

**Alaska Commission on Aging**  
**APPROVED Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mary Shields, Eleanor Dementi, Marie Darlin, and staff D. Daniello

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by teleconference.

**II. Review and take action on Executive Committee Draft Meeting Agenda, 11-13-2015:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Marie and seconded by Eleanor without objection.

**III. Review and take action on ACoA Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2015:** The motion to approve the minutes was made by Marie and seconded by Eleanor.

**IV. Review, discuss & take action on ACoA Board Meeting Draft Agenda:** Denise reviewed the draft meeting agenda which will be a videoconference and audioconference half day meeting to conserve ACoA travel funds. Mary and Marie suggested staff to find a meeting site in Kenai or Soldotna for public members to participate. ACoA staff (Sherice Cole) will research possible locations. Committee members asked staff to make sure to include the ethics disclosure forms in the meeting packet for Commissioners to sign and return. The Committee also directed Denise to ask that the board meeting packet to include reports from Committee Chairs as well as reports from Commissioners who serve on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and the Pioneer Home Advisory Board Chair report, per ACoA's Policy and Procedure manual. Reports from Committee Chairpersons include State Plan Advisory Committee and the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Denise will follow-up with a request to Commissioners requesting written reports.

Marie reviewed the following items for the Legislative Advocacy Committee report: Governor's Budget (December 15); Watch List from last legislative session; new pre-file bills; and dates for Legislative Advocacy teleconferences.

Committee members suggested increasing the time scheduled for Elder Protection reports to allow Adult Protective Services and the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman ten minutes per report. This change will add five minutes to the time of board adjournment to 5:15 p.m.

**V. Consider and finalize ACoA Commissioner Discussion topics for the December board meeting:** Committee members decided on the following questions for Commissioners to discuss at the December board meeting in preparation for legislative session:

- What recommendations does the Commission have to offer the Legislature of how we can do more with limited resources to serve an increasing senior population?
- Why should the Legislature reauthorize the ACoA?

In response to the first question, Marie suggested that the State should maintain current levels of funding and to ask communities to provide local resources to support programs for their growing senior populations. Marie also recommended that we remind legislators that even if we maintain current levels of funding, the value of those funds will be less per senior because the population is growing (not including the cost of inflation). ACoA staff Dee Shaw will construct the graphics to show the trend over the last five years using current levels of senior grant funding compared to the growth of the 60+ population to show that fewer funds are available per senior even without further budget reductions.

In response to the second question concerning reauthorization of the ACoA, Committee members discussed the role of ACoA in fulfilling the federal requirement of all states receiving Older American Act funds to have a

commission to advise the state unit on aging on aging matters in addition to the Commission's role in advocacy, planning and education. Mary noted that many states have multiple commissions and Arizona, for example, would prefer to have one commission to focus on senior needs statewide (instead of regionally).

**VI. ACoA Commissioner Quotes for Annual Report 2015:** The Committee finalized the questions below to prompt Commissioners to provide a quote to go along with their photos. Denise will send the list of questions and ask Commissioners to provide their quotes by December 9.

- What is the most pressing challenge for Alaska seniors today?
- What is the best thing about aging in Alaska?
- How can employers prepare for retirement of their workforce?
- How can seniors prepare for a successful retirement?

**VII. Other Discussion:** Marie asked Denise to send an email to Commissioners to begin thinking about the 2016 Rural Outreach meeting and to bring their ideas to the February board meeting. Possible destinations include Kodiak or Cordova.

**VIII. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.