

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MARCH 7- 9, 2006
GOLDBELT HOTEL JUNEAU AK**

Approved June 29, 2006

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Appel, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Sharon Howerton-Clark, Patricia Branson, Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal, Ed Zastrow, and Rod Moline. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Michael Black, Iver Malutin and Myldred Thomas.

ACoA Staff: Linda Gohl, MaryAnn VandeCastle, Joanne Schmidt and Sherrie Stears.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Motion: To approve agenda as written; motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2005, MEETING: Motion: To adopt minutes of December 1-2, 2005 meeting as written; motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Karleen Jackson, Bill Hogan, Jill Lewis, Jackie Brinton, Jeri Museth, Marianne Mills, Joe Sonnerman, Dulce Nobre, Gabe Layman, Jodi Irvine, Marie Darling, Nat White, Doug Bridges, Rosemary Hagevig, Connie Sipe, Patrick Reinhart, Lisa Morley, Austin Helmers and Wilma Vinton.

Joanne Schmidt, ACoA Health Planner II, was introduced by Linda Gohl.

ACoA CHAIR, FRANK APPEL, REPORT: Iver has resigned as the Trust Rural Committee representative; Pat Branson has agreed to fill the position. The Trust Beneficiary Group Initiative Committee has established a new sub-committee for quality assurance; Frank volunteered to serve on this sub-committee. Ed Zastrow, Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board, Chair, asked Frank to be the Anchorage Pioneer Home liaison and meet with the administrator once a month.

On August 10th, the Executive Committee decided that ACoA's financial support of the Senior Advocacy Coalition (SAC) teleconferences would be phased out over FY06. SAC was notified of this decision and asked for an opportunity to revise their approach for continued support from ACoA. These changes have occurred and Frank asked ACoA members to agree to continue supporting these teleconferences beyond FY'06; which has been agreed to.

ACoA VICE-CHAIR, SHARON HOWERTON-CLARK, REPORT: Attended the AMHTA Juneau meeting in February; John Pugh and Nelson Page have retired from the board. Attended hearing on SB 193 and SAC teleconference while in Juneau.

Attended the AHFC Seminar on development of affordable and supported housing; possible development of land or housing trusts. Design competition was held; the winner will receive a lot to build on in Mountain View.

ACoA NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Frank Appel, Chair asked for nominations or volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Banarsi Lal, Pat Branson and Ed Zastrow volunteered. Ed withdrew his name when it was decided that only two (2) persons served on this committee. Frank appointed Banarsi and Pat.

PUBLIC LISTENING PORTION OF TELECONFERENCE:

DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITIES SERVICE – ROD MOLINE, DIRECTOR: Lawsuit concerning the DSDS annual assessment change has resulted in several denial of waivers has a potential \$7 million impact and should force the Department and Division to look at **how** the benefits are denied. Letters are being sent to 218 (OA 40% / APD 60%) recently denied; project average \$ 30,000 cost per waiver. Information is on DSDS website. CAT is the proper tool to use; while it is hard to demonstrate “material improvement” (which will have to be defined by litigation) it is different from “medical improvement”.

Monthly meeting with PCA providers; new regulations go into effect with April 1st. The company, ARBITREA, will perform assessments then require prior authorization and DSDS approval, exactly the same as waiver program.

Barbara Knapp will be the team leader for wavier renewal and quality assurance compliance, using CMS criteria for providers. However, internal standards; policies and procedures need to be developed and DSDS has asked for input from providers.

There is a Developmental Disabilities (DD) ad-hoc committee reviewing and rewriting the wait list for DD waivers. They will be addressing assessment of each individual; legal verses social. Any decisions will be made by consensus of the group.

DHSS COMMISSIONER REPORT – KARLEEN JACKSON, DHSS COMMISSIONER: The legislative budget process is on hold. DHSS presented to HSS Sub-Finance Committee it has passed out of this committee, but nothing is final; possibly by April 1st. People are starting to talk about the long-term health infrastructure of Alaska. The department will have to look at all the pieces; eligibility, covered services, etc. Prevention and health promotion could also make a big impact in the needs of seniors health care.

Lewin Group Study (Medicaid Forecast – copy attached) is now posted on the department website. The Long Term Care Study, 2 weeks until final report is due.

LEWIN GROUP STUDY OVERVIEW – JILL LEWIS, DHSS BUDGET ANALYST, MEDICAID BUDGET GROUP: This study is a ‘first’ for the department. There is a lot of interest in long term impacts and the ability to do more strategic planning. The Lewin Group in Washington DC, along with EconoNorthWest; were asked to build a financial model the department would own and be able to run future forecasts that are Alaska specific. No other state has a program this complex (projections by service utilization category) or far reaching (program projects out 20 years). They were also asked to provide a baseline; however, it is based on the assumption that all our policies stay the same. It needs to be noted that PERS, TERS and other retirement programs will have a much greater impact than they have had in the past.

This study should also be used to promote preventative health measures to the legislature. Website: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/das> “Alaska Long Term Medicaid Forecast 2005-2025 Report”

ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION (AMC), PATRICK REINHART, DIRECTOR: AMC Mission: Affordable rides for people with disabilities, seniors and others in need. Transportation is critical to getting to work health care, social programs, etc. Very successful with re-authorization of federal legislation for building roads, public transit, etc; rural transit funding went from \$1 million to \$5 million in one year. This applies to every system outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks.

In 2005 there were over 6 million rides throughout the state. These programs could get an extra \$12 million in federal funding, if the state will match with \$3 million. Capitol funds are more easily obtained than operating funds.

Transportation was a big issue at the White House Conference on Aging.

AGENET – PATRICIA BRANSON, CHAIR and JOHN BITNEY, LOBBYIST: AgeNet is conducting their 1st Legislative Fly-In; caregivers and providers are targeting key legislators, i.e. HSS and Finance Committee members as well as their own personal representatives. Their priorities are 1) Energy Costs; 2) ADRD added to waivers; 3) ADRD services.

AgeNet members had a good meeting with Representative Mike Hawker (who is a CPA). He stated that there needed to be a better working relationship with AMHTA, DHSS and DSDS; as there are common gaps in information. Miscommunication between the groups resulted in the loss of the \$ 500,000 ADRD request for FY'06.

He also suggested that they work with legislators ALL year long, consistently - especially about budget items, as March is almost too late in the timeline for funding requests. He was the lone dissent vote on the ACoA sunset issue, as a 'protest' vote. He wants the boards to collaborate more and network together.

ACoA LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS: (See attached) [Linda where are these located?](#)

ADJOURNED: 11:46 am Legislative appointments and hearings

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Appel, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Sharon Howerton-Clark, Patricia Branson, Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal and Ed Zastrow. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Michael Black, Iver Malutin and Myldred Thomas.

ACoA Staff: Linda Gohl, MaryAnn VandeCastle, Joanne Schmidt and Sherrie Stears.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Jeri Museth, Marianne Mills, Joe Sonnerman, Jodi Irvine, Kay Branch, Caroline Frengle, Albert Jolson, Jim McCall, Pat Sidmore and Alfreda Dore.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS FROM ACoA COMMISSIONERS:

Ed Zastrow and Betty Keegan met with:

- Representative Peggy Wilson
 - Well informed; especially about nursing issues

- Supportive of increased staff at Pioneer Homes
 - Understood what happened with the MH/GF ADRD funds – but not committed to support
 - Supportive of Adult Dental Services
 - Had questions about transportation – Patrick Rinehart will meet with her
- Senator Bert Stedman
 - LIHEAP funds have been cut and sent back to the Administration for more work
 - No money or support for ‘new programs’
 - Representative Jim Elkins, aide, will pass information on

Banarsi Lal and Ed Zastrow

- Representative David Guttenberg, feels that they have done a lot for seniors this year
 - Supportive of senior issues and programs, including ADRD
 - Uncertain of Adult Dental Services
 - Was a caregiver, understands the needs – didn’t know about the LTC Study
 - Supportive of 4 new positions within DSDS
 - Thorough discussion of Pioneer Homes
 - Reviewing the AgeNet request for energy assistance – felt there will be opposition to increased LIHEAP funds using general funds
- Representative Jim Holm, aide will pass information on
- Representative Mike Kelley, aide will pass information on

Pat Branson, Frank Appel and Marianne Mills

- Representative Mike Chenault, aide Sue Wright
 - Recommended that they request an amendment for the \$500,000 for ADRD services – request half and the Trust to supply half
 - No additional funding for new programs
 - Pointed out that children (who are constituents) are now taking care of their parents
- Representative Jim Holm, recommended an amendment for the \$500,000
- Representative Mike Hawker, recommended an amendment for the \$500,000
- Representative Gabrielle Ledoux, aide Suzanne Hancock, recommended an amendment for senior center energy assistance be included with one for school districts and municipalities

Sharon Howerton-Clark, Linda Gohl and Joanne Schmidt

- Representative Paul Seaton
 - Has questions and concerns about nursing home beds
 - Long term care plan is needed
 - Capitol and operating funds need to be addressed, possibly an Amerada/HESS account geared to revenue sharing
- Sharon and Joanne attended oil and gas hearing

Frank Appel

- Senator Gary Wilken, is a key legislator
 - Doesn’t feel that Adult Dental “will fly” due to new costs to Medicaid and even with the cap felt that costs were uncontrollable
 - Was not aware of the \$500,000 ADRD request, felt the TRUST should fund another year

- Supported new PCN's for Pioneer Homes and DSDS – his parents both died in the Pioneer Home and he was involved the LTC Task Force done years ago
- Could still support energy assistance
- Senator Bettye Davis, supportive of senior issues
- Representative Harry Crawford, supportive of senior issues

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- The Denali Commission is conducting a health care study in Southeast
- Revenue sharing will be earmarked for PERS and TERS programs that are in arrears
- Latest revenue projections show \$400 million or more that may be available
- Possible windfall of \$70,000 for non-profits for the department

DSDS REPORT – LISA MORLEY, GRANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: DSDS is creating a 'grant unit' that will include all senior and DD grants. July 1, 2006, all senior grants will report data through agingnetwork.com (SAMS); this will provide a consistent reporting methodology and will be able to provide an unduplicated count of clients.

- AgeNet is helping get in-home services carry-over funds in the amount of \$ 250,000.00
- May is Older Americans Month; Region X wants to know how the state is promoting this
- UAS-Sitka has an excellent ADRD certification and training program – We should use
- Trust funded Geriatric Education grant funds are available for training, but will be reduced in FY'07 from \$200,000 to \$125,000
- Workforce Development is a new TRUST effort – Meeting April 25th with beneficiary boards
- Shortage of qualified PCA workers
- Collaborate with Public Health and ANTHC to push for prevention and health promotion – needs coordination and funding
- Develop a media campaign
- Best practices will be a requirement for the new state plan – need training
- Reviewing senior center menus for adherence to nutrition guidelines
- DSDS has 19 data bases that need to be integrated

TRUST BENEFICIARY BOARD REPORTS:

Governor's Council on Disabilities – Millie Ryan, Executive Director: See attached written report. State Plan for 2006-2011 is available for public comment – beginning March 29th in Anchorage and concluding May 10-12 in Valdez. The plan is available on the GCDSE website.

As people are living longer, aging parents with aging DD children are becoming issues. Entire families will be seniors. The Aging & Disability Summit in November 2006 will need to address this issue as well as, education, healthcare, housing, employment, transportation and community participation

The Alaska Alliance for Direct Service Careers (AACSC) Project has created ads and a website for employers to post available jobs. Recruitment and retention of front line workers is critical.

Individuals with Downs Syndrome become victims of Alzheimer's at a higher rate and at a younger age than that of the general population. There are limited funds to serve DD clients and the wait

list has 1233 people. There is a need to develop a better tracking system of matching needs to services. DSDS has quarterly 'draws' from the wait list to provide Medicaid in home services.

Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board: See attached.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST – JEFF JESSIE and NANCY BURKE: There is a need to set priorities and define focus areas; communicate and strategize concerning the gap in services between Medicaid and the efficient delivery of services.

The Trust needs to decide how ADRD fits into existing projects and focus areas, and if it does not then should we continue to fund. Policy makers are not interested in providing funds for ADRD services; we need an advocacy plan. Propose projects that include seniors in general that include ADRD population. Target legislators and make them aware of potential voting blocks.

The Governor appointed a steering committee to develop a housing trust has been recommended by the Homeless Council. Helping people afford "unaffordable" housing. 40 other states have housing trusts. Funds for this project could be from AHFC earnings rolled into general funds at the end of the fiscal year. The committee will be working on draft legislation by August, 2006.

ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (AHFC) – JIM McCALL: 5 communities will receive funds for senior housing. They are Ninilchik, Nikiski, Soldotna, Sterling and Haines. All are independent living, except Haines which is assisted living. The units cost are \$ 265,000 per unit for a total of \$28 million, made up of grants funds and some loans to developers.

In the federal budget for FY'07, Section 8 housing is increased a small amount, but there is a 26% cut in the HUD program, which helps rural Alaska. HUD has given \$1 billion to Alaska since 1992.

AHFC is a partner in the "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaign, to help seniors and others to avoid predatory lending in Alaska. They are educating borrowers and promoting financial management. Seniors are vulnerable as they are often sitting on a large equity. Department of Commerce is creating a hotline to screen calls and refer calls on to other agencies.

There will be a housing training in Anchorage to encourage 'different' financing such as investor pools as a funding source for new housing projects. Design practices for special needs populations will be a focus, so that property does not need to be rehabilitated over and over.

INSTITUTE for SOCIAL and ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISER) STUDY, DR. SCOTT GOLDSMITH: An presentation was made by Dr. Goldsmith using a few chapters pertaining to demographics from the study he is working on for the Commission.

ACoA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND BUDGET: See attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one on the line. In the audience:

Joe Sonneman, with the Juneau Commission on Aging, addressed the Juneau sales tax exemption. Seniors as a business resource is overlooked and are seen only as a cost.

Marianne Mills, with Southeast Senior Services, suggested that Agenet join the bi-weekly planning meetings.

ADJOURNED: 3:00 p.m. - Legislative appointments and hearings. Open house reception at The Bridges Adult Day Center at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 9, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Appel, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Sharon Howerton-Clark, Patricia Branson, Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal and Ed Zastrow. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Michael Black, Iver Malutin and Myldred Thomas.

ACoA Staff: Linda Gohl, MaryAnn VandeCastle, Joanne Schmidt and Sherrie Stears.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Jeri Museth, Marianne Mills, Kay Branch, Jim McCall, Virginia Smiley and Cynde Simpson-Sugar.

ACoA COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – BANARSI LAL, CHAIR: The White House Conference on Aging information is now available on ACoA website; ACoA will draft, with the Governor's office, a response to the final report in June, 2006. President Bush forwarded his request to Congress for the Reauthorization of the Older American Act.

The State Plan Committee will be meeting March 10th to begin the year long process of drafting a new state plan. This committee will also, call on others as a resource and for commenting on drafts throughout the development process. Consideration of guidelines, guiding principles, intrastate funding formulas and collection of data at several levels to support the new state plan will be just a portion of the work to be done.

GERONTOLOGY, EDUCATION, MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT – BARNARSI LAL, CHAIR: The emergency board meeting of the UAA Geriatric Education Program, February 24th to address loss of federal funds was not well attended. The possibility exists for a no-cost extension to extend the project. WHCoA has been a priority of the GEC. Fairbanks has done an exemplary job.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – ED ZASTROW, CHAIR: Legislative teleconferences, outreach by the ACoA staff has been successful. There is 37-40% participation and dialogue has been good. However, rural communities are still not active participants.

Providers aren't as interested since ACoA no longer administers grant funds and program staff are having a hard time getting employers to let them attend. It was suggested that participants offer ideas and address issues pertinent to them or their community. We should engage other partners, i.e. Senior Advisory Coalition (SAC) and AgeNet. Consumers don't trust the legislature. There is an overwhelming number of new bills.

Teleconferences could be a forum for participants to offer ideas and address issues pertinent to them or their community. Other ideas were to establish an aging network e-mail list, could start with the AARP list. The ACoA could develop strategies to help consumers navigate the legislative process.

ACoA LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

DHSS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER- JANET CLARKE: The House has finished the budget. They funded Medicaid entirely; DSDS was entirely funded; and Pioneer Homes funded entirely. ACoA needs to support the 21 new positions for the Pioneer Homes.

Health Care Services reports a reduction in charity care. Medicare Part D 'clawback' was funded. However, Alaska has challenged the 'clawback' provision and other states are suing. Fairshare, payment process was lost in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and will cost the state \$45 million; whereas, in the past, the federal government picked-up the costs.

Public Health ½ of emergency preparedness was funded. This was to stockpile epidemic drugs. The State Medical Examiner was increased to provide autopsies beyond criminal investigations. Salary increases for nurses were approved.

DSDS Medicaid was fully funded; quality assurance unit for HCB Waiver, personal care programs and Adult Protective Services (APS) were funded at 100%; and wait list funds were added for developmental disabilities waiver.

The Senate said: No new programs – no expansion – and no replacement of federal dollars. The budget is slipping in its timeline.

The full finance committee will discuss energy assistance. To get this approved for providers and individuals we will need to look at actual costs and prove that there has been an increase. This increase is 15-20% in public facilities. The Governor's FY'06 supplemental \$8.8 million, LIHEAP request was zeroed out. The state has never used general funds for this program.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW AND QUESTIONS:

Frank Appel - Key Advocacy Issues

- Adult dental enhancement and focus on prevention
- \$500 GF for ADRD – House budget amendment is in process
- DSDS and PH positions
- Energy issues – Senator Wilkens said LIHEAP was sent back to the Administration for more work and information

Angela Salerno – HB 399 Office of elder abuse, why not for all vulnerable adults? Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) has 500 cases of fraud against the elderly; these are only cases referred by Adult Protective Services. AG's office has 3 attorneys dealing with consumer affairs.

REAL CHOICE SYSTEMS CHANGE REPORT – Linda Gohl: Obtained a 1 year, no-cost extension through September 2006. Nursing home transitions program funding in '06 was replaced with general funds, pays for a position and costs for consumers to re-establish a household; ACoA advocates with GCDSE to increase that budget line item.

CMS grant for quality assurance program for Medicaid funding and assure that consumers get appropriate and quality services.

The revised job description for the Rural LTC Coordinator will include activities to support the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) Project. DSDS hopes to have Personal's approval to move forward to hire mid-April; the ADRC grant ends June 30, 2007.

AMHTA RURAL OUTREACH– Pat Branson: Margaret Lowe is the chair; there was a ½ day background on the TRUST and a March 23rd teleconference about the 9-11 funding criteria.

ALASKA PIONEER HOME ADVISORY BOARD REPORT – ED ZASTROW, CHAIR: The wait list for Pioneer Homes is 194 active and 2584 inactive applicants. There are many capital improvement needs. The advisory board has monthly teleconferences; Frank Appel represents the Commission on the Advisory Board.

The Palmer Pioneer Home transition to be a veterans home - non-veterans will not have to leave and veterans in other pioneer homes will have the option to move; received federal certification and the renovations should be completed by late spring '06.

Governor visited the Ketchikan Home; saw the leaky roof and heard from nurse, a state employee.

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM (ANTHC) – KAY BRANCH: Presented an overview of the Green House model for housing/integrated in-home services then we watched a film. Kay will be attending a one day workshop in Anaheim on 3/17 on the Green House project focusing on financing/pre development planning etc for this model. Pat Luby, AARP, will provide copies of the Green House Project video's to any organization interested.

AK Native Health Board is the advocacy arm of the ANTHC; the needs assessment study is completed and on their website; need to decide what to do/where to go next; The ANTHC Elders' Health Committee meets 3 times a year; will ask L. Gohl to present ACoA info to the committee for next meetings; is working on palliative care issues and nursing home transition program; commented on PCA program development is cost prohibitive in many rural communities due to, low reimbursement rates -- in regulations at \$21 an hour same as for urban areas, agency-based care requires an RN, visit to consumer at least once a year; working with Renee Gayhart DHSS, Tribal Liaison with Commissioner's office on tribal issues around PCA program issues, Kay would like PCA regulations changed so hourly rate is based on cost of living differentials for diff parts of state.

Sharon Howerton-Clar asked if the tribal corporations contributed funds to H&SS programs for local tribal orgs etc. Kay said some do, but most don't. Indian Health Services (HIS) doesn't fund long term care programs.

Discussed dental health aide therapist issue/controversy and informed members that this profession is equivalent to ANP's and PA's; also that the Community Health Aide is a unique only to Alaska under the IHS health system.

April 11th will be a DSDS PCA Workshop for rural tribal providers.

ACoA COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:

Ed Zastrow – has serious concerns about the ISER report and data collected

Betty Keegan

- Low-income data in ISER seems incorrect

- What about long term care beds
- Wrangell and Cordova have acute care and long term care beds

NEW BUSINESS:

- ACoA Winter meeting for 2007 - 3rd week in February, the Executive Committee will decide the date at the June meeting.
- Commission members should send thank you letters to legislators they visited
- Staff will draft thank you letters on behalf of the commission for Frank's signature

FUTURE ACOA MEETINGS:

- June 27-28, 2006 Future of Aging in Alaska Conference at the Anchorage Senior Center
- June 29-30, 2006 ACoA Quarterly Commission meeting at the Anchorage Senior Center
- September 25-29, 2006 in Ketchikan with smaller groups of members and staff to possibly visit Sitka, Metlakatla and other Southeast communities
- December 7-8, 2006 in Anchorage with the State Plan public hearing

Reminder: Planning Committee Meeting here tomorrow, March 10, for first steering committee meeting on the State Plan.

Motion: To adjourn - motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNED at 4:15 p.m.