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February 2013

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**SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL  
MARCH 20, 2013 – FLYER ON PAGE 7  
Volunteer assistance for anyone who needs a ride  
Looking for volunteers to provide assistance**

Some seniors may not make this event because of the difficulty of getting to the state capitol. This year we will do our best to help these individuals. We can't guarantee this service but we will make our best effort to find volunteers willing to help the senior community.

If you have arranged for a bus to transport seniors and have extra space perhaps a senior could go to your staging location, thereby avoiding the difficulties of driving to the capitol. Please let us know if there is any way you can provide assistance.

If you are looking for assistance or are willing to provide assistance please contact Karen Crosby – 720-201-6522.

**INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING ABOUT PROPOSED LEGISLATION?  
WANT TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES:  
STATE, LOCAL, OR NATIONAL?**

The Colorado Senior Lobby will accompany anyone interested in senior issues to the state capitol and provide assistance in locating the right committee meeting room and direction on how to arrange to testify.

The legislature is designed to be friendly to citizens who want to express their opinion. You can make your voice heard in many ways: write a letter, send an email, call or visit your legislator, or testify at a committee hearing.

The Senior Lobby reviews all proposed legislation and selects those that affect seniors for weekly discussion. The result is that the Senior Lobby will either support or oppose proposed legislation. If there is uncertainty then it will monitor the proposed legislation. As the bill proceeds through the process it is frequently amended. This may result in the Senior Lobby changing its position.

As a citizen interested in following legislation: the Senior Lobby will keep you informed about any bill as it progresses through the legislative process.

If you want assistance to contact federal or local legislative representatives we will provide assistance so you can communicate effectively.

If you want to communicate with your legislators or would like to be informed please contact Ed Shackelford, 720-353-3775 or email at [Ed@EdShackelford.com](mailto:Ed@EdShackelford.com).

### **WANTED NON-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVIST CITIZEN LOBBYISTS**

The Colorado Senior Lobby is looking for activist citizen lobbyists to support the positions taken by the Senior Lobby. It is a straightforward process to register as an unpaid lobbyist. Many of the rules and regulations that affect professional lobbyists do not apply to the volunteer.

This is an opportunity to make your voice heard. The Senior Lobby has a strong presence at the state capitol but each additional person promoting Senior Lobby positions enhances our influence. As a volunteer you will find this to be a very rewarding activity: One that will give you direct influence in protecting seniors.

There is always pressure to reduce funding for senior services. One example is the property tax relief for seniors who have owned their home for at least 10 years. Another is the meals-on-wheels program that many seniors rely on. These are just two of the many programs that improve the quality of life of seniors.

If you have an interest in having a direct impact on state legislation then becoming an activist citizen lobbyist for the Senior Lobby could be something you will find rewarding. For more information contact Ed Shackelford, 720-353-3775 or email at [Ed@EdShackelford.com](mailto:Ed@EdShackelford.com).

# Good Medicine

I don't know what it is, doc," the man said. "I just don't feel good."

The doctor examined him and ran some tests. Then she talked to her nurse and came into the examination room with three bottles of different-colored pills.

"OK," the doctor said. "I want you to take one blue pill with a large glass of water every two hours. I want you to take a green pill with a large glass of water every three hours. And then take one of the yellow pills, with a large glass of water, every four hours."

"Geez, that's a lot of pills," the patient said. "What's the matter with me?"

"You're not drinking enough water."

*Accept the things to which fate binds you,  
and love the people with whom fate brings you together,  
but do so with all your heart. ~Marcus Aurelius*

## **New 2012 Colorado Criminal Law - Mandatory Reporting for Mistreatment Of At-Risk Adults**

**June 24, 2012**

Introduction - Before this new Law, Colorado was one of only four states that does not have a law requiring mandatory reporting to adult protective services for social workers, physicians and other professionals.

The old law simply says that a report should be made and "urges" professionals to report within 24 hours.

The General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 12-078, which clarifies definitions and modifies requirements concerning the mistreatment, self-neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults.

### **Among other things, Here IS What The Bill Does:**

- expands the definition of an at-risk adult to include persons over the age of 70; for observed or suspected mistreatment or self-neglect, it requires a person in a specified profession or occupation (mandatory reporter) to make an immediate oral report within 24 hours;
- for observed or suspected fiscal exploitation, it urges a mandatory reporter to make an immediate oral report;
- removes the requirement that an abuse reporter follow an oral report with a written report within 48 hours;
- creates a class 3 misdemeanor for failure to report mistreatment or self-neglect of an at-risk adult; and
- increases the penalty for releasing confidential information about an adult protective services investigation from a class 2 petty offense with a maximum penalty of a \$300 fine to a class 3 misdemeanor.

In addition, the bill directs each county to require each protective services employee to undergo a fingerprint background check, and it creates the 17-member Elder Abuse Task Force, which is authorized to meet during the 2012 legislative interim. The pur-

pose of the task force is to study, make recommendations, and report on various issues related to at-risk elderly adults.

## **SB12-078, Protections for At-Risk Adults**

**Colorado Criminal Lawyer Blog**

## **MEET YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Each month we will present a short introduction to one of the directors of the Senior Lobby:

Rich Mauro is a Senior Policy & Legislative Analyst at the Denver Regional Council of Governments. In this capacity he does policy research and serves as DRCOG's legislative liaison responsible for both the state and federal legislative programs. He came to DRCOG in 1987 after six years with the Colorado Legislative Council, the staff agency for the Colorado General Assembly. Rich began at DRCOG as a policy analyst and then served as Director of Legislative and Membership Services. As the legislative liaison, he has coordinated DRCOG's advocacy on transportation, aging, water quality, air quality, land use and other issues of concern in the Denver region. He also serves on the Board of the Colorado Senior Lobby and as an officer of the Older Americans Coalition.

## **What is 2-1-1?**

This is a number for free referral services sponsored by United Way

### **People call 2-1-1 for**

Food, Rent & Utility Assistance  
To Volunteer or to Make In-Kind or Financial Donations  
Disaster Recovery Assistance and More

The 2-1-1 Colorado database holds information about more than 11,000 services across the state of Colorado. These services are supported by more than 3,900 agencies.

In 2011: 2-1-1 Colorado received 255,000 calls, an 11% increase over the prior year.

### **TOP FIVE COLORADO NEEDS**

1. Housing and Utilities – 44%
2. Information Services – 30%
3. Food and Meals – 9.5%
4. Income support and Assistance – 8.5%
5. Individual, Family and Community Support – 8%

To support this service: Check off the 2-1-1 Colorado First Call for Help Fund on your 2012 income tax form.

- *Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional. ~Anonymous.*

## Getting Pushback On Good Ideas?

People say they want something new, innovative, outside the box. But often they reject your most creative ideas for being too wild. What's up with that?

According to experiments carried out at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010 involving more than 200 subjects, new ideas often generate a feeling of uncertainty in people, which makes them feel uncomfortable. Researchers measured levels of unconscious bias in subjects and found that even people who say they're looking for fresh, original ideas associate such ideas with negative words and emotion like "poison" and "agony."

When you've got a great idea, be prepared to overcome this instinctive bias and you'll do a better job of convincing people that you're on the right track. It won't necessarily be easy—the research found that even objective evidence in favor of a creative concept doesn't motivate people to embrace it—but it will be worth it in the end.

### SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Senior Day at the Capitol has been an exciting, informative event for many years. The Senior Lobby is honored to continue to be the sponsor for the event. It is a time for seniors to gather together and realize their common interests.

We will have comments on Medicare, Medicaid, Elder Abuse, "The Village Concept" and an explanation by Representative Lois Court about how a bill proceeds through the legislature and becomes a law. (Colorado has one of the more complicated processes in the country.)

Safeguarding senior interests has and will continue to be of primary concern to the Senior Lobby. All proposed legislation is carefully scrutinized to evaluate its impact.

We try to bring a balanced view to our position, recognizing that state resources are limited. But we consider some items of such importance that we strongly support our positions.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the legislation being

- *I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. ~Winston Churchill*
- *No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens. ~Abraham Lincoln*
- *Nothing will work unless you do. ~Maya Angelou*
- *By working faithfully eight hours a day you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day. ~Robert Frost*
- *The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary. ~Vince Lombardi*

evaluated to contact us. We are a non-partisan organization and encourage the input from all interested parties. If interested, we will provide you with a list of legislation being considered and our position. Keep in mind that our position may change on any given bill if there are amendments which we deem unacceptable.

## **WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT AND COMMENTS.**

The legislative committee meets every Monday morning when the legislature is in session and every other Monday morning the rest of the year. All members are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard and influence legislation.

## **SUPPORT SENATE BILL 127: KEEP SENIORS OUT OF NURSING HOME AS LONG AS REASONABLE**

*This bill provides additional funding for programs that have an important impact on the quality of life of those receiving assistance. The increased funding for Meals On Wheels is one of many programs affected.*

*This is a humanitarian bill. But it is also a cost reduction bill. Keeping a senior in their home costs a modest amount of money. But without assistance this same senior will in too many instances have to go to assisted living or to a nursing home. For some seniors this will require immediate assistance from Medicaid. This is significantly more expensive than keeping a senior in his/her home.*

*Others may not need immediate assistance from Medicaid, but they will have started depleting their assets. For many it is only a matter of time until they will need Medicaid. Although the savings are not immediate in this situation, for many the savings will be realized.*

*This is not rocket science. We need to be proactive in doing all we can to reduce the financial burden on Medicaid. I urge you to contact your state senator and representative to support SB 127.*

***Editorial comment by Ed Shackelford***

- *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.  
~Robert Louis Stevenson.*
- *We don't see things the way they are. We see them the way WE are.  
~Talmud.*
- *I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.  
~Arthur Rubinstein.*
- *The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they always see the past better than it was, the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be.  
~Marcel Pagnol.*

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# SENIOR DAY@ THE CAPITOL

HOSTED BY COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY

Colorado State Capitol

8-9am: Continental Breakfast (North 2nd floor mezzanine)

9am-noon: Old Supreme Court Chambers (2nd floor)

Noon-2pm: Lunch & PM program @ Central Presbyterian Church,

## Preserve Senior Funding

### Keep Seniors Safe and Healthy

#### Meet your legislators, elected officials, and Senior Day Sponsors.

- Learn about programs available for seniors, legislation affecting seniors, and improve your skills on advocating on behalf of seniors.
- Let the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and your legislators know your concerns! **SENIOR POWER!!**
- A box lunch will be available for \$10.00 at the Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St. (2 blocks North of the Capitol).

**Lunch reservations and payments must be received by March 15th, 2013.**

(Luncheon reservations received after this date will not be accepted.)

Make checks payable to Colorado Senior Lobby. Mail checks and completed form to:

CSL, c/o Mike Drake at 22620 East River ChaseWay, Parker, CO 80138

**Please include names of all persons this luncheon reservation covers.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for # of: \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed: \_\_\_

Vegetarian lunch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten Free lunch #: \_\_\_\_\_

***Limited seating is available in the Old Supreme Court Chambers to a first come first served basis. Others may be required to stand.***

**Colorado Senior Lobby**  
**655 Broadway, Suite 580**  
**Denver, CO 80203**

***The ultimate folly is to think that something crucial to your welfare is being taken care of for you.***  
—Robert Brault, American operatic

**Go Green:**  
**Recycle This Newsletter!**  
After you've enjoyed my newsletter, please recycle it by passing it along to a family member, friend, neighbor or coworker.

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

I will support responsible legislation by joining as:

A single lobby membership at \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A family membership at \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

An organization for \$75. Attach three subscriber names, addresses, and phone numbers. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will support responsible legislation by a financial contribution to the Colorado Senior Lobby \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: Street Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Receive newsletter by: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

*make checks payable to Colorado Senior Lobby and send to:  
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