

**Alaska Commission on Aging
RURAL OUTREACH MEETING
September 16th-19th, 2013
Valdez Senior Citizens Center
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Roll Call: Commissioners present: Paula Pawlowski, Chair, Patricia Branson, Banarsi Lal, Marie Darlin, Duane Mayes, Mary Shields, Edna Devries (by teleconference). Absent: Eleanor Dementi and Sandra Doyle.

Staff present: Denise Daniello, Jon Erickson, Lesley Thompson and Sherice Cole.

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Valdez Senior Center.

ACTION: Adoption of the Agenda

Marie Darlin moved to approve the meeting agenda, Pat Branson seconded. Motion approved.

ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Marie Darlin moved to approve the May 1st-2nd, 2013 meeting minutes, Pat Branson seconded. Motion approved.

A “Safety Moment”

By Pat Branson, Vice Chair

Chair Report

Paula Pawlowski reported she attended the Elder’s Conference in Anchorage. Paula attended the By-laws Committee, Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee meetings. Paula also reported talking with Denise and having conversations with ACoA Commission members.

Paula said it is important for Commission members to track their volunteer hours because it is important for people to understand the kind of commitment it takes to be on the Commission. The volunteer hours equal volunteer dollars – which sends an important message. Paula said she has been involved the Coalition of Education of the Alaska Legislation. Paula was struck that the Coalition members had no knowledge of the number of Alaskan grandparents raising grandchildren. What they have learned is that grand parenting can be stressful and put seniors at risk with their health. AARP has done considerable work to highlight this issue for the Legislature. There are approximately 5,000 children in Alaska being taken care of by their grandparents. Paula was asked to do team building with the Anchorage Senior Center staff. Paula said her volunteer time totaled 81 hours since the last meeting.

Vice-Chair Report

Pat Branson reported she attended the Executive Committee meetings monthly; Pat likes the monthly schedule instead of the previous quarterly meeting times. She attended the Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Pat said she didn’t keep track of her hours but participated in the committee meetings and did talk with Denise and Paula outside of committee meetings.

ACoA Committee & Representational Reports

Executive Committee:

Paula Pawlowski, Committee Chair, & Denise Daniello

Denise reported that the Committee discussed and approved ACoA's legislative priorities for budget and policy for the upcoming session and presentation to the Trust and the DHSS. The Committee also discussed the September quarterly meeting and questions for the Elder-Senior Community Forum in Glennallen.

Legislative Advocacy Committee:

Pat Branson, Committee Chair, & Denise Daniello

Pat reported that the Committee discussed the FY15 budget and policy recommendations. AgeNet also supports ACoA's budget recommendations.

Planning Committee

Denise Daniello (for Banarsi Lal)

The Committee met on June 5th to discuss and prioritize the budget recommendations and had a discussion on the policy recommendations. Denise noted that Committee members provided valued input and prioritized the recommendations.

By-Laws Committee

Marie Darlin, Committee Chair, & Denise Daniello

Marie reported that the Committee was very busy over the summer and held four teleconference meetings. The Committee proposed significant revisions to the By-laws. Marie reviewed the proposed changes to the By-laws. Pat moved to approve the changes to the By-laws, Mary Shields seconded the motion. By-law revisions were approved by unanimous consent.

Power of Aging in Alaska Ad Hoc Committee

Sandi Doyle, Committee Chair, & Denise Daniello (Denise Daniello reported in Sandi Doyle's absence) Denise reported the name for the conference as the "Power of Aging in Alaska" scheduled for May 1st at the Captain Cook Hotel. The purpose of the conference is to tie it to the State Plan's four goals. The Committee discussed possible funding sources for the conference, including corporate sponsorships. The Committee meets monthly with the next meeting scheduled for October.

Pioneer Home Advisory Board (PHAB)

Banarsi Lal, Chair of the PHAB, reviewed the organization of the PHAB's seats. The priority for the PHAB has been on studies to examine the need for a Pioneer Home expansion as the result of the needs of a growing senior population. A public partnership has been discussed as a possible strategy to expand the homes. The division director of the Pioneer Homes made a presentation to the House HSS Finance Subcommittee about the Pioneer Homes and resident needs in August.

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE)

Banarsi Lal, GCDSE Board Member & ACoA Representative

Banarsi reported Teresa Holt as the Council's new Executive Director. The Council's primary bill, HB 88 that called for replacing the term "mental retardation" from all state statute and regulations with "intellectual and developmental disabilities" passed this session. This legislation was sponsored by Representative Millet.

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Banarsi reported that the Governor's Council's legislative priority for next session will focus on getting funding in the base for the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative has been a joint advocacy priority for the Trust, ACoA, Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for two years to provide training and consultation for persons with behaviors that fall outside of the expertise of family caregivers and service providers. We have been successful in getting one-time funding for both years. The Council will also advocate for additional funding for transportation. Transportation is another joint advocacy priority for the Trust, boards, commission, and council. The Governor's Council next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 2nd-4th in Anchorage.

Call for New ACoA Committee Members

Paula Pawlowski, ACoA Chair

FY2014 Committee Member assignments and Committee Goals. Paula reminded the board that the Commission is a working board that requires help from everyone. Paula went over what committees need new members. Denise said that the Commission needs a new Vice-Chair with Pat Branson terming out. As allowed by ACoA's By-laws, Chair Paula Pawlowski appointed Mary Shields as ACoA's Vice Chair.

Health Care Market Place in Alaska, Affordable Care Act (by teleconference)

Terry Duffin, Region X Program Operations Manager, U.S. Administration on Aging & Administration for Community Living & Susan Johnson, Region X Regional Director U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Region X and Priya Helweg, External Affairs Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid.

Susan Johnson presented an excellent Power Point on the Affordable Health Care Act. She reported on the development of the health care exchange in Alaska, improvements to Medicare, and answered questions from the group. Terry Duffin stated that Judith Bendersky in the Senior & Disabilities office in Anchorage will be of help to seniors and answer their questions about Medicare and the Affordable Health Care Act.

ACoA Executive Director, Staff, & Budget Reports

Denise Daniello, Executive Director

Denise reviewed the highlights of her written report. Much of the work had been devoted to developing ACoA's budget and policy recommendations based on previous needs assessment activities and conducting a stakeholder survey. ACoA's budget recommendations include an increment for the (1) National Family Caregiver Support Program (\$325,000) to provide training and supports to family caregivers caring for elderly persons with compromised health conditions and grandparents raising grandchildren who need supports and (2) Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services (\$545,000) to provide safety net services including senior meals, assisted transportation, and homemaker services for seniors (age 60+) targeting those whose health and welfare are at highest risk. ACoA made presentations to the Department's Big Picture meeting highlighting the budget recommendations and to the Trust (two presentations) highlighting the budget recommendations (August Finance Committee) and policy recommendations in addition to our legislative accomplishments that included passage of the Silver Alert Bill, HB 59 (September Trust board meeting).

Denise also reported on the impact of federal sequestration on funding for senior programs in Alaska. She also reported on the history of ACoA's advocacy successes related to passage of legislation and budget increments. Denise recognized ACoA Planner Lesley Thompson for coordinating the Senior Fall Prevention week for ACoA.

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Report on National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

Lesley Thompson, ACoA Planner

Lesley presented a power point on the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference that she attended in July in Washington D.C. Lesley said Juneau has one of the highest homeless rates in the country. This population has a high rate of mental illness, addictions, and many are veterans. Juneau is looking at doing a "Housing First" program in Juneau that would be modeled after programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks. This program would take the vulnerable of the Juneau homeless and put them into housing. Research has found that homeless people in their 50's and 60's have the health of someone in their 70s. Homeless individuals usually don't generally live past 60 or 65. There is one housing complex in Anchorage called "Forever Senior Housing" that has nine seniors on the waiting list. Jim McCall with the Senior Housing office of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) said he is working on getting the latest homelessness data. Lesley said there were 1,600 people that attended the Homelessness Conference. Lesley said that there is a percentage of early on-set dementia for people who are homeless. Alaska has a housing waitlist of one to four years however, California has a waitlist of nine years, with the waitlist opening every three years for three months at a time. California has people in homeless shelters for up to eight and nine years. Lesley said the President of the Alliance on Ending Homelessness talked about their deadline of 2015. Home Depot is donating \$80 million for veteran housing over the next five years.

According to the National Council on Aging, it was hard to locate seniors since they couch surf. Many seniors are leery of programs and those who want to help really have to work with the seniors to gain their trust. The seniors are a lot of the time frail and need support services. Lesley thanked the Trust for funding her way to the conference

Tuesday Sept. 17th - Meeting convened at 8:20 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners present: Paula Pawlowski, chair, Patricia Branson, Banarsi Lal, Marie Darlin, Duane Mayes and Mary Shields. Commissioners absent: Eleanor Dementi, Edna Devries and Sandra Doyle.

Staff present: Denise Daniello, Jon Erickson, Lesley Thompson and Sherice Cole.

Valdez Senior Center Report

Wanda Clark, Executive Director

Wanda made a power point presentation highlighting the activities of the Valdez senior center. The Center helps seniors get signed up with Medicare and Medicaid. The Center has exercise programs and support services. Pat asked about staffing, what kind of municipal support from the city? Wanda answered by stating that there are ten part-time staff including personal care attendants (PCA) and twenty full time staff. The Center has really good Municipal support. The Center leases the building from the city for \$1/annually. The city assumes responsibility for major maintenance and upgrades. The Center sometimes receives state capital grants. Duane asked about the senior housing. Wanda said they are at capacity and there is a long waiting list. Denise asked Wanda to give a breakdown of congregate meals. Wanda said they do ten congregate meals per day, and deliver twenty to thirty meals per day, year round. They give about forty rides a week. Denise said there is another funding source that can help with the Senior In-Home Grant funded services. Wanda said there are seven and a half seniors in in-home care. The population of Valdez is roughly 3,800. Pat said there seems to be a gap between home and community based services. Wanda said there has been discussion recently about assisted living and

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it is not high priority. Valdez has a small four bed facility. The focus right now is services. The Senior Center is looking to expand personal care attendants. Pat asked about the homeless population in Valdez. Wanda said there are some but it would be a dire straits situation. Valdez has no homeless shelter. It is a big asset having a senior center. They do encourage people to participate in activities.

Department of Health & Social Services

Bill Streur, Commissioner

The Commissioner is working with legislators to understand where the Department is headed and what are the major challenges for FY15. Decisions will be made so that the budget can be adjusted accurately. The Commissioner met with the Office of Management and Budget and said it is very clear that the Governor wants to hold the line on the FY15 budget.

The Commissioner thanked Pat Branson for her service to the Commission and the Department as an ACoA Commissioner. He commented that her role and leadership for seniors has been wonderful. The September meeting was Pat's last meeting as she completed serving 8 years, the maximum time allowed.

The Commissioner wants ACoA to work with the Alaska Health Care Commission because he believes care across the spectrum is so important. We need to ensure that there is an emphasis on hospice care in Alaska. The HCC completed a road map and it is going to become more action orientated. The ARCC Recommends Alaska needs to improve care by providing better value and quality. If we build it they will come is something that we need to consider.

The cost of dental care is increasing as evidenced by the Alaska Medicaid Adult dental program has grown from \$1.5 million to the current rate of \$12 million.

DHSS needs to measure everything by through both outputs and outcomes. Needs to show how it impacts communities. Some divisions have embraced it others have not.

We need to measure how Alaskans with disabilities are doing while living at home. Need to show how the funding is impacting Alaskans.

The DHSS budget will grow. The senior population is also continuing to grow. We need to improve how we do things. Look at telemedicine capabilities. Look at what the tribal entities are providing services. We need integration for medical home models.

ACA – Affordable Care Act. The federal government is providing the Alaska Health Exchange. Many states are spending \$200 million to develop their system. More technology usually means more cost. The Governor does not support Medicaid expansion at this time. We should know more on December 15 when the Governor releases the state budget. Of the Medicaid population, 40% are tribal members.

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Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Nancy Burke, Senior Program Officer

It is great having the Commission as a partner who understands the needs of aging people particularly with people with ADRD.

One of the focuses of the Trust is to look at how to use peer to peer support more effectively. A current caregiver can be a tremendous resource for someone who is new and learning. The Trust has restated the Housing Focus area and is targeting the needs of senior/elders. The Trust will make it a priority to address the improvements needed for seniors. They are especially interested in long term care of the beneficiaries.

Additionally, the Trust is reviewing the resources available to deal with Alcohol in the state. The Trust will complete a comprehensive review of these programs and how we can reduce the negative impacts of alcohol dependence.

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Duane Mayes, Division Director

Duane reported Senior and Disabilities Services works with \$20 to \$30 million dollars in grants for people with developmental disabilities and seniors. \$14.5 million of the grant money is used for senior community based grants. SDS is working on the implementation of an automated service plan. Last week Duane was in Washington D.C with the state units on aging so he can be up on what is going on nationally.

SDS manages the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's). These resource centers have options for counseling, which helps identify what people need to successfully age in place. ADRC's have been in place for six years. The locations of these centers are Anchorage, Bristol Bay, Juneau, and a recent addition in the Mat-Su valley. Another one is projected for the Kenai Peninsula. The advocacy from ACoA and the other boards were able to get money from the capital budget for these resource centers. The ADRC 5-year pilot project will be launched soon in collaboration with the Kenai Independent Living Center. This project developed from a successful joint advocacy effort that resulted in a \$425,000 capital grant for this project to improve screening, coordination of care, and provide ADRC options counseling and assistance to persons with behavioral health needs.

SDS is also working to implement an online submission system for grants and supports. He believes this will make a difference for providers.

Duane noted the importance of the Medicare Information Office to SDS and the Department. They have added more staff to the office and have moved the office to another building to quadruple their space. The folks at the federal level and the Administration of Community Living have recognized Jeanne Larsen and Judith Bendersky as providing top quality service. Duane is very proud of them.

Duane said SDS is moving forward with tele-health for doing re-assessments, which will help reduce the travel costs for this service. SDS is working on acquiring and putting together video conferencing equipment. They have a full time Tele-health Coordinator and have five Tribal partners. They have also talked with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). To collect ideas

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Duane talked with rural Montana Health about their tele-health system. We hope to move forward with this technology. It is important for have the Medicaid information plan to have one portal for the department. Implementation will take up to a half and be helpful to the Division.

The Adult Protective Services Unit helps protect against the different types of abuse. Duane said that Brenda Mahlatini with Adult Protective Services has stated the reports of harm have exploded and if a case warrants investigation they will investigate. Senate bill 86 passed which elevated the ability to address the needs of senior financial exploitation. They were worried about seniors being financially exploited. In the past it took six months to address these types of incidences but now it is a matter of days to get a protection order.

Duane reported that House Finance Committee members really appreciated the cost data he provided on the continuum of care from community service grants to Medicaid/intermediate care up to institutional/nursing home care. He wanted to make them understand the continuum of care. The intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities; the average annual cost is \$175,000. For nursing homes it is \$110,000. They are talking to the Administration on Aging. DSDS told House Finance Committee members that SDS may not be able to absorb future cuts associated with sequestration.

Pat said her Senior Center went through their third accreditation and the onsite reviewer was very impressed that they had outcomes with a logic model already in place. Pat noted that she really liked the format Duane used to show the costs of providing services for his presentation to the House HSS Finance Subcommittee.

Pat said since this is her last meeting as a provider on ACoA that she appreciates how Duane is readily available. It is frustrating there are so many alerts and the regulations had not really been tested at the provider level. It would be good if the division and the department could have a provider liaison at the provider level to give input. Duane said it has been a journey since the implementation of the new regulations which went live June 2012.

The waivers went live July 1st, but he did everything he could to make sure that no stone was left unturned and communicated with providers. He is trying to be careful to not show favoritism but communicates with the presidents of the associations and the president of AgeNet. Duane said he is looking at the new regulations and knows there is an issue with transportation.

Duane said their recommendations are to educate the public; develop additional levels of care of a continuum of long-term services of supports, reduce costs, diversify care and increase private investments, improve quality and encourage innovation, develop instate capacity for populations with specific needs, we are working on this through the state plan; develop workforce and support caregivers; and determine the appropriate number type and location of the skilled nurses for the assisted living homes.

Paula said when she sat through the Senate Education Sub-Finance Committee. The committee talked about distance delivery in the lower Kuskokwim Yukon District which has a lot of money coming in every month. Paula asked Duane where the money will come from for the tele-medicine project.

Commissioner Streur said that the Department is working with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium on this and he would like to get vendors like GCI to step up to the plate. He met with GCI about tele-medicine and the capability to do this.

ACoA Commissioner Comments on Local Issues

Paula and Mary are the two Commissioners that represent Anchorage.

Paula said that she has been working more closely with the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. She has provided an interactive workshop for the employees at the senior center. Paula said she is a trainer and a workshop presenter. She hopes to be able to present more workshops for the Senior Center staff. Paula has discussed that the boards for the senior centers are non-profit. She did attend a celebration of seniors put on by the Anchorage Senior Center; there was discussion of what it is that seniors need and they agreed that seniors in Anchorage have more access to services than in other places in Alaska.

Pat talked about the accreditation for the Kodiak Senior Center. They first applied successfully for accreditation in 2003, followed by 2008, and again this year. They had over 30 community members that came to nine different standards committees. The center had to pass each standard committee. To name a few, facility finance, human resources, and human connection. One recommendation was the center needs more staff. They will get the assessment report and send it to the National Accreditation Board. The Kodiak Senior Center also recently celebrated their 48th year being open. Pat said she has been at the center for 25 years. The Center is working on implementing a dial a ride service that will supplement the services they have now.

Marie said the Juneau Commission on Aging sent out a third Juneau survey to determine what the needs of our senior population. They are trying to get things moving so we are prepared for the Silver Tsunami.

Banarsi said the Pioneer Home Advisory Board is planning the fall outreach which Paula will attend. The Fairbanks Pioneer Home had an art walk fundraiser.

Paula said last week she found out that she had a relative in the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. Her relative lived at the Pioneer Home until 1976.

Public Comment

Paula thanked ACoA Commissioner Albert Ningeulook from Shishmaref for his service to the Commission. Albert served one year but had made a difference before he gave his resignation before the September meeting. Albert's suggestion of honoring Alaskans being 100 years old was implemented by the Commission during May as Older Americans Month this year.

Gloria Day, Secretary of the Board of Valdez, thanked the Commission for holding our meeting at the Valdez Senior Center.

Department of Labor, Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program

Rita Bowen, Program Coordinator

Rita reported her program lost 55% of its funding in the current year. The program only has four providers, Southeast Regional Resource Center in Juneau, Palmer Senior Citizens, the Nikiski Senior

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Center and the Adult Learning Center of Alaska. Last year the program helped 295 people. The workers receive \$12.19 per hour through the program. The program is a last resort for some seniors who are age 55+, income eligible, and are looking to upgrade their vocational skills. The program participants have to have two or more barriers to employment to qualify. 61% of the program participants successfully get employed after the program. Common earnings for the participants are \$37,000.00 per year. Rita read the Older Workers Month Proclamation from the Governor.

Duane asked about the issue of 59% have low employment prospects, how do you define this. Rita said the program only helps one half of 1% of people. There is another program that helps people called Work Choice Investment Act. Denise asked Rita to share some of the MASST program participants. Rita told the story of a woman whose husband was disabled and how she had to go get job training. As a MASST participant, the woman received training at the Fairbanks Resource Center and realized she had a lot of skills she could use for employment.

Recognition of ACoA Commissioner Pat Branson, ACoA Vice Chair

The Commission honored Pat Branson for her service on the Commission and presented her with a card, certificate of appreciation, an Alaskan flag and a colorful scarf.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), Senior Housing Office

Jim McCall, Senior Program Officer

There are three new assisted living facilities developments in Alaska. Riverside in Soldotna has a new assisted living facility with 48 beds; this is the old Riverside Hotel. The cost was roughly \$8 million. AHFC approved a loan for the project in the amount of \$6.3 million. The loan to value was 79%. No grant funds were used. Jim noted that the financing for this project provides a good example of a public, private partnership. Forty-six of the units are 312 sq. ft. and have kitchenettes. The other two units are larger in size. There are many amenities including a beauty salon, a large solarium sun room, hydrotherapy room, aquarium, and activity room with a large television, game room, grand bay piano room, two computer library areas. The facility sits on the shores of the Kenai River and provides residents with an excellent view. Jim noted that the developer lives in Idaho but has worked in Alaska. Jim described another assisted living facility financed by AHFC located in Palmer. This project will be "Tranquility." The developer is a private entity that applied to AHFC for a \$1.3 million dollar loan. No grant funding was requested. This property will have 17 beds. Jim described the last assisted living home development located in Kenai with a cost of \$2.2 million. The developer applied for a loan from AHFC for \$1.5 million; 68% of loan to value; no name has been given to the facility yet. The facility will have 17 beds, 374 sq. ft. units; studio style and will also provide in-floor heating.

Jim described the Juneau community forum hosted by a new group working on developing a senior assisted living home that had a large turnout of 120 people. One outcome from the forum was the establishment of a task force to work on developing an assisted living home in Juneau. With the exception of the Juneau Pioneer Home, Juneau has no other senior assisted living.

Jim reported on HB 50. The bill allows use of commercial space in residential housing. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) has done a hearing for the regulations, requiring the loans to be \$50,000 or less for remodels.

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AHFC now has a new CEO, Brian Butcher who was previously the Commissioner for the Department of Revenue.

Jim attended the Senior Recognition Day event in Fairbanks along with Denise and Paula. They roll out the red carpet in Fairbanks for Senior Recognition Day.

Jim described other AHFC housing projects including new projects in Eagle River and Kodiak.

Jim stated that Commissioner Streur is a Board member of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

Nancy Burke, Senior Trust Program Officer, noted that the Trust has been looking at housing models and working on strategies for financing them. She said that one possible strategy would be to develop senior housing that has both independent and assisted living units so that some units could be available for rent which would make a property eligible for financing.

Marie Darlin said her group in Juneau needs to consider the option proposed by Nancy.

Finally, Jim talked about the Department's new proposed waiver rates for assisted living and noted that the reduced rates may affect AHFC's ability to finance new assisted living projects.

Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Diana Weber, Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Diana reported she has been visiting senior long-term care facilities. Diana said you know it is a good facility when the staff is holding the residents hands and looking into their eyes and speaking with them. In FY13, Diana reported a 26% increase in the cases opened up by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office. Diana is very grateful Karen Curry was recently hired as the new Deputy Ombudsman.

With the past quarter, they had two Medicaid infractions. Her office is working with the Alaska State Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office has jurisdiction to act on complaints regarding residential circumstances. One real option is to remove the individual but the place is what they can afford so they are reluctant to say anything. Diana said she doesn't have an instant cure, but it is hard to see seniors in that situation.

Assisted living facilities that have individualized units developed as apartments is not a good idea because it is difficult for assisted living home staff to observe residents. When the senior looks like they are having problems they get moved to another facility instead of being able to age in place. The other problem she encounters is the high resident to staff ratio – as much as 20 residents to one nurse – in some facilities. At one facility the residents said they were afraid to ask for help because they were afraid they were going to get kicked out. One case, a resident had bad pressure sores and the facility got closed. Diana is a stickler on staff to document everything they see. Ombudsman staff arrived at one home where there was a complaint and the person was lying on the bed with just a sheet and barely any clothes and was cold. The Ombudsman's Office moved the person immediately. Another case was facility staff poured hot water on a resident's feet and had to have his feet amputated.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Kay Branch, Elders Committee Coordinator

The Elders Committee is very concerned about the proposed new rates for assisted living and other providers. Kay described her work with oncology patients. Staff caring for these patients are sometimes Alaska Commission on Aging

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on-call. Staff needs to make sure that their elderly patients stay in contact with their families. Kay said her tribal partners are able to work with the tele-medicine. Some patients refuse radiation or chemotherapy and are ready to go home. Through tele-medicine, patients can have visits with the doctor and with the technician from their home communities. Tele-medicine saves money and patients don't have to travel to get the services. Kay is also excited about SDS's new automated service plan for re-assessments which will reduce the wait time and be more convenient for the Elders. Kay noted that her staff's primary role is to build rapport with the patients. Kay and her co-worker are bringing traditional food to serve the Elders at home. Sometimes the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium has to send people away and as far as Petersburg for home placement depending on their needs.

The Yukon Kuskokwim Health Consortium is planning a grand opening on September 27th for Bethel's new nursing home facility. The Barrow Hospital had a grand opening a few years ago; they are very interested in having swing beds. Kay will be working with them in the near future to work on that. The Elder's Committee would like to see development of a Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Center to help Alaska Native Elders access information and long-term support services. This would help Native Elders get access to services close to home and bridge cultural differences. Kay also mentioned the need for a cultural residential treatment center.

The ANTHC Elders Committee looking at developing a patient housing facility to better provide services. They are looking at purchasing land for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Campus.

AgeNet

Patricia Branson for Marianne Mills

This year's AgeNet's Four Legislative Priorities are:

- 1) Increment of 325,000 in National Family Caregiver Support Program grants throughout Alaska.
- 2) Increment of \$545,000 in Nutrition, Transportation and Support grants throughout Alaska.
- 3) Increment for Aging and Disability Resource Center Expansion:
- 4) AgeNet supports eligibility for those with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) to access home and community-based services through the 1915(i) Medicaid option.

Pat said that Kevin Jardell will continue as AgeNet's lobbyist. Pat also mentioned that AgeNet has \$6,000 for travel funds to bring AgeNet members and others to Juneau for the legislative fly-in.

Commissioner Closing Comments

Mary Shields said she is very pleased to be here.

Paula said she appreciates Wanda and the people in the audience for the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 PM.

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