their families and for her excellence in training staff to work with the elderly

**Centenarian Celebration
May 15, 2015**

On May 15, 2015, the CCOA honored three centenarians: Clarence Groves of Olney Springs, Lyman Edgar of Rocky Ford and Myrtle Miller of La Junta, and their families were honored at a luncheon in La Junta. A slideshow with photographs of the three centenarians and nine others who were unable to attend was presented during the event. Other centenarians included: Nellie Coberley and LaVerne Oliver of Lamar, Albert Dunki of Ordway, Leora Crecch of Holly, Louisa Copenhaver of Springfield, and Vesta Toller, Mary Martinez, Lucy Villani and Janet McKeown of Trinidad. Entertainment was provided by the Koshare Indian Dancers and by Ed Stafford, retired Otero Junior College faculty member, who spoke about southeastern Colorado history. Clara Lee Stafford and Kathy Miller played old-time piano hits. Each centenarian was presented with a certificate signed by Governor John Hickenlooper.
~Judy Hensley (CD4)

CCOA Meeting Schedule

July 23-24, 2015 Parker
September 21-22, 2015 Denver
November 19-20, 2015 Littleton
January 28-29, 2016 Denver
March 29-30, 2016 Denver
May 19-20, 2016 Durango
July 21-22, 2016 Parker

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*** For more information on the Colorado Commission on Aging, please visit our website: coloradoaging.com and click on CCOA on the left-hand side of the page.