BOUNCE FORWARD
BUILDING THRIVING, HEALTHY, & EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES
MARCH
4 & 5, 12, 19, 25 & 26
Through the Looking Glass: Aging Forward
Through the Looking Glass: Aging Forward

By Jayla Sanchez-Warren
March 2021
Area Agencies on Aging Provide a Statewide Network of Service

16 Area Agencies on Aging

• provides **information** and **services**

• **funds** community services

• **identifies** and **fills gaps** in services and **plans** for future needs

• **advocates** on behalf of older adults and their caregivers
Impact of COVID on Older Adults

CDC Has Information For Older Adults at Higher Risk

8 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older. Visit CDC.gov/coronavirus for steps to reduce your risk of getting sick.

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Impact of COVID: a time of quick and constant change

- Adapt and change quickly if needed
- Develop new ways to connect to each other and those we serve
- Modify services to meet need
- Pay service providers differently
- Add new services
- Provide information and reassurance a lot!!
- Understand impact to community based service providers
- Communicate, Communicate, communicate!
Short term

- COVID response
  - Education around COVID vaccines
  - Identifying and reaching the hard to serve older adult for vaccines
  - Transportation for vaccines
  - Nutrition
  - Housing/ eviction
  - Finance/work
  - Health Care
  - Isolation and depression

Service providers are facing serious challenges

- Short staffing
- Difficulty in hiring staff
- Financial strain

Re-building
Starting services back up again
Assessing need
Developing new services
Allocating huge amount of resources
• Increased flexibility in state and federal regulations allows service providers to respond to needs in the community.

• Family matters – we need to support family caregivers

• Isolation damages health and cause death

• Technology is an essential tool
  • Tele-health
  • Counseling and support groups
  • Education, information and connection
  • Access to technology is a big challenge for some
Why is understanding the impact on aging so important?

• Colorado is the second fastest aging state in the nation
• Between 2010 and 2019 – 53% increase
• Between 2020 and 2030 – 39.1% increase
• Aging is an economic driver
  • Impacts
    • Housing
    • Workforce
    • Transportation
    • Technology
• Understanding and Planning are the keys to building back stronger
QuestiONS?

Thank you!

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Homelessness, Housing Insecurity, and the Aging Population

Dr. Jamie Rife
Director of Communications & Development, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
• Mission: Leading and advancing collaboration to end homelessness in our region

• Metro Denver Continuum of Care (CoC) - a regional system that coordinates services and housing for people experiencing homelessness

• Region Includes: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson

• Coordinates the Point-in-Time (PIT), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), OneHome (Coordinated Entry System), State of Homelessness Report, Federal Funding from HUD
Data

What We Know About the Aging Population
Seniors Experiencing/At-Risk of Homelessness - 2020

Studies indicate that people experiencing chronic homelessness age significantly faster

In some cases, people in 50s having conditions generally found for people in their 70s

1 in 5 people experiencing homelessness/at-risk of homelessness is 55 or older

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age Tier</th>
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<tr>
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<td>65 or Above</td>
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<td>Missing Data</td>
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AHAR Annual Homeless Assessment Report

- 2007 - "Sheltered homeless adults are likely to be in their middle years...And rarely more than age 62."

- 2013-2017 – 62 and over grew by 51%
  - Pronounced in rural/suburban areas – more than doubled

- 2013-2017 – PSH (permanent supportive housing) population grew by 106% (29% everyone else) for 62 and over
Population Growth Predicted

Late Baby Boomers (1955-1965)
- 2017 – 2030 will see significant increases in homelessness
- Nearly 200% growth projected between 2017-2030 in some major cities

Aging Housing Crisis Trends: Growing Rapidly for Next Decade

There were racial disparities within the factors contributing to the cohort effect:

- Jobs: Older Baby Boomers crowded the job market and there were back-to-back recessions.
- In 1982, 18% of 16-24 year-olds were unemployed, 36% of Black youth were unemployed.
- Federal Budget - jobs, housing, and youth programs faced significant budget cuts.
- Mass Incarceration - between 1975 and 1985, number of prisoners in jails/prisons essentially doubled.

Hope Home Study – Longitudinal

- Researchers in Oakland found overt and structural racism contributed to black homelessness.
- Cited challenges w/ the criminal justice system, employment discrimination, wealth disparities, and premature death of people in social support networks.
Racial Inequity

Median per capita savings by demographics, age 65 and older, 2019:

By Race/Ethnicity:
- White: $131,650
- Black: $15,400
- Hispanic: $8,400

By Gender:
- Men: $105,000
- Women: $68,450

NOTE: Among Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older.

Effects of COVID-19

Job Losses
- Unemployment numbers are elevated during the recession.

October 2020 study from The New School
- Unemployment rates for 55+ exceed those of mid-career workers for the length of the pandemic (unusual)
- Older workers lost jobs faster and returned to work slower
- Those who are Black, female, or without a college degree experienced more job loss

Housing Insecurity for 55+ (Feb. 3 -15)
- 23% have “no” or “slight” confidence they will be able to pay next month’s rent
- 14% of renters said they are behind on their rent
- Of those behind on rent, 41% say that it is “very likely” or somewhat likely” that they will be evicted over the next 2 months – the eviction cliff

Health Impacts?
Implications

What to do About the Aging Population
Implications – Services for Housing Security

- Access to Facilities
  - More accessibility to facilities for aging population (bunk beds)

- Supplemental Service Needs
  - Higher needs related to aging

- Expanded Age Range for Services
  - Ages more quickly – extend to younger groups

- Employment Solutions
  - Moving people into employment

- Living w/ Family Members
  - Barriers need to be addressed (accessibility of homes, etc.)

- Resource Needs (housing, services, human resources)
  - Need to be adept to address needs of this population
Implications - Housing

Home Modification
• Ensuring individuals with disabilities can age in place
• Make homes affordable, safe & accessible

Housing Development & Preservation
• Combine private/public funds to finance affordable housing

Rental Assistance Programs
• Vouchers
• PSH assistance (with supportive services)

Prevention
• Assistance in assuring eviction is avoided
Resources

- MDHI State of Homelessness Report
- Point in Time Interactive Dashboard
- Emerging Crisis Report
- Jamie.Rife@mdhi.org
Resident driven experiences

Set up livestreaming through YouTube

• Instructions