

## Regional Perspectives Across our State in Aging Transcript 5-26-2021

Please stand by for realtime captions.

Welcome everyone and we are about three or four minutes before we get started and we are letting people in from the waiting room and hold tight and we will get started in just a couple of minutes and we are thrilled you are here with us today.

[Captioner Standing By]

We will give this about another minute and we will get started. Welcome everyone we are letting everyone in so we will get started in about one or two minute.

[Captioner Standing By]

We are recording now. Do you want to go ahead and get started, Bob and we will let the others trickle in. Sure. I will.

Thank you everyone and welcome once again to the first annual Coloradoans month, our version of older American's month which happens every May and every year there is a theme and this is community of strength. This is the third and final presentation in this series. Our team composed of Colorado Senior Lobby and Colorado Center for Aging and Changing the Narrative AARP Colorado and Lifelong Colorado and Dr. Cogg is exploring with you the common interests and strengths of all Coloradans in particular the 2 million of us over the age of 50. Speaking for myself age 50 faded into the review sometime ago, but oh well. The primary purpose of this three webinar series is to inform and encourage each of you to engage with us and raise our voices and be really heard what our policymakers at every level of government and to create new communities of strength. In today's session, we will hear from people around the state about what they are doing on the subject of aging in their communities. We will also present our first annual public service awards to acknowledge a few folks within state government have shown leadership working to improve the lives of older Coloradans. You have seen the revolving PowerPoint with our sponsors and we thank each of them for their support in Relay Colorado, and of age, Colorado University multidiscipline a center on aging and Prime Time News. I will now hand you off once again to Jodi Waterhouse CSL and CSA, CCA board member and active volunteer who is also has a very very, very busy day job promoting better aging and better and across the CU campus complex so take it away, Jodi.

Thank you so much and thank you to all of you for being with us for a final session webinar session during Older Coloradans Month and the sessions have been terrific and we launched with our first webinar two weeks ago and really diving deep into ageism and ageism in the workforce and ageism in healthcare and how to have a robust discussion which took us to last week's discussion talking about age friendly communities across the state and for communities that are interested in becoming a friendly communities help us to do that and we won't roll that into want today for the culmination webinar of the month, terrific month of celebrating older Coloradans and it is protective what is happening across the state from key representative and from the geographical areas they can give us some insight and what is working and hopefully insight what is not and as a state we need to work on in the can leaders in the aging sector and what we need to focus on for the coming year and a huge thank you to all of our panelists today and share some insights about the work they are all doing in their community. This is very much a dialogue between our panelists in the zoom audience and I have some host questions, but please use the chat room and put your questions there and we will make sure the panelists address those. Today's format for the panel presentation is slightly different in that we have prerecorded for sessions or panel presentations and we're going to see those first and we then have three panelists who are with us in person who also are going to present or give an overview of what is going on in their communities and then invite all of the panelists, the ones that participated in the recorded sessions as well as the ones here in person with us to then dialogue with all of you and so that will be the format for about the next hour and 15 minutes or so and following the panel presentation as Bob

mentioned we will move into the award ceremony. And so with that, I would like to first introduce the Four panelists are pre-recorded the session for you and what I will do after we watch those is introduce the three panelists who will present in person today. In the first recording to Ballou's board, Sue Beaulieu is the age community and unfortunately she cannot be with us today however Laura MacLeod who is Executive Director of the partnership for age friendly communities will be here as one of our panelists and the second is John Rodwick from [Indiscernible] and he is a former dean in higher education and a psychologist and a chair on the livability community commission for city and AR or AARP volunteer informally the County Chair for area agency on aging and welcome, John and Bob Kirkpatrick is a retiree and very concerned about aging issues and his community and he was a regional vice president for 33 years for the American Heart Association dealing with and managing large groups of employees and training them to generate income to support American Heart Association so very important and we love the organization and after he retired he did not really retire or he really did but he's on his second career as a fundraiser which he did fundraising for nearly 10 years for the FEMA counting on aging in Tucson and then six years ago relocated to this wonderful state and represents Colorado Springs today where he was asked to be vice-chairman of a new commission being formed in the city of Colorado Springs. Thank you so much Bob for being here and great to have you and finally Eden Bailey who is with the city of Boulder and we represent Boulder County today and she is the Adult Services manager there at that office.

With that, Bob Brocker, we have a lot of Bob's us if you don't munching up the videos and we will watch those and come back for a little more discussion.

[ Pause ]

Can you hear this okay?

I do not hear anything.

I just opted to see if you could hear it.

I need to do something.

Okay there is a few people coming in still so it's a good time to invite them back in.

[ Pause ]

If this helps, this is Lyle when you share the video there is a box to also share the audio.

Yes I normally find that but I do not see it.

The checkbox only appears when you click on the share screen button and look in the lower left-hand corner okay.

Okay. Here we go. Will try this again.

[Video playing - no audio accessible]

We are not receiving any audio.

Okay. Let me try this again.

Bob sometime it may be under the video icon.

Yes. But it is not.

I just did this the other day, here it is, I got it, okay here we [Video playing]go.

Younger people working in the areas that we are exploring and we also have this wonderful thing that we do which is called self corrected volunteer teams and we have a problem that needs to be solved we put together a group of mostly older adults who have the skill to solve that problem and it is a short term volunteer opportunity and you really get to contribute to solving a specific problem and you're not signing up for the rest of your life [ laughter ].

One of the things that we developed was we wanted to bring a home shirt County and come home shirt County so we researched what was in the county and the rest of the word and what was working and what

was not and we try to incubate program so we could move on in developing new programs and we then researched and worked with other nonprofits in the community to find someone who would house that a neighbor to neighbor which is a housing group it is on hold during COVID but I really hope and if they great program we developed for the county.

Everything we do is a collective effort and another program we started was senior access points, which is a single entry point to learn about resources within the county and that's actually being taken over by extensions and spread throughout the state but it is, he started by people saying no one really knows exactly where to go and how to find resources we need and again it was a self-directed volunteer team that came together and to figure out how to make it happen and work with partners within the communities to make that happen.

Really other programs the partnership from a very friendly communities are conversations and we have facilitated conversations working in concert with the center for public at Colorado State University and they pick a topic and it is high school students an older adult and talking in groups of five or eight around a table about a topic and it has been really wonderful because some of the things that address high school students address older adults and social isolation, a feeling of loneliness, and they learn and to learn from each other and it has been an exciting project.

Colorado AARP has asked us any number of conferences and one-on-one conversations to share our model particularly self-directed volunteer teams and collaborative nature of convening people throughout the county to solve a problem and so we are sharing it with other communities to the extent that we can and the capacity is always an issue. The thing I think that is important and Larimer and most community as we have a lot of great services and people who are really doing wonderful work in the area [ Indiscernible - background noise ] [ music ]

I am Nancy Weathers along with Buddy Cardwell I am part of a two-person resource group and the health and wellness committee looking into palliative and hospice care and on behalf of the health and wellness committee this overview is being presented by John Evans a longtime practitioner and expert on the topic and we hope --

I do not have any idea what that was but I am sorry.

It is actually being taken over by extension and being spread throughout the state and sell high school students and older adults talking in groups of about five or eight around the table about a topic and it has been really wonderful because some of the things that address high school students also address older adults and social isolation and a feeling of loneliness and they, people learn from each other and it's been a very exciting project.

Colorado AARP has asked us at a number of conferences and in one-on-one conversations to share our model, particularly the self directed volunteer teams and collaborative nature of convening people throughout the county to solve a problem and so we are sharing it with other communities to the extent that we can and the capacity is always an issue. The thing I think that is important in Larimer in most communities we have a lot of great services and people who are really doing wonderful work in the area of aging but sometimes there are gaps and there is overlap this does not need to be overlap and it is really important to bring everyone to the table and figure out what the next step is.

We are not trying to be the solution, we are trying to bring together the people who have the solutions, and I think we are very successful at that and we find an issue and find who is working on the issue and how we can work together rather than duplicating a lot of efforts.

Okay.

[Video playing] We are fortunate in Colorado Springs you have a City Council support and I think that's important and they can address the legislative and issues plus the valuable leadership of various communication like YMCA and area agency on aging and there is a counsel on neighbors and organizations and [Indiscernible] , that is a grassroots organizations that provide or forms transportation for individuals in

the regular on paste and they provide medical and programs and home delivery mills and so forth based on income.

We are having a lot of growth in Colorado Springs and it's in the outskirts of the city and there is limited transportation and there is a limited ways for older adults to involve themselves in activities and social activities and other events and very minimal generational interaction so we are still having a long way to go and are we [Indiscernible] ? Maybe but we have a way to go yet .

We have a lot of opportunities for seniors to get involved when the boards, and even small things that are still important and working with Humane Society and walking a dog or working on hiking trails or cleaning up roads, serving a local lunch, I think those are all important but we don't have a centralized volunteer center to help people find exactly where they can find an opportunity to work and I think we need to do that also.

I want to go back to 2015 in Colorado Springs, they committed to pursuing an age friendly city designation through AARP. Work began with the city and another committee was formed called aging collaborative and it resulted in a strategic land for aging for the city and the plan will be very important to us from now and the future I think and it's an interesting factor and it came out of many things well many things came out of the plan but in the millenniums for example they said as well as older adults they both want to grow up and grow old in Colorado Springs and they want to live in the city that has great outdoor spaces and quality healthcare and good transportation and housing that fits their lifestyles and that was important, but they really made a plan to help us. We have some excellent senior community centers and complexes in the community but they are awfully expensive for older adults that are especially on a fixed income and it is really hard for a person to be able to afford four or \$5000 a month to go to one of these beautiful senior complexes and the plan is also commonly found out what people really want to do is stay independent and stay in their home as long as they could and they just had a deep desire to maintain that independence. I know we are discussing local communities and one thing we cannot ignore is prohibited high cost of long-term care insurance and someday maybe the federal government may come out and consider making it part of the Medicare plan but to provide homecare for older adults that remain independent and be with their loved ones rather than in a senior community or nursing home.

Colorado Springs is the second largest city in Colorado and we anticipate a lot more older adults in the future and right now we have about 50,000 people over 65 years old and it is not going to be too many years from now we will have many more and so we have to address aging in our society.

[ Pause ] [Video playing]

For many people who are not familiar with a Western slope it is just 12 miles from the Utah border and about five or six miles away from Grand Junction and because we are a Valley community, which includes Grand Junction and Palisade we have a lot of resources available and a lot of activities go on with regard to the senior population primarily because a lot of retirees choose to live in the Valley because the weather is temperate and the medical services are really outstanding and we have three hospitals in this particular Valley and besides all of the retail stores and other services through Mesa County, we are really in an optimal location.

One of the biggest examples at this point was the building of the community center and which a group of seniors spent almost 10 years collecting beer cans and soda cans or whatever and we were able to make a donation close to \$100,000 toward that effort, almost 10 years ago. As a result, we actually have a senior center within the community center. This has been a real boom for the community because the seniors are also able to have their lunch meals provided by Mills on wills and it gives them an opportunity to socialize and you have a variety of programs that serve their needs. Jackie Foster is a remarkable individual who engages continuously with seniors and even during the pandemic she sponsored weekly senior hikes and continues to do so both twice a week and one is an easy walk in the other is more strenuous that she does for the 50+ population.

The city also created a livability commission. I serve as chairman of that commission in which we are taking a look at five dimensions of a livable community in the livable community projects, it was authorizing and

designated by AARP as one of their 500+ communities in the United States. The commission is composed of all ages ranging from high school to college to business people to professionals and to retard individuals and in addition to that we also sent 10 applications for community challenge grants through AARP and this too was a benefit. We will find out very shortly what the outcome of the application is, but we are looking at ways of improving safety within our community both at the transportation level and trying to improve overall communications and also make sure seniors are very much aware of the vaccination program for COVID as well as other health opportunities that will keep them healthy and active within our community.

What is very interesting, AARP has a membership of well over 85,000 on the Western slope and we are well represented within Colorado and it exceeds over 280,000 and the largest lobby in the United States and we are making our case to the Congress and anyone else who was willing to listen on issues related on senior issues whether it happens to deal with education or nursing homes or healthcare, Social Security, Medicare, and the whole livable community project, we are trying to attract Grand Junction and Delta and Montrose and rifle and Meeker and other rural communities.

I think we have a very robust senior community very well educated and we contribute to the community as much as we possibly can into other organizations and a variety of organizations and we are able to serve on city commissions as needed in order to give input and make our community a better place to live. Thank you very much.

We went from a senior center and Senior services to older adult services and age will center and the focus is very much aging well and that is part of the Changing the Narrative of ageism and so we looked to other people in our community or nationwide who are experts where we can learn and where we can put those pieces around racial equity and ageism and the intersection of those two and to our initiatives and programs and planning.

We have heard the sentence before that a livable community is as comfortable for an 80-year-old as an eight-year-old and we really do want to make sure that is true for us. We really believe older adults and future older adults deserve a livable community.

Another initiative we are part of is the countywide coalition called elder justice coalition and it is comprised of County and municipal governments and nonprofit organizations that provide human services primarily to older adults and recently they elder justice coalition received a grant from Department of Justice the office on violence against women and this grant is primarily designed for training and education for first responders and judges and prosecutors and service providers to raise awareness and work towards ending elder abuse and as we know with aging populations we have more and more older adults and this will become more of an issue and it's a multiyear grant and we are also looking to our service providers and older adults to give input on the grant how we are going forward and I think any community interested in addressing elder abuse can look at some of the grants out there to help raise awareness and do some training and so people are aware of the implications of abuse for adults and later life.

We do have a volunteer program with older adult services I would like to see grow. I have looked at other communities and I think I would like to combine a little bit of pieces of different communities. What we have right now is called bill payer and organizing program and so we have volunteers that supervised by one of our case managers and they are are background screened and trained and they help older adults get organized with paperwork and details and bill paying and we, what we never want to see is in older adults getting a notice a utility will be turned off or the landlord wants to know where the rent is because of an organizational issue and we don't want those things to fall through the cracks and that is primarily what this program does and it is also the pandemic, it has really drawn attention to the digital divide and as we see more and more companies, especially credit card companies and doctors offices, utility companies going paperless, the need to connect to some even access your built let alone pay your bill requires a certain amount of connectivity and so one of the things that we did mid-2020, we had Coronavirus relief fund dollars and we used that to buy chrome books and hotspots and put those in the community in the hands of older adults and we partnered with other agencies how to set this up and ongoing tech support and it will be

helpful with our BPOP program but also what I would like to see is that grow and turn into a combination of a greater tech volunteer tech support where there's not just peer mentors but also intergenerational mentors and we did have a couple of ongoing tech classes and high school students as they mentors and those relationships developed and they were great in both sides of the equation had value to it and benefited and we would like to see our bill payer and organizing program, it has been obviously a little quiet during the pandemic but as we ramp back up we expect to see that really start up and would like to see that grow and develop.

Community living, it is creating a safe and secure environment where people feel able to engage both socially and civic way and we think older adults have a lot to offer and want to make sure our community really allows them to feel safe and access to those things and we are still in the recommendation process and working through those and about to take our internal recommendation to some of our community stakeholders and start that process of submitting to Dr. Kolb who will submit to the state and hopefully by the end of the year city of Boulder will be a Lifelong Colorado city.

Jodi.

Thank you so much to the panelist who took time out of their busy schedule to prerecord that and they age gave us wonderful examples of programs, projects, initiatives that are happening in their communities and I hope that spurs a little bit of thinking on your behalf and while you're doing that, put into the chat if you want any of them to dive deeper into male maybe a particular program or project or initiative got set up and the purpose today is to learn from each other and take back to our communities to try and build age friendly communities across the state and so be thinking of that while we move into now the next three panelist discussions and we will open when it wide for question and answer. It is my privilege now to introduce the next three speakers who are here with us and they are and again I will read about their bios and have each of them present and we will move into questions and first of all [Indiscernible] is VP of development at United Way and his portfolio includes communication foundation large designated gift fundraising and connecting well initiative and hope we learn more about that in the presentation which include people connecting to services and nonprofits by increasing their capacity and so thank you Lyle for being here and next is Janet also from Wells County and Janet Bedingfield is the executive director of 60+ ride and Janice her role as varied as we all wear many different hats and her role includes management and human resources and communications and marketing and publicity and outreach in finance and she also wears a fundraising and development have like Lyle and an advocacy hat and thank you Janet very much for being here as well. The third finalist or panelist is going to be Veronica Mays and she is the area agency on aging director for region 14 and covering how do you say that, I'm showing my Southern California, Veronica you can help me with that when you get on and so under the agency of south-central Council of government, her role and responsibility in that particular area of the state is to manage the senior program advocate for seniors and address the needs of communities or a community for the seniors in her community and here's a fun fact which I don't know that you all know in her region has the state's highest percentage of senior population over the age of 60 and although they are the smallest AAA in the state, we will have Veronica talk a little more about that as well and so while and Janet I will bring you up first so you can share with us a little what is going on at Wells County.

Would you like us to jump in or rather ask us questions?

Please if you don't mind sharing with us and then Lyle can go next and that would be great.

Thank you. I want to start by saying volunteerism and will County has a long and robust history and it is just the culture here and as a part of that we have a vibrant group or culture of 60 and older volunteers and I do see that and almost everyone I know who is capable and for example Meals on Wheels I know a lot of their boards and volunteers and my own, to give you some back and what we do is offer transportation to residents regardless of income 60 or older and as most of you know or maybe slightly aware that is 4017 square miles so a lot of variety but I have a friend who is on a very, they are involved in water and we have a AAA advisory board and I'm not exactly sure, 20 probably people in the demographic. I am thinking of the CDBG board and they have at least half of them in this different graphic, this demographic so the stampede if you heard of the independent stampede is run by a variety of ages and what is behind the scenes is

something called the wranglers and they do the actual boots on groundwork and that is 300+ strong group and I would guess at least one third of them are in the age group as well as some of the committee members. I think of my own dad as he is, he is 96 going on 97 now and until about three years ago was heavily involved in hospice and on the board and with client and all different varieties of involvement and that is just, I am sure it is everywhere, but just not unusual. We see a lot in the carbon Valley which is South County which is Frederick and Firestone into Kono and they have something called help center that was brought together solely by residents 60 and older and we have something that while and I are heavily involved, that Lyle and I are heavily involved in and I will go into that a little bit but we have about two people and probably the person driving at the most the collective impact group is Jim Reese Berg who himself in the demographic although certainly not typical and he is very, very and has been involved for years in a state representative and director of insurance for the state etc. and another gentleman by the name of Ron Hile and so I thought it would be fun to give you a little history and how we came to where we are. I actually, I guess I could say I was the igniter, but it has been such a group effort my part was so small in the big picture that I came from working with children and cancer essentially in my background and I've been a classroom teacher and done a lot of volunteerism in both of those areas and when I started the position 5 1/2 years ago I felt like I walked into a brickwall and I asked for money and they say we give that to kids in education and I cannot argue with that I had seen the need but I also asked to speak with about four leaders in the community and one of whom was Lyle and one who was Eva Jewell who is the past AAA director here and the community foundation and Catholic charities they are heavily involved. Eventually having had lunch with Lyle and he said AAA really needs to drive that and me being the new be I met with Eva and she said United Way needs to come on board and so maybe, being again the new BISO acid about going to lunch and I was really persistent because coming from another culture I came and saw that as others of said so much good work being done but I did not see it being leveraged for the voice or did not see, I saw a lack of public awareness and certainly was not a lack of need and certainly was not a lack of services but a huge lack of public awareness and funding as Rand Morgan who is the CEO of the community foundation and so there's even more money for the arts than there are for older adults and that is a sad thing [ Indiscernible - background noise ] and what I did, I started gathering people and it was like herding cats for all of it because schedules are so busy in these were leaders and it took 18 months and we started meeting monthly and then in the middle of all of that, we invited Janine trust well who is I think her title is CEO of United Way who is a wonderful dynamic woman to talk to us about how can we partner with United Way and my impression in the look on her face was it is really worthy but without saying words I just don't see it happening so lo and behold United Way was switching from community impact to collective impact which is a different funding structure and so this small group of six on the task force we pulled together sent a collective email asking them to consider us as one of their, we did not know, three two five collective groups and in the group in the meeting with Janine there was another gal named Melanie and while was there and I saw the lights go off and her eyes when I said it is not really about the funding for us it is about getting the publicity and making people aware of the needs and so then came the email and the date past and we were like well, okay Jenny told us and then all of a sudden we heard we were designated as one of the four collective impact groups and from there as I have said before it is like the wagon wheel was stuck in the mud and broke loose and now it is more than broken loose and I think it is starting to roll and that is how we got where we are and it has been a very collect tive, I think Lyle would have the exact numbers because collective impact is now housed and I will let him take over within United Way and our task force was assimilated into that because that is what we were after, a collaboration. I think there are at least 40 agencies represented on that group. Lyle maybe you can take it from there.

Sure and at any given, over the course of the years that we've been together as the aging collective workgroup we have about 40 different organizations who have about 20 that meet monthly and to discuss where we are headed as a group. As Janet mentioned, United Way did want to move from a more competitive process how the funds are distributed to a more collaborative process how the funds are distributed and that is really what led what we call the aging impact workgroup. I think that is just really valuable a mechanism for a couple of things and one is the groups that are working with older adults and older adults themselves that are in the group and Janet mentioned a couple of days ago just an all hall for me is a number of older adults or organizations that work with older adults in the 60+ age Grange and so that has

been valuable and the connectedness and because what it has done has helped the group of organizations and advocates that meet each month to think about higher-level goals and we are all focused on what are organizations to which is really important because we want that to be done well and to continue to provide the community capacity and at the same time how do we think about the goals we are all trying to achieve together and for certain of those who have been through the network process and that planning process I think about the higher-level goals and also we have the [Indiscernible], the community assessment for older adults that the AAAs do every four or so years and it gives us a high level picture how the community is doing on the key indicators but we do not always come together to think about how do we achieve the goals or make those are goals and achieve an increase in the livability of our communities unless we really make that intentional effort and then the second thing has been capacity building. One of the things the aging group, aging well group decided was a need and it was just more volunteers generally working with the organizations that serve older adults and so we decided as a group with United Way as the applicant to apply to the Next 50 Initiative and at the time what we were calling volunteer recruitment coordinator and Next 50, thankfully and thank you Next 50, approved our application for about two years for the hiring, an employee at United Way who there so role was to increase the number of volunteers for working with older adults serving organizations and we're still in the first year of this and it is been complicated by covert of course and I think Janet and the other organizations would all feel like this is a great capacity or increase for our community just because it gives us the opportunity to recruit more older adults to work or recruit volunteers to work with older adults. And so those are some outcomes I think of this kind of high-level coordination and interaction between the groups that is improving the quality of life as AARP talks about not just for older adults in Weld County but others as well. That thank you that is terrific and giving us a different perspective, building key stakeholder groups which is always a challenge for folks and the fundraising piece and we will come back to that and so thank you for introducing us to that. Now Veronica, will take a little trip down south and go to Veronica who is in Trinidad I believe and she will share with us what is going on in Southeast Colorado. Veronica.

Thank you for including our little end of the I 25 corridor and I'm actually in Walsenburg which is north of Trinidad but I cover the county and Las Animas County and we are big an area and small in people but definitely have a huge percentage of the population over the age of 60. We are edging toward 40% of the population over the age of 60 and that means the workers are older and everyone is there and when I came into this role and 2015, we basically had the basics of AAA which transportation and a lot of in-home care and a lot of the services are being provided by our agency and so our agency basically developed around the AAA like what we needed for the area and this was done way before my time and that is how our agency has grown and we have grown to adjust to AAA which we extended to other areas and with that, it means we do not have the other partners everyone else talks about and we don't have United Way or AARP and we do not have all of these others and we really are on our own with local government and local healthcare agencies and we do a really good job for the small areas we have. Because we are the smallest of 16 regions we get the smallest in funding and so we're trying to reach out to the people and I saw people today told me is this new and I was like it has been around for a long time and so it's been a lot of educating and educating myself what AAA is capable of doing and bringing it in to the partners and through COVID I will honestly say I have gained more partners in this than ever before and the counties are listening and the municipalities are listening and it's amazing the positive part of what COVID did and now we're really trying to get people through this and make sure they get fed and food insecurity was a big issue and drink COVID even more so and so kind of like in small areas a lot of the same people do the same things for other areas and when you go to meetings for this is the same people at meetings for other things and there is a lot of collaboration and unfortunately there's not enough people getting involved and I would like some of the ideas that were talked about like volunteer coordinator and those kind of things and sparked the change Colorado and it included in the RCP program and it was here a decade ago or plus and they will be coming back in there come back to our area and they are addressing food insecurity's so they been a wonderful partner and brought in 600,000 pounds of food last year and I felt like we are doing a distribution and we had state patrol and we had American Legion and all of these people are coming to the table and and with COVID we have gotten more money and do a lot more things and they AAA director network is a wonderful network and we have all 16 of us we have our own nonprofit and we RC for a and I think Lyle mentioned about [Indiscernible] and all

of the they are all there for the whole state and we fought as directors and we want to know what is going on for the state and go to 16 different areas you figured out and we thought that was brought that together so it is [Indiscernible] so as a unit we are really working together to do things across the state and we did a big project what we did in Colorado and through COVID we were able to bounce ideas off of each other and very innovative ideas and very, we're definitely moving in the right direction and so what I feel we need is more involvement and honestly believe a lot of the seniors want to volunteer they just don't know where to go they just don't know how to get it started and so hang a lot of the ideas that were shared today, I know the direction we need to go and I have a local senior that is working on a creative aging conscious aging and she is going around and partnering with her and we have hired a new person who will take that role and move her project forward and we are doing good things and like I said the local governments are listening to us and hearing us and my department or agency on aging I am the only full time employee and have about 10 part-time employees and we do all of the AAA services ombudsman common meals, we do not have providers to do meals volunteers of America we do those are so so those are AAA importers putting those out there and we do direct services even the in-home care is the agency that does the services and the transportation is the agency who do the services and we see challenges with transportation and working on those and they are expanding busing down to this part of the state and it will be interesting to see how it impacts us and I also am the administrator of the sea SBG grant which is a low income grant and because our population or the majority is seniors it applies to them as well so we're trying to figure out how we can leverage the dollars as well and in the past we had to use it to supplement AAA because we were not getting enough and now it is expanding and I think we have a lot of good things that will be going forward and so that is it in a nutshell.

Thank you so much Veronica and I took to her earlier this week she said I have five minutes and I'm testing out the door to deliver meals and so she truly is wearing almost every hat but they are lucky to have you Veronica and keep up the good work. Thank you to you all and whether you recorded your presentation are shared it a few minutes ago with us it is usually informative and we have great questions that are coming into the chat room and I have some as well and so I encourage folks in the attendees to put in questions now that you have heard all of the presentations and you may have a specific question to one of the panelists and we can take a deeper dive in about 20 minutes or so that we have for Q&A. A few of you mentioned intergenerational programs and I know that Sue and Lorye I know you are speaking on behalf of Sue and Eden I think you had a test program and that involves some intergenerational programs and so and this is open to everyone so this is not limited to Lorye and Eden by any means but can you, can you talk a little more about others get set up in the framework for those and they always sound good but there is a lot of work on the seams to connect the generations together and so if you both or anyone else can address that a little bit more and take us on a deeper dive into the intergenerational programs.

I can start. Through the partnership of a in the communities it was actually started as a high school project for one of our community members, high school student and she partnered with CSU center for public deliberation and what we do, we put out into the community the topic we would be talking about and we used to do this in person and now we are doing it all virtually obviously and we will break up into different rooms and discuss a certain topic and come back together and we really decide and just, you know where there are things that are common between older adults and younger generations which I find to be fascinating, we did one just for the women and we had women from ages 18 all the way to 90 and we had different breakout rooms and it was just a really great experience just to see how women of all generations have been dealing with similar challenges throughout their life and that is one of our inter-generational. The other thing that we do, we work with employer-based here in Larimer County and educate them on how to have a intergenerational workforce and we do a lot of training in the county to the local businesses and just letting them know they really have expertise and experience and how working with younger employees can really be an empowerment to the whole organization so those are intergenerational and Larimer County thank you and Eden do you have anything to add and what was created?

One thing that is interesting when you work with youth is there is, there's always a little bit of an extra layer and we needed to have parental permission which did not hit our radar right away because we are working with older adults and certainly has another piece and I think, I have in my agency to incredible programmers and one is a program manager and the other is a Program Coordinator and boulder universal high reached out

to us and we discussed the implications because sometimes these types of program can be labor-intensive but once you have set up the permissions in the groundwork and you do some of the basic logistics, it takes on a life of its own and it just evolves and as older adults talk to each other about how beneficial it was and as the high school students talk to each other about how much they like doing it, it just, it developed and became a little bit of sort of a mentoring type of an issue I think in a lot of ways and interesting because years and years ago, I worked with youth and we set up something similar but from the youth perspective and so it was interesting to see this end of it and sort of come full circle and so I think the deeper dive is making sure that you get all of the, especially with tech because it is sometimes there are personal information and confidential information as it may come up and so just make sure you have all of the I's dotted and T's crossed with the documentation and permissions and waivers and those kind of programs they do blossom.

[ Captioner's Transitioning ]

Our agency also has early learning centers. One of them is right next door to a senior center. Pre-COVID, we will go and have lunch for the holidays with seniors, preschool age children and they would make Valentines, Mother's Day, Christmas cards, that kind of thing. We send those out with meals. Seniors were really excited to get those different holiday things. They really liked when they came over for picnics and visited and those kinds of things. We did them with younger ones and I would love to do something with the older teenagers.

Absolutely. Absolutely. Before we leave the intergenerational discussion, anyone doing that type of work outside of your community? So, have you reached into bordering communities or other communities across the state to engage in this type of intergenerational work is anyone doing that? That is interesting. In the chat room and said, the state is using federal dollars for various programs, what can we do that is more statewide? I will leave that with all of you. Here at CU Anschutz we have the social isolation program where we pair CU Anschutz future clinicians and older adults in the phone program. That has just blossomed across the state. It is fantastic to have students talking with older adults and they are in Grand Junction, Fruita, Montrose, it is a very small example, but as we all think about this intergenerational programming, there might be opportunities for us to all work together to take this more statewide.

Kind of along the same lines, but moving to another hot area we addressed the first week of our webinar series and that is workforce development. Talking about what sort of workforce development for older adults, what are the opportunities in your community? What is happening for that particular demographic? I open that up, really, to all of the panelists to share.

I can briefly touch on that. We work very closely with workforce Boulder County. Prior to the pandemic what we had been doing, which I think is a great idea, actually, is every couple of years, we would hold a job fair, a 55+ job fair, specifically for that group. We looked primarily for employers who had taken the AARP pledge to hire older adults. We had, you know, as you would normally think of it, a very large setting for a job fair, but then we had specific workshops. We had brush up your resume and other types of how to do a good interview and other types of little specific things people could sign up for. It has been very successful. The reality is, many older adults are continuing to need to work, even in retirement, part-time work, or they are looking for maybe a different type of job experience. So, I think our job fair experience has been really good. We worked with our local Chamber of Commerce and partnered with some other agencies. I just think it was really successful. I am looking forward to getting back to doing that again, now that we are moving more out of some of the restrictions from the pandemic.

Terrific. Anyone else have anything going on in their communities that highlight workforce development for older adults?

I don't have anything to add specifically to that, but I happen to be in oh webinar in with pinnacle insurance last week and they quoted a demography statistic that by 2031, 1 in 5 employees, either 60 or 65, by 2030 in Colorado. I thought that would be worth noting.

Absolutely. When we put together our value of older Coloradans document, 71.8 years is the retirement age of older Coloradans. We typically think, you know, 65, 68. We are much higher than the national average.

People here want or need to work. Well into older age. We want to make sure those opportunities are created for them, definitely. Anyone else, before we leave the workforce development discussion point? All right.

The next question we have is about engaging communities of LGBTQ or black and indigenous populations. Bob, this is actually for you. Jennifer has a specific question about doing any type of work around programming for these populations?

No. I'm not familiar with it. I can't really comment on that.

Okay. That is fine. Let's open it up to any of the other communities so we can, you know, this is an opportunity to learn from each other. Are there any specific programming initiatives that involve this area?

Hello, --. I am [ Indiscernible ] from the Center for African-American health .

Yes, please jump in.

Also, in the piece for the workforce development work for aging Coloradans, we do have several programs we have been revamping. Of course, per the state of affairs with COVID-19, as others have already mentioned, and, yes, we are aggressively working on that. I am on the policy and advocacy side, that is in our programming area. The programming director, Yolanda Greer, works on that. I have been in connection and connecting her also with, it was equity in aging conference that a few of us attended regionally. Amy, I don't want to butcher her last name, with the Denver Public Library, really making connection and what we want to see and utilize, especially here in the northeast Denver area, with black and African-Americans and the aging demographic revamping a lot of things, but still working on a lot of programs we already have in place. Also, working with you. That has been wonderful and great and also, working with others and, I don't know how to pronounce Andrea's last name with the Colorado Senior lobby. There is a lot of work and a lot of action being made and they are making action by effectuating those changes in those programs and holding those programs. What we were discussing and looking into his Denver Public Library is the neighboring library here in North East library in Denver. Especially expressing the digital divide issue with our community and how we can help and provide them with those tools so they can do their jobs and, yes, since everyone is aging and working longer in the workforce, we are really focusing on that. That is a big issue being identified.

Meleaha, thank you so much. If you have any resources, a website or anything people can use as a resource, please put it in the chat room. This is a great opportunity for all of us to put any of the resources about some of the topics we are addressing today. If you have specific links or information, please add those to the chat room so we can learn from each other. Lyle, there was a little, not a little, there was a lot of interest in the volunteer position being funded and you mentioned there is two year funding for that. What is the sustainability of a position like that and what does it look like, beyond the two years? How can folks who do receive grant funding but obviously that runs out at some point, how do we insure these important positions for volunteer recruitment and engagement in the community continue well beyond the grant funding? Can you share with us a little bit the strategy moving forward?

Yes. What we put in the grant application with next 50 is that it would be so wildly successful that the organizations themselves for which the volunteers were being recruited would be interested in continuing to fund that position. So United Way we continue to host the position and employ the position but we would ask the organizations themselves to contribute to the cost of the position. You know, the proof will be if it is actually successful and if it is, I can see, you know, we need to be in front of that and make the ask early. We have mentioned that more than once in the group when we have brought up this position. That is something we will have to work towards with 60+ Janet and Meals on Wheels and the other organizations the recruiter is recruiting for and when we will see if there is interest in that moving forward. I think another possibility is United Way, since we are fundraiser. It may be we are able to contribute some towards that position. I don't think we can do it forever, but contribute something towards that position so it is not a steep cliff from Next 50 to the organizations themselves but maybe be able to soft in the ownership of the funding of the position by the community itself over time.

Terrific.

I thought maybe I would add, again, COVID got in the way. It was launched in the middle of COVID. Of course, a big piece of that volunteer recruiter position was to go out and make connections, make contacts and give presentations. There is also a big digital marketing component to it. That is another piece that may delay you know, but so far, I have to say, I just got a brand-new volunteer coordinator, an outreach coordinator at 60+ and she is amazed at the volunteers coming in through the volunteer effort in United Way. We have one that is synergistic going alongside of this. Just happened that way. Hours was up first and then we are pleased because it is a tough goal. When you can find something that works for recruiting volunteers, especially down in those demographics, [ Indiscernible - low volume ].

Absolutely. Great. Thank you for sharing that. That is a struggle for most of us. Funding runs out. What do we do? How do we sustain this great work? Thank you for sharing that insight. We've got a few more minutes together. I want to kind of changed direction a little bit. John on the Western Slope, you have a robust operation out there. You have a number of initiatives, programs, opportunities that are happening on the Western Slope. Last week during our webinar series, we had representatives from AARP to talk about how to use assessment tools to make our communities more age friendly. John, was anything used out on the Western Slope from, certainly those organizations, or how did you assess what was needed in the community to come up with that long list you shared with us?

To begin with, the city of Fruita to create its own study. The needs from that became very, very evident. Based upon the eight domains of AARP's designated livable communities, we were able to extract from those domains exactly what we needed, based upon the study that was done for the city of Fruita. It was just a very helpful assessment and the assessing process was very comprehensive because it involved all age groups, all ethnic groups, including minorities. We felt that we were very comfortable in using the data.

Terrific. Is at something, John, that could be shared, if people are interested in learning a little bit more about what was included in that assessment or how to build that type of assessment? I am sure. It is simply a matter of contacting Mike Bennett, the city manager for the city of Fruita. I am sure he would be willing to share that with anyone who requested it.

Terrific. Thank you. Tell him thank you for that, as well. Does anyone else use any type of assessment tool to build your livable communities, your age friendly communities? Did anything happen in the areas you all represent?

Jodi? Are we getting close?

This is the last question.

Okay . Thank you.

[ Laughter ]

Any thoughts about assessments, just giving folks a direction, a framework to use, you know, when starting new programs, looking at age friendly communities? All right. We have some assessment work to do across the state. We can learn a lot from John and Mike Bennett. Thank you so much. There were great questions in the chat room. I think we got through most of them, not quite all of them. A big thank you to all of our panelists for being here today and for sharing a little insight of what is going on in your little part of Colorado. The purpose of these webinars is to learn from each other. We definitely did that today. There are a few resources in the chat room. Make sure, before you leave today, you click on a few of those and you can save them and use for your work. With that, I would like to hand it back over to --. Thank you very much.

Bob, this is Kelly. Four of our six awardees are now on the webinar. So are Rich and Jeanette.

Okay. Great. Then I will just turn this over to Rich and Jeanette.

[ Laughter ]

Jeanette, do you want to try to do yours? I know you had some concern about getting back to a committee hearing. This is how things go during the legislative session, folks.

For sure. Let me let you know who is on the meeting. We have Senator Danielson and her aide. We have Christina Willis, the aide for [ Indiscernible ] and we have [ Indiscernible ].

Okay.

How about, Jeanette, if you are here

I am. Can you hear me?

Yes. Why don't you start with Senator Janel.

Thank you. I don't know if you will share the PowerPoint or not. We would like to be able to present Senator Janel the public service appreciation award from the Colorado center for aging, formerly Colorado senior lobby. We really want to provide this to her because we appreciate and applaud her efforts that she consistently advocated for the many different issues of importance to older Coloradans. We recognize that she has taken the extra effort to frequently remind her colleagues to remember about older people in their debates on legislations. They would be in committee and she would stop and all of a sudden asked people, where are the older adults in this group? Can you point to that? Are you making sure you are including them? That has really brought the emphasis of older adults into each of the committees she is assigned to. We very much would like to present her with this award.

Thank you so much. I have a statement to read, if that would be appropriate.

Absolutely.

All right. Thank you for having me today to serve. My name is Christina Willis and I and the legislative aide. She sends her greetings and wishes she could be here today but because of the current legislative schedule, she is not able to attend. On her behalf, I want to express her heartfelt gratitude to Colorado Center for aging to select her for this award. It is an unmanned Honor. If you know Senator Gianl, you know improving quality of life for seniors is of passion and focus of hers. Colorado has a significant aging population, one that is only expected to grow and yet, as you know, seniors face challenges every day related to healthcare costs and accessibility, transportation and housing and community engagement. This session, Senator Gianl has introduced legislation to make prescription drugs more affordable, equal access to housing options, support decision-making for older adults and those with disabilities and establish an alternative response pilot program to give social services more flexibility when working with at risk adults. Some of these bills have been signed into law. It is the senator's hope each of them will improve quality of life for seniors in its own way. She knows there is more to be done. She is committed to working hard on behalf of the aging population and to serving all Coloradans of all ages. She knows we want to live in a society where seniors are taking care of. Everyone benefits from it and simply put, it is the right thing to do. Senator Gianl would like to recognize the important work the center for Colorado aging does. Thank you for all the advocacy and education efforts you make for all Coloradans and thank you for honoring her with this award.

Thank you.

All right.

Next?

Do you want to go next?

I will call up Senator Danielson. Of course, my boss is calling me right now. I am going to turn him off to do this. Senator Danielson, we are, I know I am particularly proud to offer you this public service appreciation award on behalf of the newly named Colorado Center for aging. I will explain that to you later. It is essentially the Colorado senior lobby. For your many years now in the legislature as a preeminent advocate for Colorado's older adults and working with us and other aging advocates, again, to advocate for older Coloradans. I think, -- Carrying a very important bill to protect at risk adults from abuse and abandonment and confinement and carrying a bill this year we think will pass to increase the number of medical providers with geriatric care specialties and, I think, you have already ideas of what to do next year. We are very proud to be able to give you this award today.

Rich, did you want me to say anything?

If you would like to say a few words, you will have a minute to say something.

Okay. I will keep it short. It is just an honor to be here with the senior lobby, the Center for aging. Rich is right. We have partnered together for years. My very first bill when I came into the legislator was elder abuse. We did pass several measures together to prevent the abuse of older Coloradans. Rich is right. Since then, we have also done a couple of things this year. We worked together on a bill to provide transportation for dialysis patients. Unfortunately, that one did not come through this year, but we will pick it up per se next year and get that, you know, taking care of. Yes, our bill to increase medical providers for seniors is moving through the process. I am very confident it will be signed by the governor soon. We are working to try to fight and scrap for federal stimulus money to come to Colorado, you know, it is supposedly designated for those hit hardest by the pandemic. I don't know who was hit more hard than older Coloradans. We are really working hard to get some relief funding our way to this community. You know, hopefully that can come through. It has been my privilege in my honor. I am so grateful for the award. I mean so much to me to have this group, you know, work next to me on all of these measures. It has really been my privilege to be here with you. Thank you to Bob, Rich, Jeanette and the whole team. Every time there is a call to action and you answer it, it really, really makes a difference. Thank you for your dedication to this group because your activism and your dedication really makes a difference when you demand of the legislature what is better for older Coloradans so they can live independently and with dignity all across the state.

Thank you.

Thank you again.

All right. Now I will turn it over to Bob.

Okay.

Unless representative young or her aide showed up.

They might be calling in. I'm not sure.

We will get them if and when they do.

I am representative Yum's aide. I am sorry she was not able to join today.

Jeanette I think you are taking that, as well.

Yes. I am sorry, what was your name?

[ Indiscernible ].

Please, we are very happy to also give representative to this award, as well. She has been an advocate for the older adults on many different areas. We recognize she is one of the few voices of the 100 that have genuinely cared about older adults. We are very happy she is able to support the older adults in legislature to be able to advocate on their behalf and on our behalf and to be able to partner with us, as needed, so we are all working together, as one, as we move forward in this. We would like to give her this award in honor of her work with older adults and from the Colorado Center for aging were the Colorado senior lobby. Thank you very much. Would you like to say a few words?

I would like to express my apologies and representative Young 's apologies for not being here today but she is honored to get this award and committed to supporting older adults anyway she can. Thank you so much.

You are welcome.

Thank you.

This is our next award. We would like to extend our thanks to you for your sorely needed steady and informed guided presence during the pandemic. This award acknowledges your many long days and long nights have not gone unnoticed by older Coloradans. The Colorado Center for aging applaud your efforts. If you choose to come I hope you have. Opportunity to say a few words and introduce yourself to this group, many of whom have seen you on television, I am sure.

Hello, everyone. Thank you so much for this honor.

I am the state epidemiologist for the state of Colorado. The branch chief and I have been overseeing our public health, our disease response to COVID-19.

As a live you know, it has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us. It has been expressly difficult for older Coloradans. This pandemic has brought too much grief and frustration and has really highlighted the challenges, tensions, divide and inequities where we really have a lot of work to do. Really, amid all of that struggle, I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished in Colorado through the state, local public health and policymakers like this, the Colorado Center on aging and most importantly, the everyday actions of Coloradans who have sacrificed so much. Our efforts have saved lives. Bear with me for a second. I will do what I do and share some data. Colorado has tragically had about 6500 deaths due to COVID. That is obviously far too many. If we had had the U.S. experience, the average experience, the average rate of death would have translated to about 10,300 deaths in Colorado. That is different from the 6500 deaths we did have to what we could have had so far in the pandemic is 3800 Coloradans who are alive today. It feels really awkward to feel proud our tragedy has been less of a tragedy than it could have been, after everything we have been through, I think it is really important for all of us to recognize what we have accomplished. That is what I tell my team and what I try to tell myself. We really saved more lives in Colorado and, really, all of us deserve recognition for that. Like most public service health workers, I love what I do but it has been hard and I am tired. That is really what makes this recognition so meaningful for me, thank you. It means so much to have my work and the work of my incredible teammates that surround me recognized. I am honored to serve as Colorado's state epidemiologist and I can't imagine being in a better place, billing the support from an organization like yours, from the CDPHE and from the governor has made such a difference this year. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for looking toothy data and science. Thank you for your partnership and thank you for thinking of me for this honor.

Thank you very much, Dr. Herlihy. It is much appreciated.

Next up, we have Mr. Jared Hughes. Gerrit is the governor's policy advisor on aging. We want to thank him for his passion and devotion to the health and well-being of older Coloradans. We deeply appreciate your efforts to elevate the many contributions and the ongoing issues of the aging population of Colorado weather state government. We applaud your efforts. We will give you the opportunity to speak, as well. Jared?

Thanks, Bob . Thanks, everybody. My being in the governor's office now, I used to be a paying member the Colorado senior lobby, I can very much think back to, in the grand scheme of things, I really learned so much from a lot of folks on this call, whether it was Jeanette, Bob, Bob Epstein, Rich, Ed Shackelford, Christina, Diana and just spending time at the Capitol back in 2017, 2018, learning the ins and outs of all of this world. Really, I owe a lot of, I think, my personal and professional development to this organization, this group. I really can't say enough about the importance of kind of, you know, intergenerational mentor ship and friendship and the opportunities we have. I am really grateful and appreciative for the recognition. I am really proud to be doing the work. We have a lot to do, right? We all know that. Just one foot after the other and we will keep on chugging along at the Capitol and see what we can do. I really do appreciate it. I do want very much to acknowledge senators Danielson, Gianl, representative young for their work. We owe statues built around the city or something. We will work on that next. It really has been quite a time navigating all of this. I am really proud to be part of it. Thank you.

Thank you, Jarett.

Okay, our next and last a word goes to Kathleen [ Indiscernible ]. Are you on today? She may not be.

I know she wanted to be. She may have been called away for something, too, who knows?

Anyway, I will just read this. It is up on the screen, as well. Kathleen is the advisor and executive assistant to the speaker of the house. This award is both an expression of our gratitude to Hughes in her role as advisor to the House Speaker and an extra mile recognition for her help in core needing the house tribute for Colorado senior lobby this session. That was no mean feat. We are very appreciative of the fact that occurred a couple of months ago. We have the recording of that, if anybody would like to see it. Once again, we thank Kathleen Melendy for her work.

Bob, this is Kelly. I just would like to share with the award recipients that these awards are not just virtual. You are going to get an actual award delivered, probably, in most cases, to your offices. Lest you think we just went virtual entirely, we actually have a bona fide award to give to you.

Yeah, the picture on the PowerPoint is pretty small. It is there. That is exactly what you are going to be getting. Thank you for that, Kelly. Jodi, do you have anything else you would like to say before we close this?

No. Just behalf on all of us, thank you to all of our panelists over the last three weeks who have dedicated time and effort to prepare remarks, share their expertise, their insight with our audience. This dialogue just contributes to making Colorado the best place to age well. We can't do this without all of you. It is certainly a collective effort, as many have said today. A big thank you one half of all of us for making Colorado so special, especially our first run out of the chute. We look forward to many more educational opportunities with all of you in the future. Have a great summer.

I would like to add, too, I deeply appreciate the efforts of all of our volunteers. You saw those names flash up on the screen early on. I won't try to name the mall right now because I will forget somebody. It is like the Academy Awards, you know? We deeply appreciate everybody's efforts. It takes a lot to put something like this together. It takes a lot of time and energy. I also want to speak a little bit, very shortly, on behalf of the 2 million people in Colorado who are over the age of 50. That number continues to grow. The average age of our legislators continues to grow younger. With a few very notable exceptions, our legislators are not drawn naturally to thinking about the issues of aging. Who among us did when we were younger? It is really our job, as a group, even our duty, I would say, to keep the issues of aging in front of them, to bring ideas for solutions and to advocate for those ideas. If it is not us, who is going to do it? If it is to be, it is up to me and you. With that, I will close the session. Again, I appreciate everybody's attendance today. Thank you all. Have a great rest of your week and Memorial Day is coming up Monday. We can all picnic again. Have a great time.

Thank you to all the awardees.

Yes. Much appreciated. Thank you for your work. Okay. Take care, everyone. Goodbye.

A bike. Goodbye.