



Utahaging.org

Utah Commission on Aging

Annual Report 2022-23

Prepared For:

Governor Spencer J. Cox

Utah State Legislature
Health and Human Services
Interim Committee

Submitted By:

Rob Ence, Executive Director

Darlene J. Curley, Commission Chair

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Introducing the New Chair, Darlene Curley

It is a pleasure to welcome Darlene Curley EdD, of Park City, as the new UCOA Chair. Darlene has been an important contributor to UCOA's work over the past few years and now brings her skills and experience to the leadership role. Curley is a former legislator (ME), health policy advisor, educator (Columbia U – NYC), and volunteer with the Utah Medical Reserve Corps.



Darlene Curley

Special Thanks to Andrew Jackson

We would personally like to thank Andrew Jackson for the many years of support and leadership as Commission Chair. His wit, policy insights, connections, and good will helped the Commission effort grow, build new relationships, and find meaningful ways to contribute during challenging times. We all wish him well in the next chapter of his life's journey.



Andrew Jackson

Message from the Director, Rob Ence

The Utah Commission on Aging (UCOA) is pleased to share the FY 2022-23 Annual Report to Governor Cox, the



Rob Ence

Utah Legislature, municipal leaders, private and public stakeholders, and collaborative partners. This past fiscal year was foundational in shaping the future of aging in Utah. New key statutory members

were added to the strategy team and UCOA began collaborative relationships with several new partners including the Utah Broadband Advisory Council and the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center at Utah State University. UCOA has worked for several months dating back to 2021 to create a framework for creating a comprehensive road map for aging for all Utahns. In the 2023 legislative session, UCOA asked for and received legislative support to create a multi-sector, multi-year plan on aging for the state. This plan will be delivered to the legislature in November 2023 and will provide guidance for all Utahns and support infrastructure in the years ahead.



Utahaging.org

Utah Commission on Aging

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Ence, Executive Director

Darlene Curley, Chair

Mission

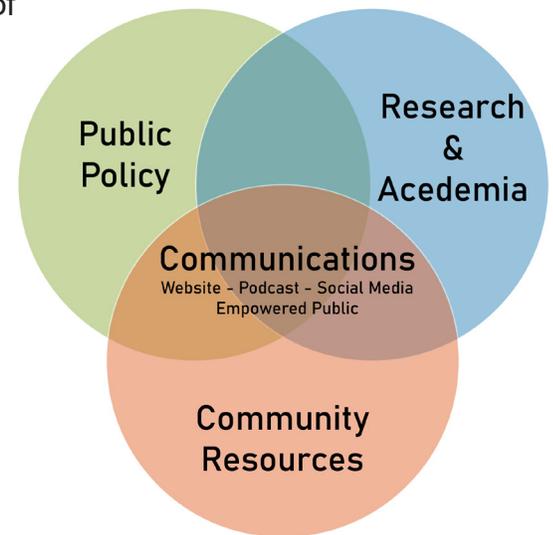
The Utah Commission on Aging convenes stakeholders to innovate, advocate, educate, and communicate to help Utahns navigate the opportunities and challenges of aging.

Social Impact

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

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 and the Public

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

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

Research & 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

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

Appointments as of June 30, 2023

Chair

Darlene Curley



Executive Director

Rob Ence



Appointed Members

Christy Allen	Utah Transit Authority Coordinated Mobility
Amy Anderson	Logan City Council and Sunshine Terrace
Chris Burbank	Public Safety – Former SLC Police Chief
Elizabeth Fauth	Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Research Center
Jim Grover	Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity
Mike Hollingshaus	Kem C Gardner Policy Institute
Nels Holmgren	Division of Aging and Adult Services and DHHS
Gary Kelso	Long-term Care for the Elderly
Paul Leggett	SLCo Aging Services Director
Jennifer Lloyd	AUCH Deputy Director
Matt McCullough	Utah Technology Network
Linda Milne	General Public – Emergency Preparedness
Allen Ormsby	AARP Utah State Director
Victor Hugo Pinilla-Coxe	The Americas Council
Deepthi Rajeev	Comagine Health
Mark Supiano	University of Utah HSC – Division of Geriatrics
Troy T. Wilson	Wilson Estate Law

Thank you to retiring appointed members Andrew Jackson, Glenn Wright, and the late Wendel Burt for their contributions to the Commission on Aging.

UCOA Contributing Partners

Abel	Holly	SOM Div Ger Admin Assistant	Lee	Melissa	Alz Assoc Dir of Communications
Acero	Susana	Holy Cross Ministries	Lee	Traci	Adult Protective Services
Acevedo	Manuel	Helpful Village.com	Afton	January	www.slco.org/aging
Aerts	Sally	Falls Prevention Alliance	Lesser	Rosemary	Utah House
Albertson	Raven	Alzheimer's Association Program Director	Litvack	David	Dep Director DHHS
Altman	Tracy	Med Adv Special Needs Plan - with ???	Benson	Stephanie	www.mountainland.org/aging
Andersen	Troy	Dir of Goodwill Program, College of SW UofU	Luke	Margene	Utah Caregivers Association
Anderson	Perrine	Medical Provider	Lunt	Kyle	UDOH Health Informatics Office Director
Anderson	Seth	Legislative Analyst	Lythgoe	Marti	Free-Lance Writer and UCOA Blogger
Anjewierden	Dirk	ED Utah Health Care Association	Macey	Joel	CEO President CNS
Aruscavage	Nancy	U Geron Grad Student	Madsen	Nancy	Retired, Volunteer
Asman	Anne	U Dept of Psychiatry - Geriatrician	McFarlane	Kim	PA
Babitz	Marc	Citizen Advocate	McNamee	Joey	SLCo Aging Services Dep Director
Baczek	Christine	Sr Dir Personal Enrichment and Youth Education Programs	Mendenhall	Nan	Utah Adult Protective Services
Barlow	Stewart	Utah House	Meppen	Diane	Director of Survey Research Kem C Gardner Policy Institute
Barney	Traci	UDOH Falls Prevention Training	Miner	Joseph	Retired MD and Former Exec Dir of UDDH
Beadles	Wei	DHHS Epidemiologist	Morgan	Jen	USU ADCRC
Beattie	Miriam	U SOM Div of Geriatrics	Mueller-Plantz	Florentina	Falls Prevention Alliance
Bennion	Gay Lynn	Utah House	Mumm	Teri	Utah Broadband Coalition
Bever	Stephanie	DHHS Program Coordinator	Murakami	Jake	DAAS Deputy Director
Blackham	Rachelle	Davis County Health and Aging Services	Musto	Daniel	UDOH Falls Prevention Training
Blackham	Rachelle	Davis County AAA	Nederostek	Kate	DHHS Program Manager/Utah Caregiver Support Program
Blake	Ed	Habitat for Humanity	Newton	Sheri	Voting rights specialist
Blouin	Nate	Utah Senate	Ngata	Marie	UDOH Health Hotline
Bouldin	Erin	Asst Prof of Epidemiology at UofU	Ngyuen	Christine Gianchetta	UDOH Medicaid State-Level Housing Coordinator
Bowcutt	Jason	Utah Division of Arts and Museums	Noonan	Erika	Medical Provider
Brening	Nick	Medical Provider	North	Christie	CCPP Grant Project Coordinator U of U Sch of Business
Brown	James	Living with Pride.Com	Obray	Cathleen	Medical Provider
Brunt	Teresa	Injury Prevention and Trauma Outreach IMC	Oseguera	Libby	Ex Dir - Utah Developmental and Disabilities Council
Butterwick	Adrienne	Comagine/HealthInsight	Pace	Sharon	Citizen Advocate
Carpio	Sandra	211 Services Managing Director - United Way of Utah	Pankow	Brad	PA-C, Executive Director Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
Checketts	Nate	Dep Director DHHS	Parker	Becca	Children's Service Society of Utah
Chin	Brian	UHJN	Pearson	Deborah	Home Care Services
Chou	Ruby	WSU Music Specialist	Pena	Cory	Dept of Vet Affairs - Veterans Services Coordinator
Christensen	Emily	Crescendo Music Therapy	Podolan	Nubia	Office of Multicultural Affairs
Christensen	Marianne	SLCo Aging Services Health Promotion Manager	Polacheck	Heather	SOM Div Ger Admin Assistant
Christensen	Tom	Elder Law Attorney	Polich	Laura	Independent Writer/Contributor
Christiansen	Sydney	DHHS Epidemiologist II	Preston	Toni	Seniors Blue Book
Clark	Christine	UCOA Policy and Research	Pruhs	Oakley	SOM Div Ger Accounting
Clayton	TantaLisa	Utah Legal Services	Quatrala	Alan	Ex Dir of Association of Utah Community Health
Cole	Linda	Mountainland AAA	Raborn	Rosemary	Jewish Family Services
Collett	Cami	St. Marks Physician; Chair Utah POLST Steering Committee	Rasmussen	Leanne	Utah 211 Outreach & Programs Director
Cornia	Gina	Utahns Against Hunger	Rees	Karina	HSC UofU
Correa	Kimberlin	SL Habitat for Humanity	Redd	Emily	Homespire Health
Cottrell	Kristy	Citizen Advocate	Richardson	Dana	Weber Morgan Health Dept
Covey	Wid	Citizen Advocate	Richardson	Brannon	Film producer
Cressman	Rebecca	Citizen Advocate	Riebe	DeeDee	Citizen Advocate
Cross	Jaime	Citizen Advocate	Riggle	Kathleen	Utah Senate
Crossley	Ken	Engage Creativity for Life	Rollins	Andrew	Disability Law Center
Cummings	Doug	Elder Law Attorney	Rollins	Tara	Ex Dir of Utah Housing Coalition
Cunningham	Jeremy	Alz Association	Rupper	Lucinda	uintahgoldenage.org
Dailey-Provost	Jennifer	Utah House	Russell	Rand	MD, VA GRECC
Daniel	Candice	VA Psychologist	Sadler	Kristy	Alz Coord Council UDOH
Dassel	Kara	Utah Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program	Salari	Anna	USU Alzheimer's Research Center
Davis	Marion	Representing Dept of Workforce Services	Scammon	Sonia	U Family and Consumer Studies
Diaz Moore	Keith	U of Utah Dean of Architecture	Schiwal	Deb	U Eccles Sch of Business
Diehl	Cameron	Executive Director Utah League of Cities and Towns	Schonlaw	Alex	USU Research and Grants
Dilg	Rebecca	Director of the Utah Broadband Center	Scott	Carrie	www.areasagencyonagingfivecounty.org/
Draper	Cammy	Questions about simplified guidance on AD forms	Shepherd	Sarah	Neighborhood House
Dresel	Anna	Citizen Advocate	Shepherd	Bonnie	Citizen Advocate
Ducuaara	Alysia	Get Healthy Utah	Sierer	Nichole	UDOH Wellness Programs
Earle	Janie	Medical Provider	Silver	Katie	Nurse, Hospice House Interest
Eaton	Jackie	U Coll of Nursing	Simmons	Ellen	Jewish Family Service Executive Director
Edelman	Linda	U Coll of Nursing	Singer	Diena	BYU Communications
Eliason	Steve	Utah House	Sipes	Lewis	American Indian/Alaska Native Communities
Ellington	Lee	U Coll of Nursing	Sisofo	Alianne	DHHS DAAS LTC Ombudsman
Escamilla	Luz	Utah Senate	Sorenson	Briana	U Grad Student GIP
Etherington	Chris	UALA	Spangler	Jordan	Project Manager, UHA
Evans	Janice	Broadcast Journalist	Squires	Allison	UHCA Exec Director
Faherty	Sean	Ut Leg Analyst Higher Ed Sub Approp	Starks	Elizabeth	Dir of Community Relations Memorial Mortuaries & Cemeteries
Farrell	Michael	SOM Staff	Supiano	Ryan	Dir of Utah Department of Economic Opportunity
Farrell	Timothy	MD Div of Geriatrics	Tanner	Katherine	U Coll of Nursing
Felsted	Katarina	Professor U College of Nursing	Telonidis	Corinna	BYU Gerontology Professor
Ford	Jack	Retired journalist, law enforcement	Thackeray	Jacqueline	UGEC Curriculum Coordinator
Foster	Rich	UDOH Emergency Prep	Thatcher	Anne	Asst Professor Physical Therapy and Athletic Training UofU Health
Frick	Janet	Utah Aging Alliance	Thomas	Daniel W.	Utah Senate
Galindo	Michael	IHC Physician and President of Utah Geriatrics Society	Thomas	Shonna	WINGS Program Coordinator - Admin Office of the Courts
Gallegos	Joan	Comagine Health Utah Executive Director	Thurston	Wendy	Dir of Parks, Events, Recreation - Herriman City
Gallegos	Tammy	San Juan Co AAA	Troumbley	Norm	Utah House
Garcia	Jesse	Weber Morgan AAA Advisory Board Chair	Turnquist	Patrick	Seniors Blue Book
Garcia-Leavitt	Liz	UofU Geriatrics - SW Dementia Specialist	Utz	Cindy	Five County Advisory Board - Kane County
Gardner	Emmie	Holy Cross Ministries	Van De Graff	Rebecca	U Dept of Social Work
Garrett	Teresa	U College of Nursing	Vesely	Arie	UDOH Commodity Supplemental Food Program
Glissmeyer	Caroline	Utah County 211	Vickers	Collin	Webmaster
Goodman	Sam	Broadcast Production - Navajo Translation	Wade	Evan J.	Utah Senate
Greer	Valerie	U Dept of Architecture	Wahlen	Heidi	Weber Human Services, Senior Companions Director
Gruber	Tracy	Dir DHHS	Ward	Jake	Helpful Village.com
Hales	Tonya	Dep Director DHHS	Wassom	Ray	Utah House
Hall	Deb	Seniors Out and Proud	Watson	Bob	Free-Lance Writer and UCOA Blogger
Hansen	Matt	Executive Director of Homecare and Hospice Assoc of Utah	Weilenmann	Clay	Utah Association for Home Care
Hansford	Tracy	Utah Division of Arts and Museums	White	Chloe	Children's Service Society of Utah
Harris	Danny	AARP Dir of Advocacy	Wilkes	Lee	Citizen Advocate
Hart	Jeremy	SLCo Aging Services Asst Director	Wilson	Michelle	Utah Courts WINGS
Harter	Gary	ED Dept of Veteran & Military Affairs	Wittwer	Laura	Creative Aging Coordinator UMFA
Hilman	Judi	Health Care Consultant	Woolsey	Andrew	VA General Caregiver Support Program
Hinton	Melissa	President Utah Nurse Practitioners Association	Ivory	Sarah	AUCH Medical Director
Hoftiezer	Amy	Tooele Co AAA	Iwamoto	Ken	Utah House
Horrocks	Shawna	Southeastern Utah AAA	Jackson	Jani	Attorney
Hotton	Darren	DAAS - SHIP Program	Johnson	Andrew	Horrocks Engineering
Iizuka	Nobu	Weber Human Services AAA	Johnson	Grant	CAPE Volunteer Davis Co.
Ivory	Ken	Utah House		Jaleen	Utah Telehealth Network and NTEN Fellow
Iwamoto	Jani	Attorney			
Jackson	Andrew	Horrocks Engineering			
Johnson	Grant	CAPE Volunteer Davis Co.			
Johnson	Jaleen	Utah Telehealth Network and NTEN Fellow			
Jones	Patricia	Women's Leadership Institute of Utah			
Jones	Marcel	UDOH Medicaid Specialist			
Judkins	Marsha	Utah House			
Kennedy	Mike	Utah Senate			
Kilgrow	Julie	Citizen Advocate			
Kirkham	Doug	https://www.sixcountyaging.com/			
Kulp	Stacie	Alz Assoc of Utah Executive Director			
Kwan	Karen	Utah Senate			
Larsen-Ruff	Augustine	ASU SW Grad Student			

Quarterly Summit Agendas/Topics

All meetings are virtual and open to the public. The average attendance for each meeting is 60+ Members and Partners. All Meetings are conducted by the Commission Chair.

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

Summer Quarter

Thursday, August 11, 2022 @ Zoom

Executive Director Report, Rob Ence

- Website Updates
- UCOA Annual Report FY 2021-22
- Community Calendars
- Partner Updates (Traci Lee, Wid Covey, Manuel Acevedo, Deb Scannon, Division of Arts and Museums, ect.)

Age Friendly Communities Symposium Preview

Valerie Greer, AIA, LEED - Asst Professor of Architecture U of U

Linda Edelman, RN, PhD - Professor of Nursing, U of U

The Intersection of Culture, Disability and Cognitive Function Among Hispanic Older Adults with Sensory Impairments

Corinna Trujilio Tanner, PhD, RN - Asst Professor - BYU

Utah State Plan on Aging 2023-2032 Launch

Darlene Curley, Project Chair

Rob Ence, UCOA Executive Director

Fall Quarter

Thursday, November 10, 2022 @ Zoom

Executive Director Report, Rob Ence

- Website Updates
- UCOA Annual Report FY 2021-22
- Community Calendar - Invite to Join
- Partner Updates - Traci Lee - PSA Promotions
- Arts and Aging - Tracy Hansford
- Family Caregiving - Becky Utz
- Emergency Preparedness Updates - Linda Milne

Learning Throughout Lifespan

Christine Bascek

Seniors Out and Proud

Deb Hall

VA Benefits - COVER 2 COVER Program Update

Jen Morgan

Quarterly Summit Agendas/Topics

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Winter Quarter

Thursday, February 9, 2023 @ Zoom

Legislative & Partner Updates

- Danny Harris/Alan Ormsby – AARP
- Jeremy Cunningham – Alzheimer’s Association
- Kristy Russell – ADRD Updated plan highlights
- Other partner events and updates

Executive Director Report, Rob Ence

- UCOA Legislative issues
- Utah State Plan for Aging – SB 104
- State Caregiver Plan next steps

Digital Navigator Model

Jaleen Johnson

Health Equity Innovation - UAC

Joan Gallegos/Teresa Garrett

Utah State Plan on Aging Break Out Discussion

Rob Ence

Spring Quarter

Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ Zoom

Legislative & Partner Updates

- Legislative Wrap Up - Alan Ormsby
- Advance Care Planning Summit Debrief - Rob Ence
- Utah Geriatrics and Gerontology Society Collaboration - Kate Nederostek
- Family Caregivers Report, Stakeholder Engagement - Kate Nederostek
- Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias - Kristy Russell
- E4 Policy Academy for Behavioral and Mental Health Plan
- Utah State Plan on Aging Cohort Application - Rob Ence

Critical Home Repair Program Habitat for Humanity

Kimberlin Correa

Arts & Aging, Teaching Artists Program Comments

Emily Christensen, Amy Anderson

Museum of Fine Arts Older Adult Program

Laura Wilson

A Road Map for Aging in Utah

Why? Developing a multi-sector plan for aging (MPA) is a blueprint for intelligent aging across the adult lifespan for all Utahns. The case for having a comprehensive plan is a core reason for the existence of the Utah Commission on Aging (UCOA).

The MPA will serve as a reference guide for state and local governments and the private sector to prepare the state and its citizens for the demographic changes that are occurring across our state and country. The MPA guides state and local policy, programs, and funding decisions.

An MPA is not only for older Utahns who are living the “second half” of their lives in various stages, but also for younger generations who can expect to live longer than their elders. Family, friends, neighbors, and caregivers who encircle our older adults are the community members who will also benefit from this plan.

After 2030, the population of the U.S. is projected to grow slowly, age considerably, and become more racially and ethnically diverse. These demographic changes necessitate government and community partner action to ensure that the state of Utah is well equipped to take care of the needs of the older adults within our state.

Elements of a Successful Plan

- State Leadership
- Rational Data-Driven
- Comprehensive Issues
- Stakeholder Inclusiveness
- Measureable Outcomes

In the 2023 legislative session, SB104 was passed to augment the UCOA statute to include language on a master plan for aging. The plan bill was sponsored by Sen. Karen Kwan and Rep. Ray Ward. UCOA recognizes and thanks them for their vision and support. The bill had unanimous support from the committee and overwhelming support in both legislative houses. UCOA will deliver the first edition of the MPA to the legislature and Governor by November 1, 2023.

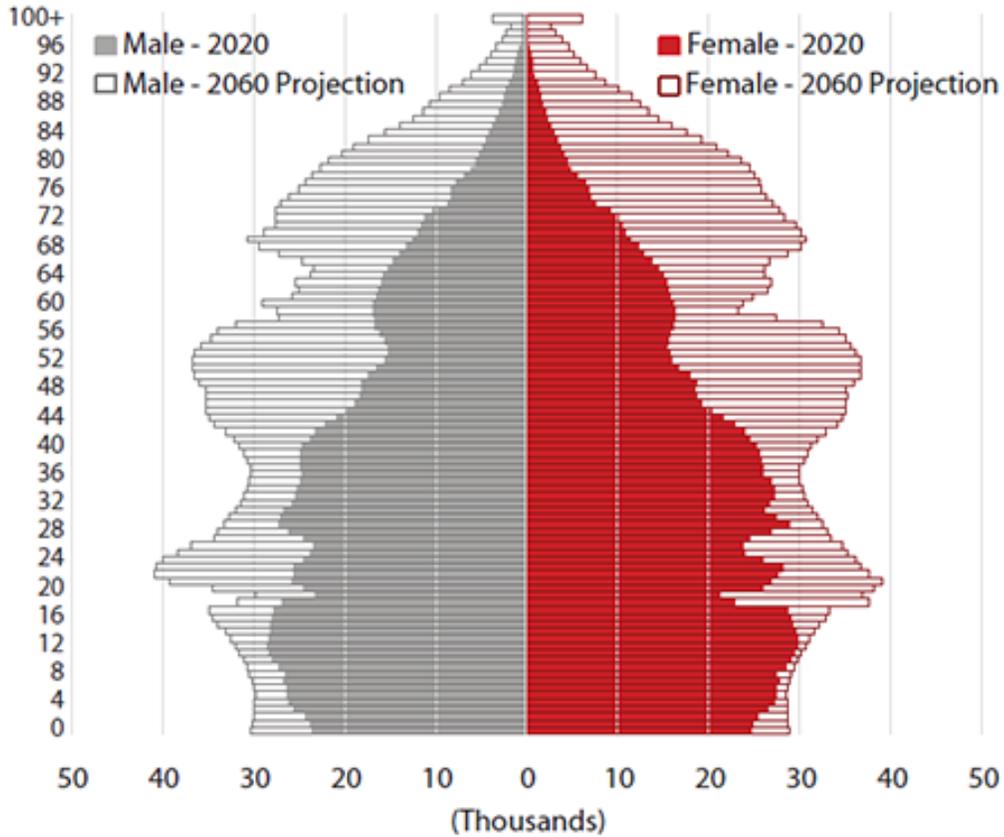
The MPA will have a ten-year plan horizon with two-year priority objectives and will be periodically reviewed and updated in future years. It will address core issues including social isolation, financial security, health, wellness, nutrition, caregiving and care coordination, advance care planning, ageism, age-friendly communities, and embrace technology and innovation.

Implementation of Utah’s MPA will call on all stakeholders: policy makers, researchers, educators, and community service providers, to build a Utah for all ages.



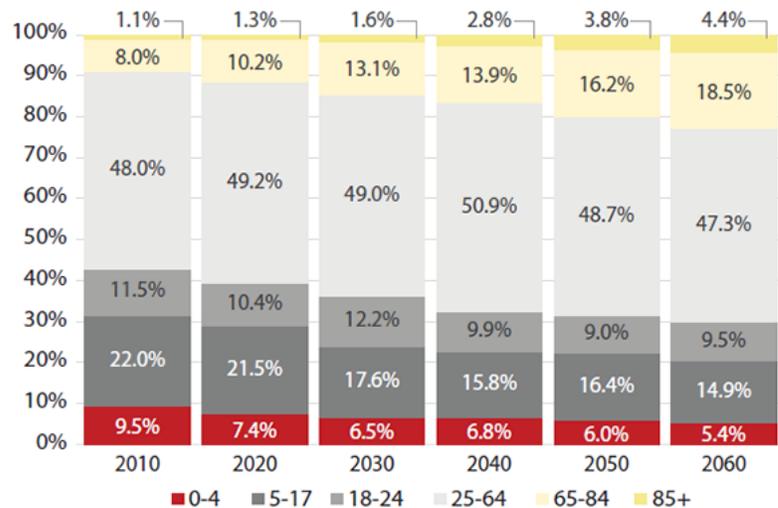
Utah is now part of a ten-state cohort working on MPAs throughout the country. This collaborative is sponsored by the Center for Health Care Strategies and provides a unique opportunity for the UCOA planning team to share, learn, and apply best practices and innovative strategies on behalf of all Utahns. The project runs for one year from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024.

Figure 4: Utah Projected Population Pyramid, 2020 and 2060



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

Figure 10: Selected Utah Age Groups as a Percent of Total Population, 2010-2060



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

Communications

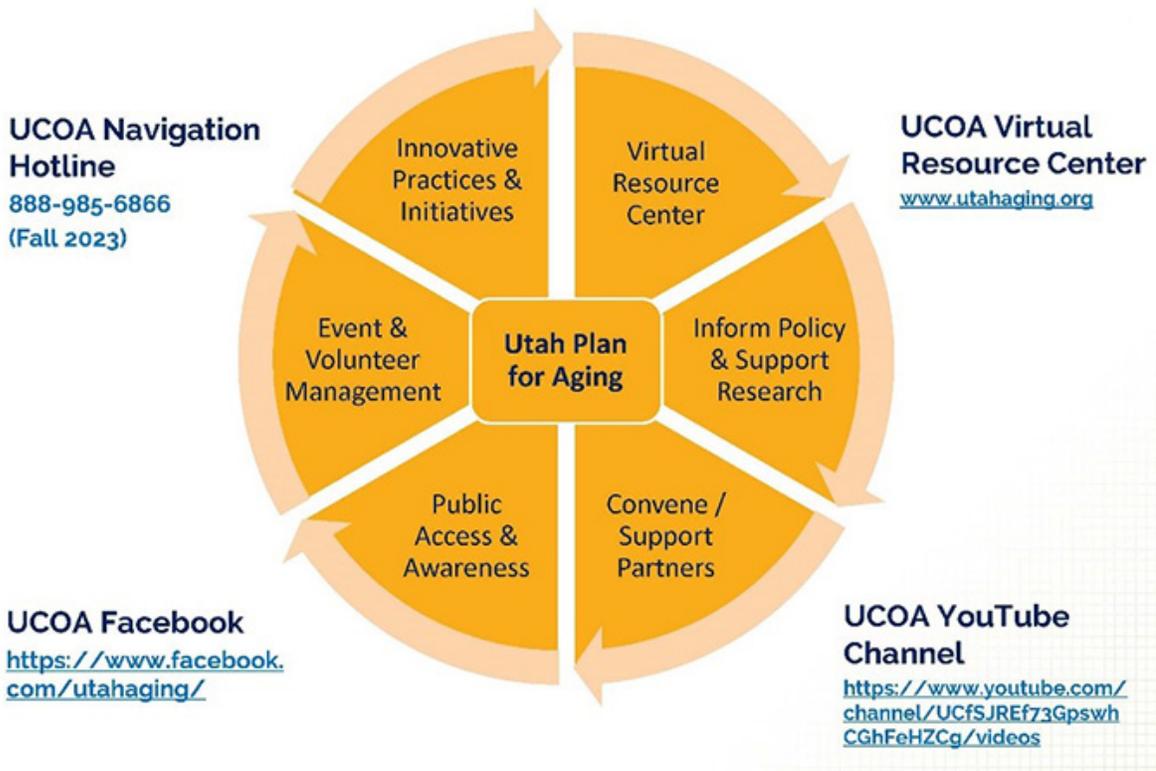
UCOA's Communication Virtual Resource Ecosystem

UtahAging.org continues to expand its reach with content and public engagement. Future ability to promote the site will dramatically impact our ability to share resources and information, grow new resources and media programs. A key component for the near future is to obtain funding for the digital navigator volunteer program and call center. We are hopeful to launch the effort in the fall of 2023.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review and contribute. UtahAging.org is now the host of the ADRD Coordinating Council and has partnered links with state research center for Alzheimer's and dementia at Utah State University. YouTube podcasts of specific content and sponsored events have expanded, and the interactive events calendar is being utilized by most of the aging agencies throughout the state. UCOA presented at several local events including co-sponsored annual symposia and quarterly UCOA hosted summits reaching thousands of attendees live and through viewed recordings.

New in the fall of 2023 is a dedicated section on the state plan to invite full transparency and invites stakeholder and public review and input.

The ecosystem of information systems and sources are all free to the public and free of advertising or promotion. The information is to provide an honest broker, non-conflicted source of information to help individuals navigate existing resources and ultimately to provide mentoring on technology, health, finance, and legal literacy.



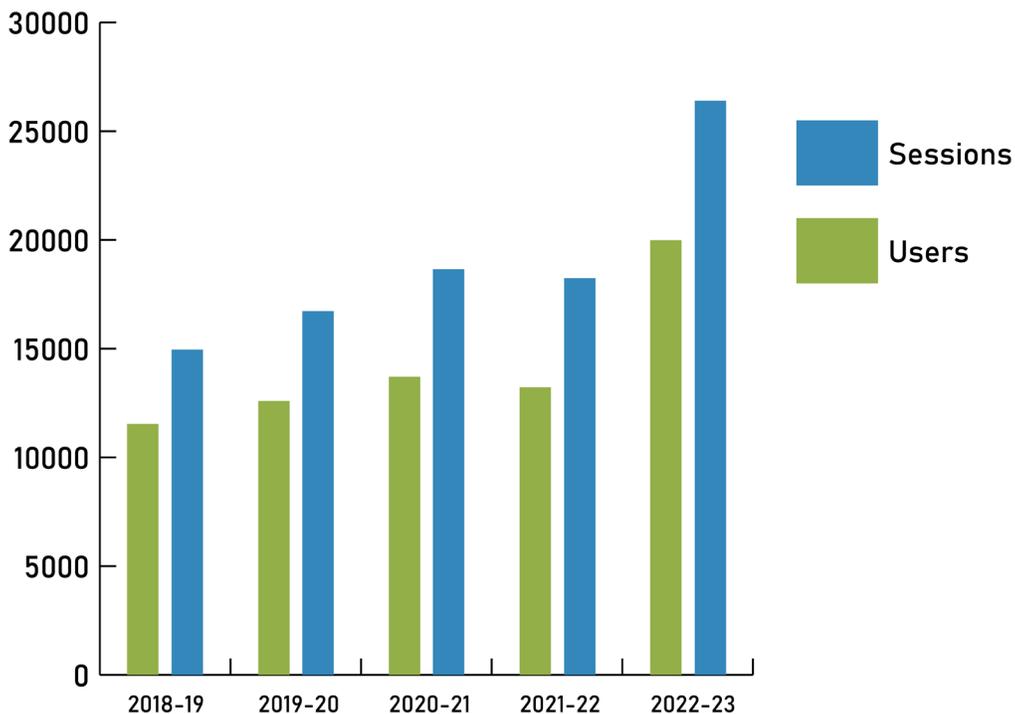
Communications Highlights

- UCOA hosts four quarterly stakeholder summits with average attendance of about sixty participants each; agenda summaries above and materials archived on website.
- UtahAging.org continues to be the recognized online resource center for older adults, families, care partners. Site visits grew from 13,260 users in FY 2021-22 to 19,987 in FY 2022-23.
- New content developed for women's health and aging as suggested by Rep. Marsha Judkins.
- Three-part series podcast on grief literacy hosted by Caroline Glissmeyer, BYU student intern with UCOA, interviewing expert Katherine Supiano, PhD.
- New blog content added weekly from constituent writer-contributors.
- Contributed to the Utah Broadband state plan with specific input on digital equity for older adults.
- Developed training and supervisor role with volunteer Sally Aerts to manage future call center.

What's Next

- Funding digital equity efforts and navigation call center.
- Promotional public campaign to promote UtahAging.org and related resources – funding required.
- Website content expansion in breadth and depth.
- New podcast productions.

Utahaging.org Users and Sessions 2018-2023



Users constitute the total amount of unique people to access the site in the given time frame. Sessions constitute the total amount of times those users accessed the site in the given time frame.

Research and Academia

UCOA promotes gerontology education and cross fertilization with geriatricians. UCOA provides support and input to multiple interdisciplinary programs across Utah's academic institutions and helps promote research opportunities for participant volunteers, and promotes collaboration across academic institutions.

Research and Academic Highlights

- UCOA coordinates with the Utah Geriatrics and Gerontology Society (UGS) to provide content for the website and community research programs.
- Continued to collaborate with Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) under the Utah Geriatric Education Consortium (UGEC).
- Provides support for the Utah Action Coalition on advancing equity in nursing.
- Hosted a BYU senior student intern (Caroline Glissmeyer) for a semester practicum experience providing a wide range of experience from state planning to policy process. Intern designed web content and created and recorded a three-part podcast on grief literacy.
- Helped collect input for the updated Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) state plan and created a home for the ADRD council on the website for educational and promotional outreach activities.
- Active partner with the Family Caregiver Plan and Coalition which led to the creation of a state plan for supporting family caregivers.
- Participated in the VAMC Caregiver webinar on suicide.
- Participated in a workshop on workforce impact facilitated by USAging.
- Provided input on grant related to older adult suicide.
- Participated in the ASA Sage's Professional Documentary viewing about national influences on aging.



What's Next

- Work with UGS team to sponsor gerontology practicum mentorships.
- Promote 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.
- Continue with interdisciplinary initiatives on age-friendly concepts in community, health, and education.
- Partner in promoting and research recruitment for the Utah Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Center 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

- Successfully passed SB104 to update the UCOA statute to require a master plan for aging in Utah – a goal needed for some time. The legislation was championed by Sen. Karen Kwan and Rep. Ray Ward.
- Utah became part of a ten-state cohort all working on multi-sector plans for aging and collaborating on best practices and sharing resources.
- Sought additional appropriations in 2023 but was not approved by session end.
- Partnering with court WINGS program on guardianship and conservatorship educational and policy input issues and helping recruit volunteers for the court visitors program.
- Met with Governor's Office of Families lead Aimee Newton to coordinate state planning priorities.
- Met in Logan with the USU President and several legislators to talk about the initial plans of the Utah Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Center.
- Worked with Governor Cox to provide a declaration for Falls Prevention Month
- Researched interest in PACE program with Medicaid leadership and determined that current waivers program was the state's preferred approach for now.
- Working with state DHHS to establish a central repository for advance care planning documents and enable access to EMT first responders.

What's Next

- Complete and deliver the state road map for aging, multi-sector plan to the state legislature.
- Activate the state family caregiver plan.
- Activate work on policy for hospice homes, adults that fall into health expense and care gaps, and adult protective services resources.
- Recruit and promote research opportunities with the Alzheimer's research center and other academic endeavors.
- Provide recommendations to legislators on policy and commission redundancy and areas of focus consistent with road map plan for aging.





Community Resources and Engagements

UCOA connects events and programs through its hosted interactive event calendar. UCOA also plans, sponsors, and hosts with partners throughout the year at public, private, and NGO events. UCOA Promotes awareness of existing services and educates Utahns, providers, and professionals to empower individuals to make good decisions in their aging journey.

Community Outreach Highlights

- UCOA promoted and supported community education engagements to DAAS State Board of Aging and Adult Services, Davis County Advisory Board, Five County Advisory Board, Community Action Program Conference on Poverty, and SL County Library – Let's Be Neighbors programs.
- Presented at the Home and Community Based Services conference on technology and digital equity in Washington, D.C.
- Presented at the Homecare and Hospice Association of Utah events in Sandy and Layton.
- Co-sponsored and presented at the University of Utah Age Friendly Community Symposium.
- Presented on technology tools and digital equity at the American Society on Aging conference in Atlanta.
- Presented at the UGEC Fireside series at the U College of Nursing.
- Presented at the Utah Broadband Confluence hosted by Office of Economic Opportunity.
- Presented at Utah Family Caregiving Forum.
- Planned, co-Sponsored and hosted the annual Advance Care Planning summit with Comagine Health and community partners with over 200 attendees.
- Planned, Co-Sponsored and hosted the annual Utah Elder Abuse Awareness Day with Adult Protective Services, AARP, and community partners with 125 attendees.
- Presented to BYU gerontology students with Rep Marsha Judkins.
- Continue to partner with Adult Protective Services in promoting awareness through social media channels on recognizing and reporting abuse.
- 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.
- Fund and launch the UCOA Digital Navigation Call Center and recruit, train, and manage volunteers to provide literacy support in health, finance, law, and technology access and usage.
- Public speaking engagements and media outreach efforts.
- Convene quarterly public commission summits and promote professional peer-to-peer education.
- Plan, co-sponsor, and host specialty summits advance care planning, age-friendly communities, elder abuse awareness, care partnering, and others.
- Promote the multi-sector plan on aging throughout the state and in all media channels.



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Utah Commission on Aging

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