

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING  
DECEMBER 1-2, 2005  
HILTON GARDEN INN ANCHORAGE AK  
[Approved – March 7, 2006]**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Frank Appel, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Sharon Howerton-Clark, Patricia Branson, Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal, Iver Malutin, Myldred Thomas, Ed Zastrow, and Rod Moline. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Michael Black and June Burkhart. ACoA Staff: Linda Gohl, MaryAnn VandeCastle and Sherrie Stears. Nancy Karacand was excused

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Rod Moline has a conflict, unable to participate until 11:30 a.m., would like to trade time with Nancy Burke. **Motion:** To approve changed agenda; motion passed unanimously.

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

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** George Hieronymus, of the Foraker Group and Judy Whitaker.

**ACoA CHAIR, FRANK APPEL, REPORT:** Banarsi Lal will continue on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) Trustee Selection Committee; AMHTA MOA has been signed returned to the Trust for signature; attended a video teleconference on long term care, the Eden Alternative, presented by Dr. William Thomas; also, attended a Municipal Public Health & Safety Advisory meeting, featuring the Anchorage Police Department Lifesaver Project.

**ACoA VICE-CHAIR, SHARON HOWERTON-CLARK, REPORT:** The ACoA quarterly meeting in September to the Kenai Peninsula was very successful. Attended the Kenai Peninsula Senior Centers Directors meeting; Aging and Mental Health Seminar at South Peninsula Hospital October 13 & 14; visited Chugiak Senior Center November 2<sup>nd</sup>; and attended the AMHTA board meeting, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, concerning long term care, representing the Commission.

Cost of heating fuel this winter continues to be a big concern. Assistance (heating and Medicaid) needs to be expanded to include more middle income individual, not just low income.

Has been contacted by Anchor Point Senior Center in an effort to find funds to hire an executive director and needs grant writing assistance. Division of Senior and Disabilities Services is trying to streamline the process. Pat Branson volunteered to contact Sarah

about getting training from the Foraker Group to write grants and to connect her with other senior center directors on the Peninsula. Foraker charges \$25-45 per hour to provide assistance.

**ACoA BOARD TRAINING – GEORGE HIERONYMUS, THE FORAKER GROUP:** Alaska has a non-profit organization for every 135 residents; does not include boards or commissions. This is the highest per capita in the nation. Nationally 66% of board members rate themselves as ineffective or semi-effective. Self (commission) evaluation is an important and ongoing process.

Core values, common goals, open communication and collaboration are essential to an effective board or commission; as are job descriptions and responsibilities both for staff and commission members. The common goal for the Alaska Commission on Aging would be: Seniors of Alaska. It was suggested that the Commission review its goals and objectives at the beginning of each meeting and at the end of the year, assess progress. The Commission may want to ask, "Do we need a strategic plan?" Foraker Group will be offering outcomes and evaluation training in the near future.

**OTHER BOARD REPORTS – KATHY CRAFT, DHSS DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR:** The combined Executive Director for Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) is now listed on WorkPlace Alaska and should be hired by mid-January. Gordon Bower, from Fairbanks, is the new AMHB Planning Research Analyst. The new position, shared by both boards, Advocacy Coordinator has been filled by Angela Selarno.

AMHB and ABADA are developing a 5 year comprehensive, integrated mental health plan. There will be town meetings, throughout Alaska to facilitate this and to do grassroots advocacy.

The economic impact study, in Alaska, of drugs and alcohol should be final in December 2005. The Coordinated Communication Workgroup and the Media campaign are on track.

Alaska is #1 in nation for suicides. The Statewide Suicide Council is giving 62,000 middle and high school students suicide awareness bracelets. A follow-back study has been instigated that interviews friends and family, after 41 days have passed, to help create recommendations on how to be more effective. 50% are seeing a therapist and 60% are on psychotropic medication. 47% are Alaska Native, who makeup only 19% of Alaska's population, especially young (in their 20's), rural males. Approximately 70-75% of these suicides have a substance, usual alcohol, in their system at the time.

Alaska Injury Prevention Center is conducting a study of 90 families. It will be completed July 2006.

Medicare Advisory Committee makes recommendations to DHSS on the states Medicaid Healthcare Plan; will develop a statewide geriatric plan for elders and Alzheimer's not being recognized as eligible for waivers.

**PUBLIC LISTENING PORTION OF TELECONFERENCE:** Nancy Karacand; Jody Irving, Fairbanks Resource Agency; in person: Kelly Killian, Jim McCall, Dulce Nobre, Pat Reinhart, Todd Steele,

Ken Duff, Jane Anvik, Bob Dryer, Charmaine Ramos, Eddie Rivas, Jesslyn Stanton, Jeff Jesse and Nancy Burke.

**ETHICS TRAINING – LINDA GOHL, ACoA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** State employees and board/commission members are subject to Executive Branch Ethics Act. Report any 'potential' conflict of interest or violation to Commission Chair, who will decide whether to pursue - get the Attorney General's (AG) opinion, etc. This also includes immediate family members and immediate relatives of spouse. Members should refrain from or get an opinion before voting on an item if it could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Ethics disclosure is required each quarter. ACoA has a confidential ethics disclosure form that will be included with each quarterly packet. Use to disclose any potential conflict or receipt of gift valued at \$150.00 or more. If in doubt, don't do it! If roles are in conflict, get an opinion. The commission as a whole could over-ride the decision of the Chair; but the cleanest avenue would be to get an AG's opinion. Frank Appel, ACoA Chair, asked for ethics disclosures, there were none. He also suggested that members view the video provided by the AG's office.

**Motion:** Approve this ethics policy and the disclosure form.

**Action:** Unanimously approved ethics policy and document; members will mail in disclosure form if they are unable to attend quarterly meeting. The process will be to include form in the meeting packets; members sign and return to the office before the meeting.

**DHSS COMMISSIONER REPORT – BILL HOGAN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:** Oversight of DHSS Divisions; Programs; Boards and Commissions; and Faith-based Initiatives. Seniors or elders are reluctant to go to mental health clinics; we need to do more outreach, taking the services to the people. A good model is in place in the Mat-Su area.

FY'07 Budget will be disclosed by the Governor on December 15, 2005. The budget process was: DHSS Divisions and Boards forwarded their proposals to the Commissioner's Office, where they were compiled into the department budget; if this did not happen it will be corrected next fiscal year. DHSS met twice with OMB to decide what would be included in the Governor's Budget. The ACoA GF/MH request was not included. However, ACoA can still advocate for budget changes through the legislature.

Personal Care Attendant (PCA) regulations have been submitted to the Department of Law for review so they may still be 'tweaked'. The program has increased 10 fold in recent years and the department was directed to gain control of the costs. The focus will now be on prior authorization and assessment.

Long Term Care (LTC) Study draft is expected January 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a clear set of recommendations as to how the State of Alaska should proceed; including waivers; possibly Alzheimer's and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The consultants have done superb outreach. An advisory group will be formed. Nancy Burke suggested that ACoA should consider asking the department to revive LTC Task Force. Also, if the study recommends an Alzheimer Waiver, it will be discussed with ACoA.

Medicaid Part-D could have a significant adverse impact on those we serve. The State of Alaska is trying to provide support; but there are 27 different prescription drug plans just for Alaska.

The Denali Commission in partnership with Alaska Housing Finance Corp. and the Alaska Mental Health Trust is conducting a needs assessment and statewide inventory of housing. Ed Zastrow asked, "Why we don't have more assisted living homes outside of Anchorage?" It is not economically feasible for every community to have an assisted living home; but, Denali Commission is interested in providing funds for assisted living homes in rural Alaska.

FY'08 Budget priority process will begin in June 2006. Statute requires ACoA to make GF/MH (funds designated for benefit of those who need behavioral health services) recommendations to the Trust.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank Appel asked if the Department will consider an ADRD waiver. The answer is not known at this time.

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST – JEFF JESSIE and NANCY BURKE:** AMHTA is increasing emphasis on advocacy. Priorities identified from the first Advocacy Summit are:

- Medicaid – FMAP (a Federal bill that will extend the re-imbusement rate for 2 years) change could adversely affect Alaska by 70 million dollars; meaning new eligibility criteria or a reduction of services. Alaska is utilizing 70-90 million dollars in loopholes that are being scrutinized by Medicaid. We need a long term plan.
- Housing – The Governor has convened a homeless council that recommended a housing trust. A potential 50-100 million investment would be needed and would take a while to create. This proposal will probably be presented next summer.
- Dental – The Governor requested introduction of a bill (fiscal note - \$2.5 million in GF and \$1.4 million in Trust funds for FY07) to expand Medicaid dental coverage. Currently only palliative dental care is available. The bill sets a \$ cap; such as only an upper or lower denture per fiscal year. The Trust will invest significant dollars the first few years and phase out.

The Trust will resume the Friday Legislative Teleconferences for beneficiary boards and stakeholders. Now is the time to be contacting local legislators with concerns. Make appointments with your legislators before session begins.

Legislators should be invited to ACoA meetings before session, to inform them of senior issues; and after session for a legislative report of their efforts for seniors. Members of the Governor's Council are hosting fundraisers

The 'word on the street' is that ACoA is very active and is regaining its past advocacy role. Waivers will be a focus for ACoA; the PCA program is currently excluded, but is under consideration. The Trust will be doing research on the numbers. The Trust partners with ACoA on mental health budget requests and mutual advocacy issues.

Alzheimer's and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) assessments are now based on medical diagnosis not functional model. Trust is working closely with DSDS to obtain data around ADRD diagnosis.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> the Anchorage Assembly will be taking up an Assisted Living Ordinance providing up to 8 unrelated individual to live in a home with no need for a variance. This is a land use issue only and they want this passed with NO amendments.

Todd Steele, of the Foraker Group and on the Trust Beneficiary Group Initiative Project, was introduced and will help decide how to tailor this project to include Alzheimer's individuals and caregivers.

## **NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON LINE OR THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**

**AGING & DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER GRANT PROJECT – JIM McCALL and KELLY KILLIAN, AHFC:** GOAL Program has awarded 5 pre-development grants, of \$ 20,000. each to Cook Inlet (Anchorage), Anchor Point, Cooper Landing, Homer and Fairbanks. They are then able to then apply for actual development funds. There were 12 such applications received this year, of which 6 were senior related. Only 25% of last years grants were senior related. If all applications for capital construction grants were approved, there would be 47 new senior housing units, including 13 assisted living facilities; unfortunately, all would be in or close to Anchorage.

AHFC is working with the Denali Commission on an elder housing needs assessment and housing inventory; the study to be completed in the summer of 2006. This assessment will look at what is currently available; project the needs 20 years into the future; will establish criteria recommendations by which future funding and policy decisions can be made.

The five (5) ADRC centers are up and running. These centers are funded through the Federal grant for the next 18 months. There is discussion of moving the coordinator of this project from SILC to the Division of Senior Services.

The "Coming Home Program" was developed to bring senior back to rural communities in assisted living homes. Staffing in rural areas and Medicaid funding reliability are concerns. The questions are raised, "Is this feasible?" and "If we build will they come?" AHFC has a loan program for small assisted living homes; however, applications are down. One of the issues is related to credit. Small homes may have been funded out personal funds, ruining personal credit and now can't they aren't eligible for a loan. Information is available on AHFC website.

**DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITIES SERVICE – ROD MOLINE, DIRECTOR:** Medicare Part D overview was presented by Essien Ukoidemabia, State SHIP Director. State of Alaska will assist with payment of the premium deductible for those 65+ at 150-175% of the poverty level. There are 12 communities with 'enrollment assistance networks' now in Alaska. More volunteers are needed.

Reports of elder abuse are increasing; the capacity to respond is not good. Senior Care received 2 new positions this year and requested 3 more positions next budget year.

Rod Moline stated that DSDS is overwhelmed; they have 56 full-time employees and 12,000 clients! They requested 2 new APS and 2 new Quality Assurance positions for FY07 and hired 1 new worker this year. At a staff retreat in Anchorage DSDS staff met face to face and were able to communicate their roles and concerns. Rebecca Helgendorf is the new DSDS Deputy Director in Anchorage.

DSDS needs to survey and track clients and their needs; to assist with planning needs.. The Quality Assurance Grant may be a vehicle for this. ACoA sent a letter of support for this grant.

**ALASKA PIONEER HOME REPORT – ED ZASTROW, CHAIR:** The veterans need to have a representative on the board. The Pioneer Home Advisory Board completed a northern tour of Fairbanks, Anchorage and Palmer. Will provide an update on occupancy, wait list, etc. at the next ACoA meeting. They look at quality of life, care, mechanics, etc.

**Fairbanks:**

- Did not apply for license to cover the total number of beds, there is not enough staff for higher level of care
- Native residents miss their subsistence foods, but DEC is writing regulations to prohibit use of non-commercially processed meat and fish in state facilities
- Staff retention – Representative Peggy Wilson has introduced a bill to prohibit mandatory overtime for nurses.

**Palmer:**

- 79 rooms have been approved by the VA
- It takes 2 staff all day to get residents to medical appointments in Anchorage and Palmer
- A day room at the cost of \$900,000. is under consideration

**Anchorage:**

- No social worker on staff
- Was licensed for 224 beds, now 165 beds; no staff for higher levels of care
- Received new carpet and furniture

Home health care is so successful that people are able to stay at home longer than in the past. Average age in homes today is 86. Pioneer homes are not designed for higher levels of care. Retention of staff is becoming more difficult as wages and benefits can't match the private sector. Three (3) roofs continue to leak; funds are appropriated, the holdup is DOT/PF.

Bill Hogan stated that the FY'07 DHSS budget includes increased staffing, raises for RN and roof repair.

**ACoA COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

**Banarsi Lal, Frank Appel, Betty Keegan, Linda Gohl and Nancy Karacand:** Participated in the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Real Choice Systems Change Grant. Banarsi will provide the minutes to Linda.

- Nursing Home Transition Grant – transitioned 99 people from age 80-92 that would have cost \$14.5 million in nursing home services, the grant expended only \$460,000

- PCA Services Grant – Built a core 40 hour curriculum for PCA's, 15 training modules; develop new regulations and a draft consumer manual
- RCSC Project – Faith-based Initiatives; LTC Study due February 2006;

**Iver Malutin:** Attended the AFN meeting in Fairbanks; elders' health care; their ability to stay at home; subsistence; qualifying for assistance; cost of living and rising fuel costs were major concerns. In a 'straw poll', in Kodiak, only 3 people knew of ACoA.

**Myldred Thomas:** Outreach as a member of The Pioneer's of Alaska and with the retired military. Banarsi informed the members that Myllie was "Woman of the Year" last year; nominated by Senator Ted Stevens.

**Betty Keegan:** "No child left behind; No senior overlooked!"

**ADJOURNED:** 4:40 p.m.

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2005**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Members in attendance: Frank Appel, Sharon Howerton-Clark, Patricia Branson, Betty Keegan, Banarsi Lal, Iver Malutin, Myldred Thomas, Ed Zastrow, and Rod Moline. A quorum was present. Members not in attendance: Michael Black and June Burkhart. ACoA Staff: Linda Gohl, MaryAnn VandeCastle and Sherrie Stears. Nancy Karacand was excused

### **ACoA COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – BANARSI LAL, CHAIR:** met on November 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss RCSC Grant; aging advocacy network and plan; ADRC Project; Common Ground Conference (tab 8 – Nancy is developing a scope of work for RFP for Planning Committee member to review); working on planning and timeline for state plan and GANTT chart for the basic work plan; and the ISER Study contract has extended the completion date to January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Aging and Disability Summit, attended by the ACoA Planning Committee, brought together 120 individuals to discuss housing, transportation and other issues.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be December 29, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

**GERONTOLOGY, EDUCATION, MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT – BARNARSI LAL, CHAIR:** Title VII funds have been completely removed by the U.S. House, funds end September 30, 2006. ACoA will send a letter supporting the reinstatement of these funds to the Alaska delegation in Washington DC. There have been 856 health care professionals assisted the last 2 years.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – ED ZASTROW, CHAIR:** Legislative teleconferences, host sites have to make a serious commitment and have paperwork

available. Ed will chair (Sharon will be backup) the teleconferences this session. Members are encouraged to meet with their local legislators before session begins.

Consolidated priorities from Trust Summit, AgeNet and others; responded to Jamie Fischer of Soldotna, about the teleconference minutes; and updated the list of bills from last session.

There will be a full board teleconference in January to discuss advocacy recommendations and priorities; narrowing the list to 5 or 6 items to focus on. Linda will meet with Rod to discuss advocacy issues. Rod was invited to attend the next Legislative Committee meeting.

**AGENET – PATRICIA BRANSON, CHAIR and JOHN BITNEY, LOBBYIST:** AgeNet is open to anyone who wants to promote senior advocacy. They are conducting a membership drive. There would be no conflict of interest for ACoA Commissioners to join AgeNet; advocacy issues overlap. Pat will send all Commissioners information; their monthly teleconferences are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM.

AgeNet has been pushing meetings with legislators to discuss issues, especially utility and fuel costs. AgeNet looks for the LTC Study recommendations to be implemented.

**ACoA BUDGET:** See tab 12. Added funds for RCSC grant related activities; some travel will be reimbursed by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties; this budget does not reflect capital funds, e.g. the ISER Study.

Common Ground Conference (Aging Conference in June) will be funded through the RCSC Grant. This conference will be by invitation, due to space and cost constrictions. Regions will be invited to send delegates of their choice. Betty Keegan felt that there should be an emphasis on consumers. Betty would like to be added to this planning committee.

ACoA may consider extending the recruitment for Planner II position to non-residents.

**UAA PARTNERS IN POLICY MAKING PROJECT – KELLY DONNELLY:** Build capacity for advocacy throughout the state benefiting local communities. Institute for training has trained 30 interns over 3 years, who then mentor and train new individuals. They cover 3 of the 4 Trust beneficiary boards. They are now using RCSC grant monies to include seniors and their advocates. The current mix is 40% DD, 30% MH and 30% aging, but crosses over the beneficiary groups. These groups can learn from each other and build opportunities. Workshops are planned for Bethel, Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau, Valdez and Palmer. There are no CEU's offered at this time. This programs is based on a national program developed in 1985.

Kelly said people may sign up for the February 2006 training between December 15<sup>th</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. This information needs to be shared at a local level; there is no cost as this is a grant that is already in place. ACoA could disseminate information via Legislative Teleconferences.



**SENIORS ADVOCACY COALITION (SAC) – SUE SAMET, CONVENOR:** SAC was created after the last Common Ground by those who felt that more needed to be done. ACoA pays for a monthly teleconference. Six (6) new sites at senior centers will host the SAC meetings. The host center will explain their program and area at the beginning of each teleconference. SAC is looking to expand participation. There are no dues, no formal organization and it is open to providers and seniors alike. These teleconferences are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month from 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Representative Sharon Cissna has stepped forward to represent senior issues. She has traveled to many communities to hear about elder needs and to explain the Medicaid waiver. Assisted living home industry is doing 'poorly' due to changes in the waiver program.

Assisted living homes are not secured facilities and can not 'lock up' individuals with dementia. These individuals must then be asked to leave the assisted living home. Nursing homes are not the best setting. There are two (2) secured facilities: Providence Hospital, Horizon House and Ed's Place. The cost is \$168. per day for assisted living, \$205. per day for 'light nursing home' with 1 staff per 5 clients. At Ed's Place 70% are private and 30% are Medicaid waivers. Assisted living facility is 50-50.

Ed Zastrow asked, "How many Alaskan's have Alzheimer's or dementia?" Frank Appel replied, "5,000 according to National prevalence rates and Alzheimer's Resource Agency of Alaska." The DSDS database system and assessment tool are not capable of tracking ADRD. Bill Hogan states that the long term care study will apply the national prevalence rate.

A person in the audience asked, "Is ADRD SSI eligible?" ACoA staff will find out. (Not as a primary condition.)

**ACoA Legislative Advocacy Plan (TAB 10)** – The ACoA Advocacy Committee has approved the plan and submits it to the Commission as a whole. Members are requested to read it and make any comments or recommendations to Linda by December 20, 2005.

New Issue: ACoA was not aware of the Governor's budget did not include our MH/GF request. We have until December 15<sup>th</sup>, to prepare a letter to the Governor and cc OMB Director, Cheryl Frasca, so they can hear from us before the budget is completed and released.

**MOTION:** Send a letter in support of adding these funds to the Governor. This was approved unanimously.

**DR. ROSELLEN ROSICH, DIRECTOR, GERONTOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER, UAA:** Title VII funds have been completely removed by the U.S. House in the FY06 budget, but are still in the Senate version; however the Senate has deferred to the House in conference committee. UAA will lose \$4.8 million in the Title VII programs for GEC and other programs at the Center for Human Development.

ACoA will send a letter of support and Pat Branson plans to meet the Alaska Delegation while in Washington DC on this subject. Banarsi suggested that UA contact the

Governor's office for assistance from his lobbyist in Washington DC. Frank offered to draft a letter and forward it to Linda.

**ACoA SENIOR SURVEY – MARYANN VANDECASTLE, PLANNER I:** See attached Power Point presentation on outcomes of the ACoA Senior Survey.

**LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN – BOB DREYER:** Has visited 100 facilities in the last 6 months; the goal is to visit each LTC facility every 6 months. There are 217 assisted living homes and 15 nursing homes in Alaska. Rural visits are a priority.

He provides training to staff and CNA's. Has developed bookmark handout's with his contact information; Alaska Elders slogan, "Forget Me Not"; and the Guardian Angel Bear for those depressed who have no family or hope. A new volunteer program has 1 or 2 volunteers per home, who get to know residents, families and staff and report possible back possible need of investigation. Volunteers do not do the investigation. Most homes are receptive.

The Eden alternative of 'un-institutionalizing' facilities is another goal. Where the concept of consumer involvement and choice in delivery of care are applied.

Investigated 131 complaints including: level of care, medication management, falls, building temperature and quality of food. Relocated several residents and provided new management. Requested that police inform the Ombudsman office when they are contacted by homes that clients have wandered off, so they can follow up.

**ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPT, PROJECT LIFESAVER – CHARLES SPRINGER, DIRECTOR:** A radio tracking system to assist in finding people. Clients (Alzheimer's, FAS, autistic, etc) are fitted with a wrist or ankle transmitter (one time cost of \$ 275.); search teams have receivers. A helicopter receiver can pick up from 5-10 miles away, on the ground it is normally ¼ mile. They have had 3 successful searches. Chuck asked that ACoA support this program and advocate expanding to other parts of Alaska. His number is 222-6142 for project information.

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH), PROGRAM COMPLIANCE FOR ASSISTED LIVING HOMES – JERRI VAN SANDT:** "Aging in Place", is what DPH promotes. Want home-like environments, especially in rural areas. Assisted living homes are alternatives to nursing homes and can have a wide range of nursing levels (not nursing home level of care); many do not require a nurse at all. Homes that serve those with dementia have to have a safety net, such as: Project Lifesaver, Wanderguard, etc.

There are 202 licensed senior assisted living homes in Alaska, 132 are in Anchorage. There are 8 licensing inspectors. Home must be licensed if there are more than 3 residents. Homes are re-licensed every 2 years; but are visited once a year. The inspection takes 3 hours; they look for proper documents, care plans, training, environment (exits, smoke detectors, etc.). Overall, people are getting good direct care and homes are safe and sound. The State does not look at quality of life issues.

New regulations will coming out that tighten security for medication standards, keeping them locked up and recording who takes what when.

There are an unknown number of unlicensed homes 1 or 2 residents. The LTC Ombudsman's office will investigate these complaints.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one on line – From the audience: Saul Gerstenfeld, in Alaska since 1947, state that UAA did a survey 5 years ago regarding need of the elderly and the results were “inclusive.” Mr. Gerstenfeld offered additional commentary on the University of Alaska and former Community College system.

**ACoA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS:** See attached – Tab 12 of packets

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Iver asked that the ACoA explore how to do outreach to isolated seniors.

**FUTURE ACOA MEETINGS:**

- March 7-9, 2006 Legislative and Business Meeting in Juneau
- June 20-22, 2006 Common Ground Conference and business meeting in Anchorage
- 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

**Motion:** To adjourn - motion passed unanimously

**ADJOURNED at 3:52 p.m.**