

COLORADO CENTER FOR AGING
2021-2022 Advocacy Efforts and Advocacy Subgroups
Updated 11-19-2021

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, 2021 meeting, the CCA Advocacy Committee began initial consideration of these issues, and of forming subgroups to work on the issues (including asking for volunteers) and coordinators for each subgroup. Once formed, the **Advocacy Subgroups** will meet as needed to identify the priorities with each policy issue, develop conceptual solutions, and specify policy proposals to implement the solutions. These will be reported to subsequent CCA Advocacy Committee meetings.

For updates to this memo – email GetInvolved@ColoradoCenterForAging.org

Policy Issue	Description	Advocacy Subgroup Committee members - Team Lead in Bold
Adult Protection	Follow up on HB21-1123, which concerns the CAPS check for substantiated cases of mistreatment of an at-risk adult, before a guardianship is assigned 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.	Sharon Courtney , Rita Widmann, Shanee Courtney, Coral Cosway, widmannsteve@gmail.com ; mscellaneous123@aol.com ; courtneyrn@gmail.com ; ccosway@alz.org
Age Discrimination - Training	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 (Bell Policy group - “ban the box”) HB 21-1264, which funds workforce development activities for displaced workers to increase their skills. Work on rulemaking for grants to workforce centers, higher education and non-profits	Jodi Waterhouse, Janine Vanderburg , Rich Mauro, Jeanette Hensley, Pat Cook, Karen Brown, jodi.waterhouse@cuanschutz.edu ; janine@encoreroadmap.com ; jlhens@hotmail.com ; rmauro@drcog.org ; karen.peffer.brown@gmail.com ; patriciaplcrn@comcast.net

Aging Issues in State Government	<p>Sustainability of AAA funding</p> <p>Future of Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging</p> <p>Future of Senior Advisor on Aging position in the Governor's Office</p>	<p>Rich Mauro, Christina, Bob E, Karen Brown, Kris Geerken, Sharon Courtney, Coral Cosway, Muriel Arvay, Ken Chapin,</p> <p>rmauro@drcog.org; karen.peffer.brown@gmail.com; kgeerken@coloradocenterforaging.org; bepst24657@gmail.com; mscellaneous123@aol.com; ccosway@alz.org; m12arvay@gmail.com; designagefriendly@gmail.com;</p>
Behavioral Health - ARPA	<p>Follow up on HB21-1097, which establishes a behavioral health administration.</p> <p>Follow up on SB 21-137, which establishes an interim task force to determine how to spend \$550 million in ARPA funds.</p>	<p>Need Team Lead</p> <p>Patricia Cook, J. Ronald DeVries,</p> <p>patriciaplcrn@comcast.net; ron@yourgoodhealthco.com;</p>
Broadband	<p>Follow up on HB 21-1109, 1289, SB 21-060, 072, and 091. <i>Digital literacy-Office of inclusion (CDLE)</i></p>	<p>Phil Cernanec, Amy Mitchell,</p> <p>phil.cernanec@gmail.com; AMitchell@parkco.us;</p>
Caregiving	<p>Consider recommendations from Bell Policy survey. Also in SB 21-176.</p>	<p>Pamela Wilson, Linda Garcia, Karen Brown, Coral Cosway, Ed Shackelford,</p> <p>pamela@pameladwilson.com; lianmaluga@gmail.com; karen.peffer.brown@gmail.com; ccosway@alz.org; ed@edshackelford.com;</p>

Congregate Care Facilities	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.	Gail Meehan , Linda Garcia, Coral Cosway, Ed Shackelford, Rich Mauro, Corky Kyle, Jami Shepherd, gmmeehan@ColoradoCenterforAging.org ; lianmaluga@gmail.com ; ccosway@alz.org ; ed@edshackelford.com ; rmauro@drcog.org ; ckyle@thekylegroup.com ; jami@cpachecojr.com ;
Dialysis Transportation	Continue to push for SB 21-187, which would have established a program to pay for transportation to dialysis treatments.	Bob Brocker, Rich Mauro , Bob Epstein, Jeanette Hensley, Sharon Courtney, Corky Kyle bob@rjbrocker.com ; bepst24657@gmail.com ; jlhens@hotmail.com ; mscellaneous123@aol.com ; rmauro@drcog.org ; ckyle@thekylegroup.com
Financial Security	Follow up on SB 21-148, which created the Office of Financial Empowerment	Julie Evans , Cec Ortiz, Julie Evans, Phil Cernanec, Ann Witherspoon, cec.ortiz@comcast.net ; jfevans721@gmail.com ; phil.cernanec@gmail.com ; annw@csa.us ;
Food-Nutrition	Address persistent food shortages for certain demographic/economic groups and the barriers to access. Work with AAAs, Hunger Free Colorado and others. SNAP issues; get better statistics	Need Team Lead Ed Shackelford, Lindsay Parsons, Amy Mitchell, Judith Rice-Jones, Jonelle Addabbo ed@edshackelford.com ; lparsons@bouldercounty.org ; AMitchell@parkco.us ; jricejon@gmail.com ; jaddabbo@foodbankrockies.org ;

Geriatric Health Care Providers	Follow up on SB 21-158. Need to obtain funding continuation and provider expansion. (CoCares)	Bob Brocker , Jody Waterhouse, Rich Mauro, Bob Epstein, Coral Cosway, bob@rjbrock.com ; jodi.waterhouse@cuanschultz.edu ; rmauro@drcoq.org ; bepst24657@gmail.com ; ccosway@alz.org ;
Homeowners Associations	Colorado has around 60 developments of 55+ housing, all in HOA arrangements. Legislation passed last session (HB21-1229) was significantly watered down. Many residents are concerned about lack of transparency; being bullied by the boards, poor management of properties and finances; no effective dispute resolution process. Should we consider action in the next session?	Julie Evans , Bob Brocker, Ed Shackelford, Phil Cernanec, bob@rjbrock.com ; ed@edshackelford.com ; phil.cernanec@gmail.com ; jfevans721@gmail.com
Housing Security - ARPA	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.	Rich Mauro , Bob Brocker, Pat Cook bob@rjbrock.com ; rmauro@drcoq.org ; patriciaplcrn@comcast.net ;
Mobile Home Parks	Manager/owners of mobile home parks that want to sell, get great offers from corporations that want to buy the parks for \$\$\$\$.	Karin Hall , Sharon Courtney, Shari Haidvogel, Karin@WPSconsultants.com ; mscellaneous123@aol.com ; shari.x.haidvogel@kp.org ;

NEMT/NMT	Non-emergency medical transportation and non-medical transportation; including transportation voucher programs, statewide coordination, and increasing funding. (HCPF, CDOT Office of Innovation)	Rich Mauro , Bob Broker, Bob Epstein, Jeanette Hensley, Sharon Courtney, Amy Mitchell bob@rjbrocker.com ; bepst24657@gmail.com ; jlhens@hotmail.com ; mscellaneous123@aol.com ; rmauro@drcog.org ; AMitchell@parkco.us ;
Pain Management	Allowances for chronic pain and how to approach opioid prescription restrictions for people on Medicaid who are experiencing extreme pain.	Christina Johnson , Jeanette Hensley; Renie Fouts; Jeanine Tarrant; Muriel Arvay, christinaj6491@gmail.com ; jlhens@hotmail.com ; jaggerfan33@gmail.com ; jolly8girl@yahoo.com ; m12arvay@gmail.com ;
Rental – Landlord - Tenant	<p>Follow up on SB 21-173, which improved tenant rights related to residential rental agreements, and HB21-1121, which provides protections for residential tenants related to actions by landlords.</p> <p>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.</p>	Rich Mauro , rmauro@drcog.org ;
Substance Abuse and Opioids	Follow up on 2021 opioid bills. Other issues: people on Medicaid are being put on limits. Allowance for chronic pain.	Christina Johnson , Jeanette Hensley; Renie Fouts; Jeanine Tarrant; christinaj6491@gmail.com ; jlhens@hotmail.com ; jaggerfan33@gmail.com ; jolly8girl@yahoo.com ;

Tax Issues	<p>Senior Property Tax Exemption</p> <p>Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate (PTC Rebate) – expansion and improved outreach (also look at energy assistance/credit-Bob. B.)</p> <p>Property Tax Deferral – SB21-293</p>	<p>Bob Bocker, Rich Mauro, Jeanette Hensley, Sharon Courtney, Ed Shackelford</p> <p>rmauro@drcog.org; jlhens@hotmail.com; bob@rjbrock.com; mscellaneous123@aol.com; ed@edshackelford.com;</p>
Value of Older Adults	<p>Make sure older adults are considered in all legislation and regulations. Value of older adults. Relates to workforce issues. (Sandy Thomas, Jodi Waterhouse, Lindsay Parsons, Kelly Roberts, Kris Geerken)</p> <p>SB 21-181 Office of Health Equity and new health disparities task force</p>	<p>Kris Geerken, Christina Johnson, Jodi Waterhouse, Jeanette Hensley, Ann Witherspoon</p> <p>kgeerken@coloradocenterforaging.org; christinaj6491@gmail.com; jlhens@hotmail.com; jodi.waterhouse@cuanschutz.edu; AnnW@csa.us</p>