

Alaska Commission on Aging
APPROVED Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2018

Members Present: Gordon Glaser, David Blacketer, Mary Shields, Bob Sivertsen, and staff Denise Daniello.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by teleconference.

II. Review and take action on Executive Committee Draft Meeting Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bob and seconded by David without objection.

III. Review and take action on ACoA Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes, 7.13.2018: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mary and seconded by Bob. Minutes approved.

IV. Review, discuss, and take action on ACoA's September 2018 Rural Outreach Meeting Agenda: Gordon asked Denise to review the agenda. Denise reviewed the agenda and made notion of agencies that we are still waiting to hear from for visits on September 14. She also noted that Nome Community Center graciously offered to help ACoA with meeting logistics, including providing transportation by offering to pick passengers up at the airport and loaning us a vehicle to use during our stay. Denise also noted that XYZ Senior Center provided us with permission to use their facility for our meetings even when the facility is closed, provided that we secure the Center before leaving. Denise also described details of the meeting being planned in Shishmaref with the Joint Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of the Shishmaref City Council, IRA Traditional Council, Elders Committee, and Shishmaref Village Corporation. The intent of this meeting is to advance ACoA's understanding of issues facing Shishmaref Elders for purposes of the new State Plan's needs assessment efforts as well as advocacy in support of rural elder needs. The Executive Committee then discussed the idea of bringing food items to the Shishmaref meeting and all approved of that idea. Gordon offered to pick up food items at Costco or in Nome for this purpose. Denise will look into purchasing food using the State's credit card. Denise will also check in with XYZ Senior Center to ask if they have a telephone with a speaker phone that we can use for holding the meeting by teleconference.

Gordon asked Executive Committee members if they approved of their Committee assignments to which everyone agreed. Denise offered to provide staff assistance to any of the Committee Chairs.

Gordon asked the Executive Committee to approve two recommendations that would be brought forward as action items to the full Commission board at the September meeting:

- Rename *Older Workers Recognition Committee* to **Outstanding Alaskans Age 60+ Committee** and provided clarification as to the need to change the Committee's name.
- Move the December meeting from *December 12* to **December 6**

The Executive Committee voiced approval of both recommendations to move forward to the full board.

Gordon also asked Executive Committee members to bring their cameras and be ready to take pictures of people attending our meeting in Nome. Gordon will pass out ACoA photo release forms to Commissioners for use.

Gordon asked for a motion to accept the Nome meeting agenda as presented by Denise. Mary moved to approve the draft agenda and David seconded the motion.

V. Review, discuss and take action on ACoA's FY2019 and FY2020 Committee Assignments: Gordon asked Executive Committee members for any changes to the draft committee assignments, of which there were none. Gordon then asked Executive Committee members to approve a recommendation to bring these assignments for consideration by the full board as an action item. All approved that recommendation.

VI. FY2019 Legislative Advocacy Planning Discussion: Denise reviewed the draft advocacy initiatives that would be included as part of the Commission's presentation to the Trust at their September board meeting. These initiatives include:

1. Advocate for increased funding for core senior grant-funded services to serve vulnerable seniors and those with dementia. Coordinate and advocate to include "companion services" as a new service in the continuum of senior care to provide support and emotional comfort to homebound elderly persons.
2. Promote awareness about the value of unpaid family caregivers and work to support legislation/budget items that would increase wrap-around services/coaching for caregivers based on a standardized assessment, particularly for caregivers who care for loved ones with dementia;
3. Further education/awareness about the cost of senior falls and work to re-establish the AK Senior Fall Prevention Coalition in partnership with the Division of Public Health; and
4. Support capital funding for AHFC's Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund as a source of gap financing for newly constructed/renovated senior housing projects as well as the Senior Assistance Program, funded with SCHDF funds, to carry out home modification improvements (accessibility and weatherization) for people age 55+ who meet eligibility requirements.
5. Monitor developments of the Alaska Health Care Authority, and respond as appropriate, to proposed policies that affect Alaskans age 60+.

Note: ACoA's advocacy efforts will strive to educate legislators, especially newly elected officials, about the needs of Alaska's older people and the benefits they provide to the state.

Denise also mentioned two new items recommended by Senior and Disabilities Services staff for ACoA's consideration: (1) Advocacy for additional funding for General Relief that serves seniors and other vulnerable income eligible Alaskans who are in an emergency situation, without a waiver, and require an assisted living home placement as these funds have been significantly reduced over the last few years; and (2) Advocacy for funding to hire a volunteer coordinator for the Medicare Information Office to assist with recruiting and training volunteers in order to keep up with the growth in the number of requests for Medicare information. Gordon suggested that the Commission needs further information about both of these initiatives before moving them forward. Gordon also added another advocacy priority to the list which is to "Monitor developments of the Alaska Health Care Authority, and respond as appropriate, to proposed policies that affect Alaskans age 60+.

VII. Other Discussion: Denise noted that the celebration of life for Marie Darlin is scheduled for Sunday, September 23 in Juneau at the State Museum. The Commission may want to take-up a collection to purchase flowers for her memorial or make a contribution to one of Marie's worthy cause. Denise will further explore the latter idea with Marie's family. David and Mary will make an announcement of Marie's celebration of life at the Commission's board meeting and pass the envelope for anyone who would like to contribute.

VII. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Mary motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Bob.