

COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



Advocating for Seniors

# Annual Report

2015 - 2016



## Mission Statement

The Colorado Commission on Aging was established in 1964 to inform and advise decision makers and to advocate for the quality of life of all seniors.



**COLORADO**  
Office of Community  
Access & Independence

Division of Aging & Adult Services



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## Report from the Chair



At its annual meeting in July, 2015, the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) approved the Colorado Aging Framework, finalizing a project that we had been working on for many months in partnership with the Colorado Department

of Human Services. It also began CCOA's relationship with the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA), which was formed by legislation in 2015 that called for a group to develop a strategic plan for aging for the State of Colorado. CCOA member Ben Moultrie represented the Commission on the SAPGA, and Mindy Kemp, CCOA Director, served on the committee as well; both kept Commission members informed regarding the progress of the Planning Group throughout the year. The Aging Framework was used by SAPGA as one of the many source documents it relied on for background information.

The CCOA set goals of its own for the year (see Strategic Planning report) that included reviewing behavioral health programs for older adults in Colorado, and consequently, many excellent presentations came before us throughout the year, informing us about the behavioral health needs of seniors as well as the services provided in our state. While it was clear that this is an issue of huge concern, the Commission did not to make recommendations for improvement at this time. We continued to develop our own written procedures and updated our bylaws during the year as well.

During the 2015-2016 year, the following members completed their terms: Alice Langley, CD-1, 2008-2016; Judy Hensley, CD-4, 2012-2016; and

Dar Vriesman, CD-7, 2012-2016. We are grateful to each of them for sharing their wisdom, energy and insights during their tenures. Joining us during this year were Debra Herrera, CD-3, Ignacio; Debra Bailey, CD-3, Grand Junction; Julie Cozad, CD-4, Milliken; Steve Grund, CD-6, Littleton; and Representative Jessie Danielson, Colorado House of Representatives. We have appreciated their new perspectives and ideas.

I would like to thank the Chairs of our committees during this past year: Joe Urban, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee; Judy Hensley and Jody Barker, Co-chairs of the Community Relations Committee; and Christina Johnson, Chair of the Public Policy Committee. The committees really do much of the work of the Commission, especially the Community Relations Committee which puts on the wonderful events of which we are so proud. The Executive Committee was made up of Ruth Long, Chair; Joe Urban, Vice-Chair; Christina Johnson, Public Policy Chair. Liaisons to other groups included: Ben Moultrie, SAPGA; Joe Urban, Aging Policy Advisory Committee (APAC); Paulette St. James, Assisted Living Residence Committee (ALRC); and Christina Johnson, Health Care Policy and Financing Advisory Group (HCPFAG).

Finally, we are very grateful for the staff support we receive from Mindy Kemp, Director of Aging and Adult Services and Tara Franck, Office Manager.

—Ruth Long, Chair 2013-2016

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## Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) Report

House Bill 15-1033 created the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging in Colorado. The Planning Group is charged with examining the impact of the aging demographic shift on the economy, workforce, businesses, market based products and services; state and local revenue budgets and fiscal policies; Medicaid and other safety-net programs and the collateral impact on other non-related state programs; family caregiving and public and private options for long-term care, services and support;

federal entitlement reforms; and transportation services and infrastructure. Ben Moultrie of the CCOA and Mindy Kemp, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services, are both members of the 23 member Planning Group. The Planning Group met bi-monthly starting in August 2015. The Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging is required to provide a report to the General Assembly by November 30, 2016.

—Mindy Kemp

[www.colorado.gov/agingstrategy](http://www.colorado.gov/agingstrategy)



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## Public Policy Committee

For the 2016 Colorado Legislative session, the Public Policy Committee reviewed 28 House and 13 Senate bills at the Colorado State Legislature that had a reference to issues around aging. The committee members were Chair Christina Johnson, Ruth Long, Ben Moultrie, Debra Bailey and Steve Grund. The committee reviewed all of the bills and recommended that the full Commission support the following:

- HB1027—by Representative Danielson—a bill allowing victims of abuse to give their statements by remote means

The CCOA ultimately decided not to pursue supporting these bills in a formal way:

- HB1097—Regarding permits on Medicaid Transportation Providers
- HB1277—extended the time frame for appeals on Medicaid benefits
- SB27—allowed for Medicaid options for prescription drugs by mail
- SB147—Creating Colorado suicide prevention plan.

—Christina Johnson, Public Policy Committee Chair

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## Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee in 2015/2016 concentrated their efforts primarily on short term goals that would support the work of the Commission and the State Unit on Aging. Most goals were accomplished during the fiscal year including: initiation of a process to develop a CCOA policy book, initiation of a communications liaison for the Commission and active participation by Commission members in the state strategic planning process.

The target areas identified for the Commission to focus their efforts in 2016/2017 include: affordable housing for seniors, support for the Colorado communities engaged in Age Friendly initiatives and caregiver respite programs. Much of the work for 2016/2017 anticipates supporting the completion of the report from the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging, and how the Commission on Aging might support the goals that come out of that process.

—Joe Urban, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

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## Senior Day at the Capitol

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 was the 35th Anniversary of Senior Day at The Capitol, hosted by the Colorado Senior Lobby. Headlined by Governor Hickenlooper, both the morning session at the Supreme Court Chambers and the afternoon luncheon and work session were well attended. CCOA Commissioners served their traditional roles as ushers and guides; ensuring the audience of more than 200 older adults got the most out of the day's festivities. This was the first year the program was live-streamed to Grand Junction and Aurora.

—Steve Grund

Right: Julie Cozad, CCOA member and Mindy Kemp, Director of Aging and Adult Services



Above: Governor John Hickenlooper speaks to hundreds of attendees at the 35th Annual Senior Day at the Capitol in March 2016.



## Allen Buckingham Awards

On November 20, 2015, the CCOA hosted the 22nd 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 2015 recipient of this honor was Virdell Miller, a valued

employee of the Volunteers of America (VOA) for 38 years. Ms. Miller currently holds the position of VOA Healthy Aging Department supervisor and Gilpin and Clear Creek transportation staff. The event was held at the Littleton Hampton Inn & Suites in conjunction with the full November CCOA meeting.

—Jody Barker, Community Relations Committee

## Centenarian Celebration

More than 150 people attended the Colorado Centenarian Celebration in Durango, May 20, 2016. Ten Centenarians were honored at an event hosted

by the Colorado Commission on Aging. Over 50 Centenarians were honored throughout the state.



Members of the Colorado Commission on Aging had the opportunity to honor 10 Colorado Centenarians in May 2016 in Durango, CO at the Annual Centenarian celebration.

## CCOA Membership List 2016-2017 with Contact Information and Congressional Districts

Paulette St. James, CD-1	303-919-1641	Jody A. Barker, Vice Chair, CD-5	719-955-3401
Julie Mowry, CD-1	303-870-0302	Steve Grund, PP Chair, CD-6	720-384-3790
Ruth Long, Past Chair, CD-2	970-443-5844	Ben Moultrie, CD-6	303-641-2424
Jeffrey D. Moulton, CD-2	303-579-3525	Jane Barnes, CD-7	720-979-6623
Debra Herrera, CD-3	970-553-0976	Christina Johnson, CD-7	303-988-1437
Debra Bailey, CD-3	970-248-1772	Celestino Santistevan, At-Large	719-469-5515
Connie Ring, CD-4	719-523-6937	State Senator Nancy Todd	303-866-3432
Julie Cozad, CD-4	970-515-2424	State Representative Jessie Danielson	303-866-5522
Joe Urban, Chair, CD-5	719-271-5873		

## State Staff

### Aging & Adult Services

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303-866-2800, fax 303-866-2696  
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### Mindy Kemp, Director

303-866-4927 | [mindy.kemp@state.co.us](mailto:mindy.kemp@state.co.us)

### Tara Franck, Administration

303-866-5288 | [tara.franck@state.co.us](mailto:tara.franck@state.co.us)

## CCOA Meeting Schedule

October 6-7, 2016	Burlington
November 17-18, 2016	Louisville
January 26-27, 2017	Denver
March 14-15, 2017	Denver
May 18-19, 2017	Weld County
July 20-21, 2017	Parker