

**ACoA Quarterly Meeting
May Fairbanks Meeting
Fairbanks Pioneer Home &
Fairbanks Senior Center
May 4th & May 6th, 2010
Approved**

Meeting Called to order: 9:10 AM

Roll call: Commission Members Present: Sharon Howerton-Clark, Paula Pawlowski, Patricia Branson, Banarsi Lal, Barbara McNeil, Betty Keegan, Eleanor Dementi, Iver Malutin, Joanne Gibbens. Commission Members not present: Nita Madsen. Staff Members present: Denise Daniello, MaryAnn VandeCastle, Lesley Thompson, and Sherice Ridges.

Safety Moment: Paula conducted a safety moment.

Meeting Agenda: Passed with changes.

Meeting Minutes: Adopted with changes.

Commission Chair Report, Sharon Howerton-Clark: In January Sharon said she met with Rep. Paul Seaton. Sharon participated in the Legislative Teleconferences. Sharon said she meets with Homer Senior Providers monthly. Sharon attended the February Trust Trustee meeting in Juneau, the SAC meetings, Pioneer Home Board meetings and the Trust teleconferences. Sharon also met with SDS Pat and Rebecca on Social Security to testify on Medicaid review. Sharon said that the next week after this meeting she will be attending the Anchorage Trust meeting and meeting with Ron Adler the API Director regarding call for action regarding seniors with maladaptive behaviors such as aggression. What needs to happen is to bring together resources together to meet this need. Sharon said she will also meet with ANTHC elders regarding their perspective on issues for the State Plan. Sharon said she heard that this was well reviewed.

Commission Vice-Chair, Paula Pawlowski – Paula reported that she attended the Executive Board teleconferences and ACoA’s Board meetings. Paula said she conducted board facilitation training regarding our public forums.

Executive Director’s Report, Denise Daniello – report attached

The Commission on Aging was not able to get our number one priority SB32 for regular rate review passed but otherwise we had a lot of legislative success with SB 199 for Adult Dental, SB 238 for Medicaid income limits.

SCR 13 ?????????? honored senior caregivers which drew attention to family care providers.

The Budget is \$1 million for a Medicare Clinic.

Regarding SB32, the Department of Health & Social Services has issued draft regulations on the rate review process. Comment on this is due May 17th. We would like providers to advise us on issues. Tie rates to CMS market basket rather than set dollar amount and review the rates once every four years. Denise said she attended the Rural Health Conference last week with ACoA Commission Member Banarsi Lal. The conference had an emphasis on workforce development, health care needs and government. She also attended a tele-health session sponsored by ANTHC. We can expand our continuum of senior services. Alaska Health Care Commission recommends development of RACE program in Alaska to keep people at home longer. ACoA has been interested in this for a long time. Denise said she attended the WICHE meetings regarding resolving issues of beneficiaries with maladaptive behaviors. The goal is to do a report by August to identify strategies to meet this populations needs. This would focus on adults with assaultive behavior from pioneer homes, assisted living homes and home care. The most important needs would be equal to crisis stabilization which would take 6 months to a year and build residential long term

support services to serve this group. Next week the Trust data presentation and new theories regarding population health approach to outcomes.

Public Comment:

Vanessa Salinas at the Manager for the Alaska Food Coalition said that the food coalition is a statewide organization with 87 members and they are a partner with the Alaska Dept. of Health & Social Services. The food coalition and the Department works together to strengthen food assistance programs in Alaska. At least one third of those served are seniors. They need help getting food home especially with stairs and need help with cooking some items. Seniors are taking home part of the congregate meals for another meal. Salvation Army has twice as many seniors in Anchorage and needs their services. They fear that seniors fear that things are getting worse. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation has two to three issues a year to concentrate on. In 2010 they identified senior hunger. Ask that new stat plan have a goal of decreasing food insecurity.

Pat Branson asked about the muni's.

Vanessa answered they have Native Corporations and groups from Anchorage, state agencies, etc.

A member list is posted on their website.

Pat said that Commission members can take information to other groups they are part of and connect with them. Vanessa said that she was available to help get word out to communities.

Alaska Mobility Coalilition, David Levy – Executive Director.

David gave a legislative update on 2 priorities, adoption of the Governor's Administration and order on coordinated transportation. They are working on

the Governor's office regarding establishing a new commission. David told the Commission that if anyone is interested to let him know.

The State wide funding for transportation was not as successful this year. It is tough to get people, the government legislators to see the value of public transportation. Statewide they are pleased that the Trust put in money for coordinated transportation. There was a state wide public awareness campaign in February and March. Thanks to Pat Branson they were able to target newspapers, radio, and online to recognize the role of public transportation and how it effects our lives.

Denise asked if it was the same amount of funding in the budget as last year for coordination transportation.

David said the funding was slightly less than last year. The Trust may fund some other transportation projects.

Senior & Disabilities Report, Joanne Gibbens, Deputy Director

Joanne reported that there was a federal review update switching focus from writing corrective action plan which is done, and will be meeting regularly with CMS to report on progress implementing the plan on the question and answer processes measuring how they do their job and its impact on clients and providers. They are working on developing DS3 and date reporting and need to be able to show numbers . There is a new waiver application that is due Feb. 2011. As they identify problems, they have to implement solutions with continuous quality improvement.

Senior Grants the Pioneer homes were awarded \$50,000 for CDS MP in Anchorage and Mat- Su. Partners ACOA, UAF, Parish nurses, Senior Centers in Anchorage and Chugiak and Palmer. Joanne said that people can contact

Anchorage ADRC or Nance Jamieson with SDS for more information. For FY11 all grants remain at FY 10 funding levels.

There are 3 new start ups for ADRC. BBNA begins July 1st. There is a new independent living center in Dillingham. ARRA's money is all spent. Grant staff thanks all providers who went above and beyond to feed more seniors and report on it.

Rural outreach trips are being done with senior grants and have a renewed focus. SDS is doing rural site reviews. There was a recent trip to Bethel and Fairbanks in the interior.

Upcoming trips are Nome, White Mountain, Kotzebue, and Dillingham. ADRC's are now required to have a five year service trainability plan and we are working with ACoA on this.

Adult Protection Services for Elder Justice Act is part of the HCR Bill. There will be \$100 million each year from 2011 through 2014 in Federal monies for the Alaska's APS. In Alaska, APS is now 100% Grant Funded. We are waiting to see the Federal regulations and will probably be formula driven.

March 2010 there were 221 calls alleging abuse of a vulnerable adult. There were 145 verified. The majority of calls are regarding older adults for self neglect, financial exploitation, neglect, mental abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse or abandonment.

SB219 for TBI (traumatic brain injury) passed and we are working closely with ABIN to develop this program. We need to develop a registry to monitor and track progress of TBI individuals. There are changes to the statute so that case management is one of the services for TBI. Families need initial case management to help them know what services to access when they need it.

The Waiver regulations will be out for comment by the end of May. There is a 30 to 60 day comment period.

Eleanor Dementi asked how the money from the feds will be used.

Joanne said that some money will be used for long term care too. And for prevention of elder abuse and to hire additional staff to investigate cases.

Pat Asked about the rural outreach trips by grant staff. Pat said the RFP is too over whelming to cover a huge area for \$80,000. Kodiak had a serious exploitation situation last week and got calls right away for APS to investigate. The online grant applications work great.

Denise said that ACoA heard about the need for more HCBSS for rural elders and that there are not enough services and not enough money to pay for people to stay in business.

Denise said that the Tanana Chief , the interior population no longer has PCA services. Elders don't want to move to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

Joanne said Rural Long Term Care development staff are looking at some pilot projects and are aware of the need and are working on it.

Pat said that there should be staff in rural areas who know how to access services. This goes back to SB32 and we need to keep HCBS (home community based services) in business rather than have to build facilities.

Iver Malutin said he received a call from Kotzebue regarding services questions. Iver said we are an information source to anyone who sees us. There is a big need in the villages. We need to do better on our communications.

Paula Pawlowski asked about the coordination with Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Joanne said their mandate is on cases with abuse in institutional care. We share information back and forth consistently.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Report, ACoA Chair, Sharon Howerton-Clark and ACoA Executive Director, Denise Daniello

Sharon said we accomplished all goals for this year.

Planning Committee Report – Banarsi Lal and Denise Daniello, MaryAnn VandeCastle

(Who spoke)We were required to develop a state plan to receive OAA money again. We need to identify and document the needs of Alaska Seniors. We had a planning committee meeting then plan steering committee meeting. The Planning Committee that we had 3/25 we discussed make-up of steering and review committee and the size of the plan. Our plan is big. Our plan is almost a reference document. A lot of it equaled federal required assurances. We need to stay with 6 goals. We decided on a smaller steering Committee and a larger review committee with a regional focus.

Denise said that Alaska has a huge culturally diverse and it is helpful to have at least some description of each of the 9 DHSS regions. We have 118 strategies and it is difficult to track. This one will have far fewer more manageable strategies. We'll identify and note agency partners commitment to strategies. The funding formula will have to discuss but want a hold harmless clause.

Denise said the question is gear the money to the more populated areas or focus on the rural areas where services cost ore. We are limited to the amount of money and we hope to see more money in the future.

Banarsi said that we don't want a climate of anxiety around funding and we are better off to try to eliminate that. April 14 our first steering committee meeting. We discussed our senior forums to gather information on concerns.

Denise said that the forums help us gather information on services and gaps for needed services. We'll solicit public comment at the end of the planning process. So far, forums in Kotzebue, Anchorage, and Juneau. Tomorrow we will have one here in Fairbanks. We also had one at the ANTHC meeting last week. SDS will help us collect information on some other communities.

Banarsi said that the issue is the changing role of the senior centers for Boomers and the elderly. Senior Centers need to get ready to meet the needs of a new group. The behavioral Health needs of the elderly, Long Term Care supports, ADRD issues. Also coordination with PHAB regarding HCBS. The Pioneer homes don't do a state plan and may want to look at emphasis on partnership. We can't do it all.

One example is Alaska Psychiatric Institute regarding needs of combative seniors.

Denise said that the stake holder/ review committee will be much larger to review narrative drafts, etc. and to please let her know if anyone is interested in being on this and is also looking for consumer representation. One urban, one rural elder who actually utilizes senior services for meals, rides, etc.

Banarsi said that June 8th he attended a face to face all day meeting in Anchorage.

Long Term Care Ombudsman, Bob Dryer

Bob reported that there was closure of the four assisted living homes in March. There were charges involved for endangering vulnerable adults. There was one senior that had DDMH in Anchorage. The second person was in Fairbanks and it was investigated by the police in North Pole. There was a death due to

inappropriate medication management. Adult Protective services placed folks. The Denali Center took 5 residents. There was a volunteer that went down to NP to help residents and they did an awesome job. Julie spoke in Juneau about this in March. Lisa did training for 30 CAN students at Job Corps in Palmer. Bob said he resigned from his position as the Long Term Care Ombudsman the Friday before. Bob said he is now a volunteer to help the transition strictly an economic thing. The numbers add up. Bob said it is time to move on to new challenges. Bob thanked ACoA for our support especially for the new position, he said he appreciates everyone.

Sharon told Bob she wishes him the best.

Bob said he plans to take a few months off and then look for another challenge, probably regarding seniors.

Bob said that Julie Beatty will probably be Acting LTCO. He'll stay and help with the transition. Elder abuse was trying in May so he said that he would stay until July.

Banarsi asked about the NP situations.

Bob said that he couldn't say too much, there was a death in the home due to over medication. There were two homes shut down due to risk to other residents.

Barbara asked about the Mary Conrad Center.

Bob said that it was going okay. Had one or two cases there but more regarding personality over care. They have good support administration.

Barbara McNeil asked about the Horizon House.

Bob said that home didn't ring a bell.

Iver said that the neglect is kind of sad and asked if the volunteer program would continue.

Bob said yes and it needs infusion of a little more direction. There were too many difficult cases that over rode the volunteer coordination. There is a new position that will be effective in July and this should help.

Legislative Advocacy Report, Patricia Branson

This year ACoA had successful Legislative teleconferences. We had legislative successes and will continue to work on the SB32 issue on rate review. Pat said thanks to Lesley Thompson, Denise Daniello, AARP's Marie Darlin and Pat Luby.

Pioneer Home Board Report, Banarsi Lal – Report attached.

DHSS Deputy Commissioner Report, Patrick Hefley

Pat said he worked for 30 years for Tribal Health principles. Indian Health improvement act changes the game. Fee for service verses all inclusive rates established by Congress. This is hard to bridge.

Pat said he is unsure if IHCIA includes money. It always comes back to money. We got the health aides on as registered outpatient providers. The more money the more inclusive the rates. If you can get all inclusive rates for the Long Term Care piece, you can do business. There is need for certainty. Will Anchorage legislators accept expansion of pioneer homes? If yes or no, that gives us an anchor regarding how to direct our energies.

Sharon said she spoke to 9 legislators regarding advancement of additional Pioneer Homes. We got nothing but "It's about time!" reactions!

Pat said it is too bad Kay Branch is not on the agenda as she has valuable information regarding Long Term Care plans.

Trust Training Workforce Committee Report, Denise Daniello

Last week the Workforce committee met to review the logic model plans for professional training for health care workers and training cooperative for direct services workers. Denise and Barbara participated in this. The Trust and Health and Social Services have an RFP regarding workforce training.

Governor's Council Report, Banarsi Lal

Banarsi said that there is a meeting right now at the Westmark tonight with a public reception. The Governor's Council and the Alaska Commission on Aging have shared some of the same legislative advocacy priorities. The Council supported four joint Trust Priorities. SB32, Coordinated Transportation funding, BTKH, Homeless Coalition Housing Funds and 1515 project intensive services. They wanted to get rid of HS qualifying exam but it didn't happen, this was a big disappointment. The insurance coverage for autism treatment didn't make it, but had other successes.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Jim McCall

Jim gave a legislative recap. The operating budget is good and has \$1.25 million more than FY10. Alaska is one of 5 states with veteran's mortgage program with a great interest rate. This will be on the ballot in November and has to be re-authorized periodically. SB220 for energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Next year they are going to try to get it changed to include senior centers. We recommend advocating for this next year. The goal is to improve energy

efficiency of public facilities. Senior centers are obviously public facilities. HB369, AHFC is now in the gas line business and was signed into law. \$1.7 million general funds and RSA from the Governor's office to complete their part of in state pipe line. And AHFC will create a subsidiary. AHFC's CEO is responsible and has until July 2011 to get report to the legislature. Jim said to stay tuned. Senior Citizen Housing Development fund received was \$4.5 million and thanks the Commission for the support. In the future we should have actual seniors advocate for housing and money demands from the people. We need more money.

Denise said that we wanted to ask for more but stuck with the AHFC request. We'll back whatever you ask for. The Re-do Loussac Manor could be a dip in the development for 2011. There are updates of units being developed in Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks, Homer, and Togiak. The corporation is moving to a seniors only designation for public housing. It is a slow process. We can't evict, it must be done via affliction and will still need to be 10% disabled. We have one more housing choice vouchers to offer to disabled and it is the Golden Towers, and it is started. Chugach View which will be available May 1st. Mountain View, Chugach Manor and one more complex.

In Anchorage there is a waiting list of 272 and for Chugach View and Chugach Manor there are 176 as of 2009.

For 2010 there is a waiting list of 29 in Juneau, 21 in Ketchikan, 2 in Seward, 10 in Sitka

For a total of 317 for 2010.

The rebate program pays an average of \$6,200. There are 580 participants for the 5 star plus new home program, 1,700 on the wait list. The average home is ending up to be about \$4,500 for the average home owner investment with a pay back of 3 years.

Jim said they are working with Soldotna for assisted living development. They want 26 assisted living units which the market doesn't support.

Pat Branson asked about the new senior housing on Near Island.

Iver asked about the overall AHFC budget.

Jim said that is just shy of \$1 million.

HUD Senior Housing, Carma Reed

Carma said it is an exciting time at HUD. Alaska has attention of HUD as a whole. They visited Alaska last August, Bethel, Hooper Bay. They made quite an impression. They are interested in Cold Climate Housing. The research is doing phenomenal stuff. So Alaska has been noticed by senior leadership at HUD.

What HUD does is provide tools to promote economic development and housing development and remove slight and provide TA and money to the State of Alaska and local governments to administer. HUD directs grants to NPs for homelessness and Other tribal entities. FY2009 \$276 million was invested in Alaska. \$1.3 billion if you count loan guarantees. 35% increase is due to ARRA money and fair housing laws. The Federal Government is not a place to get creative.

Transformational is a current theme. We are rethinking a lot of things and interest, intent, drive to transform HUD. We want to collaborate across federal departments.

Senior housing within HUD the Capital and long term operating subsidy. These programs are notorious for being difficult to work with. The vision is to try to simplify and consolidate 13 HUD rental assistance programs into 3. This is a good time to express your frustrations. Denise said that would be 5 by 2025.

Carma said those are not the only ones. The projects and have been incredibly challenging. Place based management and have locals make more of the decisions.

Sharon asked about the voucher program.

Carma said that Jim Gerke is a better person to answer.

There is no new S 8 through HUD, but AHFC has options.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Jim Gerke

Jim reported that elderly housing has included disabled one bedroom units. There is a long story why, we now have the opportunity to designate certain developments for elderly as the preference. Golden Towers is now EP. Only needed to give notice, but it is the lesser of 1992 or 10% must be reserved for disabled. As of May 1st, 2010 the same rule applied to Chugach View which has 120 units. We can't evict and it will gradually repopulate with the elderly. Jim said he is unsure regarding the other developments. They are looking for public housing in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau and Ketchikan. We must put together a plan. Chugach Manor and Mountain View is likely to be the first. Golden Ages have 18 of 20 units now occupied by younger disabled. We may make it a disabled property. They aren't entitled to know what kind of disability a person has just a Doctor's Certification of disability.

Sharon said the Commission has not known about these problems.

Jim said that first in 1978 there were the younger handicapped where included with the elderly. Congress makes the laws, HUD enforce sometimes the problem is the elderly people are complicated and the managers have a hard time

supporting the residents. Unless the legislature were to augment their appropriation. It has been a real struggle. Congress funds the formula at only 88%. So the program is not fully funded. Personnel is the number one expense. They do have 5 to 8 managers still at the Chugach View and the Chugach Manor. There are two types of vouchers. There are 4,216 moving to work vouchers. There are 8 normal housing choice vouchers and also has vouchers for veterans.

Denise said she has a list of regional managers. Amy Hilery in SE, Cordova in Ketchikan, etc.

Pat Branson said that there is a big difference regarding the problems occurring without resident managers. This can be more costly in the long run.

Jim said that they do have service coordinators in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks.

Retirement Community of Fairbanks. The recent Trends Magazine said that the update on the senior spending is up to almost \$2 billion.

The current senior center only can accommodate 50 people, they don't see themselves as competing but rather complementary. There are over 10,000 seniors in Fairbanks. They'll continue to do meals on wheels, asking them for State help in building the Community Center. AHFC, and HUD don't do those. They are asking for a donation and the State to pay money for a total of \$2.3 million. They expect residents and users will pay the bills later. Pay for staff, instructors, etc.

Iver suggests that approaching Native Corporations.

Residents will have to pay for a basic meal plan.

They need more assisted living homes. Pioneer homes is all there is and it's full. Folks with ADRD are having to leave.

Jim McCall said that if it is a private entity, AHFC might be willing to invest, as in Wasilla (Primrose), you can do so much less paperwork and less requirements.

Fairbanks Resource Agency: There is an adult day center Monday through Friday 7:30 to 5:30. There is a NFC grant for caregivers for families caring for a loved one that is older than 60. This program provides a variety of information for caregivers needs and case management and medical supplies, etc.

They just started the SOAR Grant and it is presenting available services in the community. The waiver care coordination and senior in-home services such as chore, respite, case management. There are living will classes that are for 6 weeks. The capacity is for 25 for the adult day. They have 17 now since they lost some over the holidays. A fourth of the residents are on a waiver. They have a sliding scale for private pay clients. One bank is hiring someone to work with seniors and those who come in seeking help to balance their check book. ADRAA now comes in monthly to present various information.

Paula Pawlowski said she likes the innovation of their public outreach.

Fairbanks Elders – no show

Access Alaska – no show

AARP, Marie Darlin

Pat Luby is in Chicago for an AARP meeting on the new health care legislation. What AARP considers wins this year, SCR 13. This recognizes caregivers. SB199

for Adult Dentures, SB10 for clinical trials for cancer SB13 for DKC. There are more than 1,300 children covered under prevention which saves money in the long run. Alaska Health Care Commission extended to 2014, SB 284. SB 238 corrects Medicaid Long-Term Care income eligibility and helped defeat HSR 35 to disallow mandate purchase of health insurance.

There are major losses on pension benefits. The new plan is not saving the state any money. SB 139 is to provide financial incentives for health care providers. SB 32 died at the end of session but was supported by AgeNet and the Alaska Commission on Aging. The regulations were supposed to be addressing some of these issues.

Denise said that the Department is trying to do this by the regulations. Providers should review and let us know what the issues are. May 17th is the deadline for public comment.

The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities can and will share their 19 page response. There is an extensive draft to review and consider. There will be a question and answer on Thursday in the evening. There is some confusion and some concerns on the health and safety of the rates regarding people with challenging behaviors. There is money set aside for the rate in the regulations. Care must be provided in a 100% segregated setting and how does that work in an assisted living home? HCBS's whole point is to keep the person in an inclusive environment.

Pat with AgeNet is reviewing this also.

Marie is hoping that Pat Luby will bring back information on how the new legislation will affect the states.

Joanne Gibbens said that the Governor's Council raised the issue of separating rate decisions from SDS programs. There is concern that the finances are driving programs.

Pat Branson said that this is a concern of providers.

Denise asked if there are any other comments on the regulations.

Someone from the audience said that they are thrilled to see a glog tied to the location of the provider not the individual. They advocated for the services to be available in the villages but it didn't happen.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation Manager, David Leone
Handout attached.

AgeNet, Ken Duff, VP

Ken reported that June 14th was their annual meeting at ADRAA in Anchorage.

Pat Branson said that it was their 21st. They need to elect new officers. SB32 is a big disappointment.

There are regulations on waivers and PCA rates. DHSS will have a work session on Thursday.

May 5th Meeting Called to order.

Department of Health and Social Services, Deputy Commissioner Patrick Hefley

Pat said that he enjoyed participating in the Elder Forum. Pat said regarding SDS, he traveled to CMS in Chicago. They are moving to a sampling system in business processes to 95% confidence level. It takes the pressure off and allows them to do more of what they want to do. They are catching up now, things will be timelier and more able to address things. And more able to address quality improvement. This allows for time to fix the errors discovered and will be able to get out more in the field.

Pat Branson asked what is included in the question and answer.

Pat answered they don't have standards of care. Pat said they talked with Delissa at the Trust for money to set up standards for providers. They are looking at regulations then they will develop something with provider input and methodology of what good care should be and then take several years to develop actual standards. But they haven't been reviewed in years.

Pat said that they want providers to know what they will look at when they go out to sites and may reorganize soon to have time to develop standards.

Pioneer Homes is the next stage now. It was asked if the State wants to build another Pioneer home. The first stage was information insights. The second stage is an RFP going out this week per Dave Cote. The legislature and the Governor's Office will need to be involved at some point. We want to make the determination reasonably soon within 2 years to have an anchor point to define what we'll do.

The Department is focusing on integration of services in health delivery model. More services do not fit in one division and must be addressed as a department. EG maladaptive behavior issues. Cuts across many different lines. We can no longer just hand it off to one division to solve. Note that we are partnering with others to the legislature. They need to hear this and how we integrate our medical service with HCR. SB 32 information on Health Care reform on a state website. States were not prepared, and are scrambling to get familiar. There is a 953 page bill with a 100 regulations per page likely. Pat said they are trying to determine what it means to states, employment health insurance, etc. Any major changes. They are looking at the cost of analyzing what its cost will be over a period of years. Some provisions are optional, some are provisional, etc. The matrix of analysis is quite complex creating an environment of uncertainty.

May 5th – Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Center

Sharon asked about Alaska in lawsuit against Health Care Reform.

Pat Hefley said a lawsuit is about only those provisions that require people to buy insurance greater than 6.3% fall under this. It was uncovered that not low-income work for a company that is not required to provide insurance. They claim that it is an interstate commerce issue. Some provisions are not compatible with military benefits. Pat said that he is not sure if that's included in the law suit. The Department is sorting out what the Health Care Reform means.

Medicaid had a substantial cost increment last year \$2.1 to \$2.2 billion. Medicaid is up by 10% from last year. Medicaid will need a substantial increase because there will be more eligible people, there will be more services used per person, there will be higher cost per service than previously. The legislature is saying that we need to something about Medicaid. The State can't afford this. It would be

more ideal for people to have more jobs. The State is looking at possible changes in Medicaid.

Regarding the providers, we need to do an assessment before they have a recommendation.

Pat Branson said that Long Term Care in this country is paid for by Medicaid, unless you're a millionaire.

Pat asked which population creates the biggest increase in Medicaid.

Pat Hefley said that there is bipolar in all ages and need to look at the trend analysis. The answer may be employment, not specific populations. It's not specifically seniors causing the rise. The open system of health care financing has constant cost increases. When most people are covered it tends to move the country into more of a managed care concept and more concern with how to spend money smartly.

SB32 will soon have policy makers that will conclude that this isn't the smartest approach to the budget. If there is no money here than there we can run a model to show what it will cost you. That is the model that we will need to use as our strategy.

Pat said he thought that our SB32 campaign was good last year. This is not so visible this year. We have to anchor this to senior costs. Nursing homes, pioneer homes and assisted living homes, etc are the next year's budget process and is already underway. SB32 is an addition for the environment of Health Care Reform, etc.

Someone from the audience asked what the fiscal not on the bill was.

Pat Branson asked what recommendations there are for a strategy to get this through next year.

Pat Hefley said they meet monthly.

Pat Branson said that the elections are right around the corner and we need this information. Pat asked Pat Hefley if he could please give the information to Denise and Sharon.

Pat Hefley said this is an open vs. closed business model. There is nothing added to the budget until more money comes in. We will look at how early investments do or don't increase or decrease costs.

Denise said that cost equals price times utilization per Deb Erickson. If you can bring service utilization down, costs go down. Home and community based services are cost effective. Should we take these away? People to nursing homes and costs go way up. Prevention is invaluable. We need to show the costs of services are not provided.

Pat Hefley said that we'll get more assistance from the federal government for a while, this is the time to make these changes. We need to look at innovative models to increase health improvements and should allow us to drop a plateau on costs.

Someone in the audience asked about Medicaid access to docs and if it is effective here.

Pat Hefley said that Medicaid is not one thing, it's hundreds of things. This won't happen overnight. It's phased in, 2010 to 2014. There will be subsidies to states over time. We don't know if there will be impact yet regarding the Medicaid.

Denise asked why the SB32 fiscal not increase.

Pat Hefley said I was out of the bill by that time but the fiscal note was seen as a ploy. People asked to know what it was going to cost. I don't know why the fiscal note got changed so late in the game.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Nancy Burke

Nancy reported that there is a new Trust trustee from Juneau Carlton Smith. April 19th was his first meeting and had an orientation for him. May 11th through May 12th is the next Trust Board meeting. The Trust is working with the Government on the DV initiative. The Trust is hiring a coordinator that will be based in the Governor's Office. The Trust is collaborating with Rasmuson and others regarding alcohol initiative. The Trust is hiring a coordinator that will look at services around substance abuse in Alaska.

Regarding the Housing Focus area, the Trust is looking at Long Term Care strategy. For FY12 through FY13 the Budget Recommendations, there is interest in support services for seniors in their homes and for those with behavioral health needs. Providence Hospital is planning a remodel of the extended care facility. They identified the some groups of individuals that would be better served in the community with support. They are looking at how to serve these folks.

Audience asked how the head models are being developed so private enterprise can step in a business model to provide services and how long will this take.

Pat Hefley said that health care is 17% of our economy. This won't happen quickly. That's why the rollout takes years. There will be resistance in certain systems. There will be continuing debate regarding the best ways to provide care. Nothing is cast in stone. There is suggestion of a business oriented approach that could help effectuate change.

Nominations, Banarsi Lal – see report

It was decided that Sharon will remain Commission Chair and Paula Pawlowski will remain Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair term will be two year terms from now on.

Life Long Learning Institute, Barbara Lando

Barbara reported that the institute is for individuals that are 50 years or older. They get office space from University of Alaska Fairbanks but not money. They are supported by member fees and an endowment. There are more than 100 independent OLLI's that are all funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation. \$100,000 a year times 3 years. If 500 plus members and looked good, would it get a million dollars in funding. The money received in 2009 is now invested in U of A Foundation. Expect close to 700 members this year. There are over a 100 courses a year and meet four times a year and for 15 minutes. They offer academic classes, dance, fly-casting, etc. There is a larger curriculum and there are multi-day trips focusing on Alaska. Trips include Glacier Bay, Pribilofs, rafting a 40 mile river, etc. There are also lecture series. The faculty are all volunteers. Dr. Doolittle that teaches "Health Issues" and special interest groups. There is a hiking club, book club etc, socials and it is \$25 dollars a year for membership. The course is \$10.00 or unlimited courses for \$75 a year.

Audience asked if University of Anchorage Alaska is still doing tuition waiver for seniors.

Barbara said yeas but seniors like short courses. Can do other things but not a big commitment.

They are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. People like courses on current events like volcanoes and earthquakes. They like academic topics that are relevant.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Tiffany Corrigan

Tiffany reported that they offer options for seniors and transportation and they do a monthly newsletter. They provide 6 exercise classes a week. There is not enough interest at the Golden Towers. There is a walking club at the Big Dipper. The Commission transports groups of 22 to 50 people. They take them on monthly shopping trips and go on 4 to 5 outings a month. There is a breakfast club. Tiffany Corrigan said that she is the only staff. It would be nice to have more staff to help. There is no cost for the transportation. They take seniors from FRA Adult Day on an outing. They Bowl every Monday. There is not enough time in the day to do everything.

Denise told Tiffany thank you for being a one woman show. Denise said it was great that she takes them ice fishing and makes them homemade soup.

Denise said that Pat Hefley won't be able to make Senior Recognition Day.

Denise said the Commission is donating a nice gift, a book as a door prize and her family is donating syrup.

Tiffany said the VIP tables are in the front and they are reserved.

Adult Learning Program / MAAST – Tom Howard, Program Coordinator

Tom said there is tremendous opportunities for senior to explore the many varied employment opportunities out there. Rita Bowen keeps them in line with goals of the State Plan for senior services all over the state. They had a Department of Labor audit recently. They were amazed at their scope and success. Success is due to their partnerships with state agencies, Native organizations, etc.

The statistics is for 3 quarters of FY10 12 seniors went on to employment. \$15 dollars an hour was their average starting wage etc.

Alaska is one of the 5 states in the nation for CSEP.

Denise asked if seniors talk about age discrimination.

Tom said yes he does a job club. The conversation always talks of the subtle bias out there on age discrimination. He tells them they can learn to balance it all out with great experience, contacts, networking, work ethic, good resume, interview skills, etc.

There are host agencies that are NPS, State or Native Organizations. He places them based on their occupational goals and makes them match.

The types of occupations are varied. They can provide extensive training such as truck driving etc. There are some great success stories.

Tom said he talks to a lot of host agencies to let them know the great benefits of having a senior in their organization. It's a win, win situation. The agency gets help and seniors get experience. Tom asked the Commission and the audience to pass on the information about MASST and what the program can do.

Denise said that the Commission works closely with Rita Bowen with MASST. Rita is on our state plan Steering Committee.

Tom asked Denise to please tell Rita what a great job she has done. Their program has been in the top 3 out of the top 5 since Rita has been in charge.

Joanne Gibbens said they had a MASST worker who went on to a State Department of Revenue position and many seniors get hired by the office they have worked in.

Cathi Ipalook with Denakkanaaga.

Cathi said she was the first Alaska baby born in an airplane.

D. is NP SO1 © (3) organizations serving Native Elders. It has the same geographical boundaries as Dayon. They are in the Morris Thompson building. It is a beautiful facility. It has a living room and kitchen for the elders to enjoy. They have Title VI program to cover the highway villages.

FNA also has Title VI and Title III and they cover Fairbanks. They get confusing to their clients. They work closely with senior centers, FNA, & TCC. They coordinate rather than overlap. I and R, advocacy, legal help, family support, they try to help whatever the need is. Elder hostel program is considered educational tourism. Retired people who want to see Alaska as it is. They offer a glimpse of the real Alaska. They offer lunch and elders do various presentations. They do dog racing, beading, and story-telling. They have a gaming permit. There are 4 pull tab shops with one in Juneau and three in Fairbanks. The pull tab shops bring in \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00 a month and it helps. The Spirit of our Ancestors Program is our oral history. They have a quarterly newsletter. There is an Annual elder and youth conference during June and it is hosted by one of their member villages. They have workshops on fall prevention, suicide, subsistence, etc. Elders are very concerned for the young people regarding education, health care, and suicide. The organization focuses on the history and customs but now it is changing. They are unsure what is going to happen to D. in the years to come. The interest doesn't seem to be there. Interests seem to be more political now, but they keep trying. They are now partnering with Access Alaska. She notices loneliness when one spouse has left. There is not enough for elders to do, so they try to fill that gap.

Denise asked is it that the younger elders don't feel qualified to pass on traditional knowledge.

Cathi said partly, they are so busy work with electronics, raising families and would like to coordinate more with the younger generation.

ADRAA, Joan Adams

Joan reported that there is satellite office in Fairbanks. They are a state wide agency. The last 2 days, they kept hearing the need to get the information out there. That is there job, being an information junkie for whatever people need, wherever. People rarely know about the resources available until they have a need for it. Many see their big sign. They pass out brochures regarding Geriatric NP, health fairs and events. They do a lot of referrals to community agencies. There are quarterly newsletters. They do presentations to local agencies who request training or talks. They reach out to the first responders to discuss dementia characteristics. People can appear normal and carry on conversation, in the early stages. The Mind your Mind book has group activities here at the senior center.

There are art links at the Pioneer Home and they make thematic decorations. This includes reminiscing on how things used to be. There are Savvy Caregiver classes that are 6 weeks and they will be doing them more often. The wait list is almost 30 people now. A majority of the caregivers now are still working and can't go to daytime classes. They May turn into a one day training for remote locations. They do memory screenings on a designated date in November and they call it Alzheimer's Awareness Month but they can do this at anytime.

There are 20 more hours a week this year due to additional funding.

There is a mini-grant program that pays for equipment, etc. which funds family consultations. Joan said she debriefs caregivers.

Dementia caregivers do worse than any other caregivers.

They offer support groups and share information and support each other.

The agency's role is tool-given, it gives them a lot of different tools to try.

Denise asked about the unmet needs for caregivers.

Joan said the lack of transportation to get seniors to appointments, wheel chair access, more awareness of dementia and generally among providers. Advocacy and awareness building is hugely important, and money for seniors.

Carla from the audience said she is a Lifespan Independent Living Certified Aging in Place Specialist. Carla said she works with home-builders. She asks about ambient lighting and barrier free entrances and walls suitable for grab bars. The US Administration on Aging and the National Association of Home Builders are working together regarding universal design and bill nationally.

Alaska Building Codes in Juneau has a \$10,000 deduction from home value for property tax if they're made accessibility modifications. They make specifications mandatory, or incentives. 81% of people want friends to be able to visit.

A universal design incorporates all ages and abilities in the design of housing.

Paula Pawlowski said you never know when you'll need an accessible house.

Carla said ADA does not address all senior needs, egress, or lighting. Builders should not restrict themselves to these specifications.

Denise said that she would contact her when the Commission got to Housing in the state Plan. Many builders are not properly trained to do the home modifications.

Closing Comments:

Paula said the Public input was very valuable to what we do. We need to continue to do that. It may be gone in December. Paula said she was going to Singapore.

Pat said our meetings are good. The public input is always good. Fairbanks was very welcoming.

Joanne said there was a lot of participation with the largest community input session with tons of good ideas and energy.

Denise said she received an email from Kimberli in Bob's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM