To support the mission and vision of the Pikes Peak Commission on Aging, the following **Principles of Engagement** are utilized to create and maintain a culture of collaboration and partnership among stakeholders and Commission members. The guiding principles are intended to define a behavioral model which addresses how individual members treat each other, communicate, participate, cooperate, support each other, and coordinate joint activity towards the greater whole.

**Work Integrity:**
**Collaboration:** As team members we agree to always pitch in, when and where necessary, to help address problems and follow-up timely.
**Accountability:** We agree to be accountable for our own actions, behavior and choices.
**Listen:** We will listen with empathy, hear with understanding, avoid judgment and defensiveness, and solicit and discuss ideas.
**Reflection:** Take note of collective successes on an annual basis. Celebrate the impact of work done.
**Kindness:** We will always promote an environment that is safe for participation, open communication and where group members do not have to fear criticism or retribution.
**Ethics:** We make decisions that reflect our values and principles; even when the decision may not be favorable to the majority or individually.

**Healthy Conflict Resolution:**
**Openness:** Receive and deliver feedback with an open mind while offering suggestions for improvement. Generate ideas to resolve problems being dedicated to work through conflict.
**Language:** Use language that avoids blame and strive to seek productive conversation.

**Meeting Etiquette:**
**Engagement:** Be Present and prepared—each person should come to the meeting with the materials and data needed and an understanding of the meeting topic, practice active listening skills, be mindful of dominating conversation.
**Avoid distraction:** Be mindful of the speaker, do not engage in side-bar conversations.