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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Alaska Health Care Commission sponsors ‘a conversation with health policy elders’ for historical perspective

Two-day public commission meeting follows day of conversation with Alaska’s former health leaders

ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Health Care Commission — the state planning and coordinating group that provides recommendations on health policy — has invited former health leaders for a conversation about the history of health care in Alaska. The event takes place Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Dena’ina Center, 600 W. Seventh Ave., in Anchorage. The public is invited to attend and listen, but public testimony will not be taken.

“In Alaska, we value and honor our elders,” Commission Executive Director Deborah Erickson said. “We want to capture some oral history from the folks who were part of making history. Written reports do not always convey the richness of the culture and values within which events transpire.”

Following the elders’ event, the commission will meet all day Thursday and half-day Friday at the Dena’ina Center. Public comment will be accepted Thursday noon in person, or over the phone (1-866-901-6455 Access Code 948-768-851).

Dr. Ward Hurlburt, Alaska’s Chief Medical Officer, will chair the Thursday and Friday meetings.

The Alaska Health Care Commission was established in state statute in 2010 to serve as the state health planning and coordinating body, responsible for providing recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on a comprehensive statewide health care policy and on strategies for improving the health of Alaskans. Deborah Erickson is Executive Director of the commission. For more information, go to: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/ahcc/Pages/default.aspx>.

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