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Ed Shackelford  
720-353-3775

Pat Tunnell  
303-232-6150

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1916-2012

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Eric Boyer  
(1919-2011)

Newsletter Coordinators:  
George Yardley  
Mike Drake  
Wayne Knox  
Eileen Bond  
Georgie Greene



655 North Broadway, Suite 580  
Denver, CO 80203

Email: [oacsrlobby01@aol.com](mailto:oacsrlobby01@aol.com)

Visit us on the web at [www.coloradoseniorlobby.org](http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org)  
303-832-4535

January, 2012

## Founder of CSL Passes

Bill Hannah

Robert B. Robinson, Robby or Bob to those who knew him, a pioneer and giant in the field of aging in Colorado, died at the Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Home at 12:05 a.m. on the day of his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, January 17, 2012. Mr. Robinson achieved well deserved recognition as a state and national leader in the field of aging. In the 1960s and 1970s he served as the first director of the Colorado Commission on Aging, and as the first Director of the State Division of Services for the Aging. Bob received numerous state and national awards and recognitions in the field of aging, and served as the 3<sup>rd</sup> national president of the National Association of State Units on Aging . often speaking before Congress and meeting with other states on behalf of the needs of older persons. After retirement from state employment in the mid-1970s, Mr. Robinson continued as a volunteer leader in the aging community, and served as the founding director of the Colorado Senior Lobby in addition to many other involvements, awards and achievements. He was the first recipient of the %Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture,+later renamed the %Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Award+ after a close friend and colleague of Bob's. In addition to his many accomplishments in the field of aging, Bob was very active in veterans organizations and causes. He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945, and received the Bronze Star for his service in Europe. Lt. Colonel Robinson's dedication to the service of his fellow veterans continued into his 90s through his membership and leadership in numerous veterans organizations . the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Retired Officers Association, the Military Order of the World Wars (life member and Department Commander), the National Association for Uniformed Services (President, Colorado Chapter No. 1), and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado. Even as a resident of the Fitzsimons Veterans Home following the loss of his wife of 65 years in 2009, Genevieve, Mr. Robinson continued to serve on special leadership committees, as a photographer for the in-house newsletter, and a special representative from Fitzsimons at the 2011 Denver Veterans Day Parade. Bob is survived by his daughter, Linda, of Istanbul, Turkey, his son, Russell, of Denver, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Services will be held at the Bonnie Brae United Church of Christ, 1201 S. Steele Street, Denver 80210, at 11:00 on

Friday, January 27, 2012. Interment will be at the Fort Logan National Veterans Cemetery at a date to be determined.

## **Colorado Banks Lax in Informing Seniors of Power of Attorney Protections**

**By Eileen Doherty, MS  
Executive Director  
Colorado Gerontological Society**

**Denver, CO.** The National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that more than 5 million people might be victims of financial abuse. Most often, elders are victims of financial abuse and exploitation because they have signed a financial power of attorney giving someone access to their bank accounts and other financial affairs.

Financial institutions, especially bank tellers, are often the first to note there is a problem. These third party professionals often recognize a problem may be developing because the elder is accompanied by a stranger to the bank and seems uncomfortable; or the elder is withdrawing large sums of money in cash; or worse the elder is confused, has given a trusted confidante the ability to access their bank account and the confidante withdraws large sums of money that are clearly outside of the scope of the needs of the elder.

However, financial institutions are bound by confidentiality laws that limit their ability to release financial records necessary to facilitate a rapid response from law enforcement and social services agencies. Tellers often express concern and feel impotent in these situations because they cannot share their concerns with the authorities who can stop the financial abuse and exploitation.

Due to the scope of this problem and the pervasiveness of the problem, lawmakers and the Colorado Attorney General passed a law in the 2009 legislature requiring financial institutions to offer eligible account holders the option to voluntarily sign a prior consent form to be placed on their account and waive their right to confidentiality. The form authorizes the financial institution to contact county departments of human services and local law enforcement of a known or suspected financial exploitation action of an account holder.

By signing the form the account holder gives law enforcement and the county department of human services access to every deposit, trust, safety-deposit, loan, and every other account with a specific financial institution current or in the future.

To further protect the account holder as many times those engaged in exploitation also manage the mail and other forms of communication, notice to law enforcement and the county department of human services is authorized without notice to the account holder is also waived.

When the financial institution notifies law enforcement or the department of human services, the consent form allows for the release of the account number, statements, signature cards, information about specific transactions including the amount and to whom. The form further allows reporting even if it is a joint account of one of the parties who may be suspected of abuse. While the financial institution is not obligated to report suspected elder abuse or financial exploitation, the expressed permission by signing the form does exist.

The consent form is durable and remains in effect until the account holder revokes it with the financial institution. Account holders who have accounts at more than one financial institution will need to sign a consent form for each company.

Elder abuse and financial exploitation that are committed against an at-risk adult who enters into a trusted relationship, the offender, if convicted can be held liable for both fines and mandatory jail time.

However, many financial institutions have not been very diligent about notifying account holders of the availability of this law and providing them with the form to sign for additional protection.

Older adults who have signed a power of attorney or who are considering signing a power of attorney, should consider contacting their financial institution and signing a consent form. Though most of us select trustworthy individuals to represent us as powers of attorney, the temptation for abuse always exists and one can never be too cautious.

If you contact your financial institution about signing a consent form and they are unfamiliar with the law, please call CGS at 303-333-3482 and we will provide you with copies of the form, as well as the statute authorizing them to make this service available.

## Long-Term Services and Supports Re-design

### *Proposed Relocation of Long-Term Services and Supports Programs*

- 2011 the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services and Public Health and Environment met to discuss In August collaborative projects the three departments might undertake to make the delivery of services more effective, efficient and elegant for consumers. A re-design of the long-term care system was selected as a priority project.
- Numerous discussions have occurred in the State Legislature, task forces, and work groups about the advantages and disadvantages of moving the [Division for Developmental Disabilities](#) (DDD) from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to streamline the administration of these important services.
- Based on a request from the Joint Budget Committee to examine the relocation of the DDD from CDHS to HCPF, the Departments examined the system more broadly and considered the impacts of relocating other long-term services and supports programs as well.
- Based on this review, and in response to the Joint Budget Committee's request, HCPF and DHS submitted a report outlining a proposal to relocate the DDD, the State Unit on Aging (SUA) and the Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waiver from DHS to HCPF.
- The overall goal of the proposal is to improve Colorado's ability to get the right services to the right people, as well as to take the first steps toward reducing the system fragmentation that causes delays and confusion for clients and their families.
- The proposed recommendation is intended to:
  - Improve the consistency of administration of programs and services by having all developmental disability providers contract with the same state agency.
  - Decrease duplicate or inconsistent rules and regulations between the three departments.
  - Increase the consistency of communication regarding rule-making, policies and procedures, and other programmatic requirements.
  - Leverage the new fiscal and programmatic opportunities for long-term services and supports that have been created through the passage of health care reform. Developmental disability, aging and CHRP services should be an integral part of health care system planning and design in Colorado.
  - Be the first step toward eliminating department-level fragmentation that will enhance Colorado's ability to qualify for federal and other funding and assistance for Colorado.
- The departments will engage a wide range of system stakeholders in a broad effort to re-design the long-term services and supports system.
- Moving DDD, the State Unit on Aging and the CHRP waiver to HCPF will not cause any services at the local level to change. This recommendation is part of a larger effort to improve long-term services and supports for persons who are disabled or aging in Colorado.
- The departments will do everything possible to ensure a successful, thoughtful process for program transitions and long-term care re-design.
  - Leadership in the three departments is committed to following a unified process for the proposed program transfers and long-term services and supports re-design.

- Leadership in the three departments is committed to working in partnership with providers, advocates, consumers and families to develop proposals that result in overall improvements to our long-term care system.
- Leadership in the three departments is committed to developing proposals that reflect the responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and respond to the fiscal constraints of the State.
- The departments will be hosting several community forums as a way to engage stakeholders in various discussions to ensure the development of thoughtful and effective proposals for program transitions and overall long-term services and supports system re-design.
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**LOBBY LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS**

Eileen Bond

During the Legislative Session the Colorado Senior Lobby meets every Monday morning to discuss new bills that have been introduced into the legislature the previous week. There is a lot of knowledge around the table with an ample amount of history. After a lot of consideration; we vote to support, oppose, watch, or defer our vote for a week so we can get more information. Questions are asked; %Who can call the sponsor? Why was the bill introduced? Who else is looking at it and do they have a position? Was a bill similar to this introduced in previous years and what happened to it? Who opposes it and who supports it?+

A few years ago, being aware of all the work that goes into our votes; I asked the question, %How do the Legislators know about our vote? How do we communicate our position?+I was told that we give them a copy of our newsletter and that there is a report in it that tells them our opinion. I am aware of the volume of information piled onto our Legislators, and I felt we may need to cut through the clutter a bit. I volunteered to write letters to put our vote right under their eyes. These would be short and not even in an envelope. Just a folded paper so as to pass what I call a %three second rule+; one second to open and two seconds to read.

Having done this job for several years, I have learned a bit. Both the State Senate and the Representatives have offices at the State Capitol where I turn in the letters. The letters should be in alphabetical order so they are easier for the aids to put into their boxes. They must also have a return address on them. At times when we are grateful for a particular vote, they may get a %thank you+card from us. Every year a letter or two goes to the Governor asking for some action from him. These letters are longer and more detailed because by the time the issue gets to the Governor it no longer fits or needs to hold to the %three second rule+.

A couple of years ago we discussed the resolution of the letters. When we support a bill and send a letter to the sponsor, he or she may well smile and share the letter with their fellow Legislators. The scene may be a bit different if we oppose a bill. The sponsor may or may not give our letter the three seconds before they crumple it and toss it into the trash. Rich Mauro, from DRCOG and a member of the Lobby came up with the idea that the letters should be given to the Committee members where the bill has been assigned. We want to get it past the sponsor who may not want to share with the Committee members, information about our position. They are also the ones who will amend or vote to pass or kill a bill. When I write letters for Committee members I always identify the bill by number, who is sponsoring it, and what Committee will be hearing it and when. Then I put in the couple of sentences specifying why we oppose this bill.

I know our letters make a difference because now and then they are referred to by members as they are discussing their bills on the floor.

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COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY  
2012 SESSION  
BILL STATUS SHEET  
January 23, 2012

POSITION & WHO RESPONSIBLE	BILL NO.	SPONSORS	TITLE/SUMMARY	COMM.	DATE	ACTION
<b>HOUSE BILLS</b>						
Support Ed/Wayne	HB 1028	Gerou/ Steadman	Continue low-income energy related assistance	House Finance	1-18	House Floor
Watch	HB 1052	Summers/ Boyd, Roberts	Collection of health care work force data from health care professionals	House Health & House Business		
Support GwynEllen	HB 1074	Kerr, Miklosi/ King S., Tochtrop	Access to data to assist the courts in overseeing persons appointed to manage the affairs of persons under disability	House Judiciary		
Oppose Wayne/Betty	HB 1075	Beezley/ Brophy	Establishing a 6% General Fund limit	House Finance		
Oppose John/Dolores	HB 1111	Szabo	Voter ID	House State Affairs		
Watch John	HB 1121	Scott	Utility rate payer's bill of rights	House Transportation		
Oppose Mike/Herb	HB 1122	Wilson	Disposal of medications	House Agriculture		
Watch Dolores/ GwynEllen	HB 1142	Del Grosso	PERA defined contribution plan	House Finance		
Watch John/GynEllen	HB 1150	Priola/ Lambert	Calculation of PERA highest average Salary	House Finance		
<b>SENATE BILLS</b>						
Oppose Eileen	SB 16	Lambert/ Del Grosso	Optional modification of PERA contribution rates	Senate State Affairs	1-30	
Oppose Pat	SB 18	Lundberg	Development of an alternative medical assistance program for the elderly	Senate Health	1-25	

Support Bob/Rich	SB 23	Boyd	All-inclusive care for the elderly - PACE	Senate Health		
<b>POSITION &amp; WHO RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>BILL NO.</b>	<b>SPONSORS</b>	<b>TITLE/SUMMARY</b>	<b>COMM.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Oppose Georgia	SB 32	Brophy	Seeking federal authorization to allow greater state flexibility in management of state administered health care assistance programs	Senate Health	2-1	
Oppose GwynEllen	SB 53	Neville/ Looper	Repeal Health Benefit Exchange Act if any part of PPACA is ruled unconstitutional	Senate Health		
Watch Pat	SB 54	Boyd	Protection against retaliation for employees of licensed health care facilities who exercise their own judgment	Senate Health		
Support Betty/Dwight	SB 55	White/ McCann	9Health Fair Tax Checkoff Senate Finance	Senate Finance		
Support Bob	SB 60	Roberts	Improve Medicaid fraud prosecution	Senate Judiciary		
Watch George/Georgia	SB 65	Morse	Prior authorization form for prescription drugs	Senate Health		
Watch	SB 70	Aguilar/ Wilson	Enacting the %Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act+	Senate Judiciary		
Watch GwynEllen/Ed	SB 74	Aguilar/ Gardner	Designation of a provider by person eligible for consumer-directed care services	Senate Judiciary		
Support w/Amend Betty/Rich/Pat	SB 78	Hudak/ Schafer, S	Protection of at-risk adults	Senate Health		
Watch	SB 82	Harvey	PERA retirement age same as Social Security	Senate Finance		
Watch	SB 84	Lambert/ Swalm	PERA transparency	Senate Finance		
Oppose John/Wayne	SB 85	Mitchell	Reductions in General Fund expenditures	Senate Health		
Watch Pat/Rich	SB 91	Tochtrop/ Bradford	Nursing Home administrator qualifications	Senate Health		

# Senior Day @ the Capitol



## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday March 14th, 2012

8-9am: Continental Breakfast (North 2nd floor mezzanine)  
9-noon: Old Supreme Court Chambers (2nd floor)  
Noon-2pm: Lunch & PM program  
@ Central Presbyterian Church,  
1660 Sherman St. (2 blocks North of the Capitol)

### Meet your legislators and elected officials!

Senior Day is an opportunity for seniors to learn more about current legislation. We urge all participants to contact their legislators and invite them to participate in the program.

Let your legislator know your concerns!  
That you are interested! That you vote!

All State legislators and elected officials have been invited to attend this event and briefly discuss issues of importance to seniors.

A box lunch will be available for approximately \$10.00 at Central Presbyterian Church (1660 Sherman St. (2 blocks North of the Capitol) This gives you an opportunity to get to meet with seniors from around the state in a comfortable and informal basis.

Questions or concerns, please call:  
Colorado Senior Lobby at: 303-832-4535



Colorado Senior Lobby  
655 North Broadway, Suite 580  
Denver, Co 80203

Colorado Senior Lobby, Inc.  
A nonprofit, non-partisan, all volunteer organization

I will support responsible legislation:

1. By becoming a Lobby member at \$30. A family membership is \$40 and includes one subscription to the Lobby newsletter \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. By joining an organization for \$75. Attach 3 subscriber names, addresses and phone number. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. By making a financial contribution to the Colorado Lobby \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Preference to Receive Newsletter Email \_\_\_\_\_ or Regular Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Apt. No. City St Zip Code

Date \_\_\_\_\_