



# Annual Report

## 2021-22

**Prepared for:**

**Governor Spencer J. Cox**

**Utah State Legislature  
Health and Human Services**

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**Submitted by:**

**Rob Ence  
Executive Director**

**Andrew Jackson  
Commission Chair**



**UtahAging.org**  
Utah Commission on Aging



**UtahAging.org**

Utah Commission on Aging

## Message from the Commission Chair

The Utah Commission on Aging (UCOA) was essential in keeping opportunities accessible the past two challenging years in careful partnership with the area agencies on aging and other service partners.



*Andrew Jackson*

The emergence of UtahAging.org, our older adult virtual resource center, will continue to be a vital navigation resource to all Utahns. UCOA's collaborative efforts on critical topics continues to address current and future needs with age friendly frames on finance, education, health, housing, and caregiving.

Technical, health, and financial literacy are ongoing challenges as all deserve the opportunity to connect to social networks and access vital information. UCOA remains dedicated to helping all Utahns live their best lives.

## Message from the Executive Director



UCOA respectfully shares this annual report to our policy makers, stakeholders, and collaborative partners. Fiscal year 2021-22 continued vital partnerships and launched new initiatives. UtahAging.org is now a robust and comprehensive virtual resource center for important programs.

UCOA continues to lead in driving access to information through technology and is looking forward to supporting new efforts on family caregiving, Alzheimer's research, and other critical challenges ahead.

The work with the state AAAs has been productive and the joint project on the resource center has been highlighted in forums outside of Utah.

UCOA is ready to tackle a new state master plan for aging, deploy the resource call center, and engage older Utahns in lifelong learning and arts engagement opportunities.



*Rob Ence*

## Our Social Impact

Utahns are better prepared to engage the opportunities and challenges of aging.

## Our Mission

The Utah Commission on Aging convenes stakeholders to innovate, advocate, educate, and communicate to help Utahns navigate the opportunities and challenges of aging.

## Our Values

1. Empowering through knowledge
2. Fostering new innovation
3. Advocating effective policy
4. Improving societal outcomes

## UCOA Commitment to Stakeholders:

*(Policy Makers, Researchers, Resource Providers, Public)*

### 1. Research

- Study, evaluate, and report on the projected impact on the state's ecosystem
- Facilitate and conduct the research and study of aging issues
- Study and evaluate policies and programs in other states and countries

### 2. Public Policy

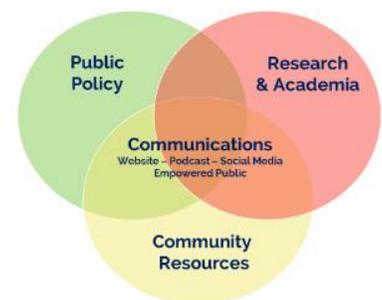
- Identify and recommend policies and programs
- Study, evaluate, and report on the effectiveness of policies and programs
- Work with policy makers in analysis, planning, and preparing

### 3. Resource Education

- Increase understanding of current and future needs and solutions
- Facilitate collaborative efforts between public and private entities
- Increase public awareness on innovative solutions and services

### 4. Communications

- Provide a forum for public access and input on aging issues
- Utilize all media formats to disseminate public information
- Report results and account to stakeholders



# UCOA Statutory Appointments as of June 30, 2022

## Chair:

Jackson, Andrew

Public Transportation

## Appointed Members:

Anderson, Amy

Utah League of Cities and Towns

Burbank, Chris

Public Safety

Curley, Darlene

General Public – Policy

Daniel, Ronnie

Advocate for Older Adults

Hofmann, Michelle\*

Health - DHHS

Hollinghaus, Mike\*

Demographic Data Analyst

Holmgren, Nels

Aging Services - DHHS

Kelso, Gary

Long-Term Care

Leggett, Paul

Utah Area Agencies on Aging

Milne, Linda

General Public

Ormsby, Alan

Advocate for Older Adults

Rajeev, Deepthi

Nonprofit Organizations

Supiano, Mark

Higher Education

Wilson, Troy

Legal Profession

Wright, Glenn

Utah Association of Counties

*(six new appointments awaiting approval)*

*\*New UCOA appointments during fiscal year.*

## Executive Director:

Ence, Rob

Thank you to Ronnie Daniel for his years of service to the Commission as well as the Alzheimer's Association of Utah.

# UCOA Contributing Partners/Organizations/Stakeholders

Abel	Holly	SOM Div Ger Admin Assistant	Jones	Patricia	Women's Leadership Institute of Utah
Acerio	Susana	Holy Cross Ministries	Jones	Marcel	UDOH Medicaid Specialist
Acevedo	Manuel	Helpful Village.com	Judkins	Marsha	Utah House
Aerts	Sally	Falls Prevention Alliance	Kelso	Gary	Long-term Care for the Elderly
Albertson	Raven	Alzheimer's Association Program Director	Kwan	Karen	Utah House
Alderman	Kent	Lewis Hansen Law Firm - Utah WINGS Program	Lassere	John	MD IHC; UGS
Altman	Tracy	Med Adv Special Needs Plan - with ???	Lee	Melissa	Alz Assoc Dir of Communications
Andersen	Troy	Dir of Goodwill Program, College of SW UofU	Lee	Traci	Adult Protective Services
Anderson	Amy	Utah League of Cities and Towns	Leggett	Paul	SLCo Aging Services Director
Anderson	Seth	Legislative Analyst	Leggett	Paul	Salt Lake Co AAA
Anjewierden	Dirk	ED Utah Health Care Association	Letamendi	Carl	UDHO Data Analytics
Aruscavage	Nancy	U Geron Grad Student	Litvack	David	Dep Director DHHS
Asman	Anne	U Dept of Psychiatry - Geriatrician	Lucero	Mary	Mountainland AAA
Babitz	Marc	Citizen Advocate	Luke	Margene	Utah Caregivers Association
Barlow	Stewart	Utah House of Representatives	Lunt	Kyle	UDOH Health Informatics Office Director
Barney	Traci	UDOH Falls Prevention Training	Lythgoe	Marti	Free-Lance Writer and UCOA Blogger
Bate	Amy	Tooele Co AAA	Macey	Joel	IHC Hospice Services - Gerontology Grad Student
Beadles	Wei	DHHS Epidemiologist	Mack	Alex	Jewish Family Services
Beattie	Miriam	U SOM Div of Geriatrics	Madsen	Nancy	Retired Volunteer
Blackham	Rachelle	Davis County Health and Aging Services	McCullough	Matt	Utah Technology Network
Blackham	Rachelle	Davis County AAA	McFarlane	Kim	PA
Blake	Ed	Habitat for Humanity	McNamee	Joey	SLCo Aging Services Dep Director
Bowcutt	Jason	Utah Division of Arts and Museums	Mendenhall	Nan	Utah Adult Protective Services
Bowman	Celsa	UDOH	Meppen	Diane	Director of Survey Research Kem C Gardner Policy Institute
Brown	James	Living with Pride.Com	Miles	Kelly	Utah House
Brunt	Teresa	Injury Prevention and Trauma Outreach IMC	Milne	Linda	General Public
Burbank	Chris	Public Safety	Miner	Joseph	Retired MD and Former Exec Dir of UDOH
Butterwick	Adrienne	Comagine/Healthinsight	Morgan	Jen	USU ADCRC
Carpio	Sandra	21 Services Managing Director - United Way of Utah	Mueller-Planitz	Florentina	Falls Prevention Alliance
Checketts	Nate	Dep Director DHHS	Musto	Daniel	UDOH Falls Prevention Training
Chin	Brian	UHIN	Nederostek	Kate	DHHS Program Manager/Utah Caregiver Support Program
Chou	Ruby	WSU Music Specialist	Newton	Sheri	Voting rights specialist
Christensen	Emily	Crescendo Music Therapy	Ngata	Marie	UDOH Health Hotline
Christensen	Marianne	SLCo Aging Services Health Promotion Manager	Nguyen	Christine Gianchet	UDOH Medicaid State-Level Housing Coordinator
Christensen	Tom	Elder Law Attorney	Noonan	Erika	Medical Provider
Clark	Christine	UCOA Policy and Research	North	Christie	CCPP Grant Project Coordinator U of U Sch of Business
Clayton	TantLisa	Utah Legal Services	Ormsby	Alan	AARP Utah State Director
Cole	Linda	Mountainland AAA	Pace	Brad	PA-C, Executive Director Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
Collett	Cami	St Marks Physician; Chair Utah POLST Steering Committee	Pankow	Becca	Children's Service Society of Utah
Correa	Kimberlin	SL Habitat for Humanity	Parker	Deborah	Home Care Services
Cottrell	Kristy	Citizen Advocate	Pearson	Cory	Dept of Vet Affairs - Veterans Services Coordinator
Covey	Wid	Local Aging Advisors	Pena	Nubia	Office of Multicultural Affairs
Cressman	Rebecca	Radio Personality	Pero	Samantha	Senior Exec at KSL
Crossley	Ken	Engage Creativity for Life	Pierpont	Jon	Gov Chief of Staff
Cummings	Doug	Elder Law Attorney	Pierucci	Candice B.	Utah House
Cunningham	Jeremy	Alz Association	Pinilla-Coxe	Victor Hugo	The Americas Council
Curley	Darlene	General Public	Podolan	Heather	SOM Div Ger Admin Assistant
Dailey-Provost	Jennifer	Utah Legislator, Non Profit Executive	Polacheck	Laura	Independent Writer/Contributor
Daniel	Candice	VA Psychologist	Preston	Oakley	SOM Div Ger Accounting
Dassell	Kara	Utah Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program	Pruhs	Alan	Ex Dir of Association of Utah Community Health
Davis	Marion	Representing Dept of Workforce Services	Quatrala	Rosemary	Jewish Family Services
Diaz Moore	Keith	U of Utah Dean of Architecture	Rajeev	Deepthi	Comagine
Diehl	Cameron	Executive Director Utah League of Cities and Towns	Rasmussen	Karina	HSC UofU
Dilig	Rebecca	Director of the Utah Broadband Center	Redd	Emily	Homespire Health
Diaper	Cammy	Questions about simplified guidance on AD forms	Reed	Carolyn	Bear River AAA
Ducuaara	Alysia	Get Healthy Utah	Rees	Dana	Weber Morgan Health Dept
Eaton	Jackie	U Coll of Nursing	Richardson	Brannon	Film producer
Edelman	Linda	U Coll of Nursing	Richardson	DeeDee	Advocate
Ellington	Lee	U Coll of Nursing	Riebe	Kathleen	Utah Senate
Ence	Robert	Director	Riggle	Andrew	Disability Law Center
Etherington	Chris	UALA	Rollins	Tara	Ex Dir of Utah Housing Coalition
Evans	Janice	Broadcast Journalist	Ruppe	Cindy	Uintah County AAA - Vernal
Faherty	Sean	Ut Leg Analyst Higher Ed Sub Approp	Rupper	Rand	MD, VA GRECC
Farrell	Michael	SOM Staff	Russell	Kristy	Alz Coord Council UDOH
Farrell	Timothy	MD Div of Geriatrics	Salari	Sonia	U Family and Consumer Studies
Fauth	Beth	USU Graduate Programs Family Studies	Scammon	Deb	U Eccles Sch of Business
Felsted	Katarina	U Coll of Nursing	Schiwal	Alex	USU Research and Grants
Ford	Jack	Retired journalist, law enforcement	Schonlaw	Carrie	Five-County AAA
Foster	Rich	UDOH Emergency Prep	Scott	Brantley	UDOH Data Analytics
Frick	Janet	Utah Aging Alliance	Scott	Sarah	Neighborhood House
Gabbitas	Liz	Utah Library Division	Shepherd	Bonnie	Citizen Advocate
Galindo	Michael	IHC Physician and President of Utah Geriatrics Society	Shepherd	Nichole	UDOH Wellness Programs
Gallegos	Joan	Comagine Health Utah Executive Director	Sierer	Katie	Nurse, Hospice House Interest
Gallegos	Tammy	San Juan Co AAA	Silver	Ellen	Jewish Family Service Executive Director
Garcia	Jesse	Weber Morgan AAA Advisory Board Chair	Singer	Lewis	American Indian/Alaska Native Communities
Garcia-Leavitt	Liz	UoU Geriatrics - SW Dementia Specialist	Sipes	Alianne	DHHS DAAS LTC Ombudsman
Gardner	Emmie	Holy Cross Ministries	Sisoso	Briana	U Grad Student GIP
Garrett	Teresa	U College of Nursing	Sorenson	Jordan	Project Manager, UHA
Goodman	Sam	Broadcast Production - Navajo Translation	Spangler	Allison	UHCA Exec Director
Greer	Valerie	U Dept of Architecture	Summarell	Michelle	Uintah Basin AAA
Gruber	Tracy	Dir DHHS	Supiano	Katherine	U Coll of Nursing
Hales	Tonya	Dep Director DHHS	Supiano	Mark	University of Utah
Hall	Deb	Independent	Tanner	Corinna	BYU Gerontology Professor
Hansen	Matt	Executive Director of Homecare and Hospice Assoc of Utah	Thackeray	Anne	Asst Professor Physical Therapy and Athletic Training UofU Health
Hansford	Tracy	Utah Division of Arts and Museums	Thatcher	Daniel W.	Utah Senate
Harris	Danny	AARP Dir of Advocacy	Thomas	Shonna	WINGS Program Coordinator - Admin Office of the Courts
Hart	Ben	Mask for Every Utahn	Thomas	Wendy	Dir of Parks, Events, Recreation - Herriman City
Hart	Jeremy	SLCo Aging Services Asst Director	Utz	Rebecca	U Dept of Social Work
Harter	Gary	ED Dept of Veteran & Military Affairs	Van De Graff	Arie	UDOH Commodity Supplemental Food Program
Hilman	Judi	Health Care Consultant	Vesely	Collin	Webmaster
Hinton	Melissa	President Utah Nurse Practitioners Association	Wade	Heidi	Weber Human Services, Senior Companions Director
Hoffman	Joel	Director UDOH Bureau of Licensing and Certification	Wahlen	Jake	Helpful Village.com
Hofmann	Michelle	Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health	Ward	Ray	Utah House
Holdaway	Kory	KMH Consulting & Government Affairs	Wassom	Bob	Free-Lance Writer and UCOA Blogger
Hollingshaus	Mike	Demographer Kem C Gardner Policy Institute	Watson	Clay	Utah Association for Home Care
Holmgren	Nels	Director of Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services	Weilenmann	Chloe	Children's Service Society of Utah
Horrocks	Shawna	Southeastern Utah AAA	White	Lee	Citizen Advocate
Hotton	Darren	DAAS - SHIP Program	Wike	Brian	Ut Leg Analyst Higher Ed Sub Approp
Iizuka	Nobu	Weber Human Services AAA	Wilkes	Michelle	Utah Courts WINGS
Ivory	Ken	Utah House	Williams	Sydney	DHHS CDC
Iwamoto	Jani	Utah State Senator and Lead of Falls Prev Alliance; Atty	Wilson	Troy	Legal Profession
Jackson	Andrew	Public Transportation	Woolsey	Sarah	AUCH Medical Director
Jackson	Brock	Six-County AAA	Wright	Glenn	Utah Association of Counties
Jensen	Robbie	Southeastern Utah AAA	Yack	Kevin	Uintah Basin AAA
Johnson	Grant	CAPE Volunteer Davis Co.	Zwerin	Jamie	Tooele Co AAA

# UCOA Quarterly Summit Agendas/Topics

Complete packets and recordings of meetings can be found at  
<https://ucoa.utah.edu/meetings.php>.

All meetings are virtual and open to the public.  
*Average Attendance = 50+ Members/Partners*

All meetings conducted by Andrew Jackson, UCOA Chair

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## **Summer Quarter - Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ Zoom Conference**

### Executive Director Report

Rob Ence

- Meeting with the Governor and quarterly staff meeting
- Darlene Curley – newly appointed UCOA member
- Annual Report for UCOA – Distribution by September 1
- Utah Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- Practicum Students– Nancy A, Joel M, Erika T

### Community Partner Engagement

- UGS Revival – Utah Geriatric and Gerontology Society
- Utah Broadband Center – Advisory Council
- Utah Library System – older adult learning centers
- Division of Arts and Museums – training program
- Alzheimer's Association – program updates
- Upcoming events – open announcements
  - Family Caregiver Retreat at Senior Expo –
  - Sept 22 Falls Prevention day
  - Advance Care Planning study –
  - Childrens Service Society -

J Lassere, MD

Rebecca Dilg

Liz Gabbitas

Tracy Hansford

Ronnie Daniel

All

Debbie Williams

Nancy Aruscavage

Encarni Gallardo

### Commission Communications Update

Rob Ence

- IT Survey snapshot – not yet for distribution
- Website – utahaging.org – new site overview
- Member and partner engagement asks and offers including:
  - Website – navigation, content proofing, recommendations
  - Older adult assistance hotline – volunteer, contribute to scope
  - Resource expertise – commitment and profiles
  - State aging plan 2050 and 2022 caregiver/partner plan – contributors/reviewers

## **Fall Quarter – Thursday, November 04, 2021 @ Zoom Conference**

### Executive Director Report

Rob Ence

- November is National Family Caregivers and Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- Recent UCOA Appointments
- Community Engagements
- Annual Report for UCOA
- Website Updates

### Partner Presentations

- The Case for a Utah State Plan for Family Caregiving
- COVID-19 Update from Utah Department of Health
- UCOA Tech Survey Final Report

Rebecca Utz

Michelle Hofmann

Alex Schiwal

### Community Calendar and Partner Events

Rob Ence/All

- HHAU – Homecare and Hospice Assoc of Utah Conference – Nov 8
- Utah Geriatric/Gerontology Society Annual Meeting – Nov 9
- Other

## **Winter Quarter – Thursday, February 10, 2022 @ Zoom Conference**

### Executive Director Report

Rob Ence

- Annual report
- State Plan for Family Caregiving
- State Aging Plan – Update for 2023
- Website updates
- Aging and the Arts <https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/creative-aging/>
- Utah Broadband speed test [speedtest.utah.gov](https://speedtest.utah.gov)
- Helpful Village



### Falls Prevention Alliance Update

Teresa Brunt, Chair

### Navigating Medicaid and the Demands of Long-Term Care

- Eligibility and Resources
- SHIP Program Insights
- Legal Perspective and Planning Considerations

Marcel Jones, Medicaid Specialist

Darren Hotton, SHIP Director

Troy Wilson, JD

### Community Calendar and Partner Events

Rob Ence/All

- March 31 – Advance Care Planning Summit
- June 15 – Utah Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- Calendar of Events on [www.UtahAging.org](http://www.UtahAging.org)

## Spring Quarter – Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ Zoom Conference

### Executive Director Report

- Website updates
- Future UCOA meetings
- Community calendars

Rob Ence



### Conversation with Leadership - Utah Department of Health and Human Services

- DHHS Overview
- Division Details
  - Organizational directories
  - Implications for aging services
  - Other departmental relationships impacting aging
- DAAS Implications

Deputy Directory – Nate Checketts  
Asst Dep Director – Tonya Hales

Nels Holmgren

### Community Partner Projects

- State Plan for Family Caregiving Rebecca Utz
- State Aging Plan – Update for 2023
- UGS events
- Partner open conversation

Rob Ence/All

Katie Sierer



# Aging Priorities with Demographic Trends 2020-2060

Planning for the future is art and science. What has occurred in the past and is witnessed in the present confirms or questions the best assumptions demographers can offer. The Kem Gardner Institute excels at what it does and acknowledges that results to projections will vary as real time plays out.

Everything in the future is based on the best assumptions available and reliability of good census data. These assumptions are influenced by birth and death rates, net migration, economic opportunity, community health factors (e.g., COVID), and other factors.

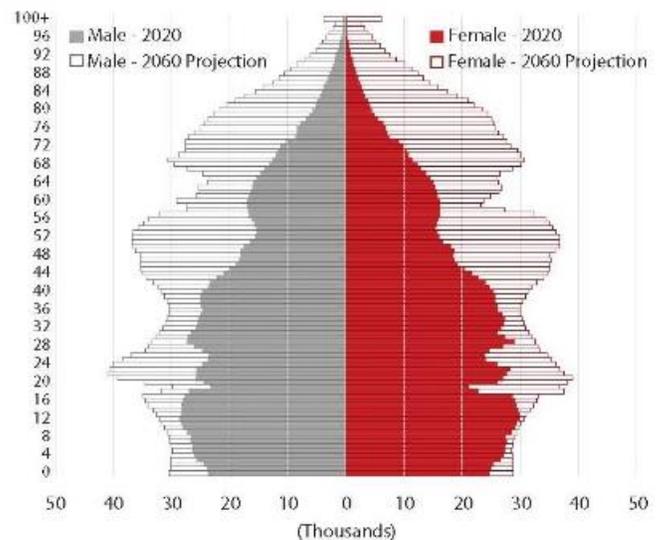
Projections inform about the potential impact of a growing older adult population sector and resultant shifts in demographic contributors to the dependency ratio over the next forty years.

The Utah Commission on Aging (UCOA) is deeply engaged in planning for those contingencies to ensure that Utahns have what is currently required for their well-being, but even more important, what we need to prepare for in the years ahead. It requires input from researchers and educators, service providers and partner organizations, policy makers and the general public. Information shared back enables individuals to make the best decisions for their lives and their futures.

The advent of UtahAging.org as the state's unique virtual resource center for older adults is designed to increase access to information to everyone. It complements program efforts of service providers while providing a comprehensive navigation center for aging information in Utah.

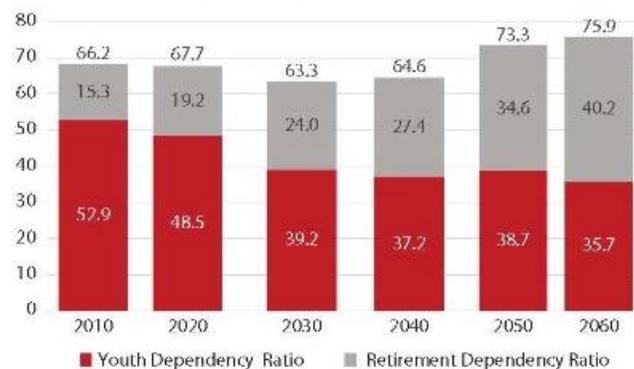
This report will further serve to highlight UCOA's support and participation on vital programs, policy, and research efforts and emphasize the need for a dynamic master plan on aging to ensure that state decision makers and families have the best information and resources available as our futures come into focus. The master plan for aging is a major priority for UCOA and its partners for the next fiscal year 2022-23.

**Figure 4: Utah Projected Population Pyramid, 2020 and 2060**



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

**Figure 5: Utah Dependency Ratios, 2010-2060**



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

## **Communications**

### ***UtahAging.Org – Utah’s Virtual Resource Center for Older Adults***

UtahAging.org grew significantly in content and site visits over the past year. The site has added new pages for the Utah Geriatrics and Gerontology Society, VA Benefits, the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) information and coordinating council, arts in aging collaboration with Utah Division of Arts and Museums with referral site to teaching artists. The site continues to expand its offerings on issues, specialists, informational blogs, event promotion, conferences, and general resource navigation.



### ***Communications Highlights:***

- UCOA hosts four quarterly stakeholder summits with average attendance of about sixty participants each; agenda summaries above and materials archived on website.
- [UtahAging.org](http://UtahAging.org) is the recognized online resource center for older adults, families, care partners. Advance Care Planning pages had over 14,000 visits in 2021.
- Content development with the assistance of UCOA member Darlene Curley and gerontology graduate students, Joel Macey and Nancy Aruscavage.
- UCOA continued work with the Utah Broadband Advisory Council and assisted with the speedtest.utah.gov study.
- UCOA continued work with the Utah Library Association
- Utah Arts and Museums collaboration adds older adult trained teaching artists.
- VA Benefits Cover to Cover program updated and now hosted on website.
- YouTube channel creates and adds new assets including an updated training video on Utah POLST agreements and the Utah electronic registry.
- UCOA coordinated taping three segments for “Living and Aging with Pride” and host James Brown focused on need for geriatricians, volunteering, and financial security.
- Added glossary of terms for older adult issues and navigation.
- Published article on ageism for BYU’s Daily Universe.
- Added six-part series on YouTube on Emergency Preparedness.
- Expanded contributions to blog content and experience.
- Featured guest on KSL radio for multiple segments on aging issues.



### ***What’s Next:***

- Older adult navigation call center – funding and training required.
- Promotional public campaign to promote UtahAging.org and related resources – funding required.
- Continue website and YouTube asset expansion.
- Older driver content in collaboration with the U of Utah Trauma Outreach & Injury Prevention Program.
- Working with National Consumer Law Center on campaign to build consumer awareness on “rent-a-bank” predatory lending practices.

## **Research and Academia**

UCOA promotes gerontology education and promotes collaboration across academic institutions. UCOA also collaborates on community outreach program and topical symposia while assisting and promoting research recruitment and projects.

### ***Research and Academic Highlights:***

- Conducted and presented results of older adult awareness and use of technology underwritten and partnered with Utah State University.
- UCOA is the home site for the Utah Geriatrics and Gerontology Society (UGS).
- Hosted four quarterly UGS professional education meetings.
- Promoted HB60 and other Lifelong Learning programs.
- Interview team for College of Nursing Assistant Dean.
- Collaboration with Utah Department of Health data collection and analysis team to utilize and promote their resources.
- Continued to promote presence of all Utah academic centers with training and certification offered in gerontology studies.
- Continued to promote the participation and recruitment for research studies involving older adults.
- Continued to collaborate with Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) under the Utah Geriatric Education Consortium (UGEC).
- Participated in the Frameworks Institute roundtable as part of the Cultural Change Project.

### ***What's Next:***

- Sponsor new gerontology practicum mentorships.
- Promote and grow the collaborative statewide academic effort to promote gerontology education, build business links, and assist in research promotion and subsequent publication.
- Incorporate research and policy topics in monthly blog contributions.
- Participation in the first age friendly symposium fall of 2022.
- Provide support and critical partnership for the newly funded Utah Alzheimer's Research Center base at Utah State University.



## **Public Policy**

UCOA strives to achieve its statutory mission through listening, advising, consulting, and advocating with and for Utah's older adults to inform policy makers, researchers, and service providers. UCOA continues to inform policy makers on the status and effectiveness of policies and programs through analysis and objective evaluation and by providing insights to state and local governments for the impact of future planning and demographic growth.



### ***Public Policy Highlights:***

- Started efforts to create a master plan for aging.
- Participated in Unified Caregiving Strategy series assisting states creating state plans and policy development.
- Collaborative partner on the creation of a state plan for family caregivers.
- Supported local Alzheimer's Association roundtable conversation with Utah Congressman Chris Stewart and Utah DAAS.
- Working with court WINGS program on guardianship and conservatorship issues and helping recruit volunteers for the court visitors program.
- Provided important stakeholder information on Utah Medicaid rules and eligibility for long term care assistance with legal planning perspective.
- Supported the launch and information dissemination on the merger of the health and human services departments, met with leadership, and provided engagement opportunities with UCOA partners.
- Met with key legislators on appropriations requests, information priorities to vulnerable constituent groups, and future UCOA plan priorities on information and resources including families with disabilities, geriatrician locator, women's health and aging.

### ***What's Next:***

- Legislative appropriations request to support volunteer call center, virtual resource center, and technology literacy training.
- Delivery with partnership of the Utah State Caregiver Plan.
- Update the UCOA statute to include required master plan for aging.
- Engage master plan for aging work teams.
- Work on policy for hospice homes, managing unbefriended adults that fall into health expense and care gaps, and adult protective services resources.
- Support the launch efforts of the new state Alzheimer's research center.
- Recommendations to legislators on policy and commission redundancy and areas of focus consistent with plan for aging.

## Community Resources and Engagements

UCOA plans, sponsors, and hosts with partner stakeholders' events throughout the year. UCOA also connects events and programs through an interactive event calendar. Promoting awareness of existing services and educating all Utahns and providers and professionals to help empower individuals to make good decisions with the best information available.



### ***Community Outreach Highlights:***

- Expanded resource specialist listings of expert volunteers available to the community on older adult topics.
- UCOA actively supported U4A projects and meetings and presented to advisory councils in Mountainlands AG (Summit, Utah, Wasatch), San Juan, Weber-Morgan, Salt Lake, and Davis Counties.
- Provided ACP training to members of the Utah Health Care Association.
- Promoted and participated in the special arts training sponsored by Utah Division of Arts and Museums and conducted by Lifetime Arts.
- Co-sponsored and co-chaired all Falls Prevention Alliance projects and hosted an annual summit during legislative session.
- Obtained Governor declaration naming Sept 23 as Falls Prevention Day.
- Founding committee member to create the first age-friendly symposium on communities, housing, health, and education with the U Department of Architecture and College of Nursing as core sponsors.
- Presented to BYU graduate gerontology students.
- Planned and co-hosted the sixth annual Advance Care Planning Summit for professionals with over 150 in attendance.
- Planned and hosted the second annual Utah Elder Abuse Awareness Day with over 160 professionals in attendance.
- Continue to partner with Adult Protective Services in promoting awareness across the state on recognizing and reporting abuse.
- Collaborated with leaders from the Utah Pride Center's Sage program to understand and promote mutual resources for LGBTQ older adults.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Utah Department of Health to promote Get Healthy Utah.

### ***What's Next:***

- Continue collaborative work with issue partners including WINGS, guardian of the court, Comagine, Alzheimer's Council, Area Agencies on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services programs, long term care partners, educational partners at Utah's academic institutions, etc.
- Recruit, train, and manage volunteers to drive call center and provide literacy support in health, finance, and technology.
- Present case study on innovative communications strategy with partners to U.S. Aging conference August 2022 in Washington D.C. and the American Society on Aging conference in March 2023 in Atlanta.
- Convene quarterly public commission summit meetings and addressing topics of current and high priority needs to our communities.
- Plan, co-sponsor, and host specialty summits on falls prevention, advance care planning, age-friendly communities, elder abuse awareness, and others.





# UtahAging.org

Utah Commission on Aging

## Contact Information

[www.utahaging.org](http://www.utahaging.org)

[utahaging@gmail.com](mailto:utahaging@gmail.com)

**Rob Ence**  
801-556-0458

**Executive Director**  
[rob.ence@utah.edu](mailto:rob.ence@utah.edu)

**Andrew Jackson**  
**Collin Vesely**  
**Heather Podolan**

**UCOA Chair**  
**Web Development – Social Media**  
**Administrative Assistance**

