

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING  
JUNE 29-30, 2006  
ANCHORAGE SENIOR CENTER  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**APPROVED**

**Thursday, June 29, 2006.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frank Appel called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Michael Black, Patricia Branson, Bill Hogan (DHSS representative), Sharon Howerton-Clark, Iver Malutin. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal, Ed Zastrow. ACoA staff in attendance: Linda Gohl, Joanne Schmidt, MaryAnn VandeCastle, Sherrie Stears.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Motion: to move the nomination process forward to today's agenda; motion passed. Motion: to approve the agenda as amended; motion passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 7-9, 2006 MEETING:** It was noted that there was an incomplete sentence in the first bullet under New Business on page 10 of the draft minutes which should be deleted. Motion: to approve the March minutes as amended; motion passed.

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:** Pat Branson reported that the Nominating Committee recommends retaining the same set of officers for the coming year. Motion: Pat moved to retain the current officers for the next year. The motion passed unanimously. [Frank Appel will continue as Chair. Sharon Howerton-Clark will continue as Vice Chair.]

**ACoA CHAIR'S REPORT:** Frank Appel presented the chair's report. Members are asked to complete their annual ethics report forms and turn them in to Linda. The hiring process for the Executive Director position has been underway. A total of 17 applications were received; the top four individuals will be interviewed by the Commission on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. They will try to make their selection at that time, but will still need to do reference checks and get the Administration's approval. He did Linda's performance evaluation and reviewed it with her. The Commission has

accomplished almost all the goals on last year's list, thanks to Banarsi (Planning Committee chair) and Ed (Legislative Committee chair). We are still lacking by-laws, and an annual report for 2003-2004-2005. The by-laws committee will meet in July. We're going to just move ahead with the 2006 report and the work needed on the policy and procedures manual. Committee chairs are asked to submit 2007 goals and objectives by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Committee chairs could change for the coming year – each committee should select their own chair and let Frank know who they choose.

**ACoA VICE CHAIR'S REPORT:** Sharon Howerton-Clark presented the Vice Chair's report. She attended the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's meeting in Fairbanks earlier in June. They've had some changes in their board – a new chair and several new trustees. They approved \$125,000 in funding for ADRD support services for this year (FY 2007) only. There will be an advocacy summit held in September. She has participated in the Senior Advocacy Coalition (SAC) monthly teleconferences. She attended the Kenai Peninsula Senior Picnic on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Soldotna – a free annual event for seniors sponsored by Peninsula senior center directors. Sharon received thank you notes from Senators Stevens and Murkowski regarding a letter from her about an asthma drug; the problem is, she never wrote such a letter. Someone could be using seniors' names and addresses for their own political purposes – a form of identity theft. Michael Black suggested she report this to the elder abuse office within the Division of Banking and Securities (in the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development).

**COMMENTS ON AGING ADVOCACY CONFERENCE:** Iver Malutin stated that the conference had great speakers, and the timing for such an event was right. He felt the ideas of the various speakers fit together like a puzzle. He appreciated the staff's work, and felt the governor was treated pleasantly. Bill Hogan said he'd heard good things from the governor and DHSS Commissioner Karleen Jackson. Sharon Howerton-Clark felt the conference went well. People from throughout the state were able to attend. The governor was a bit uncomfortable on seniors' turf, but he was treated respectfully. The speakers were excellent and gave us ideas for our advocacy efforts. Pat Branson said the event was well-attended, and well put together. She liked having Pat Luby (AARP) at the end, tying things together. She'd like to see all these advocacy groups streamlined, and asked how the new Alaska Aging Advocacy Network will be handled. [Linda responded that creating an advocacy network was a goal of the conference, to use the federal funds. We'll contact those who expressed an interest in our issues. We're not entirely sure how it will play out, as not everyone who signed up is on the internet.] Frank Appel said the conference was very effective, with good information on advocacy strategies, and good attendance. It will help us develop an advocacy network. Pat expressed

the hope that we can have the advocacy network ask questions of the candidates this fall on senior issues. She will help work on this till she leaves Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Banarsi Lal (chair) was not present. Linda noted that the state plan advisory committee has been meeting to develop the next state plan for senior services. There has been good dialogue and discussion. The group has been looking at priority issues. The plan will include the bigger picture, not just OAA funding. They are exploring regions to be used in the funding allocation, exploring the use of the Dept. of Health & Social Services' regions this time. A dialogue on the weighting factors has included data from the Census and the Alaska Dept. of Labor. MaryAnn is creating a schedule and work plan. The Department is the State Unit on Aging, but the Alaska Commission on Aging is delegated the authority to produce the state plan for senior services. The next meeting of the state plan advisory committee is on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **GERIATRIC EDUCATION, TRAINING, & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMITTEE:** Ella Craig gave this committee report. She has participated in the planning of many training opportunities for the public, university faculty, and staff. Between 800 and 900 people have received training in the past year. The Geriatric Education Center is hoping for the reinstatement of federal funds for the coming year. The UAF GEC has closed, but the Sitka GEC remains open. The GEC is trying to get mandatory courses on aging included in some degree programs. Linda mentioned a new geriatric workforce work group the ACoA has been participating in to discuss priorities in this area. The Trust has added a new Workforce Development focus area. Our work group is developing a proposal to submit to the workforce development committee in early July.

**PIONEERS' HOME ADVISORY BOARD:** Frank Appel reported that this board met monthly during the legislative session to carry out its advocacy planning and strategies. They succeeded in obtaining additional positions to deal with the increasing number of dementia patients. They also got money in the capital budget for a new roof at the Ketchikan Pioneers' Home and other repairs. The remodel to convert the MatSu Pioneers' Home into a Veterans' Home is nearly completed. The Board will have its fall meeting in Southeast Alaska, where they'll visit the Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan Pioneers' Homes.

**MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY RURAL COMMITTEE:** Pat Branson reported that this committee's focus recently has been on the Trust's Bring the Kids Home initiative. The group has spent time discussing the definition of "rural." They are funding small grants in rural areas and are continuing outreach with

technical assistance for grantees and possible grantees in rural areas. The next rural outreach trip is not yet scheduled. Margaret Lowe is doing an excellent job in running this committee.

**AGENET REPORT:** Pat Branson presented this report. She noted that AgeNet had had its first legislative fly-in in March, and it went very well. Providers and caregivers visited legislators' offices to tell their stories, and this made a big difference to the legislators. AgeNet's annual meeting will be tomorrow (June 30<sup>th</sup>) at the Alzheimer's Resource Agency of Alaska. They will be working on formulating questions to pose to this fall's candidates for office. AgeNet members pay dues in order to hire a lobbyist, John Bitney. AgeNet will connect up with the ACoA's new aging advocacy network.

**GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER:** Bev Tallman reported that funding is now back in the FY 2008 federal budget. This is the third year for the program. They have enough funding through Dec. 31, 2006, but staff may face reduced hours after that. They have formed a work group with the ACoA and Div. of Senior & Disabilities Services. They welcome help in identifying training priorities. Bev introduced Jessalyn Stanton of the Salvation Army's adult day program. She will provide input to the GEC as a service provider and will help coordinate and leverage funding. Stanton noted that they see a lack of people interested in becoming direct care professionals. People don't necessarily need a college degree. The GEC is setting up a certificate program. There is also a lack of coordination among all the different groups focusing on workforce development, and often training series have been driven by "what sounds like a good idea this year." A more thoughtful planning process is needed to address a serious lack of core competencies in direct care providers. They can't advocate directly to Congress – the concern needs to come from the people impacted by the lack of available training. [Frank Appel noted that, in fact, the University can advocate to Congress through its president or chancellor. Bev agreed that the University does have a lobbyist, but that that individual was told this was not a priority issue.] Linda recommended that the GEC coordinate with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; they have money, job centers, and other resources, including Title V workers who could be trained in this field.

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Frank Appel reported that this committee had some successes and some non-successes this year. Some of the non-successes may be carried forward as priorities next year. Ed did a good job as committee chair this year. Pat has volunteered to be co-chair for the coming year; she has ideas about networks and coalitions. Sharon noted that staff did an excellent job of contacting communities to get them involved in the legislative teleconferences, but participation still remained low. We may need to publicize the

teleconferences more, and let people know it's OK to just listen. She noted that the monthly SAC (Senior Advisory Coalition) teleconference is much better attended. Frank said the teleconferences started out with good attendance but then experienced a natural attrition process. Pat suggested that the advocacy conference may have been a good kick-off to get people involved – we should now have some charged-up senior advocates. Linda suggested we reach out to other sites; not every community has a senior center, but there may be other appropriate sites. We can involve others besides seniors. Iver stated that he was saddened by all the absences at the teleconferences. He suggested trying to involve the tribal councils around the state – there are many of them. Michael noted that rural Alaska may not have internet access and other technology. The tribal councils are very busy. Someone needs to spearhead getting folks to a phone in the small communities. We need to consider who to talk to – the mayor or tribal council spokesperson may not necessarily be the right person. He suggested contacting the local government specialists in his division to get the names of individuals who could spearhead this participation in their communities. Iver added that the Native associations are good contacts for this as well. Frank noted that we had the most interest and dialogue when we had expert guests (e.g., John Bitney, the lobbyist for AgeNet) who were able to offer additional insights into the legislative process. We did more of this during this session.

**2007 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION:** The Commission spent some time discussing ideas for its 2007 advocacy priorities. These will continue to be developed over the next two to four months. In the fall, the ACoA will select its priorities for the 2007 legislative session.

Linda gave a report on various re-authorization issues. Funding for the SeniorCare program expires at the end of June, 2007. We will need to ensure that the continuation of this program is included in the FY 2008 operating budget. Funding to the senior grant program for ADRD (flexible long-term care) support services needs to reflect increased general funds for FY 2008. In FY 2007 we received \$125,000 in general funds and \$125,000 from the Mental Health Trust Authority. Funding for this program had been left out of the governor's budget, so a lot of advocacy work went into obtaining these funds. AgeNet and its providers and caregivers helped a lot. The MHTAAR amount will not be provided in the future, so we need to increase our budget base. We'll need to coordinate closely with the Department's budget development process. Bill Hogan assured us that this year the Commission will be invited to participate in the budget development process. The legislature will get the current governor's budget in January. If there is a new governor, he or she can amend that budget. Some members favored requesting \$500,000 in total general funds for the flexible long-term care support services in FY 2008, which would double the funding available to the program for FY 2007, or

at least a \$125,000 increase (which would bring total funding to \$375,000). Michael noted that we'd need to provide justification for any increases during the budget process. Members ended by agreeing that staff should move forward with the \$375,000 budget request for FY 2008.

Michael recommended we have our list of priorities and go forward with it now. Linda noted that the FY 2008 budget process begins in mid-August. Board directors are not normally invited to the division directors' meetings, though they do get information from Bill Hogan. Pat said this is a timing issue. We don't want to miss the boat, so we must give priorities to staff no later than this meeting. Michael recommended that we have supporters of our initiatives write the Department's Commissioner's Office. If the items are not placed in the Department's budget, they are unlikely to make it into the governor's budget. The candidates need to hear about them as well. Linda said that the Commission on Aging is no longer responsible for requesting these funds or administering them; that makes this process extra difficult.

After discussion, the Commission on Aging priorities were identified as:

- #1: ADRD in-home support services (increased level of general funds in budget base – total of \$375,000)
- #2: SeniorCare program continuation
- #3: Development of a strategic long-term care plan
- #3: Heating fuel assistance. The governor put this (a LIHEAP program increase) in last year's budget but the legislature threw it out. Michael suggested we let the governor know we support it for next year's budget. He said that his office is seeing a lot of economic hardship in the small communities that use fuel oil for everything, including electricity.

Bill Hogan recommended that the ACoA prepare a one-page position paper on each of these issues for the Commissioner, with a copy to him.

In our letter to the Commissioner, we should suggest a long-term care strategic plan as a priority also, though it will not be part of the budget process. The Commissioner's Office needs to take the lead and form a steering committee to begin the process of creating a long-term care plan for Alaska. We now have a lot of studies (Lewin Group study on Medicaid costs, PCG report on long-term care costs, etc.). We need to bring all the information together. Mike suggested that the ACoA be very specific about what it wants to see in a long-term care plan. Bill agreed, saying there are lots of studies now but the information is not pulled together and they don't provide much direction. The ACoA's suggestions regarding priority issues and make-up of the work group are welcome.

Linda suggested that the steering committee for a strategic long-term care plan should include representatives of the Commissioner's Office, the beneficiary boards, and House and Senate Finance H&SS subcommittee chairs or their staff. Other entities could be pulled in as a resource. The strategic plan needs to address more than just the Medicaid program – it is for everyone, not just low-income people.

### **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES & SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**REPORT:** Millie Ryan presented this report. This year's legislature provided an increment to serve people on the DD wait list. One category they hope to be able to serve are those over age 40, most of whom probably have caregivers over age 60. Planning is underway for this year's Aging and Disabilities Policy Summit. TV ads are being run to recruit people for the direct services workforce. For FY 2007, they received some money from the Trust to work directly with providers on individualized recruitment and retention plans and to provide technical assistance for implementation of the plans. There is a major effort to ensure that DD people are included in their communities; volunteering is encouraged as a source of involvement. They received a Dept. of Justice grant to assist DD crime victims; this will be expanded with additional Trust funding. The state plan for DD services is out for public comment now.

### **REVIEW OF ACOA FY 2008-2009 ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST**

**AUTHORITY FUNDING REQUESTS:** Joanne Schmidt has been working on developing these requests. In the future, it should be an item on the ACoA's winter meeting agenda to discuss the Trust's budget process and what we will want to request. In the past, the Trust has funded our Planner I position, and also given us money for rural outreach, which we've used to fund our annual rural outreach meeting; this year we'll propose having staff and commission members' travel to additional rural areas of the state to help develop a rural advocacy network. We will need a rural outreach work plan.

We want to sustain funding for geriatric education and training for the university in addition to small training grants for providers. In FY 2007 this funding was reduced to \$125,000. We are also developing an elders health and wellness initiative. This would include a health awareness and outreach campaign which would focus on risk factors for ADRD, on mental health for seniors, and would include a new health program specialist to be housed in the Division of Public Health. We might be able to use some federal funds from other sources through DPH which also target prevention awareness and activities for seniors.

We also want to step up efforts to educate the public on senior issues, emphasizing ADRD, traumatic brain injury, and behavior health issues. This

project would include strategy development, a media plan, and media dissemination. Another project would provide behavioral health services for seniors and family caregivers. Some such services have been provided in the past, but funding hasn't been sustained. We have agreed to request that \$34,000 of our total funding request be allocated to the Alaska Brain Injury Network. And finally we will be making recommendations to existing Trust focus area groups for funding related to those topics.

In response to questions, Joanne noted that there is no reliable way to capture the number of seniors with behavioral health needs. By and large, they are not being served. Many seniors don't come to the community mental health centers. We need to change the perceptions of behavioral health care providers, and also to find ways to reach out to seniors where they are. Details of the project are yet to be fleshed out.

Motion by Sharon Howerton-Clark: to approve the Trust budget request proposal as drafted; motion was approved unanimously.

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY REPORT:** Jeff Jessee and Margaret Lowe presented this report. The Trust will be moving to new office space across from the Whaley Center. They'll have an open house in September in conjunction with the candidates' forum. The Trust now has a lot of meeting space available – a large conference room and six to eight smaller breakout rooms.

The Trust is working on budgets and focus area activities. This year's advocacy summit will be on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. They had success with last year's top advocacy priority, the Medicaid adult dental services bill. Creation of a housing trust is moving forward; this was one of the recommendations from the Governor's Council on Homelessness. The housing trust will help to provide permanently affordable housing. Currently housing must be re-subsidized for each person, remaining unaffordable for the next person when that person moves on. The bulk of housing resources serve those at 70% of median income and above. Very little housing stock serves the lower-income population. The State takes a dividend from AHFC each year (\$17-20 million), but puts very little of it back into housing. The State does not need this money, so the Trust will ask that they reinvest these earnings into the housing trust to provide leverage in dealing with homeless populations. They are developing materials to explain and promote this idea, in addition to drafting proposed legislation.

Margaret Lowe stated that she had attended the aging advocacy conference and that she felt it was a very good conference, a very worthwhile affair.

Jeff Jessee spoke about the ACoA budget requests. He asked whether our projects are specifically focused on beneficiaries, and suggested we explain how beneficiaries are the target of the health and wellness efforts. He said there would also be questions on the sustainability of the projects. On the GEC funding, for example, sustainability could be an issue. And there may be a “been there, done that” factor – we’ll need to explain how a project [such as behavioral health services for seniors] is different from what we’ve done before. We will need the support of the Division of Behavioral Health.

Linda stated that we put the GEC back in as a GF/MH request, and will try to educate the Department on the need for this systems change. Last year the Division of Behavioral Health was not prepared to incorporate this.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS:** Commission members were referred to the reports contained in the meeting packets. Linda noted that we will calendar the advocacy summit and meet-the-candidates dates. The Trust meeting will be Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and the advocacy summit on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have \$25,000 to use to target our beneficiaries in the Trust’s continuing ad campaign. We’ll ask staff to draft some ideas.

We are still waiting for a revised job description from the Division of Personnel for the Rural Long Term Care Coordinator position. This position will now include coordination of the ADRC (Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers) project.

We are getting a college intern, Jeannette Lacey, for two days a week during the coming school year. She is working on her MSW degree.

### **[LUNCH BREAK]**

**DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT:** This report was presented by Bill Hogan, Deputy Commissioner. The final report on the long-term care cost study has been hung up awaiting official signatures on the cover letter. It’s now due out on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The ACoA should include its suggested long-term care strategies in its letter to the Commissioner. The Municipality of Anchorage is considering becoming an AAA (Area Agency on Aging). This is a big deal – they are serious. The Commission should discuss it. Anchorage will need to take certain steps – outreach to local senior service providers and so forth. It should be a well-thought-out process. The Anchorage Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is doing the legwork on the AAA; they’ll be commenting on the state plan. The state plan can always be amended if a new AAA were to be formed.

The Legislature has issued an RFP for a look at our entire Medicaid program. Pacific Health Policy Group got the contract award. There will be a tight turnaround on this project. Watch for opportunities to give them input. There is another DHSS project in partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation to get dollars to communities and providers more easily; there is an extraordinary administrative burden on providers and the Department. Cliff Consulting will meet with providers to get input about the problems with the DHSS granting process. This project is on a very tight time frame. The ACoA should get a copy of the Cliff Consulting letter which was sent to 200 providers.

Bill announced that all four of our waivers have been approved by CMS. He congratulated the Commission on the successful passage of the adult dental bill, especially when some people said it could never be done. One related issue that has been raised by dentists, however, is the client no-show issue.

**DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITIES SERVICES REPORT:** Rebecca Hilgendorf, DSDS deputy director, gave the Division's report. She has been on the job for only 8 months, and is learning a lot. New regulations for the PCA (personal care attendant) program went into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> assessments were conducted by care coordinators; now they are done by nurses. There is a contract with Arbitre, Inc. to do the assessments. The State then reviews the assessment and determines the level of care. The PCA program manager resigned, so Rebecca is working in acting capacity in that job, in addition to her other job as manager of the Children with Complex Medical Conditions program.

Assessments are slow to get authorized for people right now, and services haven't been prior authorized for clients. DSDS is working with providers to identify where the problems are and fix them. New applications are the priority. Other priorities are people being released from the hospital, and those with family caregivers no longer able to provide care. Renewals have automatic continuance until the individual can be evaluated. DSDS will be getting new staff and putting new procedures in place. Some 3,500 Alaskans now receive PCA services. The biggest hold-up is the paperwork required to accompany each assessment – for example, certification from the doctor's office, release of information, legal documents, etc. They are going to require agencies to submit a completed packet of paperwork.

Rebecca also reported on the ADRC (Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers) project, of which DSDS will be taking charge. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, there was a day-long workshop by consultant Steve Lutzky for all those involved with the ADRCs, which are currently staffed by several regional Independent Living Centers. DSDS is

creating a position to staff this project in the future. It's been difficult to get this position through the Division of Personnel. There are lingering reclassification issues dating back to the merger of the DD and aging agencies. The delays are nobody's fault.

A new training coordinator, Dana Broadwater, has been hired. And an intake and assessment coordinator has been identified. Grants are going out on time! \$10.3 million in senior grants Letters will go out tomorrow. DSDS has had problems showing data on all that they do. However, progress is being made. The aging network data base is now in Phase II. They will soon have the first unduplicated count of seniors receiving grant services. All the waivers (renewal applications) have been approved by CMS. It was a difficult application process. They will be using CMS' quality framework for quality assurance.

**U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON AGING, REGION X REPORT:** Natalie Cannon presented this report. There are only 3 people in the AOA Region X office now – Natalie (who handles Alaska and Washington), Terry Duffin (who handles Idaho and Oregon), and Chaz Kawabori. They also handle Title VI programs – direct grants to tribes (there are 36 of these in Alaska). Natalie will be reviewing our state plan. It is due May 1, 2007 – to be effective July 1, 2007. There was new guidance this year and probably will be more new guidance next year. The Older Americans Act re-authorization passed the House on June 21<sup>st</sup> (under the title “Senior Independence Act of 2006”). The Senate bill is very different – so the conference committee will have a big job in reconciling the two.

As for appropriations for OAA programs, the House passed these. The Senate may not do so until September, possibly. There would be a small increase for nutrition programs. Title IV would receive an increase of \$19 million for the CHOICES initiative, which includes the ADRCs. Emergency preparedness is another big priority right now – for example, special needs shelters, lists of vulnerable seniors, having three days of meals on hand, etc. Five key people from each state are meeting now in Washington, DC; Rod Moline is among them. Other priorities are pandemic flu preparation and a long-term care awareness campaign (“Own Your Own Future”) to stimulate individuals to plan for their own long-term care needs. Medicaid and Medicare will not be enough. Medicare has a current push to sign up those low-income folks who didn't get signed up for Part D earlier.

**ROBERT GOODMAN, VETERAN:** Robert Goodman stated that the Territorial Guard was established in 1942. There were over 6,600 members. They never received any recognition. In 2000, Sen. Ted Stevens got a law passed making Territorial Guard service the equivalent of federal service as World War II veterans. All of these veterans are now over 77 years old. He is having trouble

reaching them to inform them of their status. He estimates there may be around 300 of them left alive. About 112 have received their discharges; Robert would like all of them to receive their discharges before they die. Some are entitled to benefits. If they have died, their family may be entitled to a small amount of estate benefits. He is seeking funding to reach people who may still be alive. They must be interviewed to obtain the needed information. He has done a mail-out (to 400+ names he received through the Longevity Bonus program), but intensive follow-up is necessary – on the order of 20 to 25 hours per application. There is someone in the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs who works on this for a quarter of his time. However, at that rate, it could take 12 years. It would take \$220,000 to have people visit areas of the state and document the cases. He needs to find a contact in each village.

Linda suggested he contact the community health aides in each village. Also the Rasmuson Foundation would be a place to look for possible funding. Pat Branson noted that since it's an election year, Robert could try to find a "champion" in both the House and Senate to support this project in the legislature. Linda also directed him to the National Senior Service Corps with Alaska Community Services, Inc. in Anchorage – they have volunteers who may be able to help with the project. Iver stated that most of the veterans Robert is seeking are probably Native, the Native corporations have money and could fund contacts with the veterans from their area. He suggested contacting the tribal councils and regional Native corporations.

There was no additional public comment.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Jill Hodges, the new executive director of the Alaska Brain Injury Network, was introduced. She asked the Commission to consider who to appoint to the ABIN Board position (each beneficiary board has a seat on the ABIN Board). It was suggested that Ella Craig might be appointed to serve as representative of the ACoA. The ACoA executive committee will consider this.

Pat Branson's sabbatical in Spain will run from October 25, 2006 through January 17, 2007.

The Alaska Commission on Aging recessed at 2:45 p.m. for a group tour of the Anchorage Pioneers' Home.

**Friday, June 30, 2006.**

The Alaska Commission on Aging met in executive session beginning at 9 a.m. to interview the four top candidates for the executive director position and select their top choice for the position. This session regarding personnel matters was confidential in accordance with AS 44.62.310.