

**Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
Quarterly Meeting
Video/teleconference, January 9, 2017**

Chairperson Sharon Fishel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017. She thanked the Council members for attending the meeting and welcomed the two new Council members, Julie Vincek and Andrew Lessig, and thanked them for their willingness to share.

Roll Call was taken. Present: Bill Martin, Julie Vincek, Sharon Fishel, Alana Humphrey, Randall Burns, Sen. Anna MacKinnon, Alavini Lata, Barbara Franks, Brenda Moore, Andrew Lessig, Linda Sheridan, Cynthia Erickson, Sen. Berta Gardner, Rep. Geran Tarr, Lowell Sage

Absent: Rep. Benjamin Nageak, Rob Sanderson Jr.

Approval of the Agenda

Randall Burns **moved to adopt** the agenda. Brenda Moore **seconded**. The agenda was **approved** without objection.

Approval of the Minutes

Alavini Lata **moved** to approve the October 19, 2016 minutes; Brenda Moore **seconded**. The minutes were **approved** without objection.

Attendance Review

Sen. MacKinnon told the new members that 7 years ago legislators were counted as active voting members of the Council and counted against the quorum. Many of the legislators were unable to attend so there were problems with reaching a quorum. The Legislature changed the statute so that legislators became non-voting members and didn't count against the quorum. There has been much better attendance since then and it has been much easier to reach a quorum. The Council also strengthened its bylaws so that if a member misses three consecutive meetings the person will be removed from the Council, except under certain circumstances. Morrison commented that Rep. Geran Tarr was late to the previous meeting so the attendance roster needs to be changed to reflect that. He commented that the attendance record is good other than that. Burkhart commented that the Council needs to send a letter to the Legislative Leadership to have the legislative members on the Council for this session appointed. She asked if Sen. MacKinnon was planning on continuing on with the Council. Sen. Mackinnon commented that she does not plan to seek reappointment to the Council because she expects the legislative session to be difficult due to the financial crisis in the state and she plans to spend the majority of her time this year on the state budget and the Finance Committee. She commented that she will continue to work with the Council if requested, but she doesn't feel that she can commit time to attending the meetings.

Ethics Disclosure

Barbara Franks serves on a board with National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and serves in an advisory capacity for the National Alliance for Mental Illness in Anchorage. Sharon Fishel works for the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), which receives suicide prevention grant funds from the Council as well as a grant from the Division of Behavioral Health and a federal grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Julie Vincek works for the Anchorage School District (ASD), but doesn't have any conflicts in her department. Alana Humphrey works for the Boys and Girls Club in Anchorage and the organization does get competitive grants from time to time, including one currently. Bill Martin is a member of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, which has grants from the state, as well as a member of the Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska General Council, which also has state grants. Brenda Moore co-founded Christian Health Associates, which receives state funding for its school-based health clinics and is a Medicaid provider. Sen. Anna MacKinnon is the Co-Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Linda Sheridan works for Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) as the clinical supervisor, and they have several federal grants and TCC is a Medicaid provider.

Announcements/New Member Introductions

Julie Vincek was born and raised in Nome and is a lifelong Alaskan. She has lived in Anchorage since 1986. She has been with the Anchorage School District since 1990 as a clinical crisis counselor and works primarily with adolescents. The issue of suicide has always been close to her heart since she lost a classmate in high school to suicide. It is a big part of the work she does for the ASD. She is glad to be part of the Council and applied now that her children have left home. She wants to give time and dedication to the issue.

Randall Burns commented that he will be in and out of the meeting due to the airport shooting in Florida that had ties to mental health services and law enforcement in Anchorage. He apologized to the Council for not being able to make several of the past meetings and vowed to have a better attendance record in the future.

Chairperson Fishel commented that Andrew Lessig is the new youth member. Lessig commented that he just finished law school and is currently studying for the Bar Exam in Alaska. He spent the past two years at law school at Syracuse University, after attending the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has lived the majority of his life in Anchorage. He is excited to be involved with the Council. Before attending law school he was on the Commission for Post-Secondary Education. He commented that he specifically applied for the Council position after a classmate died by suicide in high school.

Linda Sheridan commented that she is looking forward to Kate Burkhart's presentation on the Talk of Alaska radio show the next day. She welcomed the new members to the Council.

Quarterly Report from Division of Behavioral Health Prevention, James Gallanos

James Gallanos coordinates the suicide prevention work for the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). He clarified that he is not a Council member, but often attends the meetings to provide updates on the DBH Prevention Section and the work it does on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

There are currently 19 comprehensive prevention grantees in rural and urban communities across the state. It is the third year of a four-year grant cycle. There are another 18 months left in this grant cycle. So far, 17 of the grantees have completed their required deliverables, which include a community needs assessment and submission of their comprehensive plans. They are currently in the implementation phase. There are still two grantees currently revising their comprehensive plans. He anticipates they will be received in the next few weeks and be approved to move into the implementation phase. DBH has looked at how it has evaluated this grant process, what some of the challenges are, and how it rolled out the program. DBH is looking more at a data-driven process that is focused on coalitions collaborating to perform shared decision making about how they want to implement prevention strategies, with the idea that they can reach more productive outcomes. They are hoping to have greater population-driven outcomes rather than focusing on individual outcomes.

They are going through some growing pains through this process but are excited about the potential outcomes the model will provide. The intention at the beginning of the grant cycle was to have communities embrace the strategic prevention framework and for them to go at their own pace. That has been challenging because every community is different and each of them are at different levels of readiness and understanding of the needs of their communities. They have all been able to identify the contributing factors to suicide in their communities through this process and should be able to make some real progress in the implementation phase that has begun. There has also been a lot of staff turnover, so that has added to the delays in getting some grantees to the implementation phase. DBH required 40 percent of the grantee funding go to the communities and their partners. The past model had 100 percent of the money going toward the fiscal agent and that fiscal agent did the majority of the work. For it to be true coalition collaboration, DBH recognized that the funding needed to be shared among partners to strengthen the work this grant cycle. DBH is hoping to identify other evaluation measures to ensure the implementation phase is successful in the next couple of months. They are hoping to enlist some outside agencies to help in that evaluation process so there is a third party that is helping evaluate. This grant cycle will end in 18 months. They have still not determined what the next prevention grant cycle will look like and so some objective feedback from outside organizations will help shape the next grant cycle.

Burkhart asked for an update on the grantees' requirement to start using Alaska's Automated Information Management System (AKAIMS). Gallanos commented that all providers are currently required to add data into that information system and DBH is now asking that prevention grantees also begin entering data into that system. They have a plan where they will

establish business agreements with all of the grantees. They will need a static IP address and to make sure they have the technology they need to utilize the system. They will begin a series of trainings with the grantees in the next couple of months that will allow them to learn how to enter data into the system. The first order of business after the grantees are trained is for them to enter all of their plans and documents into the system. Once all of that information is entered, they will be asked to enter all of their data on a quarterly basis. They will establish a protocol to enter data into that system.

Alavini Lata asked if AKAIMS will help the grantees with their data collecting. Gallanos commented that the idea is AKAIMS is a platform that people can add data, but they can also pull data from the system to better inform them. At the local level, they want the grantees to be in charge of their own data, including gathering it and disseminating to the public. In theory it is a good idea to move forward with the model, but it might be difficult for some communities to access and utilize AKAIMS.

Burkhart commented that for several years ABADA and AMHB have been working with treatment providers for a shift away from using AKAIMS and are now seeing progress in that. It is frustrating because the prevention grantees are now being pushed into using AKAIMS when there has been a shift away from that model by treatment providers. There are some concerns that suddenly prevention providers are being asked to use this model when many of the grantees are volunteers on coalitions and to require them to use AKAIMS might not be practical for them. Sometimes well-meaning decisions on these kind of grantee programs can have negative impacts on the work they do, so Council members should keep an eye out on this new requirement.

Fishel asked Gallanos if there was a timeline for when grantees would be entering data. Gallanos commented that there is a loose plan but not official dates. They will be rolling out the information in the next couple of weeks. Vincek asked Gallanos what the total sum is that is given to the 19 grantees. He commented that it is about \$3.5 million per year. The average grant is about \$150,000 to \$350,000 per year.

Public Comment

Jim Biela, Bethel, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Alaska Chapter (AFSP-AK Chapter). He has continued to email several Council members and staff on the activities of the AFSP-AK Chapter, including a planned upcoming event during the legislative session that he is hoping to get some support from the Council. They plan to have a state advocacy day in Juneau that will be a meet-and-greet type of event with the legislators. They are hoping to have a Lunch and Learn style event. It is planned for March 22 and 23 in Juneau. They are hoping to have as many Council members as possible attend. They will have several AFSP-AK Chapter members attending, as well as officers from the national level in Washington, D.C. This is going to be the Chapter's first advocacy day. He is hoping this event can lead to a closer association between the Council and the AFSP-AK Chapter. They have some extra funding so if members

needed some help getting to Juneau to attend that is a possibility. The AFSP-AK Chapter will be handling all of the media and contacting legislators and such through the national office. They are hoping to have it within the Capitol Building and is waiting to hear back from them, but if not they will hold it at a hotel downtown.

Brenda Moore asked if there were talking points or if there is a specific ask or if it is to raise awareness. Biela commented that since this is the first advocacy event of the AFSP-AK Chapter it was recommended by the national office that it strictly be an informational event about suicide prevention. They would like to have a keynote speaker, but they are still looking for one. They only have a 45 minute time slot so it will be short and sweet. The event will primarily include some facts about suicide, a summary of the work by the AFSP-AK Chapter, and a short presentation on suicide prevention. Moore commented that the time they have scheduled is often the time the legislators are working on the budget and might not be the best time. Burkhart commented that it might be helpful to coordinate with Advocacy Coordinator Teri Tibbett to make sure that date works out, or find one that works better so the event is successful. Biela commented that every date that they have submitted they were told wouldn't work out, so the third week of March was what he was told would work out best. Franks thanked Biela for all of the work he has done and the leadership he has shown across the state. Fishel thanked Biela for his public comment and continued work for Alaskans.

Talk of Alaska Discussion

Burkhart commented that she was approached about a month ago to appear live on the Alaska Public Radio Network show Talk of Alaska. Bill Charles, a native elder from Southwest, Alaska, and Kyle Wark, a policy analyst with First Alaskans Institute, have also been invited to participate. The plan is to start the show with a brief discussion of the most recent data from 2015. There were 33 additional deaths by suicide in 2015, which increased the rates pretty substantially in Alaska. There was some geographical analysis of those increased deaths and two contributing factors were the cluster in Hooper Bay and an overall increase in suicide deaths in Anchorage.

One of the issues she wants to address today is that there has been a lot of work done across the state but the number also went up. And there were several high profile deaths by suicide. She doesn't have an answer as to why the numbers have increased. She has talked in the past about how decreasing stigma can increase reports of suicides. Having something to say from Council members during the show would be helpful. If you look at the national data, the Great Recession lead to increased deaths in many states across the country. That was the period when Alaska dropped from number one to number four, not because our rate changed but because other states' rates increased. There is a new fiscal crisis in Alaska and that could be a contributing factor.

The main part of the show is supposed to be on “what works.” That is why the other presenters are there. Two things that can be highlighted that work are the school-based suicide prevention programs and the increased utilization of Careline.

If anyone wants to listen and provide input during the show by sending texts, that is welcomed. The show has a call-in format. She will have some materials if someone calls in crisis and she will work with the radio station so if someone calls in crisis they can be transferred directly to Careline. She does not know what kind of calls she will get. She is nervous about it being a call-in show. Sometimes the calls on Talk of Alaska can be very interesting.

She asked for feedback about what to say to address that the number and rate is up, but so are the number of trainings, Careline calls, etc. Linda Sheridan commented that it goes to show how much still needs to be done. There are a lot of inroads being made, but there has been a lot of stigma around the issue for a very long time. Randall Burns asked if there is a chance that Alaska has gotten better at collecting data than in previous years. Burkhart agreed that could be a factor because there has been a greater partnership with the Medical Examiner’s Office, and they have also been more vigilant at collecting death information than they were in the past. Moore commented that nationally the suicide rates have increased and some of that has to do with the increase in veterans that have died by suicide. Erickson commented that she feels the increase could also be attributed to the increase in social media, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, and lack of mental health services. Lata commented that he agrees that drug and alcohol abuse and the decrease of mental health services has likely led to an increase in deaths by suicide. Vincek commented that in the past several years, particularly this school year, they have seen an increase in the reports of students experiencing anxiety. If the students don’t get help for that anxiety it can often lead to increased depression and suicide. Sen. MacKinnon commented that she feels the loss of residential treatment beds might have played a role in the increase as well as the legalization of marijuana. There are more challenges that will be appearing in the future, if you just look at the violence and deaths in Anchorage the past year. It is frightening. Moore commented that the lack of services is a big concern. There is not a lot of follow up services available and there are long wait lists for drug and alcohol services. Burkhart commented that she really appreciates the input and that it makes her more confident going into the interview.

Review Annual Implementation Report

Chairperson Fishel commented that she is grateful that the draft of the Annual Implementation Report was finished so early this year and all of the hard work that staff put into it to make sure it got completed before the start of the legislative session.

Morrison explained that the report used the same template as that used the past few years so that they are consistent and can be put all together at the end of the five years of the plan into one large document that is similar in structure and content. He focused on some of the highlights of this year’s report. The rate and number is the first thing to address. The number

went up to the highest on record in 2015, up to 200, which also drove the rate up to its highest level to date. This was discussed in the report but not highlighted because the intent was to have a discussion at this meeting to determine if that is something that should be highlighted. Moore commented that the number of suicides and rates are questions that comes up all the time, but it is a complicated question and difficult to explain. The focus should be on the risk and prevention, but there is not specific evidence to answer why it has gone up. It is something that has increased nationally, but there is no one answer for the question. She suggested a narrative that there is no evidence or one single answer for it.

Morrison commented that the next highlight in the report is the increase in the number of trainings across the state last year. The Department of Education and Early Intervention (DEED) trainings by themselves increased substantially. The DEED Project AWARE also doubled its goals for training in 2016. Another highlight this year was the Governor's Office Suicide Prevention Cabinet Workgroup, which brought a lot of attention to the issue in 2016, specifically in the executive branch. There is also an overview of the Council's work at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention, including a nice couple of pictures. There is a section on community coalitions and suicide prevention groups like Drew's Foundation in Bethel. There is also a section on the DBH prevention grantees, as well as a section on the Alaska Children's Trust grantees, which saw an increase in funding of about 35 percent. There is also a large section on the DEED school-based grants. There is a section on the clergy suicide prevention training that Dr. Jim Wisland did at the Alaska Bible College in Palmer in early 2016 that the Council helped foster. The rest of the report focuses on the goals and strategies of the plan and the progress that has been made. Another big highlight is the number of calls that Careline received in 2016, which went up by 13 percent from the previous year. One of the disappointments of the year was an increase of the known suicides by veterans, which went up about 66 percent from the previous year, but it was similar to the 2013 figure.

Morrison commented that the conclusion section of the report is a very rough draft and that it was hoped the Council could discuss what it wanted to highlight from this report. The focus could be on the increase in deaths by suicide from the previous year, or it could focus on the positive aspects of increased trainings and calls to Careline. Burkhart commented that the increase should definitely be mentioned, but there are ways to do it to frame it as what it might mean, but also what it means moving forward. Looking at the additional deaths earlier this year it was found that the majority took place in Anchorage and then there was a cluster in the Southwest. Morrison asked if the increase should be included at the beginning of the report or recapped in the conclusion. Burkhart commented that to put the change at the beginning of the report with no explanation is abrupt, so there should maybe be a short explanation on page six where in first mentions the increase, and then to follow that up in the conclusion. By the end of the report hopefully there will be enough information about the increase in deaths by suicide, training, and calls to Careline that it can all be tied together in the conclusion.

Chairperson Fishel asked for any comments. Burkhart commented that she wanted to highlight that Morrison took the initiative a couple of months ago to start gathering all of the information for the report and worked diligently on it to make sure the draft was ready for this meeting so that the final draft could be ready for the start of the legislative session. Chasing down all of the data points is not a simple task, and she appreciates all of the work. Morrison commented that he worked on trying to update the scorecard at the end of the report, and most of them didn't change, but he would like the Council's input on if there should be any changes to it before the final draft.

If there were any comments, corrections or changes to the report if they could be submitted by Thursday so the final draft can be completed Friday and ready for the start of session the following week. Lata asked when the report is due. Morrison commented that it is kind of ambiguous in the statute but that it needs to be presented to the Governor and Legislature during the session each year. Burkhart commented that the goal is to get it done as early as possible during the session so that any concerns can be addressed and new legislators can be brought up to speed on the work of the Council. Some years it is a little later into the session, but this year it is on track to be done by the start of session. Sen. MacKinnon commented that it is important to get it done as early as possible so legislators have the information before they get too busy. She praised staff for getting it done early this year.

Morrison commented that the last page of the report this year again highlights that the Council chose to electronically publish the report and not print copies in order to save money that was estimated to be \$5.50 per report. That has been the Council's policy the past several years. The plan is to print out postcards to give to the Legislature and the Governor, and to print copies in-house to provide to the new legislative members that will be handed to them personally when Burkhart meets with them during the first several weeks of session. The report will be posted on the Council's webpage and on www.stopsuicidealaska.org. Burkhart commented that she hopes the Council will support the idea of presenting the information to the two Health and Social Services committees. In the past the Chair has participated in those presentations, but since Chairperson Fishel is a state employee it is trickier this year. She asked who the current Vice-Chair is. Chairperson Fishel commented that Franks is the Vice-Chair and Martin is the Officer-at-Large. Burkhart commented that it might be good to have Martin present with her because that has always been well received. Chairperson Fishel commented that she would like for those presentations to take place and would request Martin to participate. Martin commented that he would make himself available.

Suicide Prevention State Plan Revision Discussion

Chairperson Fishel commented that she met with her school-based grantees in May and one of the activities they did was review the suicide prevention state plan with a worksheet she created to highlight what is working and what is not working. That document is in the meeting packets. One of the global things that came up was they felt there was a lot of repetition in the strategies and they wondered if there were ways to combine some of them and condense the

plan. It was a way to gather stakeholder input to revise the plan. Morrison suggested having an overview for the new members. Burkhart commented that the plan is the first of several plans in the state that was made using a participatory process. Council members and staff spent 18 months with Alaskans across the state in meetings, teleconferences, work sessions, etc., and used that information to come up with the goals and strategies. The intention was to create a plan with three levels, including individual strategies, community strategies, and state strategies. There has been more growth in the individual strategies than the others. One of the reasons for that is because there is nothing in the plan that Alaskans didn't ask for. Often plans are directive from an agency or aspirational; this plan was created on the foundation that these are the strategies that Alaskans think will work for preventing suicide. It is almost a self-implementing plan. It was also important that the plan addressed the different elements related to suicide, or the "web of causality." There are elements of the plan that address parenting, restriction to lethal means, domestic violence, etc. It is the first state plan to ever include survivors of a suicide attempt as a specific group to receive services and recognition, which is now gaining national traction. The reason it may be duplicative in ways because each goal can stand by itself, but some strategies can fit into multiple goals. It is important to be responsive and if people see a duplicative strategy it might be good to reduce some of them in the plan during the revision. The plan was intended to be a working document and not one that just sits on a shelf. It was a lot of work to put the plan together, and as seen in the implementation report, there has been a lot of success and progress on many of the strategies and not much on others. It has been discussed in prior meetings that the plan might need to be trimmed and to focus on the strategies that are working, and shelve the ones that are not. In the next iteration, some streamlining is appropriate. Last summer the Governor's administration endorsed the plan, so it is not beneficial for the Council to redo the plan but rather to revise it. Since the Governor's cabinet work group is already working on some of the strategies, it would not be beneficial to change them. Chairperson Fishel commented that each department went through a matrix while reviewing the plan to identify which strategies worked best for them, so that would be something to look at while revising the plan.

Chairperson Fishel asked what the timeline is for having a new plan. Burkhart commented that the plan wraps up at the end of FY17, so that would be the end of June 2017. Since it is an update, to have the plan revision done by the end of the summer would be sufficient. Morrison commented that at the last quarterly meeting it was discussed having the spring quarterly meeting as the big work session for the revision. He would like to get the timeline figured out at this meeting for how the revision will proceed. Chairperson Fishel requested that all Council members look at the plan and to go through the worksheet in the packet and bring it filled out to the next quarterly meeting. If Council members go through the plan and decide prior to the meeting what they think should stay in the plan and what should be changed, that will make the revision process much easier. Sen. MacKinnon suggested highlighting better in the revision what strategies are intended for individuals, communities, and the state, because it might be easier for people to see how they can help out, including legislators. Chairperson Fishel asked if there were any further comments on the state plan. Rep. Tarr commented that she had spoken

at the last meeting about a nutritional guide and adding healthy lifestyle components to the plan. She has found some people that have wanted to help her on that. She hopes that will be added to the revision. Chairperson Fishel thanked her. Sen. Gardner asked again about the homework, Morrison commented that he would email her.

Meeting Planning

Morrison commented that the agenda only identifies finding dates for the spring and summer meeting dates, but he suggested also having a winter meeting date as well to help people with their planning and to get it up on the Council's website. The Council has been meeting in conjunction with the AFN Convention, and due to the success of this last convention he suggested holding it in conjunction again in 2017. The spring meeting is the first meeting to find dates for. This will be the big work session meeting to revise the plan. There had been talk at the last meeting about holding it in Juneau in conjunction with the Alaska Association of Student Governments, but that is held during spring break. The Gold Medal basketball tournament that brings hundreds of people to town from across Southeast and fills up the hotel rooms. Those dates will not work out for potential meeting dates. He suggested having the meeting in late March or early April. The session will still be going on and the legislative members might not be able to participate in full, but they can still participate if they have breaks in their schedules. If all of the initial work can be done on the revision before mid-April, staff can work on a draft that is ready at the summer meeting and then the final draft can be completed by the end of summer like discussed earlier. He asked for suggested dates.

Chairperson Fishel asked if it was going to be a face-to-face meeting and if it was still going to be in Juneau. Morrison commented that he thinks it should be a face-to-face meeting since it is going to be such an in-depth work session, and the Council has a lot of its travel budget left, but it would need to get a waiver. He suggests having the meeting in Anchorage since it would be less expensive, but it is up to the Council where it wants to meet. Chairperson Fishel and Burkhart both commented that they would likely not be able to go to Anchorage at that time of year and with the travel restrictions. Sen. MacKinnon commented that she likes the videoconference set up between two locations. She understands it might be awkward for people on teleconference, but suggested they might be able to travel to either Juneau or Anchorage to participate via videoconference. Burkhart commented that if Rob Sanderson traveled to Juneau from Ketchikan and the people up north outside of Anchorage traveled to Anchorage it would work out and not cost very much. That probably has a better chance of getting approved. Sen. MacKinnon suggested that the Council remind legislators that it has been very frugal with its travel line the past several years because of the direction to save money, and that it shouldn't be penalized for trying to do the right thing because otherwise it won't be able to uphold its duties in the future. Burkhart asked if there is a date that works in early April. Morrison suggested meeting for more than one day to get the work done. He suggested the first day be a half-day meeting so people could travel in the morning, followed by a full-day meeting where people could travel home that night. That would save money on per

diem and hotel costs. Burkhart suggested Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7. Everyone agreed on those dates.

Morrison commented the next date to find is the summer meeting, which will be a video/teleconference. He suggested the middle or late July in order to have time in August to finish the draft of the plan. Chairperson Fishel suggested July 18 for an all-day meeting. Everyone agreed.

Burkhart asked Martin what the dates for the AFN Convention are in 2017. Martin commented that it will be October 19, 20, and 21 in Anchorage. Burkhart commented that there was some comment that the Council should have a bigger presence at Elders & Youth Conference. The Council has been involved with them, but not in recent years. Martin, Erickson, and Franks all agreed that the Council should have a presence at Elders & Youth. Morrison suggested trying to get a booth at both. Burkhart asked if Council members would be interested in staffing a booth at both events. Sen. Gardner, Erickson, Franks, and Martin all agreed to help. Morrison suggested having the quarterly Council meeting on October 18, to split it between the two conventions. Everyone agreed to the date. Burkhart thanked the Council members for coming up with the dates.

Final Comments

Rep. Tarr commented that there was a change in the leadership in the House of Representatives for the upcoming session and would suggest reaching out to the chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. It would be good to provide an update on the work of the Council and that the plan will be updated in the coming year.

Franks thanked Sen. MacKinnon for all of her work on the Council over the years and for her commitment to the Council in the future. She has been an invaluable asset and friend to the Council and she wishes her well moving forward.

Sheridan commented that she hopes Burkhart does well on the radio show the next day and that she will listen in.

Vincek commented that she appreciates being on the Council and knows she has a lot to learn but is excited to be a part of the group and the good work it does.

Moore commented that she is excited to have the new members on board and thanked Morrison for his incredible job putting the implementation report together.

Humphrey commented that she is grateful for all of the work Sen. MacKinnon has done for the Council and for being a driving force in being able to get things accomplished. She will be missed.

Lessig commented that he has learned a lot and looks forward to future meetings.

Sen. MacKinnon commented that it has been a privilege to work with all of the Council members and staff. It is a great and diverse team. She feels Burkhart is one of the best executive directors in the state that she has ever worked with. She is not leaving the Council because she lost passion for the work she just feels her full attention is needed on the Senate Finance Committee. She is willing to help staff and Council members in any way possible to help move the agenda forward.

Lata commented that he is grateful for Sen. MacKinnon's work, is excited for the new Council members, and is happy for Rep. Tarr's new roles in the upcoming legislative session.

Chairperson Fishel thanked Sen. MacKinnon for all of the work that she has done and appreciates that she will still make herself available to the Council. She welcomed the new members and is grateful for their participation.

Humphrey **moved to adjourn** the meeting. Lessig **seconded**. The meeting was **adjourned** without objection at 4:14 p.m.