

Alaska Commission on Aging
Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Building
801 West 10th Ave., Suite 302
Juneau, Alaska
February 13th – 16th, 2012
Minutes Approved as amended

Monday February 13, 2012

Roll Call: Commission Members present: Paula Pawlowski, Eleanor Dementi, Marie Darlin, Pat Branson, Betty Keegan, Sandra Doyle, Nita Madsen and Duane Mayes. Commission members not present and excused: Sharon Howerton, Banarsi Lal and Iver Malutin.
Staff present: Denise Daniello, Lesley Thompson and Sherice Cole.

Safety moment: Paula went over the safety check in the meeting room.

Governor's Council on Aging Report - Banarsi Lal

Banarsi gave his report over the phone. Please see report attached.

Meeting Agenda: Pat moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented, Sandi seconded, motion approved.

Meeting Minutes for December 2011:

Pat moved the motion to approve the meeting minutes with corrections, Paula seconded, motion approved.

ACoA Vice-Chair Report, Paula Pawlowski

Paula reported she attended all of the Executive Committee teleconferences. She attended the advocacy training and capitol visits at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Advocacy Summit.

Executive Director Report, Denise Daniello

Please also see attached report.

Denise, Paula and Sandi met with Lt. Governor Treadwell. One of the things they discussed was the new Alaska State Plan for Senior Services which is posted on the ACoA website. They discussed the year-long process and the number of agencies and consumers involved. The agency partners include representatives from the regional Senior Advisory Commissions as well as the University, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Senior and Disabilities Services, the Trust, Pioneer Homes, Alaska Legal Services, two senior service providers, and others.

They also shared with him some of the outcomes from the implementation meeting and the process participants used to identify implementation priorities to work on this year. Denise explained how the participants put themselves into committees and developed action plans to address the objectives for the state plan priorities for this year. One of the action plans had to do with developing a state plan for people with Alzheimer's disease and related Dementias. They talked about what Alzheimer's disease and related Dementias and that dementia is a symptom of many cognitive diseases with Alzheimer's disease being the most common.

Denise said they also shared the Commission's budget recommendations with the Lt. Governor.

Lt. Governor Treadwell suggested that one way to encourage more interest in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia would be to engage people into a survey to bring more attention to it.

Paula said a multiple-year survey would be best.

We need to thank the Governor for putting our joint capital budget recommendations in the capital budget that include: \$425,000 for a pilot project for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers to provide behavioral health screening and referral services for people with behavioral health needs; \$1 million for transportation (the recommended amount for this joint advocacy priority is \$3 million); \$425,000 for essential programming equipment which includes office supplies for senior centers, kitchen equipment and any other types of equipment that is important for social service agencies; and \$125,000 for assistive technology for people with sensory and cognitive impairments.

Denise said the Commission has published the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services for FY2012 – FY2015. We sent a letter to the Administration on Aging to David Ishida that describes some of the changes we made in the state plan since it was approved by the Administration on Aging

(AOA) such as 2010 population data used in the funding formula. The Commission also asked to hold out Title III D, health promotion funds, from the funding formula's "hold harmless" provision to allow the Department more flexibility to revamp this program and focus the funding on new evidence-based strategies for health promotion such as fall prevention. We also asked that Senior-In-Home Services and the Family Caregiver Grant programs be held out from the hold harmless provision in the funding formula since not all of the regions applied for these funds and to distribute funding for these programs under the new funding formula. The funding formula will begin in FY 2013. We included a new appendix, appendix N, which outlines a Memorandum of Agreement between the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office and the Adult Protective Services that describes the coordination between the agencies in responding to reports of elder abuse. These are the changes in the new State Plan for Senior Services that were described in the memo submitted to the Administration on Aging.

In addition, we sent a report of the state plan implementation meeting to the Administration on Aging. There have been some accomplishments from the meeting such as one of the committees is focused on promoting more attention through education and advocacy about access to primary care for seniors. The ACoA with the Division of Public Health as well as representatives from the Alaska Medicare Clinic, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and Providence made a presentation at the Alaska Health Summit to talk about the access to primary care problem for seniors. The presentation described health care needs of older Alaskans and the problems seniors have accessing primary care.

ACoA meeting dates discussed: Commissioners decided on meeting dates for the remainder of the year. The February meeting for 2013 will be Feb 26th through Feb 28th, 2013. (Note: The February 2013 meeting dates were later changed to February 11th-13th because the original dates conflicted with another board's legislative advocacy meeting.) The spring ACoA meeting will be in Anchorage on April 25th through April 26th, 2012. The Rural Outreach meeting will be held in Homer, August 21st through August 23rd, 2012. The December meeting will be held in Anchorage on December 4th & 5th, 2012.

Nominating committee: New ACoA officers will be selected by the Commission at the upcoming April meeting, per Article 4 section 3 of ACoA's bylaws. The Nominating Committee will develop a slate of candidates for officers.

The Nominating Committee members proposed, Banarsi Lal, Pat Branson, and Betty Keegan. Pat moved motioned and Marie Darlin seconded, motion passed.

Executive Committee Report: Sharon Howerton-Clark & Denise Daniello

In Sharon's absence, Denise reviewed the discussion from the last Executive Committee meeting in January (report attached).

Planning Committee, Implementation Meeting Report: Banarsi Lal & Denise Daniello

Banarsi Lal and Denise reviewed the State Plan Implementation meeting activities that were described in the report sent to the U.S. Administration on Aging (report attached).

Legislative Advocacy Committee Report & Review of ACoA Position Papers:

Pat Branson, Committee Chair, and Denise Daniello

Pat Branson went over the legislative committee report (attached).

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education: Banarsi Lal

Banarsi Lal went over the legislative committee report (attached).

Denise presented an overview of the ADRD Community Forum to be held on Tuesday February 14th, 2012 at the Juneau Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned 4:47 pm.

February 14, 2012

Meeting called to order at 12:45 P.M.

Public Comment:

Brad Whistler, DHSS Public Health Dental Officer

Brad reported he is working on a program to improve oral health care for older adults. Recent surveys state that although older Americans have a higher rate of untreated dental decay than children, seniors today are keeping their natural dentition longer than previous generations of seniors. Another national statistic in terms of national health care expenditures is that dental services are only second to prescription drugs in terms of out of pocket expenses for seniors. Medicare covers the costs for pharmacy and hospital services related to dental care however

Medicare does not cover for most of routine dental services. So at the time that many seniors are keeping most of their teeth there is not a reimbursement mechanism to meet their dental coverage for preventive care. In 2006, legislation was passed to establish the Medicaid Adult Dental program to help cover the cost of dentures and other restorative dental work for income-eligible Alaskans under the Medicaid program. This program was reauthorized in 2009. Brad thanked the Commission for advocating for the reauthorization and establishing the program in 2006.

Under a small grant from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, the oral health program is working to identify the oral health needs of older Alaskans by conducting a series of assessments of older people at congregate meal sites and long-term care settings and to compare our State's results with other states. Representatives from ACoA, AARP, Division of Public Health and other stakeholders serve on a Steering Committee associated with these research efforts to improve access to oral health care for Alaska seniors. Brad said he will request funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to conduct the assessments.

Denise said one of the priorities for the Department is to increase access to primary care services for all Alaskans to improve health and reduce costs. The Department is supporting use of the "Patient Centered Medical Home" model to provide comprehensive patient care by bringing primary care and behavioral health care under the primary care setting. This model helps to encourage improved chronic disease management through greater patient involvement. Denise noted that oral health care should be included in the Patient Centered Medical Home model because of the important connection between oral health and overall health in terms of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and possible Alzheimer's disease and related dementias that would help to improve health outcomes.

Pat Branson said she agreed and there are other care providers that can attest to oral health care being important.

Public Comment:

Karen Godnick, Alaska Legal Services

Last year Alaska Legal Services served 638 seniors, received 611 new applications from seniors and had to turn away 186 due to lack of resources. SB 62 would help Alaska Legal Services have access to additional funding. They did receive a grant from the Administration on Aging to

expand the services across the state and do outreach to help more Alaskan seniors. The ACoA supported their grant request.

Karen said Denise talked to her about working with ACoA on the implementation of the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services to make sure that seniors are receiving legal services. Karen said she is happy to work on this.

Karen said that some of Angoon residents she talked to have voiced their concerns about their fishing permits making them ineligible to receive Medicaid and other forms of public assistance. Their fishing permits are a part of their culture and don't want to give them up. Karen told the residents that she would tell the Commission about this.

Pat and Betty said that this is a problem right now.

Marianne Mills, Southeast Senior Services

Marianne thanked the Commission for its support of the senior grants program. She has been working with AgeNet and talking with the different legislators about the initiatives that ACoA is advocating for to increase funding for Adult Day and Senior In-Home Services.

Marianne said she has a couple of suggestions for the Commission based on questions that AgeNet received from the legislators. One of the questions is addresses funding for Adult Day programs in communities with established programs. AgeNet members are being asked by legislators if the additional funding being requested will support existing programs. Marianne said she believes the answer is yes. Denise clarified that the extra funding would help existing programs and that part of the funding would be used to establish a new program in an underserved area. Marianne said that if ACoA members are asked this question by legislators during their visits, they should assure them extra funding will be used to support existing programs.

Marianne stated the number of family caregivers in Alaska, 16,313. The value of the unpaid care that family, friends and neighbors provide is \$213,636,835. Adult Day and Senior-In Home Services provide much needed respite for family caregivers.

The new funding formula will be taking effect July 1st, 2012 and will affect the Senior-In-Home Senior Services Grant. The SE region will take a \$98,000 cut based on the redistribution of funds

from the new funding formula. Marianne said more funding is needed for Senior In-Home Services so that the pending loss of funds does not affect their services. (Staff Note: The “hold harmless” provision does not apply to the Senior In-Home Services and Family Caregiver grant programs because some of the regions did not apply for these funds and would therefore be eligible for \$0 allocation in the new state plan. For this reason, the decision was made by the State Plan Steering Committee to transition these programs to the new funding formula.)

Mike Lessman, Governor’s Special Assistant

Mike commended the Commission and thanked the Commission for its services. He was excited to see the letter to the Lt. Governor that ACoA would be putting together a state plan on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Mike also said that he looks forward to staying in closer contact with the Commission.

Mike said he has a list of the Budget increments for the Governor’s Budget.

Denise said thank you to the Governor for supporting our budget increments for Senior-In-Home services \$250,000 and for adult day program \$225,000. Both of these recommendations are also supported by AgeNet, the statewide network of senior providers. She also thanked the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for their support of these budget recommendations in the Mental Health bill. We are hoping for more money if possible. We thank the Governor for the recognition of the growth of the senior population.

Mike said he would pass this on to the Governor and the Lt. Governor.

Mike said he is challenging himself to learn more about the more prominent seniors. Through his own family experiences, he feels as a nation we should look to other countries as to how they treat their elder family members. Mike appreciates the work that the Commission in doing.

Department of Health & Social Services

Bill Streur, Commissioner

Kimberli Poppe-Smart, Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner Streur said there is a lot going on this year. We continue to face big challenges with Medicaid and the growth of Senior & Disabilities Services (SDS) in terms of the waiver services, long-term care, and many other budget items. The Commissioner noted that we need to do a better job in explaining the new draft waiver regulations to the public and the intent for

the changes. The draft regulations will assist the Department with implementing the new waivers.

There will be a series of meetings, sharing of information and then we will send out the regulations after it is worked out.

Denise suggested ways to put out the regulations that would allow them to be better understood such as doing a side-by-side of the old and new regulations, highlighting the changes and providing an explanation for the changes.

The Commissioner said one of the challenges is to try and have a less painful regulation process and maybe work with the Department of Law.

The Commissioner said the Department is doing a lot of work in the areas of long-term care and nursing homes. There has been a lot of support from the Legislature in this area.

The Kotzebue long term care facility is open with 16 to 18 beds filled. They are still working on getting settled.

The Alaska Native Health Care Consortium (ANTHC) has proposed a 50 bed long term care facility in Anchorage and has put in a request to the legislature for \$23 million to help build the facility.

Bethel is working on developing their long term care system. The plan is to have temporary housing and a nursing home. The Commissioner said he encouraged Bethel to take advantage of waiver services.

Within the budget, the DHSS is recommending a \$700,000 increment for Adult Protective Services.

Duane said, \$550,000 is from general funds and the rest is from federal funds.

The Commissioner said Adult Protective Services is very important; we live in a predatory environment.

The Commissioner recognized the Medicare shop in SDS. The Commissioner said that many people have sent him emails commending the work of the Medicare Center. Judith Bendersky was commended by someone she helped. The family sent the Commissioner a letter thanking Judith for her help.

Medicare clinics are doing okay; Providence Medicare Clinic has a waiting list. The Rhyneer Medicare clinic has a 65% capacity. There seems to be an increase in Medicare access with the physicians. He has heard that Fairbanks has opened one up as well.

Banarsi thanked the Commissioner for taking the time for meeting with him when he was in Juneau in January about the Alaska Pioneer Homes.

The Commissioner said one of the things that he and Banarsi talked about was the possibility of public/private partnerships. With a 70% growth in the senior population, improving senior access to primary care will continue to be a challenge. The average age of a Pioneer Home resident is 86. There are a growing number of residents that have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Staffing at the Homes is a concern due to the higher acuity levels.

Bill said regarding the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's), it's a struggle he does see the need for them. The centers are not in the funding formula. He believes they are only funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust authority.

Duane said that there is also funding from the Administration on Aging.

Denise asked if the ADRC's are a billable service. Denise said maybe they could be billed through Medicaid so we can get a half reimbursement.

The Commissioner said if we stretch the definition a bit we might be able to. Medicaid has a lot of flexibility.

Denise told the Commissioner about the ADRD Community Forum that took place earlier that day.

Division of Senior & Disability Services
Duane Mayes, Director

On January 26th they had their Personal Care Attendants (PCA) regulations go live. The Commissioner is right; they do get a lot of compliments. Duane commended the Medicare office.

The office handle about 512 calls a month and some are 1 on 1 counseling sessions.

With Adult Protective Services, the Commissioner covered what is going on with long-term care in rural Alaska. The Alaska Complex Behavioral Collaborative has six months of funding that was approved last year and contractors on-line.

Duane provided an update on the regulation revisions for the Personal Care Attendants (PCA) program. The process went smooth and they received good public input. The providers worked closely with them and for the most part they appreciated what they were trying to do. The time component was hard to work with, this was part of the amendments. The amendment was approved for the time component. Other changes were just a cleanup in language. The amendments went live January 26th, 2012.

The Division has a strong budget for the Medicare information office. The office has a lot of responsibility and demands. The Division receives funding from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid services, called SHIP (State Health Insurance Program funding). This is the piece that helps them educate and work with seniors and the complexity of the Medicare system. Another source of funding they get is SMP; this comes from the Older Americans Act, Administration on Aging. This program is for working with seniors to identify ways of fraud and abuse when it comes to Medicare.

The Commissioner has really pushed on us to work internally with other directors.

Duane said they are moving the Medicare office and it is a partnership with Public Assistance since the Medicare office will be taking care of Medicaid in their office as well.

Duane thanked the Commission for their letter of support SB86 and testimony. The bill is moving.

Duane said the Community First Choice (CFC) option is 1915K, part of the Social Security Act. We are looking at this program as it may replace Personal Care Attendant services and bring to

life the Community First Choice Option. With this option the Division would receive an additional 6% federal match.

Pending approval, the program would begin June 2012. The Commission helped us to identify members for the CFC Advisory Council. The CFC Council is comprised of 11 voting members, including six representatives from various associations that are tied to PCA services like the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Association, AgeNet, the State Independent Living Council and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. They had their first meeting in January. Ella Craig serves on the Council. They will be having some webinars. By June they will have some recommendations and then bring this forward to the Commissioner.

Duane said they had to renew the waiver applications. One of the suggestions from CMS was to come up with some standards of practice. They had some serious gatherings with providers and held some webinars. They had a couple of question and answer sessions. They put them out on December 2, 2011.

Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Diana Weber, Long-Term Care Ombudsman

(Report attached)

Diana reported that her program helps protect the safety and rights of older Alaskans in skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

Diana wanted to give a snapshot of what she has done in the past year.

Diana went over the report she provided to show numbers related to cases from her office.

The department has done a good job in providing services to older Alaskans that have made life safer and has created more awareness.

On the lower numbers in the report, this relates to a shortage of staff.

Pat Branson asked Diana to describe the process for following-up on incident reports.

Diana said Adult Protective Services follows up with the incident reports.

Denise said the Commission has a budget recommendation which is one of our legislative priorities for Senior Fall Prevention. Denise noted that accident falls and improper handling are

top complaints on the OLTCO report. The Senior Fall Prevention recommendation requests funding that would provide training to assisted living facilities on fall prevention and to make that a requirement in the future. Denise asked if senior falls was always the number one complaint in the OLTCO report from nursing homes.

Diana said she thinks they didn't know about this concern until the critical incidence reports started. Some falls are preventable but some are not. There are issues with the amount of caregivers to adequately cover the care of residents and some residents need more than one person with transferring in and out of bed, etc.

Sandi said that one of the things that assisted living homes do not always have are staff who stay awake through the night. Falls can happen at that time.

Diana said she believes that is correct. People never really let go of the desire of wanting to use the bathroom themselves even though they are not physically capable. This is when some of the falls happen.

Denise asked if Diana sees that there is not enough trained staff to handle Alzheimer's disease and related dementias residents.

Diana said that it is sometimes hard to diagnose since the residents may have a bladder infection and have some symptoms of delirium. But the other side of this is the fact that if a resident has dementia the staff might just write off any symptoms that they may have as it is just dementia etc.

Sandi suggested that there should maybe be more volunteers that would help with adult protection.

Department of Labor, Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program

Rita Bowen introduced her Director Paul Dick

Rita reported they having funding to hire 185 MAAST workers.

They have helped 43 people as of Dec. 31st to obtain employment. They are supposed to help 35% and this equates to 54% of the people they have helped so far. They are supposed to ensure that 70% of the people stay at their job for year after they are employed. Depending on what the minimum wage is, is the basis for how many workers can be funded? 70% of the

MAAST workers stay at the job they were placed in for at least one year after completion of the program. So far half of the year they are at 62.5%.

They are supposed to increase their services by 10% more than the minimum number they are supposed to be helping; they are now at 111%. They are supposed to maintain an average number of barriers, at least 1.5 barriers to employment, they are at 1.6.

Paula asked Rita to describe the barriers.

Rita explained that the people are 75 yrs or older who do not receive Social Security, people who have severe limited employment history, people who live in rural areas and areas of persistent unemployment, having poor literacy skills, disabilities, veterans, at-risk for homelessness, and home makers.

Out of the 206 people they have helped, 178 of them are living below poverty, 33 have a disability, and 86 live in rural communities. Paul said the Rita is a great asset to the program. It has been a tremendous pleasure to have her as a part of his staff.

AARP

Pat Luby, Advocacy Director & Marie Darlin, Capitol City Task Force

Pat talked about the bills that were moving through the legislature. One of the bills is on the defined benefit retirement for the state. HB 78 is one of the priorities for AARP.

AARP is also supporting HB 260 by Representative Peterson to establish permanent absentee voting. Max Gruenberg introduced another bill, HB 287, which would allow someone to file absentee voting status and then be able to retain the status for two elections after that. AARP is supporting both bills.

There are also a couple bills that would have the court system help fund Civil Legal services. Many older people use the Alaska Legal Services Program. SB 62 by Senator McGuire which would allow the state to use up to 25% of the court filing fees for Civil Legal services.

There is a companion bill HB 299 by Representative Thompson. He has bi-partisan support on this bill.

SB 138 would make it illegal for a telephone company bill for extra added charges.

Senator Davis has SB 53 for women that are dealing with poverty in retirement, caregiving and certain credit issues.

The Governor has two bills out right now HB 86 and HB 150. The Office of Public Advocacy and SDS are working on them.

Representative Muñoz has sponsored HB131 to establish a permanent advisory council for community transportation..

Senator Davis's SB 179 establishes an Amber Alert System to find older people who wander due to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias or other cognitive impairments.

There are two bills on immunization that include SB 144/HB 310.

In 2005 AARP took a look at the rate increase filed in Fairbanks for their water utility company. They thought they were asking for way too much for utilities. They got the Regulatory Commission to take a look. It took until 2009 to settle with the utility company. \$4.7 million was the settlement for the residents.

Marie said they had talked with Representative Lindsey Holmes. She said things are happening faster, some of the bills are left over from last year.

Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)

Joan O'Keefe, Executive Director

Jorden Nigro, SAIL Deputy Director and Janet Lumiansky, ADRC Coordinator

Joan O'Keefe opened their presentation by noting that one of their many strengths is they are very collaborative. SAIL co-hosted the Medicaid State Planning seminar with Southeast Senior Services in Ketchikan. The seminar was well-attended with 35 people attending. Next week they will co-host in Juneau on the Medicaid State Planning with Southeast Senior Services and the local chapter of AARP.

Jordan said they have been doing some housing work. They have been having a lot of people come to them for housing assistance and a lot of them are seniors. They can't help with the housing but they are advocating for homelessness. They have been putting together publications on homelessness and how it affects the different people.

Joan said the largest demographic at SAIL is their senior population.

Jorden said it seems to be getting larger. Jorden said they are based in Southeast and have different offices in the southeast towns; Juneau, Haines, Ketchikan and Sitka.

Duane talked about a conversation he had with Joan about finding two language interpreters. Duane noted that he was able to assist the Governor with getting an interpreter through working with SAIL. Duane said that Jorden coordinated this request for an interpreter with the Governor's Office.

Pat asked about the request for \$425,000 to the legislature. Pat asked what sort of interaction they have with the other four Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's).

Jorden said they have a lot of interaction. The ARDCs meet monthly and talk on the phone and try to get together twice a year in person and then they sometimes hold video conferences.

Joan said there is also a quarterly advisory meeting. ACoA serves on the ADRC advisory council.

AgeNet

Connie Sipe, Chair

Connie reported AgeNet has 40 members, which include health care providers.

Connie talked about AgeNet's legislative priorities. There has not been a new adult day center since 1994. They have a plan that shows which towns in Alaska have enough people to run a new adult day center. AgeNet was able to get Senator Johnny Ellis to put a bill in for funding for another Adult Day Center.

Denise told Connie the Commission estimated \$117,000 for startup funds for an adult day center and that was based on the average grant. The rest of the funding would be used to address increased costs and to be able to serve people fully instead of partial service.

Denise said she thinks that we are making progress in addressing cost of living but not really making a dent in increasing services.

The second emphasis is the \$250,000 increment for senior in home services. AgeNet did ask for more money for this. The grant allows for 10 hours of service a week to a family.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

February 16, 2012

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

Commissioner Recap of Legislative Visits

Pat Branson and Eleanor Dementi

Pat said she enjoys teaming up with Eleanor who knows a lot of people.

They didn't have the opportunity to meet with Representative Hawker but they met with his staff person Rita, who is very knowledgeable. They met with Tim from Representative Edmonds office. He is really on top of things. Pat has met with him previously on senior issues and city issues. Tim is from Kodiak and is a former fisherman. He understands rural issues.

They also met with Representative Austerman, who is well aware of senior issues.

They were only able to drop a packet off with Representative William Thomas's office. They did meet with Jay Lively from Senator Hoffman's office. Jay Lively has a strong background in administration and with the Department of Health & Social Services. They also spent some time with Senator Stevens.

Representative Foster was not there but they met with his staff person, Larry. Larry is a senior. They talked with him about fall prevention. They met with Meredith from Representative Guttenberg's office. Representative Guttenberg and Meredith are both well aware of senior issues. Overall legislators and their staff were very receptive.

Eleanor said she talked about the need for transportation in rural and urban areas. All of the people they met with were so nice. She thinks that since a lot of the legislators and their staff are getting older, they understand senior issues and are really concerned.

Marie Darlin and Lorilyn Swanson

Marie reported she went up with Lorilyn and met with Rep. Lindsey Holmes the day before. They met with legislative staff if the legislators were not available and that was fine. Marie and Lorilyn met with Rep. Alan Austerman's staff. Mr. Hagen is a staff member who is well aware of our priorities. She thinks that it helps our joint advocacy efforts to have AgeNet having the same priorities. Marie emphasized that our Commission was working with other agencies such as AgeNet on our priorities.

They met with Representative Craig Johnson's office and met with staff member, Erin Shine.

Marie said she found that the staff could all give instances of their family members going through some of the issues such as falls.

They met with staff member Kevin in Rep. Berta Gardner's office. Marie said she had a good discussion with him. They also met with staff from Rep. Bob Lynn's office. They met with Rep. Paul Seaton. He gave them his latest report on Vitamin D. Marie felt all in all they had a very good day on the Hill and legislators/staff were all very receptive.

Pat Branson

Pat said she had a follow-up from Guttenberg's office with Meredith who serves as a staff member. Meredith commented that she liked the fact we (the Trust, AgeNet and ACoA) all build on each other's advocacy efforts.

Representative Guttenberg is presenting a bill that addresses the need for insurance companies to provide coverage for child only plans. He learned from a Fairbanks constituent that Alaska insurance companies have dropped children only insurance plans which is a major concern for Grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Betty Keegan and Lesley Thompson

They met with Representative Pruitt's staff Kurt Craft, who is very knowledgeable.

He had talked with other groups that had come through so he had heard our concerns.

Everyone was impressed with the FY2012 – FY2015 Plan for Alaska Senior Services plan.

They did not see Representative Doogan but talked to his staff, Carl and Frank.

They also met with Senator Giessel and found her to be well versed in everything and very engaging and wanting to know more. Senator Giessel went through the packet and was happy to read our publications. Lesley said Senator Giessel's mom had a serious fall last year and it was very difficult time for her.

Senator Stedman was not available or his staff either. Betty and Lesley left a packet for the Senator's office.

Representative Tammy Wilson was not available but they were able to meet with her very informative chief of staff. She took volumes of notes as they were going over the packet.

Lesley was impressed with the approach that both Betty and Marie had with the legislators. Lesley thinks it would be good to take notes on some of the things that we are told by the Senators, Representatives and their staff for future meetings with them.

Paula and Sandra

Sandi reported this year was her first time doing legislative visits with the Commission. The only contact with the legislator's offices was from her home through email. The experience of the visits was quite humbling.

Sandi and Paula began their visits with Representative Fairclough. She was very energetic. Rep. Fairclough came up with a resolution for transportation.

Paula said they mostly met with legislative staff. They seemed to relate because they have relatives, mainly grandmothers. They understand how important these issues are to everyone. She was impressed by the eagerness of the staff and they were impressed with the ACoA packets.

Paula said they had 9 visits and had an extraordinary time with staff.

Paula said there was a different tone in the Legislature this time that was not because of AgeNet only. She believes that everyone is more aware of senior issues.

Pat Branson

Pat said she really thinks that we really have come together as a team. She thinks it was helpful having the Alaska Mental Health Trust visit with legislators a couple of weeks ago. Then AgeNet did visits with similar (or the same as ACoA's) priorities. It was a big wham at the beginning of the session; it has really helped with AgeNet and ACoA taking on that advocacy piece. It really helps having the packets, they were really well done.

Banarsi and Denise

Banarsi said Denise did 90% of the talking. Banarsi said we are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff. Banarsi participated in the legislative visits by teleconference since he not able to come to Juneau this year.

Banarsi said they met with special assistant to the Governor, Mike Lessman which was followed by a meeting with Senator Paskavan's office. We then met with Senator Davis in the afternoon, followed by meetings with Senator Thomas, staff with Senator Olson, staff with Representative Wes Keller, and finishing the day by meeting with Representative Kawasaki.

It was a long day for Denise and he was on the phone listening to the exchange and giving input when appropriate.

Banarsi commented that he thought ACoA was received quite well. He also mentioned that legislators and their staff appeared to be very well informed of our issues. He made a pitch for additional funds in some of the areas. There were quite a few legislators who expressed interest in putting in additional funds into the budget for senior programs.

Denise said people were very appreciative of the State Plan for Senior Services noting that it was very comprehensive. Legislators and staff seemed impressed with the implementation process as well. People expressed interest in the new ADRD State Plan. They want to keep

posted on the progress with this plan. They were very supportive of our issues and the services were very worthy of an increment increase. The staff at Senator Paskavan's office commented that the increments recommended for Senior In-Home Services and Adult Day grants were both needed and they were going to pass this increase requests on to Senator Paskavan. The Senator sits on the Senate Finance Health and Social Service's subcommittee and he should be able to do something about them.

Denise said Senator Davis sits on the same finance subcommittee HSS committee so she will be supporting funding for these two grant programs and funding for the Senior Fall Prevention Initiative.

Denise said they met with staff at Senator Olson's office. Denise commented that she would follow-up with another meeting with Senator Olson's office.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Jeff Jessee, CEO, & Nancy Burke, Program Officer

Jeff reported that the \$650,000 increment for the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative is not in the Governor's amended budget and that is a major problem. Last year for this current fiscal year we got a \$325,000 one-time increment that expires on June 30th, 2012. Jeff explained that if the \$650,000 increment is not approved, the CBC will come to a half and we already have 20 adults out of state.

Jeff explained the process for legislative funding. In the House, any additional funds not included in the Governor's budget have to be added by the sub-committees with Rep Bill Thomas's approval. On the Senate side, Senator Olson is the chair for the Senate Finance HSS Subcommittee. Increments can be added by committee members with Senators Olson and Hoffman approval. Commissioner Streur has advocated for funding for the CBC.

Eleanor asked if Jeff was saying that if we don't get the funding will we have to send the patients out of State?

Jeff said yes that is one level that is a key piece. It's not just that we don't want to have to pay the out of state hospital; it is the trauma of having to be moved out from place to place.

Jeff said this is how the “Bring the Kids Home” got started when there was a lack of agencies in-state to provide appropriate services.

Marie said she mentioned the Complex Behavior Collaborate issue to everyone she met with and how it could help people with Alzheimer’s disease and related Dementias and challenging behaviors as an example.

Jeff said it is sometimes helpful to say the Alaska Mental Health Trust paid for WICHE to take a look at this situation and come up with a plan. They didn’t just come up with the Complex Behavior Collaborate. It took a team to come up with this concept.

When you have a team of behavior experts go into a home not only are they helping the agency keep the individual in the program, the overall expertise of the staff starts to rise as they get trained how to care for particular residents. The staff will see how to apply these strategies to other residents and the benefits will begin to rise.

Jim McCall, Senior Housing Office, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Jim said it has been 10 or 11 years that he has been doing this.

Jim thanked the Commission for the AHFC Senior Housing resolution. The comment stated before about being a team certainly applies to something like this resolution. He believes it goes along way. He thanked the Commission for that. Our collaboration all ties together. It goes a long way with advocating to the Legislature. We have been doing this for as long as he has been a member. Steve Ashman, former AHFC senior housing officer, worked with ACoA on senior housing issues before Jim. Jim described the highlights of the resolution for AHFC’s senior housing office in that it focused on the Senior Housing Development Fund and weatherization funds. There is a significant amount of program dollars and effort here that pertains to seniors one way or another.

A lot of this has to do with public housing, and as you know there are a number of seniors who are in public housing.

Sandi referred to financing she has obtained from AHFC, for the assisted living home she operates in Fairbanks, and suggested a plaque, or similar commemorative signage, attached to the facility, would be a very positive and easy means of noting AHFC’s involvement in senior housing developments around the state.

Jim thanked Sandi for her suggestion, agreeing completely, and noted he had addressed this issue internally last year, but was told it was not a priority for AHFC at the time. Jim asked Sandi to send a letter or email to his office suggesting a commemorative plaque be provided to owners/developers which would prominently display AHFC's involvement and commitment to senior housing around the state. Jim shared this is a common practice wherever Denali Commission funds are utilized, but thus far, not with AHFC. He concluded by saying, the more AHFC can do to illustrate to Alaskans that their money is at work, the better.

Jim said the original request for the Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF) was \$6 million however \$4.5 million was approved in the Governor's budget.

AHFC contracted with Information Insights in 2006 to perform a statewide housing needs assessment. That report showed there was \$1 billion worth of senior housing needs to address the growth of the senior population growth through 2030. Jim emphasized the need to get things moving to meet the senior housing demand. In FY12, the AHFC SCHDF received more than \$12 million in requests but only had \$3.5 million available for senior housing – which was only enough to fund one project and that being Ravens Estates in Fairbanks. The other \$1 million was used to pay for accessibility modifications as well as pre-development (of the total \$4.5 million amount for SCHDF). In FY11, AHFC SCHDF had \$4.4 available however the requests were almost \$10 million. In FY 10 they met the demand. In FY 11 they were short, in FY 09 they were a little short in FY 08 again short and FY 07 they were short again and FY 06 they met the demand.

He looked at it in a different way, in FY 12 our most recent award cycle they awarded the lowest amount of money than what was awarded in a six year example. While the population goes up, their award percentages are at its lowest point. We have a little problem here that needs to be looked at.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's goal for FY 12 includes funding for the Home program, the Low Income Tax Credit Program and the Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF) program. In 2012, AHFC received applications for senior housing projects from Eagle River, Soldotna, Delta Junction, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Palmer. These applications totaled just under \$40 million in development costs. They were requesting \$8.5 million additional funds from this fund and that would have built 142 units. The demand for the development is there but the pot of money is only so big.

There is another risk that they would use the funds from the tax credit funds to pay for these additional units which would take from the low income families.

He wants us to look at this and really push for this. Senator Menard's comments were very positive. We can only do so much with the money we have. The nice thing we have is the developers are here to do the work.

HB65 is a carryover from last session that would allow the regional housing authorities to utilize the money we have been talking about. AHFC supports the bill. It is just a matter of getting it through the process.

Denise said that ACoA has also supported passage of HB 65 because it is a fair bill. She asked Jim if there has been communication with the sponsors of HB 65 regarding the limited funding for senior citizen housing development funds.

Jim said there was extensive testimony when this bill was introduced last year. Legislators are familiar with the process, familiar with the scoring, and they are

familiar with the fact that if this bill passes, it will not mean additional money for SCHDF.

Denise said she wanted to make sure that they were aware that the funds were already limited and if they expanded the program to rural areas the funds would be able to do less and less. She knows the philosophy of AHFC's program is to fund the project all of the way not leaving it out there hanging.

Jim said in rural and remote areas it is going to be a lot higher for housing costs. Jim also explained that rural housing authorities who wanted to use the SCHDF program in the past did so. He did not think there would be many additional new requests for funding.

Marie asked if any of these programs can match with federal funds.

Jim said they could and then it would use less money from the program. The more we can do to illustrate to the public that this is your money at work the better.

Pioneer Home & Pioneer Home Advisory Board Report

Dave Cote, Director, & Banarsi Lal, PHAB Chair

Dave reported since last year's report not a lot has happened. The Division has 6 assisted living homes located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka and the State's Veterans' Pioneer Home in Palmer. The Pioneer Homes have 3 levels of care level with the lowest level at 1 and 3 being the highest level which serves residents with acute health care needs and dementia. The Homes specialize in serving people with dementia with 59% of their residents having some form of dementia. The Division follows the Eden Philosophy and strives to make the homes "homey" allowing fish tanks, birds, plants, and other natural elements. Dave Cote noted that all of the Homes provide really good care. The Division has the Pioneer Home Advisory Board, an eight-member Board appointed by the Governor which makes two tours a year. The board does the northern tour in the fall and a southern tour in February. Right now they are getting ready to go on tour February 27th through March 2nd. The criteria for admission to the Pioneer Homes is to be 65 years or older, a resident of Alaska, and be of medical need of the Home. There are two waitlists - the "active waitlist" for people who are ready to go into a Home within 30 days and the "inactive list" for people age 65 years and older who may be in need of the Home in the future. Dave tells everyone to sign in when you are 65 so you won't have to wait as long when you need the services. By being on the inactive wait list, a person goes right to the top when they need to be placed in a Home. If you needed to get in right now and you were not on the waiting list, it would take about four years to get in. The average age according to the last report from November, 2011 is 86.4 years of age; a year ago it was 85.3 years and in 2009 it was 82.3 years old. As you can see people are getting older when they go into the Pioneer Homes. The Homes see few persons needing Level One care unless they have a spouse in Levels 2 or 3. The Pioneer Homes did not request any increments for the 2014 budget. They have an administration cost for automatically increasing bargaining unit and health care cost, which they get that every year. They do have a \$4 million dollar deferred maintenance request that goes through the facilities, it is not his budget. The DHSS Facilities Section takes really good care of the Homes.

The new roof on the Sitka Home was really needed and appreciated.

The major accomplishment for the Homes in FY12 was the increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Pioneer Home residents that increased from \$100 to \$200. The PNA is the amount Pioneer Home residents on Medicaid or a Payment Assistance Plan can keep with the remainder of the person's income going to the Homes to pay for their care. The Division has a

Payment Assistance Plan for residents who are not able to pay for their care. Another accomplishment was the lighting upgrade at the Anchorage Pioneer Home with more efficient light bulbs. Fairbanks received a significant bathroom remodel. In Ketchikan they remodeled the tub room and the Fireweed room is going to be accomplished. This year the Palmer storage area will be completed.

Dave said the challenges are the resident's acuity. Residents are entering the Homes at an older age with much more acute needs. Dave mentioned that some of the Pioneer Home residents with dementia have challenging behaviors and he has been working with the Complex Behavioral Collaborative Committee to determine how to best serve the senior population and other target populations with cognitive impairment and challenging behavior needs. The Homes will be involved in piloting the Complex Behavior Collaborative

There are documentation requirements for Medicaid, the Veteran's Administration, and the medication administration records. The record keeping takes time from good work with the residents and time to recruit and retain a good workforce. For the VA requirements for the Palmer home, they have to get 59 of the 79 beds filled with Veterans. As of January, there are 39 beds filled with veterans.

Banarsi thanked Dave for his report. Banarsi talked about the upcoming tours of the Pioneer Homes.

Marie asked if they have tried to get residents from other homes to move to the Palmer veteran's home.

Banarsi said they are reluctant to move to a home away from where their family is.

Marie said she is glad to hear that there has been an attempt made to have residents move to the Palmer home.

Dave said all of the outreach they did they did have one person move from the Sitka home to the Palmer home. There are 130 veterans statewide in the Pioneer Homes as of January 31st. Veterans comprise about a fourth of the residents or 24%.

Dave sits on the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. He is very interested in Veterans issues. There has been talk about what can they do in Washington D.C. to advocate for additional federal funding for Pioneer Home residents who are Veterans that amounts to \$39.90 of domiciliary care per diem (daily amount).

Dave sees a need not only for elderly people to have a Veteran's home of their own but one for young veterans returning from wars will need one as well.

Dave said he doesn't know how many numbers it will take to justify the millions of dollars it will cost to build a new home.

Denise asked Dave if the study proves the need for a new veteran's home, would this home be open to veterans of all ages.

Dave said that the Pioneer Homes specialize in serving elders. Having younger people living with older people is like mixing oil and vinegar. They have different needs and different wants. He thinks that a new Veterans' Home would be for younger people and that it would be operated by somebody other than the Division of Pioneer Homes.

Closing Comments by Commissioners:

Banarsi said he was sorry he couldn't be there in person for the meeting but is happy that he was able to listen in by teleconference. The visits with the legislature went very well. As a senior himself it is good to know that there is a group of citizens such as the Commission that is advocating for senior issues.

Eleanor thanked the staff with how much work they put into the packets and commended them for doing a really good job preparing for the meeting.

Betty said that she and Lesley talked to Sharon who was being prepared to be placed in a swing bed. Betty noted that Sharon will be able to see services that she has been advocating for. Betty thinks that this is a good lesson. The legislators and staff on the Hill seem to have recent stories about a senior member of their family or a crisis situation that they were not prepared for. She thinks that Sharon is going to bring back a lot of wisdom to us, to see the other side of the system as a receiver of services.

Betty noted that her term on the Commission will be up at the end of September. When Betty first joined ACoA and came to Juneau for the Legislative visits, the Commission was in a bad state. There was no active executive director at the time. Betty said that Commissioners were told they could go up to the Capitol if they wanted.

Now, she is so impressed to what the Commission has grown to - the size and volume of information in the legislative packets being so well prepared and being able to come back and make such positive comments of how well Commissioners and the information were received. There was Linda Gohl before and then Denise took over. This Commission has grown to be so respected throughout the state. She is so glad to have been a part of it.

Pat said she is really pleased with the kind of reception they received on the Hill. She thinks that the timing for the Public Health Summit being moved from the fall to Session makes more sense because it helps to put our issues in front of the legislators. She said that it has been a pleasure to be here at this meeting.

Marie said it was great in how things were put together and they were expecting us. She had to tell some of the legislators that she was switching hats (from AARP to ACoA). This time legislators were prepared for us. Our information was very well put together and the way we presented everything, it was well received.

Sandi she said she was not so overwhelmed this time. Meetings with legislators were very heartwarming. She thanked the staff for the work for putting in and arranging the meetings. She felt like she had been here before at the Capitol since everything was so organized.

Duane said yesterday when the commission was on the hill, they developed the new matrix of the old and new regulations. They didn't finish but need another session or two. He made an executive decision to put on the Senior and Disabilities Services web page an explanation of the changes to the regulations of the waivers. The ordeal that they were experiencing to the Wasilla Senior Center has been resolved. He suggested we change the Commission's bylaws so we can keep Betty and Sharon on the Commission longer.

Lesley said thank you to the Commission for taking time out of their lives to advocate for other seniors and persons with disabilities. It warms her heart to see such passion and advocacy for seniors.

Paula said thank you to Sherice for her support.

Denise said thank you to everyone, all of the Commissioners and the staff for taking the time to become knowledgeable about the issues and to be able to speak with confidence about our issues with the legislators. She loves working with everyone.

Paula said that Commission members are her favorite people to be with.

Paula said thank you to Denise personally and for being an administrator we thank in a general way but specifically to thank her for her passion. Denise is an outstanding person.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Alaska Commission on Aging – Planning Committee Report

December 6, 2011

Dear fellow Commissioners:

Your attention is drawn to the list of six (6) goals that were set by your Planning Committee for FY 2012, and approved by the Commission (ACOA) at its September meeting in Wrangell. Since then, the Committee has solidified its plans to proceed with work related to implementation of Goals 1 and 6.

Goal #1: State Plan for Senior Services implementation committee is scheduled to meet in Anchorage for a two day meeting at the B.P. Exploration Building beginning December 8, 2011. The Commission E.D. has been able to secure the services of Mike Walsh, Ph.D, a Consultant with the Foraker Group, to facilitate the meeting and the work of this group. By holding this meeting immediately following the ACOA's quarterly meeting on December 6-7, we are able to

ensure maximum participation from our Commission members. Also, the two days available for this meeting will provide ample time and opportunities for developing a framework for an Implementation Plan with roles and responsibilities of Agency Partners and others, along with timelines for implementing goals, strategies, performance measures etc.

Goal #6: The Committee's goal calls for the development of a State Plan to address the needs of people with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) and their family caregivers. The prevalence of ADRD is growing nationally, and Alaska can reasonably expect to have greater demand for services in this area because of its fastest growing senior population. We will begin work on developing the State Plan for ADRD

by holding a series of community forums during ACOA's quarterly meetings, with the first one planned for the December meeting of the ACOA in Anchorage. Through these forums, we hope to learn more about the needs, how well the services are working and the gaps in services. "The intent of the State Plan is to elevate public understanding about ADRD and to identify next steps and to improve services and supports for people with ADRD and their families over the next 3 to 5 years." A set of questions have been developed to provide a basic framework/structure for initiating a discussion and gathering information.

Work relating to **Fall Prevention** and **Healthy Lifestyles for Older Alaskans** is an ongoing effort in collaboration with SDS, Public Health, Trust, ANTHC and other Partners. The Commission staff continues to participate in the **Long-Term Care Steering Committee** to develop a set of recommendations for long-term care of older Alaskans and other vulnerable populations. These recommendations will be presented to the DHSS, the Governor, the Legislature, the Trust and the Alaska Healthcare Commission by the Long-term Care Steering Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Banarsi Lal, Chair, Planning Committee

Alaska Commission on Aging

Executive Director's Report

February 13, 2012

Legislative Advocacy Meeting, Gold Belt Building, Juneau

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

ACoA Legislative Priorities: ACoA is very pleased to report that two of the Commission's four budget recommendations approved by the Trust for GF/MH funds are included in the Governor's FY 2013 budget. They include Senior In-Home Services Grants (\$250.0) and Adult Day Services Grants (\$225.0). In addition, funding for the boards/council/commission joint capital requests for the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center pilot project (\$425.0), community transit services (\$1 million) and assistive technology devices (\$125.0) were also included in the Governor's budget.

Looking forward to the upcoming legislative session, the Commission will advocate for the following budget and policy recommendations that include the Joint Advocacy Priorities. A copy of our position papers is attached under Tab 2. Staff is preparing packets for our legislative visits that will include ACoA's position papers and other information.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Senior In-Home Services (Division of Senior & Disabilities Services, Senior Grants). ACoA put forward an increment recommendation in the amount of \$500.0 (\$250.0 GF/MH and \$250.0 GF) to DHSS and the Trust to increase multiple year grants (\$2,492.3 baseline) that provide care coordination, chore, and respite services for seniors and unpaid family caregivers in order to address growing waitlists for these services and to provide start-up funds for one new program in an underserved area. The ACoA will advocate in support of the Governor's increment (\$250.0). This program served 1,308 older Alaskans through 15 provider agencies in FY2010.

2. Adult Day Services (Division of Senior & Disabilities Services, Senior Grants). ACoA also recommended an increment of \$350.0 (\$225.0 GF/MH and \$125.0 GF) to the DHSS and the Trust to increase multiple year grants (\$1,555.0 baseline) to adult day programs to serve additional older Alaskans with ADRD, those with physically disabling conditions, and cognitive impairments who are not safe staying alone unsupervised and to provide start-up funds for one new program in an underserved area. The Commission will advocate in support of the Governor's increment (\$225.0). In FY 2010, twelve adult day programs served 472 seniors of whom 56% had dementia.

3. Senior Fall Prevention Implementation (Division of Public Health, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion). In collaboration with SDS, Public Health and the Alaska Native Health Consortium, the ACoA recommended an increment of \$500.0 to DHSS and the Trust to establish a multi-faceted intervention using evidence-based strategies to address risk factors related to senior falls in a three-year pilot. According to the January 2012 report by Public Health, there were 3,356 cases of fall-related injury hospitalizations among persons age 65+ during 2005-2009, representing a 24% increase in such hospitalizations compared to the preceding 5-year time period (from 2000-2004, 2,698 cases were reported). Further, the cost of falls is expensive with \$96 million spent on fall-related hospitalization charges from 2005-2009. No funding was included in the Governor's budget for this initiative.

4. Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative: Joint Advocacy Priority (Division of Behavioral Health). Along with our partner boards and the Trust, the ACoA will advocate for an increment of \$650.0 for inclusion in base funding to provide consultation and training services for community providers and family caregivers who care for people with disabilities (Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, mental illness, developmental disabilities, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and others) who also experience challenging behaviors such as aggression, inappropriate sexual behaviors, wandering, and self-harm. Older Alaskans with moderate to severe dementia in addition to co-existing mental illness and sensory impairments are particularly vulnerable to complex behavior disorders and have significant behavioral health needs. The one-time increment approved last legislative in the amount of \$425.0 will cover services for only six months. Without annualized funding in the base, intensive training and consultation services for Alaskans with complex behavior needs will expire on July 1st, putting vulnerable Alaskans at risk for institutionalization without these supports.

POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

1. Enhanced Services for People with ADRD. The Commission will continue its advocacy for providing waiver services or an adequate amount of additional senior grant program funding for this population of exceptionally vulnerable Alaskans. Securing waiver services for people with ADRD has been an ongoing priority for senior advocates for many years however, some progress has been made. The new Community First Choice Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program will provide cueing assistance for people with ADRD however income eligibility will be restrictive as PCA is a program structured under Medicaid and many older persons with ADRD will not be able to income-qualify. Income eligibility under the waiver program is more flexible and can better serve residents with ADRD in the Pioneer Homes.

2. Coordinated Transportation for Alaskans with Disabilities (Joint Advocacy Priority). In partnership with our partner boards and the Trust, the Commission will continue to advocate for legislation to support enhanced funding for community transportation, to identify the role of public and community transportation that addresses the needs of seniors and people with disabilities, and to establish a permanent statewide Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board (SB 77, HB 30, HB 131). HB 131, legislation to establish a permanent advisory board on community transportation, was approved by the House and now moves over to the Senate for consideration. The Governor's budget included \$1 million for transportation.

3. Strengthened Elder Protection Efforts. ACoA will advocate in support of the Governor's increment of \$550.0 for Adult Protective Services to add investigative positions to improve safety for vulnerable Alaskans. We also support the Governor's companion bills (HB 150/SB86) to strengthen APS's statutes and other provisions affecting the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office and the Office of Elder Fraud to increase protection of vulnerable older adults against acts of abuse and financial exploitation. We provided a letter of support to Senate Finance Committee when SB 86 was heard. A copy is included under Tab 2. This bill affects five departments and only one department reported a fiscal note (\$48,000).

4. AHFC Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund. ACoA will advocate for AHFC's capital increment to support planning, development, and renovation of senior housing for a growing senior population. The Governor's budget included an increment of \$4.5 million for the SCHDF, which is the same amount approved for the last three years. Increased funding is needed for this program to address increasing construction and renovation costs and growing requests for SCHDF funds.

5. Phased Expansion of the Alaska Pioneer Homes. ACoA supports the recommendation put forward by the Pioneer Home Advisory Board (PHAB) to support a phased expansion of the Pioneer Homes beginning with adding a total of 60 beds for the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. A capital increment in the amount of \$15 million will be requested by the PHAB to add a 25-bed wing during the first phase of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home expansion followed by adding 36 beds during the second phase. These funds are not in the capital budget but have support from the Interior delegation.

6. Patient-Centered Medical Home Model (PCMH): A Joint Advocacy Priority. ACoA supports the Department's efforts to develop the infrastructure for the patient-centered medical home to provide comprehensive, culturally competent and coordinated primary care services that will address chronic health conditions and include expanded access to mental health specialists. ACoA supports the PCMH model for seniors because it provides flexible, holistic patient-centered care, encourages family involvement and has a proven track record for producing positive health outcomes and patient satisfaction.

ACoA Senior Legislative Teleconferences: From January 19th through April 20th, the Commission will host nine 90-minute teleconference meetings to offer education and discussion of senior-related legislation. Senior centers and other senior provider agencies serve as host sites for these teleconferences statewide. The teleconferences are scheduled every other Thursday morning during session and once weekly during the last month of session from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We thank Lesley Thompson and Pat Branson, ACoA's Legislative Advocacy Committee chair, for coordinating these informative teleconference meetings.

ACoA Support Letters: ACoA has submitted the following letters of support this session: Protection of Vulnerable Adults (SB 86), Civil Legal Services Fund, (SB 62/HB 299), Absentee Voting (HB 260), and SB 179 (Missing Vulnerable Adult Prompt Response). Copies of our letters are attached under Tab 2.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) State Plan & Community Forum: The ACoA has prepared a report providing an overview of the intent for developing a new state plan addressing the needs of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and the outcomes from our first community forum held in Anchorage last December. We will submit this report to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Commissioner's office, Administration on Aging (AoA), the Trust, and the Division of Senior and Disabilities (SDS). A copy of the report is attached under Tab 2.

On February 14th, we will conduct a similar ADRD forum (as we did in Anchorage) at the Juneau Senior Center. Amber Smith, Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency of Alaska, will provide the educational presentation. The Juneau forum questions and flyer are attached under Tab 2. Commissioners are asked to help facilitate the small group discussions to address the forum questions employing the same format used for the Anchorage forum.

In late January, we met with representatives from the national Alzheimer's Association in Anchorage and Juneau. They were in Alaska to meet with various state officials, the Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency of Alaska, and legislators to discuss the importance of developing an ADRD State Plan in Alaska. We will continue this dialogue through the planning process for Alaska's ADRD State Plan.

Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, FY 2012-2015: We are pleased to announce that the State Plan is now in final format, thanks to the good work of the DHSS Public Information Team. The full version is posted on the ACoA website. The printed plan is available in an abbreviated version which includes some but not all of the appendices. A copy of the abbreviated plan will

be distributed to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, legislators, state agencies, and the public.

ACoA prepared a memo to the Administration on Aging (AoA) noting revisions to the Plan since it was approved on July 28th. These revisions include the following:

- (1) Updating 2009 census numbers with 2010 information in the funding formula;
- (2) Separating funding for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention program (Title III D funds) from the “hold harmless provision” used in the funding formula for Nutrition, Transportation and Support (NTS) services to allow the Department flexibility to revamp the program and emphasize Title III funds for services that utilize new evidence-based strategies for health promotion (such as fall prevention); (3) Excluding the Family Caregiver Grant and Senior In-Home Grant Programs from the “hold harmless provision” because two of the nine regions in the state did not apply for these funds; and (4) Adding appendix N, “Memorandum of Agreement,” between the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) and the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) describing the coordination between the OLTCO and Adult Protective Services in responding to reports of senior harm.

Implementation of the State Plan: The Commission has prepared a report for the AoA describing the two-day implementation meeting held on December 8th and 9th with our implementation agency partners in Anchorage. This report was submitted to the DHSS Commissioner’s Office, SDS, the Trust, and our state plan implementation partners. A copy of the State Plan implementation report is attached under Tab 2.

ACoA Internal Affairs

ACoA New Staff: Donna Bownes began work as ACoA’s new Planner II on January 17th. Donna holds a Master of Arts degree in Behavioral Health Sciences. As a consultant, she has worked with many federal and state agencies, as well as community organizations, in helping them to develop their planning documents and regulations. Donna is a former Juneau resident who recently moved back to town with her husband after living in Washington DC for the past ten years. Please join me in welcoming Donna to the Commission!

ACoA Committees: The Executive Committee and Legislative Advocacy Committees both met on January 27th. The Executive Committee reviewed and took action on the draft agenda for the February meeting and held other discussion. The Legislative Advocacy Committee reviewed and approved ACoA's position papers and discussed other matters including a recommended increment amount for AHFC's Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund (SCHDF). The approved minutes for the November meetings of both Committees are under Tab 1. The Planning Committee hosted the State Plan Implementation meeting on December 8th-9th and a report of the outcomes from that meeting is attached under Tab 2. No other committees met this last quarter.

Financial Report: The ACoA financial report is attached under Tab 2.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Department of Health and Social Services: A copy of the department's budget overview to the House Finance Committee is attached under Tab 4. DHSS Commissioner Bill Streur's made an excellent presentation to House Finance Committee members (1/24/12).

Alaska Health Summit: The ACoA participated in a panel discussion, "Access to Primary Care for Seniors: Status & Options," at the Alaska Health Summit in Anchorage (1/23/12). Other panel members included representatives from Alaska Medicare Clinic, Providence Senior Care Center, the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, and Alaska's Community Health Center Senior Access Program. The purpose of our presentation was to present information about the problem many seniors insured by Medicare have finding a family doctor and to discuss the efforts of three non-profit clinics delivering primary care to Anchorage seniors. This presentation was well-attended and received. ACoA presented findings from the Senior Survey regarding senior access to health care, a comparison of health findings of Alaska seniors with their U.S. counterparts, and demographic information about Alaska's growing older adult population. A copy of ACoA's power point is attached under Tab 2. ACoA has been invited to

participate in the same panel presentation at the Rural Health Conference scheduled for April 24th-26th in Anchorage.

Healthy Aging Oral Health Meeting: The Division of Public Health, with support from the ACoA, received a grant from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Healthy Aging last fall to assess the unmet dental needs for older Alaskans. ACoA has been invited to attend the required Technical Assistance Healthy Aging Oral Health Grantee meeting with a representative from Public Health (Brad Whistler) on February 8th in Atlanta, Georgia. Alaska has an enhanced Medicaid adult dental program that includes dental and denture services for seniors. We will be interested in learning about other state experiences for encouraging senior participation in oral health surveillance surveys as well as specific federal policies under consideration that could improve dental services for seniors.

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS): SDS released for public comment draft regulations governing the operation of the State's four Medicaid waiver programs in early December. Due to the response from concerned stakeholders, SDS has temporarily withdrawn the proposed regulations and the associated "Standards of Practice." An informational session is scheduled for February 15th to allow SDS the opportunity to clarify the intent of the proposed changes before re-releasing the draft regulations for public comment.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority: The Trust will convene the Joint Advocacy Summit on January 30th and 31st for the advocacy board partners to develop advocacy plans for our two joint legislative priorities for this year and to visit with legislators to advocate for these priorities on behalf of Trust beneficiaries. The priorities include:

- (1) Coordinated Transportation for Alaskans with Disabilities and
- (2) Complex Behavior Collaborative: Consultation and Training

We thank the Trust for sponsoring the Summit and ACoA Commissioners for their participation. Commissioners attending the Summit include Sharon, Banarsi, Pat, Iver, Paula, and Marie.

On February 1st, the Trustees will meet in Juneau for their quarterly meeting. Sharon and I will present information about ACoA's current activities with a focus on our efforts to collaboratively implement the State Plan for Senior Services and develop a new state plan focused on people impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. A copy of our power point presentation is attached (Tab 2).

ACoA Legislative Advocacy Committee

FY2012 Goals

- Develop and approve FY 2013 ACoA budget and policy recommendations for advocacy in FY2012
- Develop position papers for ACoA's FY 2013 legislative advocacy priorities.
- Develop and approve a strategic advocacy action plan for FY 2012.
- Advocate for ACoA's FY 2012 legislative advocacy priorities that include ACoA's FY2013 budget and policy recommendations and the Joint Advocacy Priorities to the Legislature, Governor and the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Facilitate the FY 2012 "Senior Legislative Teleconferences," provide bill tracking, coordination of guest speakers, and other information on legislation of interest to Alaska seniors.
- Conduct an evaluation of the legislative teleconferences and report outcomes to the Commission.

The Legislative Advocacy Committee has identified the following FY2013 budget and policy recommendations for FY 2012 to build the continuum of long-term supports for older Alaskans.

Budget Recommendations

1. **Senior In-Home Services.** Request for a budget increment to build capacity for grant-funded wrap-around services that include care coordination, chore, and respite, and to address the growing waitlist for these services statewide. Funding recommended is

\$500.0: \$250.0 GF/MH and \$250.0 GF). Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Senior Community Grants.

2. **Adult Day Programs.** Increment requested to build capacity for Adult Day Programs that serve many older Alaskans with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia. As a long-standing program for seniors, adult day has been flatly funded over the last 10 years. Recommended increment is \$350.0: \$225.0 GF/MH and \$125.0 GF). Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Senior Community Grants.
3. **Senior Fall Prevention.** Funding is requested to implement a multi-faceted intervention using evidence-based strategies to address the high rate of fall-related injuries and deaths for older Alaskans as well as the significant cost of falls related to hospitalization, follow-up services, as well as personal distress and loss of independence for the senior. Funding recommended is \$500.0: \$200.0 GF/MH and \$300.0 GF.
4. **Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Hub.** Request for a budget increment to establish the “Hub,” the first of the three primary components for the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative. Funding in the amount of \$475.0 was approved by the Legislature (\$325.0 GF/MH) and the Trust (\$150.0) as a one-time increment to initiate the effort. ACoA, the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education and the Alaska Brain Injury Network are jointly advocating for full funding in the amount of \$650.0 and for that amount to be included in the base as continuing funds.

DRAFT Policy Recommendations

1. Support increased grant funding that is commensurate with the increase in the senior population to ensure a safety net of services for all older Alaskans.
2. Continue to work with SDS and DHSS to support enhancement of the Medicaid waiver to serve older Alaskans with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia and persons with other cognitive impairments.
3. Support the phased expansion of the Pioneer Homes, beginning with the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, to address the long-term care needs of a rapidly increasing senior population and the growing numbers of older people on the active wait list for the Pioneer Homes.
4. Advocate for adequate funding to build appropriate, accessible, and affordable housing for older Alaskans where they live.
5. Advocate for funding and policy to promote coordinated transportation for people with physical and cognitive disabilities.
6. Support senior center director and board development with appropriate technical assistance.
7. Promote the use of the medical home of care as a way to provide whole-person care for seniors.

8. Promote efforts to improve safety and protection of vulnerable older Alaskans by supporting the Department of Health and Social Services and the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman in the implementation of measures identified in HCR 3.

Alaska Commission on Aging

Approved FY 2012 Executive Committee Goals

- Develop strategies to encourage more stakeholder input and engagement to inform ACoA of senior needs at the community level.
- Review and approve ACoA's FY 2013 budget and policy recommendations developed and approved by the ACoA Legislative Advocacy Committee for presentation to the Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.
- Oversee and approve preparation of the Annual Report for FY 2011.
- Review and approve Commission quarterly meeting calendars and agendas for FY 2012 developed by the Chair and Executive Director.
- Approve and monitor the Commission's operating budget.
- Plan a rural outreach meeting for FY 2012 and identify a location for FY2013.
- Approve the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director.
- Make appointments of committee chairs and members.