

COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



Advocating for Seniors

Annual Report

2016 - 2017



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:



The 2016-2017 Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) year was an exciting one, with a strong focus on collaboration and support for the many programs at work for seniors in the state. The CCOA tackled many current challenges facing seniors, some of them long standing

such as affordable housing and transportation and some that are becoming more acute like mental illness and behavioral health, all of this under the umbrella of a very tight state budget.

The CCOA was afforded the opportunity to hear about some outstanding programs that are developing across the state and how we might support them, like the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging at the University of Denver. Visits with local Area Agency on Aging directors across the state offered insights into the challenges of rapidly increasing senior populations. A joint meeting of the CCOA and Area Agency on Aging directors in January gave us the unique opportunity to put the best ideas of each group forward and find ways to enhance each other's effectiveness. One of the highlights of the year was the release of the report from the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA). Aside from having CCOA members filling roles on SAPGA, the CCOA had actively

supported its work, and the recent SAPGA report drew significantly from the Colorado Aging Framework developed two years ago by the CCOA and Colorado Department of Human Services.

Meetings in Burlington, Lafayette and Greeley gave us the opportunity to see the challenges of rural seniors as well as those in rapidly growing areas. We also saw incredible fortitude as we honored several centenarians in Greeley in May. The CCOA also continued its long standing tradition of having CCOA commissioners present certificates of recognition to residents of the commissioner's home district as they reach 100 years of age.

In the upcoming year, the CCOA will focus on continuing its collaboration with state agencies and organizations that serve older adults and capturing the interests, needs and feedback from older adults across the state.

Collaboration, mutual support and community education continue to be essential elements of the work that the CCOA does advocating for the members of the third fastest growing senior population in the country.

—Joe Urban, Chairman 2017-2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Urban". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Colorado Commission on Aging Commission members honored ten Colorado centenarians at the annual Centenarian Celebration held in Greeley, Colorado on May 19, 2017.

Colorado Commission on Aging Commissioners Christina Johnson and Representative Jessie Danielson attend the bill signing for House Bill 17-1253 which protects seniors from financial abuse. Representative Danielson sponsored the bill and Christina Johnson testified at the bill hearing. The CCOA supported both HB 17-1253 and HB 17-1284, which were both passed into law during the 2017 Legislative session.



Allen Buckingham Awards

The Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Award Ceremony was held November 17, 2017 at the Louisville Recreation Center in Louisville, Colorado. This recognition is presented annually to an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to seniors in Colorado. This year, the award was presented to Marlene Miller, Lead Ombudsman for the NE Colorado Area Agency on Aging.



Jody Barker, Vice Chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging, CD-5, presents the 23rd Annual Allen Buckingham Award to 2016 recipient Marlene Miller at the awards ceremony held in Louisville, Colorado

Sherry Leach, Director of the Boulder Area Agency on Aging was the Keynote Speaker and stated, “Our mission is to continue to do work to support older adults, disabled and our veterans. Marlene learned

at a young age the value of caregiving as both of her parents had medical issues. Marlene started her career in the aging field in 1991 with the Area Agency on Aging. For over 25 years, she has been Certified Ombudsman and Senior Service Coordinator.”

After Marlene was presented with the award she stated, “My work has brought me great joy in knowing the difference I have made in the lives of elders and their families.”

About the Annual Award: Allen Buckingham served on the Colorado Commission on Aging from 1986 to 1998. The Commission’s annual Senior Legacy Award was awarded posthumously to Allen in December 1998 and the event was renamed in his honor. Allen served on the national AARP Board of Directors, as regional director of the Region VIII U.S. Administration on Aging, and held other key positions during his career. 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.

Colorado Commission on Aging recognizes Colorado Centenarians



Fern Steele

In May, the Colorado Commission on Aging hosted the annual Centenarian Celebration in Greeley. This event honors Centenarians throughout the state through a recognition luncheon, a signed certificate from the Governor and introductions by each commission member. This year, ten Centenarians and their

families from throughout northern Colorado were recognized at the annual luncheon.

The Commission is charged with advising decision makers on a variety of topics affecting older adults and to advocate for the quality of life of all seniors throughout the state of Colorado.

One of the Centenarian honorees was Fern Steele. She turned 100 on April 17, 2017. Born in a tiny town in South Dakota, her father was a farmer and Fern and her six brothers and sisters worked on their family farm.

Fern and her numerous descendants live in Northern Colorado. She lives alone in her house without assistance and gave up driving at age 97.

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Senior Day at the Capitol

Hundreds of Colorado residents, most of them seniors, attended the 36th Annual Senior Day at the Capitol on March 15, 2017.

Gov. John Hickenlooper said to a standing room-only crowd in the Supreme Court Chambers: “Our state of Colorado population aged 65-plus is slated to grow by 68 percent by the year 2030.”

The annual Senior Day at the Capitol brings together older adults, senior leaders, elected officials, senior lobby members, and CDHS’s Aging and Adult Services Division and Colorado Commission on Aging to talk about issues that affect seniors. The governor, lieutenant governor and legislative speakers discussed critical issues facing seniors, including health care, Colorado’s aging population, retirement planning and available resources.

“I serve on the Colorado Commission on Aging and it is great to see such passionate individuals here,” said Rep. Jessie Danielson, who represents District 24, located within Jefferson County. “We are working on important pieces of legislation that will create a positive impact on seniors throughout the state of Colorado.”



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CCOA Members and Contact Information

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| Julie Cozad , CD-4 | (970) 515-2424 | Senator Nancy Todd | (303) 866-3432 |
| Joe Urban , Chair, CD-5 | (719) 271-5873 | Representative Jessie Danielson | (303) 866-5522 |

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State Staff

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CCOA Meeting Schedule

November 16-17, 2017 Brighton
January 18-19, 2018 Denver
March 20-21, 2018 Denver
May 17-18, 2018. Alamosa
July 19-20, 2018. Parker