

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews October 2017



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Oops -- I liked last months "From the Director's desk" so well, I tried to run it again. However, this is the preferred version of Jon's October remarks -- I apologize for any inconvenience. Judi LaPoint

From the Director's desk...

Can change be managed?

I hope so, since we are in the middle of changes at NWCCOG unanticipated when I started a year ago. I also hope so because many local leaders I hear from consider themselves deliberate "change agents," in public service "to make a difference," not a sameness.

As noted last month, some of our jurisdictions have a simple majority of 4 seats up for election in April of 2018 (Frisco, Carbondale, Glenwood, Steamboat, Granby, Fraser, Vail, Gypsum and Eagle) while others have a supermajority of 5 seats (Minturn, Hot Sulphur, Kremmling, Blue River) and risking an extreme makeover, The Town of Dillon has 6 open seats.

To the credit of change agents, innovative, transformational work is occurring across the region. This summer, Steamboat Springs quietly transformed the Yampa riverfront from just a rec path into a promenade. In Glenwood Springs, the Grand Avenue bridge project will soon enough be complete. Both planned courageous public works to improve downtown experiences right through rather awkward leadership transitions in recent years. How is it that some priorities have enough momentum and are significant enough to stay on target right through organizational uncertainty?

Many of our local jurisdictions are actively planning for climate change. Just as many are not. A year ago, the federal government believed in it. Now it does not. So what change should a community believe in?

In the long run, the "old guard" protecting the "status quo" is in a losing battle, whether that group consists of staff or officials. Why, because as Heraclitus said, "there is nothing constant except change." Except of course in Congress.

Still, I see organizations run off the rails when the brake team of those "old guard" suddenly move on suddenly and new team pursues pent-up changes without much of a plan, or explanation, and without bringing the organization or the community along with them. Why? Because they can. Sound familiar?



You can blame impulsive change agent, but did the "old guard" fail to implement incremental change management that the organization or community desperately needed? An organization in that predicament may get significantly more change than anticipated-like pulling out that final block in the Jenga tower game.

Back at the home office, we at NWCCOG are concurrently welcoming less dramatic change. There is a planned retirement in Mobility (RTCC), leading to a possible restructuring within that department & AAAA that will likely be energizing. We have a completely new program being constructed with the Health Care Coalition and are looking for a contract coordinator to manage it. The HCC administers a grant for hospital disasters preparedness (... like Las Vegas just experienced), and finally externally driven change: a field audit from a state agency which triggered a swift and ongoing overhaul of the Elevator Inspection department. Ready or not, it was time.

Hopefully you are pro-actively participating in planned change in your organization, and are engaging "all stakeholders," and engaging deeply into the organization or community with the kind of strategic conversation that produces a consensus based strategy that will be able to navigate the shifting winds.

So my lame advice this month, try to engage change before change engages you.

Jon Stavney

To contact Jon directly email jstavney@nwccog.org

25 Years of SHIP in Colorado



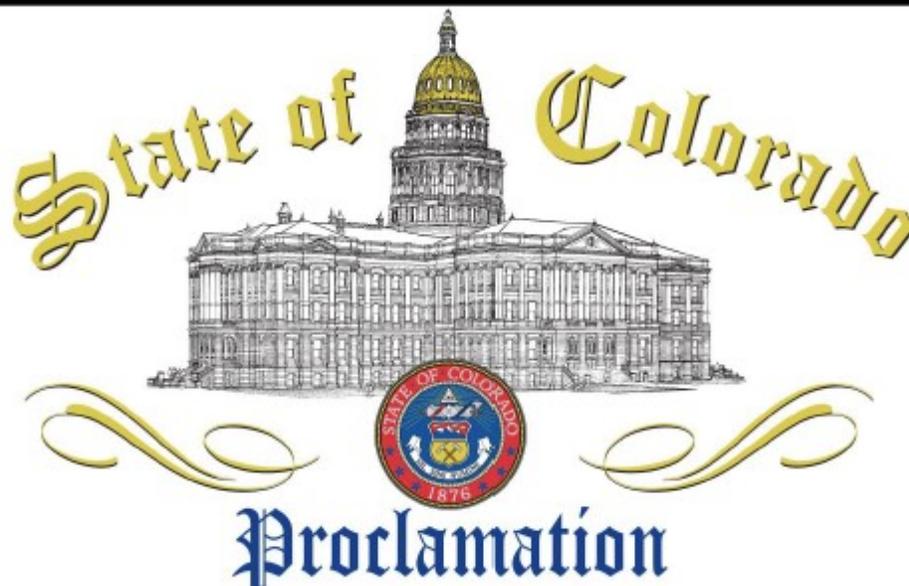
During the past 25 years of the Colorado State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), more than 846,000 citizens have enrolled in the Medicare system - many of whom needed assistance navigating the complexities of the program.

This assistance has been provided free by unbiased volunteers who provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare recipients, family members, care givers, and others to help Coloradans gain access to the benefits to which they are entitled.

The NWCCOG, under the leadership of TJ Dufresne the SHIP Medicare coordinator for the region, has provided a major role in this program by way of outreach and education throughout our communities. A Medicare Basics workshop was developed that is perfect for newly enrolling Medicare recipients.

The Governor of Colorado recently proclaimed the week of October 15 thru October 21, 2107 as Colorado SHIP week.

For more information, contact TJ Dufresne, the NWCCOG SHIP Medicare Coordinator at 970-468- 0295 x 120 or via email at tjdufresne@nwccog.org.



WHEREAS, Colorado SHIP is celebrating its 25th year of serving Coloradans; and

WHEREAS, more than 846,000 people in Colorado are enrolled in Medicare, many of whom need assistance in navigating the Medicare system; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) helps Medicare enrollees navigate the Medicare program by providing free, unbiased, and individualized information and counseling on Medicare and related insurances; and

WHEREAS, in the last seven years, Colorado SHIP volunteers and employees have provided one-on-one assistance to almost 175,000 Medicare consumers, family members, and community agency representatives; and

WHEREAS, Colorado SHIP also assists thousands of disabled Coloradans with Medicare issues and partners with hundreds of community partners; and

WHEREAS, Colorado SHIP has 17 locations statewide, and counselors have conducted 5,700 outreach events to help Coloradans access the benefits to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, SHIP counselors have helped Coloradans navigate changes to Medicare, including issues covering prescription drug coverage, health plans, Social Security, Medicaid, and other entitlement and benefit programs; and

WHEREAS, SHIP counselors have shown tremendous devotion to providing quality services to the aging, to people with disabling conditions, to the low income, to the incapacitated, to the isolated, and to those confused by the complexity of the systems;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, the period between October 15, 2017 and October 21, 2017, as

COLORADO SHIP WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this second day of October, 2017



John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

NWCCOG Seeking Health Care Coalition Coordinator

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is responsible for ensuring that communities in Colorado are adequately prepared to handle emergencies of all kinds. Recent events, such as those in Las Vegas, tested the preparedness of law enforcement officials, first responders, and hospitals in the area. The CDPHE has instituted the Health Care Coalition in order to assist communities in planning for emergency situations that, as we know, can happen anywhere at any time.



The CDPHE has a grant program providing funding to local public health agencies to help them increase their ability to respond to public health threats. The Health Care Coalitions are groups of local healthcare and responder organizations that collaborate to prepare for emergencies. This new organization will report to the NWCCOG and be responsible for coordinating efforts in the northwest corner of the state.

The position will be a contract assignment [and full details can be found here](#).

The NWCCOG is already the managing agent for the Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Region responsible for planning the coordinated responses of all-hazards planning, capability assessment, training, and exercise efforts. The functional areas under the NWAHEMR include Fire Services, HazMat Teams, Law Enforcement and others. For a complete list of the responsibility of NWAHEMR [see the website here](#).

Save The Date - November 3, 2017

NOVEMBER

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Save the Date

COLORADO FOREST COLLABORATIVES SUMMIT 2017



November 3rd - 9am-3pm
Keystone Center, Keystone, Colorado

Topics include;

- Legislative updates and group advocacy
- Reports from forest collaboratives
- US Forest Service direction under new administration
- Engaging local stakeholders through citizen monitoring
- Science behind high country forest projects

format will be short presentations with ample time for group discussion
Lunch will be provided, some funding for travel is available

RSVP to bpiehl@jw-associates.org

hosted by



High Country Forest Collaborative

Colorado State Forest Service



Alpine Area Agency on Aging - Events

Please share this article with others who might benefit from the content - more information is available at <http://alpineaaa.org/>

Past Events

Senior Law Day

On September 27, Senior Law Day was hosted at the Summit County & Senior Center in Frisco. Senior Law Day was also hosted on October 9th, at the Eagle county Building in El Jebel. These forums were intended to provide people with an opportunity to ask questions of legal teams in both communities. The first photo is from the event in Frisco, the second photo was taken in El Jebel.





Workplace wellness is about staying healthy in many ways -- the tip for October? Vaccinations!

In an effort to keep workplace wellness at the top of mind, we like to offer tips everyone can use in their daily lives to stay healthy physically and mentally! This article was written by [9Healthfair](#) blogger, [Liz Rittiman](#).



We've been talking a lot about flu shots lately. It's that time of year. But that may not be the only

vaccination you need. Let's take a look at some of the more common vaccinations out there to see what you may need, starting with the flu shot.

Flu Shot

Anyone older than six months should get a flu shot, according to King Sooper Pharmacist Kim Ward.

Peak illness is November through March, so you

want to make sure you get the vaccine no later than mid-October. Also, there's a myth out there that you can get your flu shot too soon. Not true! The vaccine stays in your body for nearly a year. So even if you get it in September, you'll still be protected in March. (This year, there is also a super-strength shot for those over 65!)

Shingles

If you don't already know, shingles are a painful skin rash caused by the latent chicken pox virus so if you ever had chicken pox, shingles are in your system. The Mayo Clinic recommends anyone over the age of 60 get a shingles vaccine regardless of if they've had shingles or not.

Pneumococcal Disease

This vaccine can not only help prevent pneumonia but meningitis and sepsis as well. Unless you have certain risk factors, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends anyone over the age of 60 for this shot.

If you think you may need one of these vaccines, reach out to your health care provider and ask. You can receive the flu shot at many of our 9Health Fairs this fall. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Elevator Inspector Program Director Job Opening

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) seeks a motivated and qualified individual to serve as the Elevator Inspection Program (EIP) Director. The EIP Director is responsible for overall efficient and effective management of the program to insure the safety of conveyances across the region through compliance with and enforcement of conveyance regulations within NWCCOG's territory of authority. The successful candidate will be QEI certified and have a proven track record of effective management and communication skills, as well as the ability to build positive working relationships with building officials, elevator companies and contractors, property managers, and building owners, as well as with the State Regulators while leading a 5-person department. Position open until filled. EOE.

For full job description and application instructions, [please see attached or visit website](#).

2017 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2018 budget

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Full Council, EDD Board & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: South Branch Library Hopeful Room, Breckenridge

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: 2017 budget revisions; approve 2018 budget; adopt 2018 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, P.O. Box 2308,
249 Warren Ave., Silverthorne, CO 80498

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