

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
Quarterly Board Meeting Held by
Teleconference and Videoconference on December 7, 2016
APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chair, David Blacketer, at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: ACoA Commissioners present: David Blacketer, ACoA Chair, Marie Darlin, ACoA Vice-Chair, Mary Shields, Rachel Greenberg, Gordon Glaser, Banarsi Lal, Linda Combs, Bob Sivertsen and Anna Frank.

Excused Absences: Paula Pawlowski and Duane Mayes

ACoA Staff Present: Denise Daniello, Deirdre Shaw and Lesley Thompson

ACTION: Adoption of the December 7, 2016 meeting Agenda. Motion was made by Rachel, seconded by Mary to approve the agenda as presented. Adoption unanimously approved.

ACTION: Adoption of the November 1, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Mary with a second by Rachel to approve the minutes as written. Adoption unanimously approved.

ACTION: Adoption of the September 15, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Bob with a second by Mary to approve the minutes as written. Adoption unanimously approved.

Ethics Disclosures – David reminded commission members to email their disclosures to Denise.

ACoA Chair Report, David Blacketer

David opened our meeting by reflecting on the importance of America's military who served during Pearl Harbor. David said that the country had a commitment to overcome this horrible tragedy and worked together. As Alaskans, we need to come together to develop a workable, good long-term fiscal plan for the state.

ACoA Executive Director's & Staff Report (Written report located on pages 30-65 in the board meeting packet)
Denise Daniello, Executive Director

Denise reported that the Commission has been busy with preparing for planning implementation meetings, preparing advocacy materials, and work accomplished on the ACoA 2016 Annual Report and Senior Snapshot. Denise extended appreciation to Mary and Rachel for facilitating a well-attended and productive State Plan Implementation meeting in December.

During the same week, the Commission in collaboration with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority held an implementation meeting related to the Alaska Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD). Stakeholders discussed their cost-saving activities to serve people with dementia under the ADRD Roadmap. Denise will send the report to Commission members after it is finalized.

ACoA worked together with the Governor's Office to issue two proclamations for November 2016 which included the Family Caregiver and ADRD Proclamations. First Lady Donna Walker wrote a newspaper article about her father having Alzheimer's during the month of November that appeared in the Juneau Empire.

We are also finalizing the draft advocacy priorities for the upcoming 2017 legislative session and waiting for the Governor's budget to come out on December 16th. Denise reviewed the Commission's draft advocacy priorities:

- 1. Preserve the Senior Safety Net:** Protect funding to maintain core home- and community based long-term support services (senior community grant-funded services, Personal Care Services, Alaskans

Living Independently waiver, and Medicaid optional services) in addition to financial assistance (Senior Benefits) and funding for senior housing. These priorities correspond to the current State Plan for Senior Services goals.

2. **Provide appropriate supports for family and other natural caregivers serving older Alaskans:** This priority recognizes the fact that family caregivers provide the foundation of care for many seniors. It seeks to protect funding for caregiver supports provided under senior grants. This priority identifies implementation of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey Caregiver Optional Module in January 2017 and recommends implementation of a uniform assessment tool to identify caregiver needs to promote person- and family-centered caregiver support and training.
3. **Improve capacity to serve persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia** to provide services for seniors with dementia through the 1915(i) Medicaid state plan option to increase federal funding for the Pioneer Homes, to incentivize assisted living providers to care for persons with dementia and challenging behaviors, and to provide a targeted package of services for seniors with dementia who live in the community.

ACoA will be watching for changes at the federal and state levels that may impact access to health care and services for seniors. Denise talked about possible changes being discussed at the federal level under the new Administration that may impact funding for Older American Act Services, changes to the Affordable Care Act that could impact Medicaid in addition to possible changes to Medicare and Social Security. At the state level, there are 15 new legislators with 11 in the House and 4 in the Senate.

Denise went on to talk about a letter from the Governor's Office to the Commission and other statutory advisory boards regarding recent changes at the Trust:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA or Trust): In response to recent activities by the AMHTA related to changes in direction and leadership of the Trust, the Commission submitted a letter to the Governor's Office at the direction action taken by the Commission at its November 1 special board meeting to discuss our concerns regarding these changes. The Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse along with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education also sent letters. In response to this joint request, the Governor's Office invited the Chairs and Executive Directors from each statutory advisory board for a joint meeting to discuss these concerns on Thursday, December 1. A report of the outcomes from this meeting with the Governor's Office will be provided at the Commission's meeting.

Denise reviewed the outcomes from the meeting with the Governor's Office concerning changes occurring at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. The Governor's Office included Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Mallott, and John Hozey, Director for Boards and Commissions who attended this special meeting with the boards/council/commission. Unfortunately there was extensive background noise during the call making it difficult to hear. The Commission was represented by David Blacketer, Mary Shields, Rachel Greenberg, and Bob Sivertsen on the phone. Denise participated by videoconference from the Governor's Office in Juneau. Representatives for the Boards and the Governor's Council were present in Anchorage. Representatives for the advisory boards expressed their concerns which were listened to attentively by the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office said that they would ask the Trust to include the Boards/Council/Commission in the selection of a new Trust CEO.

Denise also noted progress being made regarding the 1115 Behavioral Health demonstration waiver, noting concerns that the demo waiver will exclude those who are over age 64 with behavioral health needs because they already receive behavioral health services from Medicare and the demo was being planned for a targeted population that was not receiving services.

ACoA Committee & Representational Reports

Executive Committee

David Blacketer, Chair

David noted that he is looking forward to the February board meeting in Juneau and the Southeast rural outreach trips.

ACoA Planning Committee

Mary Shields and Rachel Greenberg, Co-Chairs

Rachel presented the Planning Committee report which included the State Plan Implementation meeting noting the amount of work accomplished as well as the amount of work waiting to be done.

Mary felt the process of reviewing the State Plan's goals, strategies, and performance measures was very educational. She and Rachel, Co-Chairs for the State Plan Committee, worked diligently to keep the meeting moving on schedule as there was much discussion among participants. Denise will draft a report of the activities identified and send it out to the group for review and further refining. Then, the implementation report will be finalized and shared with policy makers. The implementation effort helps to focus stakeholder attention on the Plan and its goals and helps to move efforts forward in a coordinated manner. Dave thanked Rachel and Mary for all of their work in this area.

ACoA Legislative Advocacy Committee

Marie Darlin, Committee Chair

Legislative teleconference committee dates have been confirmed and a flyer was included in the board packet. We will look at legislation in the January as they come out as pre-filed bills. Smoking in public places will be introduced again but we are not sure what else will be re-introduced. Our main focus will be working on preserving the safety net for seniors. The 2017 teleconference dates are Jan. 26, Feb. 13, Feb. 23, March 9, March 23, April 6, and April 13.

Rachel requested an amendment to ACoA Legislative Advocacy Priority #3 to "Improve capacity to serve persons with ADRD" to add "Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Education and Supports Program Education" to the list of services identified. Gordon seconded this motion. All were in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.

Pioneer Home Advisory Board Report (PHAB)

Bob Sivertsen, Chair

Bob Sivertsen reported that the Pioneer Home Advisory Board will have a face-to-face meeting annually. To save money, they will meet in December in Anchorage and stay/take meals at the Anchorage Pioneer Home. They plan to advocate for additional funds to utilize all beds and make them available to people on the waitlist.

Rachel asked Bob if the Pioneer Homes had considered turning some of its beds into nursing home beds as a way to gain full bed utilization and increased federal reimbursement.

Bob answered that staffing levels would need to increase to support a nursing home status and that would require more state funding.

Mary stated that it would take an act of the legislature to add funding. Banarsi noted that the Pioneer Homes were previously licensed as nursing homes, but that status was changed to assisted living. Gordon Glaser asked if the empty beds could be filled with veterans so that the State could receive additional funds from the Veterans Administration. Banarsi responded by stating that only the Palmer Pioneer Home was designated for veterans. Teresa Holt, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, added that the Pioneer Homes could not be licensed both as assisted living and nursing home in one location because that would violate the new settings rule from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that require home and community-based services (which includes assisted living homes) and institutions to be separate.

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

ACoA Commissioner Banarsi Lal

Banarsi noted that the Governor reduced the number of Council members and replaced many of the long-term members on the Governor's Council. Banarsi distributed a written report of the Council's activities.

Trustee Nominations Committee Report

ACoA Commissioner Banarsi Lal

Banarsi described the Trust's process to recruit Trustee applications as the term for Trustee Larry Norene is up in April 2017. The Trust received 22 applications to fill the upcoming vacancy. The Committee reviewed all of the applications and selected five for interviews. Banarsi said that the Committee interviewed the 5 applicants and submitted a letter to the Governor with their top choices. The Governor will then make his selection which must be approved by the Legislature this session.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)

Mary Jordan, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Coordinator (Paula Pawlowski asked the Commission to invite Mary Jordan to present a report on the RSVP program as an example of senior volunteer programs in Alaska.)

Mary reported that the RSVP program, sponsored by APIA, falls under the National Community Service program (that includes AmeriCorp and SeniorCorp) and was conceived by the Kennedy Administration. Mary also noted that the APIA also administers the Senior Companions and Foster Grandparent programs for senior volunteers, age 60. APIA received a three-year grant for the RSVP program and is funded through 2018. APIA plans to re-bid for the program. Volunteers of America had this grant for many years. Under APIA, RSVP has 34 senior volunteers working at multiple sites. APIA offers a mileage reimbursement for their volunteers.

Lisa Morley, Senior Grants Manager for Senior and Disabilities Services, added that the Title III funds the Foster Grandparent program. To date there are no grantees for the Senior Companion program. We have two volunteer senior programs in the state.

Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) Report

Lisa Morley, Senior Grants Program Manager, reporting for Director Duane Mayes

Lisa reported on the Medicaid reform activities, identified in SB 74 passed last session, regarding services for seniors and persons with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities. These activities included the various Medicaid State Plan options being considered by SDS and the Inclusive Community Choice Council (ICCC), an advisory group of stakeholders that is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for states to move forward with new Medicaid State Plan Options:

- **1915(k):** Will provide a 6% increase in federal reimbursement for Personal Care Services and the waiver. Persons who currently receive Personal Care Services and/or the waiver will move over to the 1915(k) when this option is implemented in July 2017. Recipients will not notice any change in their services. This option was recommended by Health Management and Associates (HMA), the contractor who worked with the State, to examine the feasibility of the Medicaid state plan options for targeted populations.
- **1915(i):** The HMA contractor did not recommend this option for any of the targeted populations (persons with ADRD, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, or brain injury). The 1915(i) was identified as a possible State Plan option to serve persons with dementia. HMA advised not to move forward with this recommendation because it would not produce a cost savings and actually cost significantly more for the ADRD targeted population. SDS is considering this option for the ADRD population because the funding assumptions used by HMA were not correct.

Lisa noted that SDS is working with HCBS Strategies with funding from the Trust to further evaluate the use of the 1915(i) option for the ADRD population. HCBS Strategies (Steve Lutsky) has experience developing the 1915(i) in Colorado. HCBS Strategies and SDS drafted a concept paper for using the 1915(i) in Alaska for the ADRD population. This concept paper was shared with the ICC of which Banarsi, Pat Branson, and Ken Helander represent the senior community. According to the draft concept, the 1915(i) would target persons with diagnosed dementia, who are Medicaid eligible and have significant behavioral challenges. Possible services would include an augmented rate for assisted living home providers to incentivize them to serve this population, may provide additional federal reimbursement for the Pioneer Homes for residents who have early to mid-stage dementia and challenging behaviors but do not meet nursing home level of care; and would offer a targeted service package for persons with ADRD who live in the community. Such services would include meals, homemaker services, devices to prevent wandering, and other possible services.

Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO)

Teresa Holt, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, began her presentation by sharing a short about a senior living in an assisted living home. She went on to say that her office is making a concerted effort to visit as many assisted living homes in Alaska as possible.

Teresa reviewed the 2016 highlights of the OLTCO:

- There are 18 skilled nursing facilities in Alaska with 692 beds; 654 assisted living homes with 3,880 beds (273 of the homes are licensed to serve seniors with 2,492 beds) statewide.
- 95% of the verified complaints received by the OLTCO were resolved to the satisfaction of the senior.
- OLTCO made quarterly unannounced visits to 67 assisted living homes licensed to serve seniors and 18 nursing homes.
- OLTCO increased the number of active volunteer ombudsman from 16 to 33 in the last year.
- OLTCO increased the number of unannounced visits to senior assisted living homes from 434 in 2015 to 740 in 2016.

2016 Top Complaints Received by OLTCO

1. Issues of involuntary discharge
2. Being treated with dignity and respect
3. Issues with food (quality, quantity, choice)
4. Correct administration of medication
5. Need for legal assistance (guardianship, conservator, Power of Attorney, wills)

OLTCO Staffing challenge: Teresa reported that as the number of seniors continues to grow due to the aging of the baby boomers, the OLTCO's ability to respond to complaints will become increasingly difficult with the current staffing levels. The OLTCO plan is to work with experienced volunteer ombudsmen, especially in rural communities, to be able to respond to complaints under the direct supervision of staff ombudsmen. Our goal is to expand our volunteer program to 100 volunteer ombudsmen.

OLTCO's recent activities

- Advocated for passage of the Power of Attorney statute (HB 8)
- Collaborating on a transition project for individuals with dementia and challenging behaviors at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API)
- Guardianship system reform
- Emergency Preparedness for LTC facilities

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA or Trust)

Greg Jones, Interim CEO; Jeff Jessee, Trust Program Officer/Legislative Liaison; and Amanda Lofgren, Trust Program Officer

In November, Jeff Jessee announced his pending retirement and Trustees selected Greg Jones, former Executive Director for the Trust Land Office (TLO), as the Interim CEO. Jeff's new position is Program Officer and Legislative Liaison. Trustees have expressed interest to engage a consultant to perform an organizational review of the Trust to determine whether the current structure is the right model for moving forward in a new direction due to the State's fiscal crisis.

Greg provided an overview of his role at AMHTA which is to (1) assess the need for an organizational review of the Trust as it prepares to move forward in a new direction due to the State's fiscal situation; (2) move forward with the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan in light of the changes with the State's budget and new federal provisions; and (3) rebuild relations with the statutory advisory board partners. Trust staff and board/council/commission staff are working together to plan a work session engaging the Trustees, Trust staff, and board/council/commission board members and executive directors to discuss the Trust's organizational structure, the Trust's role in State government, and how the Trust should move forward in a new fiscal environment.

Rachel asked for clarification of the relationship between the Trust and the Trust Land Office. Greg explained that the TLO is a contractor separate from the Trust and is housed in the Department of Natural Resources. Last year, Greg explained, the TLO generated approximately \$24 million, which is up from a couple of years ago. Greg explained how the Trustees make their budget decisions by taking into consideration input from their statutory advisory board partners and other stakeholders.

Amanda Lofgren reported that five individuals with ADRD will transition from the Alaska Psychiatric Institute to Forest Home, an assisted living home owned by Hope Services, after the holidays. API has about 7 or 8 seniors with dementia and challenging behaviors.

A group of stakeholders representing Alaska State Hospital Nursing Home Association, Mat Su Health Foundation, AARP and others meet the second Wednesday of the month in Anchorage to discuss various topics and progress being made with Medicaid health care reform. In January, the topic will focus on long-term support services. The Alaska Healthcare Reform group wants address Alaska health care reforms over the next year and started a monthly breakfast information sessions. January's breakfast will discuss long-term care.

The Division of Insurance is developing a 1332 waiver to address the multiple insurance pools. This waiver may include a "Health Care Authority," which would affect the senior population.

Amanda also mentioned that the Certificate of Need for two new skilled nursing facilities planned in the Mat-Su region was approved for 134 new nursing home beds for the region, down from the original request of 224 beds.

Jeff offered his observations about the budget and upcoming legislative process. The Senate majority is proud of the cuts in spending and will be looking for more in the coming session in order to downsize government. Jeff also noted his concern about Medicaid services in that savings from reform take time. To control the budget, legislators may make changes to the list of Medicaid eligibles, reimbursement rates, and/or covered services. Reformation of the Medicaid program has to be built on outcomes and improved health, not reductions. There must be a system in place to keep individuals out of prisons and nursing homes. The Healthcare Authority may help by being able to pull together enough sources to provide a viable health care system. Private insurance only covers 22,000 individuals in Alaska. We may be able to increase the number of those insured by cobbling together a model using both Medicaid and Health Care Authority.

Jeff was asked to explain the exclusion of persons age 65+ in the new 1115 Behavioral Health demonstration waiver. Jeff explained that this exclusion was necessary in order to maintain cost neutrality (or less), per the requirements from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Including costs for the senior population in the 115 demo waiver would drive up the cost and risk approval by CMS. However, the new Administration may be moving toward Medicaid block grants. In that case, the federal government won't care about how the money is used – only that each state will receive a designated amount of money to spend how they see fit and no more.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Jim McCall, Senior Housing Program Officer (Jim provided a written report of AHFC's activities to all ACoA Commissioners.)

Jim reviewed the budget process used by AHFC to determine the FY18 budget amount for the Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund (SCHDF). Last year, the Rasmuson Foundation invested \$3.5 million for the SCHDF to be divided equally between FY2017 and FY2018. For FY2018, the SCHDF budget allocation is \$2.75 million from the remainder of the Rasmuson investment (\$1.75 million) and \$1.0 million from AHFC (reallocated money from the Energy Rebate Program).

Jim reported that there are 873 persons on the waitlist for AHFC's senior/disabled housing wait list as of November 2016.

Jim commented on the progress of implementing the Governor's Executive Order 281. The purpose of this Executive Order is to develop a plan to streamline and focus the state's economic development corporations. The State has hired Boston Consulting Group to facilitate the requirements contained in the Executive Order.

AHFC staff has plans to proceed with a request to the AHFC Board of Directors to move forward with a Smoke-Free initiative at all AHFC public housing projects. This initiative, building on the direction from HUD regarding smoke-free public housing, will save AHFC money by reducing cleaning fees on smoker occupied units and decreasing costs associated with unit vacancies. Moreover, Jim added, there is research that shows the harmful effects on secondhand smoke.

Pending AHFC Board approval, Jim outlined the tentative implementation timeline:

- January to late February – Notices will be sent to all residents regarding the new rules for smoke-free housing and inviting comments.
- March – Resident comment period
- April – Pending no significant public comments received, leases for existing residents will be amended with the smoke-free policy.

Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

Pat Branson, Chair, and Marsha Bracke, Facilitator

This advisory board is comprised of 12 members. On behalf of the Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board, Pat Branson and Marsha Bracke reviewed their Annual Report and briefed Commissioners on their activities:

- Develop and implement a strategic plan
- Article published in Senior Voice on transportation as a key factor in keeping people independent.

The Coordinated Transportation Policy framework is created by an interagency working group. Their recommendations include:

1. Establish a consistent framework of funding.
2. Promote coordinated transportation as the best way to provide transportation (Administrative Order)
3. Promote accessible taxi cabs
4. Recognize that tribal entities have different funds for transportation

ACoA Commissioner Discussion: Planning for February 2017 Rural Outreach Site Visits

ACoA discussed rural outreach visits to Southeast Alaska and where each staff and commission member preferred to go. Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Haines, and Angoon were identified as possible host sites.

Biologic and Biosimilar Medicines Presentation

Amgen Biotechnology Company: Rylan Hanks, Director, Global Regulatory Policy

Rylan Hanks, representative for the Amgen Biotechnology Company, presented a PowerPoint on biosimilars.

Biologics are a class of medication that treats diseases like cancer, arthritis, lupus, and other autoimmune conditions. These medicines are uniquely complex, as they are made with living cells that work to relieve a patient's symptoms by targeting a disease at its source and providing much-needed relief to millions of patients. Now, similar versions of biologics called "biosimilars" have emerged on the market, making this level of treatment accessible to a wider range of patients.

- Biosimilars are not the same as generic medicine. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determines the interchangeability of biologic products, while each state governs the substitution policies. Presently, four biosimilars have been approved by the FDA, with many more in the pipeline.

Rachel inquired into what Amgen needed from ACoA. Rylan stated that Amgen was looking for support and education behind legislation.

Gordon asked if health insurance companies would cover biologic medications (similar to Medicare and Aetna). Rylan said he was not sure but believed that their products should allow for cost savings, and they would provide more information as soon as possible.

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA)

Mystie Rail, Executive Director

ATLA is multi-funded statewide project which provides assistive technology throughout Alaska.

ATLA briefed on hearing and vision equipment that were given as lifetime loans, these devices are lent to two individuals with certain impairments until the individual no longer needs the device, the devices are then returned to ATLA.

- ATLA's goals was to provide equipment for 1000 people, they were able to provide equipment for over 950 people.
- The return on investment was \$200 per individual.
- Within any of their programs they were able to provide over 2000 individual devices.
- ATLA continues to reach out to individuals every 3 to 6 months to see how the program is working and how the devices are working for them.
- Since the end of the program they've been able to obtain about 12% of the equipment back from people who know longer need it and there is currently a waiting list of about 49 people.

- ATLA received over 600 testimonies from individuals around the state of how the program has changed their lives.

Governor Walker signed House Bill 16 which allows the State to issue reused durable medical equipment and assistive technology. This practice saves money instead of paying for the cost of new equipment. Mystie expressed her appreciation for the advocacy work of the Commission and the Governor's Council for this project and appreciates ACoA's continued support.

Mystie demonstrated a few assistive technology items and discussed their usefulness. She also noted that the price of technology is coming down every year. Mystie finished by responding to a question regarding the use of robots to provide care for seniors and persons with disabilities noting that technology could allow that to happen in the next 5 years.

Advocacy Reports **AgeNET, Marianne Mills, Chair**

Marianne reported that AgeNET's annual legislative fly-in, scheduled for February 5-7, is coordinated with ACoA's legislative visits. AgeNet will bring in providers from across the state to meet with their legislators to advocate on senior issues. AgeNET is planning to meet with every legislator during their visits.

AgeNET has four advocacy priorities this year:

Legislative Priorities:

1. Protect current funding levels for senior home and community-based (HCB) grants and Medicaid Waivers.
2. Implement solutions to Alaska's Fiscal Crisis.

Administrative Priorities:

3. Streamline access to services for HCB Waiver beneficiaries, especially transportation to medical services.
4. Continue to serve on the external workgroups to most effectively provide HCB services.

AARP Advocacy Report: Marie Darlin

AARP is working to watch legislation and its implementation, specifically SB 72, the Care Act.

AARP has hosted a series of telephonic town hall meetings called "Tele Town Halls" for family caregivers regarding different aspects of caregiving.

Marie noted that over 700 people have participated in the two tele-town hall meetings conducted by AARP.

AARP will continue to work with the Medicare information office, which has a new director, Jeanne Larson, who has taken over for Judith Bendersky, who has relocated for a new position.

Marie also mentioned that AARP is working on a three year strategic plan focusing on health issues as well as local community efforts addressing livable communities (communities which are senior friendly).

- Legislative fly-ins will take place at the end of February
- AARP's priority is protecting the senior safety nets.

Commissioner Closing Comments

Mary inquired about the status of our legislative priorities and if they had been sent out to legislators.

Denise responded that staff will put together correspondence to legislators by providing a one-page summary of the Commission's priorities. At this time, we are waiting for the release of the Governor's budget and pre-filed bills that concern senior issues before we send that letter. Rachel recommended that ACoA form a new Ad Hoc

Committee on Medicare issues. Rachel added that seniors insured by Medicare still report having problems accessing primary care. We need to encourage doctors to accept Medicare and to utilize the Medicare Information Office for services.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. with the unexpected termination of the videoconference.