Real World Solutions
Addressing Older Drivers: Best Practices and Beyond

Building a Strategy
from the Ground Up

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Ground Up - 2014

- Support from Colorado Department of Transportation
- North American Conference on Elderly Mobility, Detroit May 2014
- DRIVE SMART COLORADO took the lead
  - Found no other grassroots programs
  - No significant, State organized initiatives
  - No “guides” to assist the aging navigate process
Local Approach First

- Grant written to Department of Transportation
- Utilized NHTSA
  Older Driver Five-Year Strategic Plan 2012-2017
- Based on Countermeasures that Work:
  - Communication and Outreach
  - Traffic Law Enforcement
  - License Screening and Testing
Form local county Older Driver Coalition
- Law enforcement, agencies dealing with seniors, education, municipal government and others
- Transformed into statewide coalition following year

Focus Groups/answers from who mattered
- Older Driver, Adult Children of Older Driver and Physicians
- 12 groups
  (from 10 counties: frontier, rural and urban)
- 200+ participants, 65 yrs +, 30% male/70% female
Focus Group Findings
In a Nutshell

Little significant difference between the participants based on geography

Key Findings:
- Visibility
- Roadway Design
- Need for Information
- Open to Technology
- Assessment of Driver’s skills
- When Driving Ends
Focus Group Conclusions

Conclusions

- Void of Information
- Proactive programs are welcome
- Education is needed on infrastructure improvements
- Increased licensing requirements (no consensus)
- Visibility is Key
- Openness to Tech
- Alternatives in transportation can lessen the blow
The Older Driver Guide

Colorado’s Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families
- written, designed, and printed by DRIVE SMART COLORADO, with a little help from friends and the support of AAA and CDOT
(updated three times)
Partnerships Formed

2013 Introduced to our local CDRS
- Occupational Therapist/Certified Driver Rehab Specialist and CarFit Coordinator (now instructor)

Introduced us to CarFit
- Colorado has over 150 techs (not all as active as others)

From this first introduction
- Incredible things have happened!
Engage Mobility

- CarFit Mini Grant 2014
- Participation in the Older Driver Coalition
- Grant to build capacity of occupational therapists to address driving started in 2017

The Engage Mobility initiative expects to build capacity of occupational therapy practitioners in Colorado to address driving and community mobility, thereby increasing the level of services offered regarding driving wellness, risk identification, and community mobility opportunities.
Engage Mobility Projects

- Scripting – how to talk about driving with clients
- Return to Driving Letter – communicate with physicians
- Driver Assessment Workshop April 2017 and 2018
- Professional study group to train therapists
- Interprofessional Community of Practice with monthly meetings and a discussion board
- Resources and updates on the website [https://sites.google.com/site/fitnesstodrivecop](https://sites.google.com/site/fitnesstodrivecop)
- Working with Department of Revenue to update Medical Clearance to drive forms
Most Recent Accomplishments

- Expanded into a Statewide Older Driver Coalition
- Working with Department of Revenue to update medically at risk law enforcement reporting forms
- Creating a video for all law enforcement based on the NHTSA training video
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