

# Senior Advocacy Corps

6/11/21

# Advocacy Initiatives

# Housing Advocacy Coalition

- Put your name and email in the chat to receive information to join and details of the next steps
- Call 303-333-3482 to discuss in more detail

## Call to Action

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jun 10, 2021 03:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUoceuspzluHtzSU8rMlO1xMATL3WaeaKpP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



# Special Enrollment Period for Medicare Supplements

- In January 2020, insurance agents in Colorado and across the country are no longer able to sell Plans C, F and F+ to Medicare beneficiaries

## CALL TO ACTION

Can you help with an awareness campaign with print, news, or social media?

Call 303-333-3482 to become involved.

COLORADO GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Colorado created a Special Enrollment Period for Medicare beneficiaries who have these plans can change to a Plan D, G or G+ (no G+ is available in Colorado)
- Special Enrollment ends June 30, 2021; can change to any plan with any company; no underwriting regardless of pre-existing conditions.

# Low Income Senior Dental Program

- Provides dental services to individuals who do not have dental insurance or Medicaid age 60 and over and whose income is less than 250% of poverty

## • CALL TO ACTION

- \$4 million dollars available July 1, 2021
- Individuals who have a Medicare Advantage plan with an embedded dental benefit are not eligible to receive dental care
- Dental Advisory Committee - consumer rep position is open

# Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemption

- Tax credit will be available on the first \$200,000 of value to homeowners who have lived in their homes for 10 years or more for 2022 for taxes owed in 2021

## CALL TO ACTION

- If you know individuals who have lived in their home for 10 years and are age 65, have them apply at the county assessor's office prior to July 15
- Rep Chris Kennedy is planning to work on an initiative during the summer. Discussion is focusing on increasing equity in the tax credit.



# LOW-INCOME ENERGY AND WATER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION IN THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE

- Commission to make policies about low income energy and water

- CALL TO ACTION
  - Identify a LEAP recipient to be on the Commission
  - Appointed by the Governor
  - Appointed by May 1, 2022

# Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

- Community group that is looking at three priorities
  - Long Term Care
  - Diversity and Inclusion
  - Workforce
- Apply for position on the Board through Boards and Commissions. Some terms expire this year.

Funded through the Long Bill at \$110,000.

June 14, 2021 - noon to 3 pm

ZOOM Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571824946?pwd=K3h4a3FES05nOHd6T0FnYlVlNHRnQT09>

PHONE

[+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833)

Meeting ID: 815 7182 4946

Passcode: 231568



# SB21-175 Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board

- Creates a review board appointed by the Governor to establish the upper payment limit that a consumer would pay for prescriptions out of pocket
- Starting 1/1/22, no purchaser or payer can pay more than the upper limit; someone violates - \$1000 fine
- Manufacturers have to give 180 day notice to withdraw drugs
- Cannot consider the impact to older adults and persons with disabilities shall not place a lower value on their lives
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans can opt-in to participate

## State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Division of Insurance in Department of Regulatory Agencies
- Starts 1/1/22

Sent to Governor

# HB21-1264 Funds Workforce Development Increase Worker Skills

- Overall appropriation \$200,000,000 for jobs
- \$25 million for a State Council in cooperation with Dept of Labor to work on reskilling, upskilling, and next-skilling worker programs to facilitate training for unemployed and underemployed workers
  - \$20 million for work force development
  - \$10 million to higher ed and community organizations
  - \$1,250,000 for digital platforms, outreach and recruitment, and program implementation
- Funds will be available to many types of organizations
- Focus on well-paying jobs
- Funds can be used for: outreach, coaching, skills training, ESL, communities of color
- Funds must be obligated by 12/31/24 and spent by 12/31/26; repealed 7/1/27
- Stakeholder process

State Agency Responsible for Rules  
Department of Labor

Sent to Governor

# HB 21-1171 Kidney Disease Task Force

- Work with entities to create kidney disease educational programs to increase awareness
- Examine chronic kidney disease, transplantation, donation, and the higher rates of affliction in minority populations
- Develop a plan for awareness campaign that includes workshops, preventative screenings, social media campaigns, and television and radio commercials
- \$200,000 for a two year initiative

## State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Public Health and Environment
- Committee must convene by November 1, 2021 at least four times.
- Repealed on 9/1/26.

## Sent to the Governor

- Contact CPDHE to identify who is responsible for this initiative
- Work with health department officials on an effective campaign



# HB21-1105 Concerning Utility Customers' Financial Contributions for Low-Income Utility Assistance

- ALL SNAP RECIPIENTS SHALL GET A LEAP PAYMENT
- Data matching between SNAP and LEAP and CBMS
- ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
  - Requires customers to pay \$1 for electric and \$1 for natural gas into the energy assistance fund; and voluntary support for water starting 10/1/21
  - Monthly Billing Statements
    - Collection of the fee
    - Advise in English and Spanish that energy assistance is available through 1-800-HEAT-HELP
    - Individuals who collect the energy assistance fund are exempt from the monthly fee; fees can be removed for 12 months
    - Bill must include a number to opt-out of paying the fee
- LOW INCOME ENERGY AND WATER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
  - Governor appointed
  - 7 members (one consumer; three industry reps)
- WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
  - Water Utility can finance water bills for low income households
  - Customers can donate to the program
- WEATHERIZATION
  - 40% of funds collected must support weatherization
- 2% of funds must go to community organizations to low income and minority households

State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Human Services

## CALL TO ACTION

- Identify a LEAP recipient to be on the Commission
- Appointed by the Governor
- Appointed by May 1, 2022

# HB21-1123 CAPS Check for Substantiated Mistreatment of Adults

- DORA can disclose the CAPS check without a court order for regulatory investigation - access to the license numbers must be provided by employer/employee;
- Licensee, certificate holder, or registrant must submit the license number
- Someone who is petitioning for a guardianship or conservatorship
- Submit a CAPS check prior to appointment as a guardian or conservator; court gets noticed if there is a substantiated case of mistreatment within 7 days
- Notice must be provided of any changes to a health oversight agency;
- Strengthens appeal rights for the accuses
- CDHS shall notify DORA within 10 days of any findings

## State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Human Services

## SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

## CALL TO ACTION

- Monitor the Board of Human Services agenda for a copy of the rules
- Review the rules
- Consider testifying to the Board

# SB21-181 Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities

- Renames the program to Health Disparities and Community Grant Program in the CDPHE Office of Health Equity
- Grants to affect the social determinates of health to reduce disease and reduce health disparities in underrepresented populations in state agencies
- Grants for community organization to reduce health disparities and with a focus on policy and systems changes regarding social determinates of health
- Facilitate a state agency work group that develops an equity strategic plan that identifies priorities, obstacles, goals and timelines to address health disparities in state agency work and influence;
- Community grants that focus on strategic planning, building staff capacity, technical training and assistance and evaluate impact
- Have a state equity plan by 7/1/22

State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Public Health and Environment

Sent to the Governor

## CALL TO ACTION

- Health disparities grants available for statewide initiatives
- Contact the Office of Health Disparities at CDPHE to provide stakeholder input
- Serve on the Health Equity Commission



# SB21- 118 Alternative Response Mistreatment At-Risk Adults

- Pilot program for 15 counties to provide training and technical assistance
- Alternatives to investigate low-risk reports vs Full investigation requiring in-person interviews and making a finding;
- Contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to study effectiveness for 2 years; include in SMART hearings in 2025-26.

## State Agency Responsible for Rules

- Human Services

Sent to the Governor

## CALL TO ACTION

- Provide input to the Department on risk factors
- Monitor the proposed rules
- Provide testimony to the Human Services Board

# SB21-231 - Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Grants

- One time transfer of \$3 million from the general fund to the energy fund administered by the Colorado Energy Office for grants for weatherization assistance.
- 8% Administrative cap for grants

## CALL TO ACTION

Let more people know about the funds for furnaces, refrigerators, window repair, etc

# SB21-128 Modification to Administration of the Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund

- Transfers the program from Health Care Policy and Financing to Department of Public Health on 7/1/21.
- Authorizes some expenditures including reimbursing the board for expenses, allows governments to apply for funding, and allows for emergency funding authority
- Requires Health Department to provide notice of a violation to the nursing home 10 days, rather than 5 days.
- Appropriates \$2 million for nursing home grants

## State Agency Responsible

- Public Health and Environment

Sent to the Governor

**CALL TO ACTION: \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS  
AVAILABLE FOR NURSING HOME INNOVATION**



# SB21-148 Creation of Financial Empowerment Office

- Creates new office in the AG's office on financial empowerment to grow financial resilience and well-being. Director appt by AG. Partner with government, community org, and other organizations to strengthen financial products with banks and other financial areas of interest.

## STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

- Attorney General

**CALL TO ACTION:** work with stakeholders for financial empowerment

# HB21-1097 Establish Behavioral Health Administration

- Single state agency to lead, promote and administer the state's behavioral health priorities.

## State Agency Responsible

- Health Care Policy and Financing

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

CALL TO ACTION: JOIN THE HCPF  
STAKEHOLDER PROCESS FOR INPUT

# SB21-205 Long Bill

- CALL TO ACTION

- Are there any initiatives that we think the State should work on for 2022-23?



# Senior Advocacy Corps - Next meeting



# Thank You

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