



**Northwest Colorado Council of Governments**  
***Rural Resort Region***  
***Seniors in our Mountain Communities Policy Symposium***

Holiday Inn, Frisco, Colorado  
November 12, 2009

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Welcome:**

Bud Elliott, Mayor of Leadville and Chair of the Rural Resort Region (RRR), welcomed the group and gave an overview of the RRR work on the *Seniors in our Mountain Communities* project in 2009.

RRR began this project with a meeting on January 22, 2009 in Frisco, Colorado, which was attended by 50 participants. These participants included local elected officials, service providers, volunteers, and community members. Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer, presented an overview on the changing demographics related to the aging baby boomer population in the nation, the state, and the Rural Resort Region. Each table of eight individuals discussed and then reported to the larger group what they saw as the challenges and opportunities related to this expected change to the number of senior residents, along with the information they felt was needed in order to properly plan for the region's future.

The information gathered at the January meeting provided direction for RRR staff as they coordinated the next four meetings on the topics of housing, healthcare, workforce & volunteerism, and transportation. Each meeting provided information and presentations targeting the questions and comments gathered at the January meeting for each specific topic. The outcome of each topic specific meeting included a list of proposed policy statements suggested by the participants to address the issues discussed at that meeting.

The November 12, 2009 RRR Policy Symposium's purpose is to review the 34 proposed policy statements from the four 2009 meetings and to have the group prioritize these policies, thereby giving RRR direction on which policies they should work to advance in 2010.

Dennis Nemura, Chair of the Region XII Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), also welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the RAC and the Alpine Area Agency on Aging.

**Prioritizing Policies:**

Each table then discussed within their small group the proposed policies and came to consensus, within their group, on the three policies they considered to be the most important. The choices of each table were collected and entered into polling software by Jocelyn Hittle of Place Matters. Jocelyn then facilitated a keypad voting process involving the entire group, which resulted in the identification of the top four policies to be advanced by RRR in 2010. First, a series of demographic questions were asked to determine the composition of the group. The results of these demographic questions are below:

- 1) What is your gender? Male: 38% Female: 62%
- 2) What is your age?
  - a) 15 – 19: 0%
  - b) 20 – 34: 2%
  - c) 35 – 44: 13%
  - d) 45 – 54: 21%
  - e) 55 – 64: 28%
  - f) 65 & better: 36%
- 3) Which of the following categories best describes you?
  - a) Elected Official: 19%
  - b) Volunteer: 24%
  - c) Community Member: 11%
  - d) Service Provider: 20%
  - e) Other: 26%
- 4) Where do you live?
  - a) In the Rural Resort Region (Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Lake, Pitkin, and Summit Counties): 80%
  - b) In the Front Range: 16%
  - c) Other: 4%

After the top four policies were identified, the group was then polled on the reasons they voted for each particular policy. All four were primarily selected because they are perceived as being a first step in a longer process. The afternoon consisted of a facilitated discussion on each chosen policy and next steps on how best to advance that policy in 2010.

### **Results and Next Steps**

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Choice: Policy #23 – Put measures into place to create adequate liability protection for volunteers.***

The group agreed that the insurance should cover individuals as well as agencies utilizing volunteers. There was discussion on whether it would be better to start with just volunteer drivers and then broaden the scope later to include all volunteers, or if it would be more effective to start with the broader scope of all volunteers. Other components that need to be included in the bill are a liability cap and some language that prevents sales people from posing as volunteers when approaching seniors. The group discussed that there is also an educational component to this issue. An insurance pool format was suggested. The deadline to submit legislation is in early December 2009, so this policy will need to be addressed immediately.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Rich Mauro, of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), and Shanna Koenig, of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) will research existing state laws or legislation on this topic. Other resources include CANPO (Colorado Association of Non Profit Organizations), Senior Resource Center, and the Eagle County RSVP program/Cheryl Thomas.
- Matt Sugar, of Senator Udall's office, will research the possibility of proposing an amendment to the Good Samaritan law at the federal level.
- Once the necessary research has been completed, a draft of the desired scope will be needed to present to legislators.

- Gary Severson, of NWCCOG, will work with state representatives Dan Gibbs and Christine Scanlan to find someone to introduce a bill in 2010. All of the state representatives in the RRR area will be contacted.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: Policy #26 – Develop services for an aging population that are not tied to an institutional setting.***

These services are also referred to as Aging in Place programs and range from routine daily activities to skilled nursing tasks. The group agreed that it is important to build on, broaden, and link together existing services. Before services can be developed, the region will need to identify which communities have sufficient services (the “Haves”) and those that do not have access to the services that are needed (the “Have Not’s”). Funding is always an issue. The group agreed it is important to communicate with the elected officials, asking them to protect the existing funding and make sure they are aware of the increasing needs. But alternative sources of funding will be necessary as well. Jurisdictions were encouraged to consider economic development opportunities that will come with the development of new and additional services. Discussion followed on suggestions to reword the policy to something like “Develop and support Aging in Place services.” There are several types of workable models for service providers. Two models that were mentioned include: 1) the ambulance program in West Eagle County as a model – the EMT’s provide home services when they are not needed for an emergency; 2) the Atlanta Regional Council on Aging. Any proposed State legislation should mirror the Project 2020 bill at the federal level.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Complete a Gap Analysis in regards to the services available in the region. Be sure to consider the entire spectrum of care.
- Find other workable models of service provider networks to share as part of the gap analysis.

***3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: Policy #6 – Insert the three visitability standards into the Uniform Building Code or into local building codes: a) one 36 inch wide, zero step entrance on any accessible route; b) main floor interior passage doors with 32 inches clear passage space; and c) a main floor bathroom with basic maneuvering space.***

This is a local issue that must go through the planning and zoning process for each jurisdiction. Then it must be presented as a recommendation to the county commissioners or town council and supported in a public hearing. RRR will be able to provide information, convene workshops, and collect examples of successful language, but this policy will need to be advanced by individual jurisdictions. DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) has a successful model that includes having meetings with homebuilders and inserting these standards in the regional plan. The cities of Arvada and Lafayette have been successful in adding these visitability standards to their building codes and are available for discussions on how they were able to get this adopted. It was also recommended that visitability standards be included in each jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan and accompanying vision statement.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- RRR staff will collect sample language and arrange a workshop in 2010 with DRCOG and the cities of Arvada and Lafayette to discuss the process they recommend.

***4<sup>th</sup> Choice: Policy #9 – Pursue grant opportunities to explore a PACE (Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) facility in this region and partner with current PACE providers in Colorado that are looking to expand.***

The first step is to research the requirements for a PACE facility and then complete a feasibility study. There must be a physical site available for the PACE program, but it does not need to be more than an adult day program facility. It was clarified that the search for grant opportunities refers to creating a pool of funds that can decrease the risk in the early stages. The group recommended that jurisdictions look within the resources of the community/business community, not just the local governments. It was also recommended that the policy be reworded to match PACE language.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- RRR staff will schedule a workshop to begin the conversation that will include:
  - o Bonnie Fuller, PACE administrator, and
  - o Maureen Hewitt of Total Long Term Care – a PACE facility in the Denver Metro area.
- Jean Hammes, Alpine Area Agency on Aging director, will contact the Colorado Health Foundation as a potential funder for the feasibility study.

## **Participant List:**

Marty Ames  
Coordinator  
Pitkin County Senior Services  
0275 Castle Creek Rd  
Aspen, CO 81611  
Marty.Ames@co.pitkin.co.us

Asa Armstrong  
Development Officer  
Bristlecone Foundation  
PO Box 738  
Frisco, CO 80424  
asaarmstrong@centura.org

Ron Boller  
Summit County Seniors  
PO Box 4874  
Frisco, CO 80443  
ronboller@yahoo.com

Ken Canfield  
Council Member  
Pitkin County Senior Services  
210 Eastwood Road  
Aspen, CO 81611  
Kencar1195@comcast.net

Fran Cook  
Mayor  
Town of Fraser  
PO Box 120  
Fraser, CO 80442  
thefran@comcast.net

Nancy Cowdrey  
Program Manager 50+  
Colorado Mountain College  
831 Grand Avenue  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
ncowdrey@coloradomtn.edu

Clint Cresawn  
Consultant  
Colorado STRIDES  
950 Lafayette Street #407  
Denver, CO 80218  
clint.cresawn@gmail.com

Doris Downey  
Region XII Regional Advisory Committee  
0427 Crystal Park Dr  
Redstone, CO 81623  
dcdowney@sopris.net

Kathy Dunn-Lewis  
Senior Site Supervisor - Adult Services  
Eagle County Health & Human Services  
PO Box 660  
Eagle, CO 81631  
Kathy.Dunn-Lewis@eaglecounty.us

Guy Dutra-Silveira  
Director  
PPACG Area Agency on Aging  
15 S. 7th Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
gdutra@ppacg.org

Butch Elich  
Realtor  
Remax  
PO Box 610  
Frisco, CO 80443  
butch@elich.com

Bud Elliott  
Mayor  
City of Leadville  
PO Box 5  
Leadville, CO 80461  
lvmayor@leadville-co.gov

Nissa Erickson  
District Representative  
Congressman Jared Polis' Office  
PO Box 1453  
Frisco, CO 80443  
nissa.erickson@mail.house.gov

Stuart Feinhor  
Constituent Advocate  
Congressman Jared Polis' Office  
4770 Baseline Road, Suite 220  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Stuart.Feinhor@mail.house.gov

Bob French  
Commissioner  
Summit County  
PO Box 68  
Breckenridge, CO 80424  
BobF@co.summit.co.us

Jen Giacomini  
Executive Director  
Grand County Rural Health Network  
PO Box 2180  
Granby, CO 80446  
jgiacomini@co.grand.co.us

Dee Gleason  
Eagle County Seniors  
PO Box 5075  
Eagle, CO 81631  
dee@eagleranch.com

Kathryn Grohusky  
Manager  
Summit County Community & Senior Center  
PO Box 1845  
Frisco, CO 80443  
kathryng@co.summit.co.us

Bonnie Guthrie  
Vice President  
Summit County Senior Citizens, Inc.  
PO Box 23345  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
bonniesaunders1@yahoo.com

Jean Hammes  
Director  
Alpine Area Agency on Aging  
PO Box 2308  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
jhammes@nwc.cog.co.us

Mary Jane Hangs  
Chairman  
Garfield County Council on Aging  
3493 CR 331  
Silt, CO 81652  
mjhangs@sopris.net

Carrie Hare  
PPACG Area Agency on Aging  
15 S. 7th Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
chare@ppacg.org

Lorrie Harkness  
Project Coordinator  
Assistive Technology Program of Colorado  
601 E. 18th Avenue, Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203  
Lorrie.harkness@ucdenver.edu

Meg Hartley  
Mountain Family Health Center  
PO Box 406  
Eagle, CO 81631  
meghat805@yahoo.com

Kris Hayes  
Consultant  
Lookout Products & Consulting, Inc.  
713 Aspen Road  
Golden, CO 80401  
krishayes@lookoutcorp.com

John Hoffman  
Council Member  
Town of Carbondale  
511 Colorado Avenue  
Carbondale, CO 81623  
hof@rof.net

Becky Hopkins  
Board Member  
Summit County Senior Center  
PO Box 754  
Frisco, CO 80443  
beckyhopkins\_43@live.com

Maggie Jones  
Board Member  
Summit County Senior Citizens, Inc.  
PO Box 4687  
Breckenridge, CO 80424  
carmen\_mj@msn.com

Jackie Kasabach  
Pitkin County  
jkasabach@yahoo.com

Shanna Koenig  
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments  
PO Box 2308  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
qqwater@colorado.net

Patty Kravitz  
Project Coordinator  
Pikin County Senior Services  
0275 Castle Creek Rd  
Aspen, CO 81611  
patty.kravitz@co.pitkin.co.us

Hans Kuschnerus  
Summit County Seniors  
PO Box 1287  
Frisco, CO 80443  
hanskusch@mindspring.com

Ashley Martin  
Office Manager  
NWCCOG/RRR  
PO Box 2308  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
amartin@nwc.cog.co.us

Judy Martin  
Senior Programs Manager  
Garfield County Department of Human Services  
195 West 14th  
Rifle, CO 81650  
jumartin@garfield-county.com

Rich Mauro  
Policy and Legislative Development  
DRCOG  
1290 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203  
rmauro@drcog.org

Jocelyn Mills  
Planner  
Town of Frisco  
PO Box 4100  
Frisco, CO 80443  
jocelynm@townoffrisco.com

Marnie Minet  
Eagle County Seniors  
PO Box 1714  
Eagle, CO 81631  
mlaminetrealtor@hotmail.com

Madeline Moos  
Eagle County  
PO Box 4077  
Eagle, CO 81631  
mm17812@aol.com

Liz Mullen  
NWCCOG/RRR  
PO Box 2308  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
lmullen@nwc.cog.co.us

Mickey Neal  
Treasurer  
Garfield County Council on Aging  
2103 CR 321  
Rifle, CO 81650  
mickeyneal@yahoo.com

Dennis Nemura  
Chairman  
Region XII Regional Advisory Committee  
PO Box 2958  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
djn43@colorado.net

Don Parsons  
Council Member  
Town of Dillon  
PO Box 8  
Dillon, CO 80435  
parsondo@hotmail.com

Bill Pelham  
Mayor  
Town of Frisco  
PO Box 4100  
Frisco, CO 80443  
kbpelham@colorado.net

Leona Perkins  
Property Management  
Golden Eagle Senior Apartments  
PO Box 850  
Eagle, CO 81631  
leona.perkins@eaglecounty.us

Barbara Prehmus  
Long Term Benefits Division Director  
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy &  
Financing  
1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203  
barbara.prehmus@state.co.us

Toni Quick  
Senior Outreach Coordinator  
Aging Well  
940 Central Park Drive, Suite 101  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487  
tquick@nwcovna.org

Lynn Renick  
Director  
Garfield County Department of Human Services  
108 8th Street Third Floor  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
lrenick@garfield-county.com

Sharon Schoenberger  
Senior Coordinator  
Grand County Council on Aging  
PO Box 42  
Granby, CO 80446  
gcca@rkymtnhi.com

Randy See  
Western Slope Regional Director  
Senator Bennet's Office  
225 North 5th Street, Suite 511  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Gary Severson  
Executive Director  
NWCCOG/RRR  
PO Box 2308  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
GJS@nwc.cog.co.us

Randy Sisson  
Consultant  
Evergreen  
400 Aspen Place  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
randy@rockrimmon.net

Debera Stewart  
Commissioner  
Colorado Commission on Aging  
3301 County Rd 214  
Silt, CO 81652  
stewartdebera@

Karn Stiegelmeier  
Commissioner  
Summit County  
PO Box 68  
Breckenridge, CO 80424  
karns@co.summit.co.us

Nancy Stuart  
Commissioner  
Grand County  
PO Box 264  
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451  
nstuart@co.grand.co.us

Dave Sturges  
Council Member  
City of Glenwood Springs  
101 W 8th St  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602  
sturges@rof.net

Matt Sugar  
Senator Udall's Office  
PO Box 1125  
Winter Park, CO 80478  
matt\_sugar@markudall.senate.gov

Todd Swanson  
Program Specialist  
State of Colorado  
1575 Sherman St., 10th Floor  
Denver, CO 80202  
todd.swanson@state.co.us

Rev. Tom Thierfelder  
Council Member  
Pitkin County Senior Services  
1235 Mountain View Drive  
Aspen, CO 81611  
Tjt327@msn.com

Yolanda Thierfelder  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
1235 Mountain View Drive  
Aspen, CO 81611  
Tjt327@msn.com

Ron Tinkum  
Board Member  
Grand County Council on Aging  
PO Box 554  
Granby, CO 80446  
mucknit@msn.com

Suzanne Vitale  
Executive Director  
Eagle County Health & Human Services  
PO Box 660  
Eagle, CO 81631  
suzanne.vitale@eaglecounty.us

Lorie Williams  
Summit County Community & Senior Center  
PO Box 1845  
Frisco, CO 80443  
loriew@co.summit.co.us