

COLORADO CENTER FOR AGING

2021-22 Advocacy Efforts

First Draft (7-8-21)

The table below outlines issues of interest and concern to CCA that have carried over from the past year and issues that have arisen since the 2020-21 advocacy plan was developed.

At its July 12 meeting, the CCA Advocacy Committee will prioritize these issues, form subgroups to work on the issues and assign participants (ask for volunteers) and coordinators for each subgroup. The subgroups will meet in between advocacy meetings to identify the issues associated with each priority issue, then to develop conceptual solutions, and finally specific policy ideas that will help implement the solutions. These will be considered by the Advocacy Committee at subsequent meetings.

Subject Area	Policy Issue	Participants	Description
Health Care	Behavioral Health/ARPA	Francette Orsi	Follow up on HB21-1097, which establishes a behavioral health administration. Follow up on SB 21-137, including which establishes an interim task force to determine how to spend \$550 million in ARPA funds.
Health Care	Geriatric Health Care Providers		Follow up on SB 21-158. Need to obtain funding continuation and provider expansion.
Health Care	Adult Protection	Sharon Courtney	Follow up on HB 1123, which concerns the CAPS check for substantiated cases of mistreatment of an at-risk adult, and SB 21-118, which creates an alternative response pilot program for county departments of human services to address a report of mistreatment of an at-risk adult.
Health Care	Pain Treatment		Follow up on 2021 opioid bills.
Housing	Housing Security/ARPA	Rich Mauro	Follow up on HB 21-1329, which establishes an interim task force to determine how to make investments in housing to assist persons disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency facing housing insecurity. Consider participation in State Housing Coalition. Address needs for home modification/repair.
Housing	Tax Issues		Senior Property Tax Exemption Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate (PTC Rebate) – expansion and improved outreach
Housing	Congregant Care Facilities	Gail Meehan Linda Garcia	The pandemic has raised legislative and regulatory issues with long-term care, particularly skilled nursing facilities and assisted living residences. Legislators are interested in increasing regulations, resident rights, and the number of Ombudsmen.

Housing	Rental Landlord/Tenant		Follow up on SB 21-173, which improved tenant rights related to residential rental agreements, and SB 21-1123, which provides protections for residential tenants related to actions by landlords. Consider participation in the Renters Roundtable. Also consider landlord perspectives. Investigate use of public land and buildings for affordable housing, house sharing, mobile home parks and homeless housing.
Housing	Homeowners Associations		Colorado has around 60 developments of 55+ housing, all in HOA arrangements. Legislation passed las session (HB21-1229) was significantly water down. Many residents deeply concerned about lack of transparency; being bullied by the boards, poor management of properties and finances. No effective dispute resolution process in place. Should we consider action in the next session?
Services/Supports	Caregiving		Consider recommendations from Bell Policy survey.
Services/Supports	Food/Nutrition		Address persistent food shortages for certain demographic/economic groups and the barriers to access. Work with AAAs, Hunger Free Colorado and others.
Workforce	Age Discrimination/ Training	Meleaha Glapion	Follow up on SB 21-176, which provides protections for Colorado workers against discriminatory employment practices, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation, specifically age discrimination penalties in employment, remove graduation dates from job applications, discrimination cases are difficult to prove HB 21-1264, which funds workforce development activities to increase the skills
Transportation	Dialysis		Follow up on SB 21-187, which would have established a program to pay for transportation to dialysis treatments.
Transportation	NEMT		Non-emergency medical transportation; including transportation voucher programs, statewide coordination, and increasing funding.
Ageism			Make sure older adults are considered in all legislation and regulations.
Financial Security			Follow up on SB 21-148, which created the Office of Financial Empowerment
Broadband			Follow up on HB 21-1109, 1289, SB 21-060, 072, and 091.
State Aging Strategic Planning & Investments		Rich Mauro	Sustainability of AAA funding Future of Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging Future of Senior Advisor on Aging position in the Governor's Office