

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
APPROVED Board Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2018
Meeting Held by Teleconference and Videoconference

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chair David Blacketer at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call: ACoA Commissioners present were Chair David Blacketer, Vice Chair Marie Darlin, Mary Shields, Duane Mayes, Rachel Greenberg, Gordon Glaser, Linda Combs, Banarsi Lal, and Bob Sivertsen (later in the day). Katie Abbott, and Anna Frank were absent.

ACoA Staff Present: Denise Daniello and Lesley Thompson

ACTION: Adoption of the meeting agenda.

ACoA Commissioner Rachel Greenberg moved to approve the draft agenda as presented, which was seconded by ACoA Commissioner Mary Shields. Adoption approved.

ACTION: Adoption of the February 5, 6 and 12, 2018 draft meeting minutes.

ACoA Commissioner Mary Shields moved to approve February 5, 6 and 15, 2018 draft meeting minutes as presented, which was seconded by ACoA Commissioner Marie Darlin. Minutes were approved.

Ethics Disclosures – David reminded Commissioners to please note any ethics disclosures, sign and date the form, and send the completed form to Denise.

Chair Report: David Blacketer

David thanked everyone for all of the work and support that the Commissioners and staff have done throughout his tenure.

Executive Director's Report

Denise Daniello, ACoA Executive Director

Denise reviewed the highlights of her written report found in the meeting binder with particular emphasis on legislative advocacy (bills passed, such as *Senior Benefits Extension, HB 236* and other bills, as well as budget updates for Senior Programs and Capital Budget items), State Plan needs assessment efforts (Elder-Senior Listening Session and the Senior Survey), and Older Alaskans Month activities including the Alaska Centenarian project. Denise also talked about ACoA's presentations to the Alaska Behavioral Health Association (emphasizing senior behavioral health needs and limited treatment options for seniors); National Institute of Senior Centers (made an invited presentation to NISC members about Alaska's state plan development process); and made an invited presentation to AgeNet at their annual meeting (highlighted legislative advocacy accomplishments, including legislation and budget items). Denise also noted that ACoA requested a legislative citation for ACoA Commissioner Marie Darlin in honor of her citizen activism (and submitted the draft language for the citation to Rep Kito's office). ACoA also submitted a letter of support for ACoA Commissioner Anna Frank to support her candidacy for a UAF Honorary Doctorate degree, per discussion at the ACoA February meeting.

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Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

ACoA Commissioner Banarsi Lal

Banarsi reported that the Governor's Council established several legislative priorities before legislative session. One was *CSHB 366 Supportive Decision-Making Agreements* passed the House and is now in Senator Rules waiting to go on the Senate floor. The hope is that it will pass the Senate after the budget is passed.

The other priority bill is *SB 174 Programs for Persons with Disabilities*. The bill passed the Senate and is now in House Rules and would add language for the Department of Health and Social Services creating a vision for services of people with developmental disabilities.

Banarsi also noted that another bill being advocated for by the Governor's Council is *SCS CSHB 64, Reading Proficiency Task Force; Dyslexia*. The bill would establish a legislative task force on Reading Proficiency and Dyslexia. So far the bill passed the House and Senate but had to go back to the House to concur with the changes on the Senate.

ACTION ITEM: FY2019-FY2020 ACoA Meeting Dates: Rachel made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates. Gordon seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the proposed meeting dates.

- **Fall Outreach Meeting, new dates proposed Tuesday-Friday, August 14-17, 2018, pending approval of Rural Outreach meeting funding (alternative Wednesday, September 25 by videoconference)**
- **Winter meeting, Wednesday, December 12, 2018**
- **Legislative Advocacy Meeting, new dates proposed Monday- Wednesday, February 11-13, 2019, (alternative February 13 by videoconference)**
- **Older Americans Month Meeting, Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA)

Kelda Barstad, AMHTA Program Officer

Kelda talked about possible supplemental funding from the Trust to support ACoA's work including the fall outreach meeting in rural Alaska as well as additional listening sessions for aging beneficiaries. Trustees will consider ACoA's proposal at their May board meeting.

Denise said that we are looking at going to Nome because travel costs are within ACoA's price range and the Commission has not been to Nome in ten years.

Mike Abbott, AMHTA CEO

Mike reported that the draft of the legislative audit should be close to being completed with a proposed completion date by mid-May. The draft review will be reviewed by the Legislative Audit and Budget Committee, chaired by Senator Stedman. This Committee will release the

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audit along with the Trust's response to the audit. At this time, the audit remains in draft, confidential format.

One of the audit issues has to do with Trustee performance as it relates to the Open Meetings Act as there is an appearance that decisions were being made outside the allowable scope of the Open Meetings Act requirements.

Over the last year, the Trust Board has made significant changes to its governance structure by restructuring the CEO position as having oversight over the Trust Program Office as well as the Trust Land Office; revised the Trust By-laws; written guiding documents for the Board's Committees and Officers; and Trustees having received more training in the Open Meetings Act, ethics, and conflicts of interest.

Mike also reported that the Trust plans to work with a variety of entities regarding control of investments. The audit document is 100 pages long with really good information about the Trust. Kelda will continue with her report about Trust program issues going on.

Gordon added that ACoA will increase our funding sources by reaching out and seeing what other people are doing. New sources and new wealth and we have some additional flexibility to increase our funding sources.

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Duane Mayes, Director

Duane talked about the deadline for the unfunded federal mandate known as "Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)" passed as part of the Cures Act, being extended until next year, thanks to the efforts of Alaska's Congressional Office. Duane noted that an extension will be very helpful for all states as implementation will require time and money. The purpose of the EVV is to track homecare workers when they show up and when they leave as a way to reduce Medicaid fraud. The EVV in Alaska will go live in July 2019. If Alaska does not comply, our state will be subject to a 2.5% fee (approximately \$1 million of lost Medicaid funds) for every year of no compliance.

AgeNet is having their membership meeting June 15 of which Duane is attending and will present an update of SDS's efforts to improve services for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Duane provided an overview of this work. SDS is working on rolling out the new *Community First Choice (CFC) waiver* by July 1st, 2018 that will refinance the existing Personal Care Services by bringing in an additional 6% federal match. Recipients must meet Medicaid requirements and nursing home eligibility. SDS is also rolling out another new waiver, the *Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW)*, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This waiver, scheduled to go live sometime in June 2018, will refinance the Community Developmental Disability Grant program (100% GF funded) into a Medicaid program where Alaska will receive

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Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) provides TCARE and its caregiver supports to people who are Medicaid eligible, ages 55 and older, meet the nursing facility level of care (NFLOC), and are a US citizen or have eligible immigrant status. People selecting this option cannot also receive personal care under a 1915(c) waiver

50% federal funding. Recipients must meet Medicaid requirements. Regulations have already gone out for public comment so everything is really close.

A team of SDS, ACoA (Denise), and legislative representatives will travel to Washington State towards the end of May to meet with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services management team and learn about WA's demonstration waiver Family Caregiver program. This program has two components for persons age 55+ who meet eligibility requirements and would benefit from family caregiver support services: (1) *Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA)* where the income requirements are higher to prevent impoverishing the person who needs a package of services and the family caregiver can get paid to provide services that prevent institutional care; and (2) *Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC)* which assesses the caregiver's needs on a regular basis using a standardized tool and provides wrap around caregiver supports for people who are Medicaid eligible, age 55+, meet nursing facility level of care. Washington has learned that family caregiving is a bipartisan issue that policymakers supports. Millbank Memorial Fund will pay for all travel costs related to this meeting.

Duane also mentioned that SDS is working to amend waivers to provide transition services for vulnerable Alaskans with special needs out of API. This waiver will affect seniors with dementia and challenging behaviors at API and transitioning them back to the community.

Duane also wants to look at the flat funding of NTS senior grant programs over the years. We need to look at how effective funding that has been given to the senior centers for NTS which is around \$6.8 million of both general fund and Title III funding. There will be a very close review of funding of these services and the results to see if we can perhaps ask for an increase in the amounts in future years.

Duane also mentioned that SDS is looking at including Companion Services for seniors as well as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Representative Ortiz recommended language to Department of Health and Social Services to work with implementing Companion Services for persons with developmental disabilities as part of the House Finance Health and Social Services budget for FY19. The Senior Community has advocated for inclusion of Companion Services for seniors as a means to relieve loneliness and provide additional support for living alone in the community.

ACoA Nominating Committee Report, Bob Sivertsen Committee Chair.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Marie Darlin, David Blacketer, and Bob Sivertsen, Chair. They initially talked to all eligible commissioners for their interest. Bob recommended that the Commission should do a review of the current bylaws regarding elections. They should look at the section regarding meeting and voting telephonically.

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The nominating committee presented the following slate:

Gordon Glaser - Chair

Mary Shields – Vice Chair

Motion made by Linda and seconded by Rachel to have Gordon Glaser serve as Chair and Mary Shields serve as Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously. Both Gordon and Mary will start July 1, 2018. ACoA officer positions require a two-year commitment.

Jim McCall, Senior Housing Program Officer

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Jim reported on the capital budget as of April 25, 2018 for AHFC Senior Housing. The AHFC Senior Citizens Housing Development program was approved for \$1,000,000 in the regular capital budget, SB 142. The Weatherization program, which is funded with 50% federal and 50% General Funds) was approved for \$6 million in SB 142. for

Jim continued with his report on tab 2 which shows the average sales price by Community for homes. There has not been a huge change in market prices.

Tab 3 shows partnerships on serving people who are homeless. Cook Inlet Housing Authority has spearheaded the initiative that goes beyond the involvement in separate housing. They are working to collaborate efforts to better serve the homeless population.

Public Housing Public Operations Vouchers.

Public Housing	
Units Statewide	1612
Housing Wait List	3809
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Housing Choice Vouchers	
Vouchers statewide	4397
Voucher Waiting List	2359
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Family Self-Sufficiency	
Family Self Sufficiency Total Enrolled	646
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Jim has had contact with three agencies that are interested in the housing market in Anchorage and developing senior housing projects, which would be a mixed service model of assisted and independent senior housing for higher income households. They are concerned with different issues in Anchorage area because it would be an investment of \$50,000,000. One of the projects is looking at building in Juneau.

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At this time, there are 1,510 people on the waitlist for senior/disabled housing.

AARP invited Jim to be interviewed on their television program in Juneau regarding senior housing. Jim is looking forward to the opportunity.

Nominating Committee Report, Bob Sivertsen Committee Chair.

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Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (continued report)

Kelda Barstad, Program Officer

Kelda reported that the Trust is in the process of hiring two new program officers. The areas of focus will be criminal justice and workforce development. Kathy Craft has accepted a promotion at the University as Associate Dean. She will leave her current position as Workforce Development Coordinator, a position partly funded by the Trust and the University.

According to the National Alliance of Homeless and Housing, about 28% of homeless people are 51 years of age or older. The report also stated that 41% of the homeless have a disability. If someone is chronically homeless they age at a greater rate than someone who is not homeless. A new data system is started where everyone puts their own information so that should expedite getting information on the homeless population.

Alaska has some housing units that are permanent. The units are available for people permanently or until they want to leave. These units will also provide services for people living in these housing units. This model can be very complex and must meet compliance by multiple agencies or there could be serious consequences. How do we develop more permanent housing and sustain the funding?

The Trust is looking at how agencies will be shifting from shelters to rapid housing and supportive housing. This will change the way agencies work like just having enough staff to cover a shelter and maintenance of the facility and how this will affect workforce and a variety

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of other issues. They are working with DHSS to ensure people are receiving enough support to continue to remain in their housing.

The Trust approved funding to procure a contract for a staffing analysis of the Alaska Pioneer Homes. This study is trying to maximize use of facility beds in the Pioneer Home beds serving people with dementia neighborhoods and the overall facility. The information for the contract is currently on-line on the State's notice board.

The Trust continues to work to find solutions to transition people out of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) who no longer need these services. The Trust works with the Alaska State Hospital Nursing Home Administration (ASHNHA) and other partners to transition persons at API back into the community.

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO)
Kathryn Curry, Deputy Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Kathryn reviewed her written report that states information on who and what the Long-Term Ombudsman Office does. Kathryn reviewed the OLTCO's FY 2017 annual report that was included in the board packet.

The volunteer program has grown significantly having 140 volunteer hours in 2013 to 400 volunteer hours in 2017. As a result, resident complaints have increased. Now, 60% of the complaints reported are resident complaints. Kathryn noted that most of the OLTCO volunteers are age 50 to 60 with the oldest person being 87 years old and the youngest is in their 20s.

The top 5 complaints in assisted living homes include:

1. Discharge and Eviction
2. Issues with guardian or legal representation
3. Personal property lost or destroyed
4. Dignity, respect, and staff attitudes
5. Request for less restrictive placement

The top 5 complaints in nursing homes include:

1. Discharge and Eviction
2. Request for less restrictive placement
3. Access to physician services
4. Symptoms not attended including pain
5. Issues with medication administration

There were 508 complaints resolved of which 97.6% were resolved to the satisfaction of the resident.

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The number of facilities that they have visited includes 18 nursing homes and 2,555 assisted living homes with the number of residents includes 692 residents at nursing homes and 2,555 residents in assisted living homes.

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Salvation Army, "Safe Seniors," (a Serve Alaska grantee)
Maddie Kettner, Program Coordinator

This project started November, 2017. AmeriCorps members go out into communities in the Anchorage area and look for seniors who are 60 years of age and older and have an additional barrier such as being home bound or lack of support network. Once the seniors are identified, the AmeriCorps members talk to the seniors about having plans for disasters such as earth quakes, or home related disasters. Then they work with the seniors to develop specific plans and are given disaster kits.

So far they have met with 200 seniors and have developed 130 plans and given out as many kits. They have recruited by word of mouth and through senior programs.

The project can be duplicated around the state but they are working out all the challenges before it is shared which is the goal of the program. They are in the process of working on a three year grant so the program can continue.

UAA, National Resource Center for Alaska Native Elders
Jordan Lewis, Director

Jordan talked about the National Resource Center (NRC) for Native Elders started meeting this past month (April). They had their first training on American Indian/Alaska native training in Alaska. They are also reconnecting with other Native entities and developing the next steps to the program. They are in the process of recording and posting the American Indian/Alaska Native Elders training the NRC has done regarding elder maltreatment, elder financial abuse, and elder scams. The NRC program will be working with Title VI programs to help them with budget training, subsistence menu development for assisted living homes, and traditional and subsistence food nutrition.

They will meeting with Title VI directors monthly. Working on the website putting up the training that has happened and will happen.

Advocacy Partner Updates
AARP, Ken Helander, Advocacy Director

Ken reported that he just got back from an AARP Summit where he was able to meet Alaska members of Congress and attend good workshops. One of the workshops looks at the family caregiver program and the needs for such support. They also learned about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program (formerly known as food stamps) of which Senators Murkowski and Sullivan are supportive. Alaska has the highest per capita SNAP Benefit amount for people age 60+. The average SNAP monthly amount is \$56 per family.

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If older adults don't receive SNAP benefits, research shows that seniors are in the hospital longer and do not do as well health wise because of poor nutrition.

They also looked at the American Health action.

- 1. Importance of family caregivers (act caregivers) Join the ACT Caucus**
- 2. Importance of continued funding for the SNAP program**
- 3. Importance of the Medical Health – older people are more likely to be in hospitals and be there longer.**

AgeNet, Karl Garber, President

AgeNet Legislative Priorities

- 1. Maintaining the current budget levels for Homes and Community Services**
- 2. Support additional funding for the Pioneer Homes.**

Karl reported that some providers find it difficult to use SAMS reporting tool. AgeNet is putting teams together to help individual providers learn the system. Duane added that he had talked to Karl and stated that SAMS is not an easy system to use. AgeNet has a list of issues they would like to discuss with Duane Mayes and SDS. Duane asked Karl to provide more specifics on the challenges are with the system.

Karl announced that he will be retiring June 30 of this year. Alzheimer's Resources of Alaska will engage an interim Executive Director as well as a replacement for AgeNet. Commissioners noted their appreciation for Karl and thanked him for all of his work on behalf of seniors.

Alaska Pioneer Homes, Amanda Lofgren, Division Director

Amanda reported that the division was successful in their request to the Trust to sponsor a study to look at staffing at the homes. This study will have someone looking at each of the homes, specifically resident to staffing ratios and help identify levels of efficiencies in each area in each home. The study will also look at how to improve capacity to provide more dementia care. The last two audits of the Pioneer homes suggested that such a study be done.

The Pioneer Homes are hopeful that their requested capital budget items will be approved. Also staff have received additional training where they have taken 1400 hours of dementia training on their own time in order to do a better job with working with people with dementia. Once staff complete the coursework, they will receive a slight step increase in wages. So far one person has graduated and another 11 are in the process of finishing up on their training.

The division is working to get at least one of the homes to be certified to provide nursing home level of care. The division has received interest from a possible medical personnel who may be interested in taking on medical director duties starting in August. They had to add three

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sprinkle heads and 5 feet of walking paths around the green house for one of the homes to be a nursing home.

Partner Board Updates

Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB)/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA), Allison Kulas, Executive Director

Allison introduced herself and talked about how she started the first part of legislative session. She came from Anchorage and then to Juneau. She came to Alaska in 2014 as an AmeriCorps staff member and stayed in the state.

Currently the legislature is allocating \$18 million for alcohol and drug intervention. Seniors are not targeted in a specific amount of funding but included in the \$18 million.

Denise talked about how ACoA did a close look seniors and behavioral health. It now is the third leading cause of death but seniors are not receiving any kind of treatment in the traditional way. We need to look at how to serve these seniors better in the future. One of the payment sources is Medicare, however, a psychiatrist or psychologist has to provide the services, not a licensed social worker. This is a Medicare rule that can only be changed at the federal level.

AMHB/ABADA are also working to address early childhood issues by engaging schools and communities to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse and improve mental health for youth.

AMHB/ABADA is also looking at suicide rates and why they have not decreased with all the programs and funding that have been in place.

ACoA Commissioner Recognition

Denise read Marie's legislative citation. It not only highlights the great contribution that she made to the ACoA but also to many other organizations and agencies.

On behalf of ACoA, Gordon presented David with a beautiful card and plaque in appreciation for all his hard work in the past two years as the Commission's Chair. He will be missed as Chair and has left a legacy that will be hard to fill.

Commissioner Comments

David thanked everyone for their help being chair with the Commission on Aging. He really enjoyed being Chair.

Mary expressed concern about how magazine subscriptions are charging seniors with the cost of magazines that they have not ordered. Mary and her mother have been charged with magazines that have not ordered or subscribed and they are demanding payments. This is fraudulent.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.