

**Alaska Commission on Aging  
Board Meeting  
Statewide Teleconference  
May 4 & 5, 2015  
APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by chair, Mary Shields, at 9:07 a.m.

**Roll Call:** ACoA Commissioners: Mary Shields-ACoA Chair, Rolf Numme-ACoA Vice Chair, (Via Teleconference) David Blacketer, Rachel Greenberg, Bob Sivertsen, Paula Pawlowski, Anna Frank, Marie Darlin, and Edna Devries (via teleconference) .

**ACoA Commissioners not present:** Eleanor Dementi and Duane Mayes

**ACoA Staff Present:** Denise Daniello and Lesley Thompson

**ACTION:** Adoption of the Agenda with addition for the Bylaws Committee report. Motion made by Bob, second by Rachel to approve the revised agenda. Adoption approved.

**ACTION:** Adoption of Minutes, February 9-12, 2015 meeting. David moved with Marie second to adopt the Minutes, February 9 – 12, 2015. Minutes as corrected are adopted.

**Chair Report** -Mary reported that most of the Commission’s budget is intact. Marie Darlin and Lesley Thompson will give the advocacy report later. The State Plan for Senior Services FY2016 – FY2019 developing and working well thanks to Marie Darlin and David Blacketer. Mary reported on the upcoming Commission meetings which will include the September outreach meeting in the Kenai area. Because of the decrease in funding for the travel line, the December meeting will be held by teleconference.

**Vice Chair Report** - Rolf reported that his recovery has been a slow process but he is learning more about aging issues and the importance of family caregiving. He continues to research and read reports on aging. One in particular is where people are opting not to retire and continue working because they are not financial ready. Lifelong learning is so important for seniors as it keeps them sharp and continues to help them make an impact on their community.

**Executive Director & Staff Report** – Denise reported that the Commission’s advocacy efforts for budget items successfully restored a proposed reduction in funding for adult day programs (in the amount of \$500,000); Senior Benefits (in the amount of \$5,091,600 that would lower monthly payments for seniors in the two upper income categories); continuation of funding for the WWAMI medical school program; reductions from fund shifts to reimbursable service agreements (RSAs) from the DHSS divisions that could impact core health and safety services for seniors and other vulnerable Alaskans; and the elimination of all funding for AHFC’s Senior Citizen Housing Program (\$4.5 million). The Commission and our advocacy partners, including the adult day programs, were successful in restoring \$500,000 funding for adult day.

Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, SFY2016-SFY2019: Denise also reported that the State Plan Advisory Committee, an interagency group comprised of representatives of state agencies and stakeholders, has been meeting regularly by teleconference since the first face-to-face meeting in

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January with excellent participation. We especially want to thank ACoA Commissioners Marie Darlin and David Blacketer who serve as the Joint Co-Chairs for this Committee for their generous contribution of time and effort to this project!

This State Plan will feature two works of art by the late renowned artist, Rie Muñoz, which have been graciously offered by her family. These prints will be used for the front and back covers of the plan document. We thank Marie for meeting with the family to coordinate this special gift. The State Plan will include a special dedication to this senior artist who passed away in April at the age of 93.

ACoA Legislative Audit: The Division of Legislative Audit is in the process of conducting a performance review of the Commission in preparation for our termination scheduled for June 30, 2016 if not reauthorized by the Legislature next session. ACoA received the first confidential management letter from the Division of Legislative Audit that was addressed to our Chair and to Commissioner Davidson. The Commission provided a response to the Division of Legislative Audit's management letter.

The Commission's office moved from the Community Building to the Courtyard Plaza Building across the street to make room for offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and staff. The move took place over five work days. We now have more light, windows, and more people are stopping by however, we lost office and storage space.

The State is changing the financial system to a new system called IRIS. Sherice will be taking IRIS training throughout the summer to learn the new accounting system.

Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementia: The Commission and the Trust made a presentation on the Roadmap to the House Health and Social Services as requested by Representative Seaton, the Committee's Chair, and was well-received. The Roadmap's core team will convene implementation teams over the summer to begin work on the seven prioritized strategies for implementation. The Trust will help fund the Healthy Body, Healthy Brain Campaign to increase public awareness about ways to promote brain health.

May is Older Americans Month in Alaska: The theme for this year's celebration is "Get into the Act." The Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Advisory Commission will host special celebrations on May 6 and May 7, respectively, including awards recognizing outstanding senior volunteers. The purpose of Older Americans Month is to honor older Alaskans as valuable citizens who enrich the quality of life in our personal lives, communities, and the State.

Financial Report: Denise reviewed the Financial Report. Sherice is on the line for any questions. There was \$40,000 of our budget held by the Office of Management & Budget and has since been released for us to spend. There currently a spending freeze for non-essential travel and buying food for meetings so many of the Commissioners and staff have donated money for refreshments to serve the public at the Commission's May meeting.

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**Legislative Advocacy Committee:** Marie Darlin, Chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee reported. Overall, she noted that the legislative session had been very challenging and is now in extended session.

During session, ACoA held eight legislative teleconferences. We started by convening one every other week and towards the end of the session held a teleconference every week. Very few bills were approved. We monitored several bills and submitted letters of support for bills and budget items and provided testimony to legislative committees.

Special session is being held to finish the budget work. The budget that was approved will fund the budget through September. Marie asked Commissioners to watch Gavel to Gavel as it is a great way to keep up with everything throughout the special session. The Medicaid Expansion bill is being worked on currently. The Legislature decided to add a special session in the fall related to gas and oil.

HB 161, a bill related to the re-use of medical durable equipment, was approved and on the Governor's desk for signature. The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education advocated for this bill.

Lesley added what a pleasure it is to work with Marie. Just about everyone in the Capitol knows her and she is very effective in advocacy and highly thought of by everyone.

Marie said that she appreciated everyone who called in for the teleconference sessions noting there was good participation throughout the state. Everyone worked together to make it effective.

Denise added that SB 72, the Designated Caregiver Bill sponsored by Senator Giessel, only received one hearing in Senate Health and Social Services where it was held however, the legislation is expected to see more action next session. In addition, there has been some interest to sponsor a legislative resolution next session to reauthorize the Older American's Act if Congress does not approve its reauthorization prior to next legislative session.

**Legislative Advocacy Committee:** Marie Darlin, Chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee reported that overall the legislative session had been very challenging and is now in extended session.

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Lesley added what a pleasure it is to work with Marie. Just about everyone in the Capitol knows her and she is highly thought of by everyone. She also is a very effective advocate.

Marie said that she appreciated everyone who called in for the teleconference sessions noting there was good participation throughout the state. Everyone worked together, asked good questions of the speakers, and made the session very successful for ACoA.

Denise added that SB 72, the Designated Caregiver Bill sponsored by Senator Giessel, received one hearing in Senate Health and Social Services committee where the bill is currently held. The legislation is expected to see more action next session. In addition, there has been some interest to sponsor a legislative resolution next session to reauthorize the Older American's Act if Congress approves this legislation.

HB 161 re-use of medical durable equipment is also on to the Governor for signature.

**Policy and Procedures Manual** - Marie reported that the Bylaws Committee has been working on the policy and procedures manual. She noted that this manual includes many of the items that we took out of the Bylaws that should have been in such a manual.

**Marie moved, Rachel second for the approval for the report of the policies and procedures manual. Motion passed.**

**Pioneer Home Advisory Board (PHAB) Report: Bob Sivertsen, PHAB Chair**

Bob reported that the Alaska Pioneer Homes received a 5% reduction in their FY2016 budget. The budget cuts will include reduction of some staff in the central office as well as some in the individual Pioneer Homes. There were no supplemental budget items for FY2015. The Pioneer Home Advisory Board is concerned about future budget reductions. The board is looking at the future, how to maximize the budget, and how seniors on the waitlist will be served by home and community based services.

Senator Kelly sponsored SB 74 which addresses Medicaid reform and requests funding for a study to examine privatizing the Pioneer Homes. The Pioneer Home Advisory Board will be watching that bill as it goes through the legislative process.

Bob also reported that the Pioneer Homes are operating efficiently and are fully occupied. There continues to be maintenance issues and some may have to be deferred to budget items. The committee is looking at ways to reduce the budget and maintain services.

If maintenance projects over \$400,000 it goes to the Department of Transportation to manage. The roof project at the Palmer home has failed prematurely which is a major concern.

**Mary read the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education report from Banarsi.**

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*The Legislative Committee of the GCDSE, herein after referred to as Council, continued to meet monthly in order to track the progress of the Council's Legislative priorities and lend support through advocacy efforts as needed.*

*The Council developed position statements on Medicaid Cost-Savings and Reform, and Medicaid options for Home and Community-Based Services.*

*In addition to these, the Council also developed position papers and talking points in support of the following*

*HB161/SB 90 – Re-use and Recycling of Durable Medical Equipment. HB 102 – Provide funding for educational services for students in residential psychiatric treatment centers.*

*HB 99- Council opposed this Legislation proposing voluntary termination of life.*

*HB 77- The disability training and identification bill, and*

*HB 76- A Bill to update our enabling statute by removing the word gifted.*

*SB 26 – Capital Budget- The Council supported the inclusion of a funding request in the amount of \$995,000 for purchase of a facility to locate the Denali Deaf Community Center in Anchorage.*

*The Council is slated to review the fate of these as well as other advocacy efforts at its upcoming meeting in Anchorage scheduled for May 5-6, 2015.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Banarsi Lal*

*May 4, 2015*

**DRAFT Committee and Representational Assignments FY 2016 & FY 2017**

**Standing Committees**

***Executive Committee (4 members per bylaws)***

*Mary Shields, Chair*

*Rolf Numme, Vice Chair*

*Eleanor Dementi*

*Marie Darlin*

*Staff Assigned: Denise Daniello (ex-officio)*

***Planning Committee (3 members per bylaws)***

*Marie Darlin, Co-Chair & David Blacketer, Co-Chair*

*Eleanor Dementi*

*Rolf Numme*

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*Mary Shields  
Rachel Greenberg  
Staff Assigned: Denise Daniello (ex-officio)*

**Legislative Advocacy Committee** *(3 member minimum per bylaws)*

*Marie Darlin, Chair  
Mary Shields  
Rachel Greenberg  
Rolf Numme  
David Blacketer  
Denise Daniello, (ex-officio)  
Staff Assigned: Lesley Thompson*

**Bylaws Committee** *(3 member minimum per bylaws)*

*Marie Darlin, Chair  
Eleanor Dementi, Mary Shields, and Denise Daniello (ex-officio)  
Staff Assigned: Lesley Thompson*

**Older Workers' Recognition Committee** *(2 members per bylaws)*

*Rolf Numme  
Paula Pawlowski  
Mary Shields  
Denise Daniello (ex-officio)  
Staff Assigned: Sherice Cole*

**Nominating Committee**

*(To be appointed by the Chair to develop a slate of candidates and oversee ACoA officer elections.  
ACoA officers serve two-year terms.)*

**Representational Assignments**

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Representatives**

*Mary Shields & Denise Daniello*

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Representative for Rural Outreach:** *To be assigned.*

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

**Pioneer Home Advisory Board**

*Bob Sivertsen, Pioneer Home Advisory Board Chair  
Mary Shields, ACoA Chair (by ACoA Statute)*

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***Alaska Brain Injury Network***

*Denise Daniello, Board Member*

***Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Nominations Committee: Banarsi Lal***

The nominating committee will be appointed in late FY 2016.

**Rachel moved, Bob seconded for the approval of the FY16-FY17 standing committee list. Motion passed.**

**Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, FY2016-FY2019 Presentation & Discussion by the Alaska State Plan Committee Co-Chairs Marie Darlin & David Blacketer; ACoA Staff Denise Daniello and Lesley Thompson; Lisa Morley, Senior Grants Unit Manager, Senior and Disabilities Services; Jeanette Burket, Aging Services Program Specialist with the Administration on Community Living; & Denali Daniels, consultant.**

Jeanette Burket reported that the State Plan guidance section gives a blue print and shows stakeholders the “big” picture and where resources should go. The Plan also must include the interstate funding which directs resources to those with the greatest social and economic need.

**Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program - Rita Bowen, MASST Program Coordinator**

The MASST program in FY2010 took a significant reduction. Since then the program has been working with less funding but is still very successful.

This next year there will be minimum wage increase on January 1, 2016 to \$9.75. For every person in the program they are short \$4,000. This issue will provide an extreme challenge to the program. Last year the program served 275 people. Of the people in the program, 84% lived in poverty and 176 received some type of public assistance. The MASST program successfully works with many different and diverse partners. Things are going well with the program and 59% of the participants received placement.

Part of the MASST program is Work Keys. This program is for people that have higher education. Most of these program participants work on computers.

Rita reported that the new State Plan for the MASST program has been approved. She will send it out to all of the Commission members.

Denise talked about how much she appreciates our MASST employee Charles Carran who has a Master’s degree and has been doing a wonderful job for the ACoA.

Mary also mentioned the MASST employee at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. She has made a great impact to the Center.

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**White House Conference on Aging: Jeanette Burket, Aging Services Program Specialist - U.S. Administration for Community Living, Region X**

Jeanette talked about the White House Conference on Aging that will be held this summer. The regional session that took place in Seattle went well. She was able to give a list of suggested invitees of which all of the ACoA Commissioners and Title IV providers were on the list. Jeanette did not know who was actually invited to the event.

The regional meeting in Seattle had many professionals in law enforcement and so there was more of a focus on abuse and neglect of elders.

**The Four Topics of the Regional Meeting:**

1. Healthy Aging
2. Long Term Services
3. Elder Justice
4. Retirement Security

Participants in the retirement security breakout session spoke about the need to strengthen Social Security. Participants repeatedly noted that Social Security's benefits structure needs to be updated to reflect changes in society (two-earner families, single parents, LGBT). In addition, Social Security's revenue sources need to be reinforced in order to continue to provide benefits at the promised level and help rebuild public confidence that the system will continue to be there, especially for younger workers.

The elder justice breakout session was focused on law enforcement, the role of prosecutors, and legally coordinated efforts at identifying elder abuse and developing new and improved ways of enforcing these laws. Their top policy suggestion was to increase education and awareness at the broadest of levels, including a comprehensive national campaign targeting law enforcement, and reporting of abuse by medical, clergy, home health, neighbors, family, and community agencies.

The long term services and supports breakout session focused on financing long term care. Suggestions included creating public and private partnerships to make services more accessible for everyone. Participants also felt strongly about expanding training for both paid and family caregivers in order to serve the growing needs of disabled older adults.

Participants at the healthy aging breakout session quickly settled on two issue priorities. Participants supported a culture change in the way society views aging from a deficit to an asset model of aging. Participants were eager to speak about the impact of ageism on their lives and on their desire for greater opportunities for older Americans to impact the greater good.



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Not sure when the White House Conference on Aging in DC will happen this summer or who will be invited.

Jeanette will send Denise her notes from the Seattle meeting and then she will pass them on to Commission members.

**Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission (SAC) - Joan Fischer, Chair, and David Levy**

The Anchorage SAC spent time during session watching many of the same legislative issues that the ACoA was also monitoring. Joan is very excited about the Older Americans Celebration in Alaska event that will take place on May 5 at the Anchorage Senior Activities Center.

There will be a new Mayor in Anchorage so they will need to educate him on the role and activities of the Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission.

The Anchorage SAC members were able to meet and tour the facility in Chugiak and had meeting with the Mat-Su Council on Aging. They want to continue to work with the ACoA and are looking forward to the joint ACoA and Anchorage SAC meeting in Girdwood in September.

Dave Levy, the new Muni Senior and Emergency Services Coordinator, is excited to be in his new position. The Muni has a grant with HUD to help people in need of financial assistance. They are working with different partners with this funding. He is also looking forward to the meeting in Girdwood.

**Division of Senior & Disabilities Services - Duane Mayes, Director**

Duane started his report talking about the budget challenges for both the State and the Department of Health and Social Services. The majority of staff with lay-offs have been notified due to budget reductions, including non-perm positions. Overall, budget reductions were made to 19 state programs. The Governor's Office took a 26% budget cut.

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) had a 6.8% cut for FY2016 with budget of \$2.7 billion dollars. The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) took a 3% cut. The Adult Day senior grant program was slated to take a \$500,000 cut. However, those funds were restored by cuts made to the Division of Behavioral Health. Senior grants were cut by 0.02% or a total of \$33,000 that impacted four services.

There was \$800,000 cut to the General Relief program. This program serves people who are at risk of being homeless. Next year, questions will have to be asked about what other services are available for people on General Relief.

The reduction to the DHSS administrative budget was \$1.2 million and will affect salaries, commodities, equipment and non-perm positions on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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In 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) issued a final rule which requires all states with waiver programs to implement “conflict free case management” meaning that providers of home- and community based services cannot provide case management, except in very limited services. This CMS final rule has major implications for Alaska because many of the state’s providers offer case management and home- and community-based services.

The Department is also looking at the Medicaid options 1915(i) and 1915(k). The 1915(i) option will serve persons who income-qualify and need services, but do not meet level of care requirements such as those with cognitive impairments like Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia. The 1915(k) option will refinance the Personal Care Assistance program and bring in 56% federal match that may result in an estimated \$15 million savings. A HCBS Steering Committee has been formed to examine these strategies in which Duane and Denise serve in addition to others.

Federal funding for the Centers for Independent Living will move over from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to Senior and Disabilities Services as the U.S. Administration on Community Living assumes responsibility for this program.

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**

**Jeff Jessee, CEO, Paula Easley, Trustee & Amanda Lofgren, Program Officer**

Amanda reported that the Healthy Body, Healthy Brain public awareness campaign developed by ACoA with Trust funding has been resurrected again. Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska will recruit volunteers to get information out across the state.

She also reported about developments regarding the HomeMap program developed by Southeast Alaska Independent Living for home assessments to improve accessibility. These assessments will also identify low cost or no cost funding for modifications.

Jeff Jessee reported that there were few budget cuts for services affecting Trust beneficiaries but cautioned that we will probably see more cuts in the coming years with the loss of state funds. He also talked about a model that on the State’s website that considers several options for ways to balance the budget.

The Trust is working on developing user friendly training for guardians and conservators. It’s a legalistic system and people must obey and know the rules. This should improve the assessments on how to monitor conservators and guardians via technology. With this technology, it could also be used in a variety of ways in the villages.

**Alaska Housing Finance Corporation - Jim McCall, Senior Housing Program Officer**

Jim reviewed his written report going over the numbers of new homes for seniors including the newest assisted living home that received a \$500,000 loan with 4.25% interest rate and \$0 down.

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Only three AHFC programs receive 100% general funds – one of which was the Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund which was zeroed out for the FY2016 budget. Other AHFC programs have some federal funding.

**Trust Training Cooperative - Lisa Cauble, Executive Director, and Kimber Jackson, Training**

Lisa Cauble reviewed the mission of the Trust Training Cooperative Mission and introduced Kimber Jackson as the TCC Training Coordinator.

The Trust Training Cooperative (TTC) promotes career development opportunities for direct service workers\*, supervisors, and professionals in the field engaged with Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority beneficiaries, by ensuring that technical assistance and training is accessible and coordinated.

The TTC supports the mission of the Trust Workforce Focus Area which is to “Work together to provide children, adults and families with a competent, caring and empowering human services workforce.” The TTC provides assistance and supports to integrate the core competencies into workforce training.

The TTC is serving more agencies and persons being trained. They also provide technical assistance beneficial to service providers. After five years, the TTC has supported 4,298 training seats. The unduplicated number of training participants was 3,070. The TTC is currently conducting a pilot program through video training. They are looking at training around parenting with past directors of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS). The Learning Management System has 6,677 active users.

Kimber Jackson reported on the future of the TTC and the value of a trained workforce. Currently, the TTC has 20 trainers. The following list describes the “core competencies” developed by the TTC for workforce training:

**Alaskan Core Competencies**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Working with Others           | 9. Behaving Professionally and Ethically |
| 2. Assessing Strengths and Needs | 10. Developing Professionally            |
| 3. Planning Services             |  |
| 4. Providing Services            |  |
| 5. Linking to Resources          |  |
| 6. Advocacy                      |  |
| 7. Individualizing Care          |  |
| 8. Documenting                   |  |

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Mental Health First Aid is a class focusing on senior behavioral health issues. TTC is excited to provide this type of training. Family caregivers are invited to all of their trainings even though they are focused on paid direct service providers.

**Comments from ACoA Commissioners on the State Plan**

Bob expressed concern that the Pioneer Homes are not mentioned in the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services. Denise commented that Pioneer Homes are very important and there is a section in the Plan on the continuum of care that focuses on the Alaska Pioneer Homes.

Rachel wants to make sure that we wait until the public comment period is over before we finalize the Plan.

Mary commented that Duane has had time to look at the Plan and that he is in the loop.

David asked where the comments will be placed in the Plan. We need to wait and ensure all comments are in the Plan. Denise stated that we would indeed ensure all comments will be in the Plan before it is finalized.

The Commission discussed the Kenai Area visits with possibilities on how to visit as many communities as possible.

Paula reminded the Commission that her expenses are paid for out of her budget.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.**

**Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chair Mary Shields**

**Roll Call: ACoA Commissioners present Mary Shields, David Blacketer, Rachel Greenberg, Bob Sivertsen, Paula Pawlowski, Anna Frank, and Marie Darlin**

**ACoA Commissioners not present: Eleanor Dementi, Rolf Numme, Edna DeVries, and Duane Mayes**

**ACoA Staff Present: Denise Daniello and Lesley Thompson**

**RurAL CAP: Elder Mentor/Foster Grandparent Program - Jan Abbott, Program Manager and Serve Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Paula Pawlowski, Executive Director**

Jan showed the fact sheet for the "Elder Mentor/Foster Grandparent Program." Participants receive a small stipend of \$2.50 an hour plus must receive a physical exam each year. Many seniors are placed working with small children. Jan noted that it is a wonderful program that has been in Alaska for many years.

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The Senior Companion program is not active currently in Alaska.

Paula reported that the new RSVP program in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association will sponsor 250 volunteers in the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas. The program will focus on meeting community needs as identified in the grant application.

Paula's office moved into the 16<sup>th</sup> floor E in the Attwood building. Serve Alaska was moved into the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Rural Affairs.

AmeriCorps members are the "boots on the ground" volunteers. The program has six focus areas. The program in Alaska is starting to work on disaster planning which will in turn have AmeriCorps members help during a disaster. There are 155 AmeriCorps members in Alaska who could be used in a disaster situation. Paula is currently working on how to train and support these members.

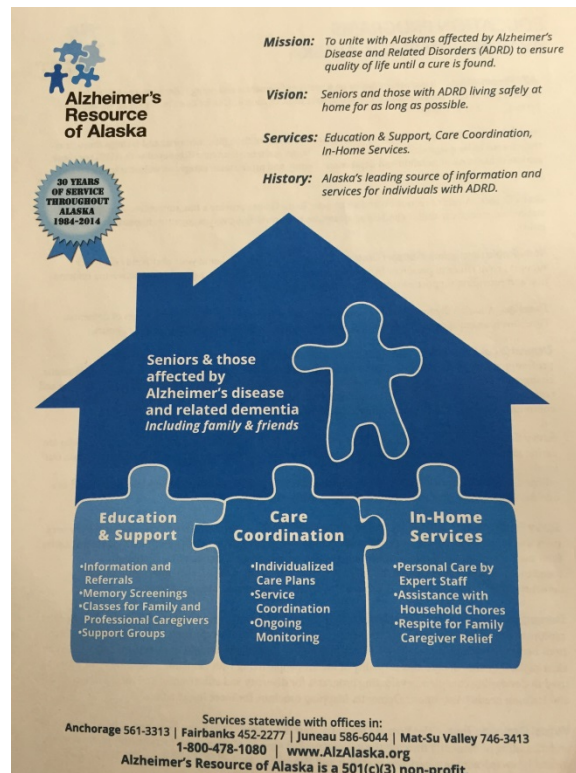
Paula stated that service to others can change your life and the perfect way for young and old to bring skills to employment.

Paula handed out her annual report.

**Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska - Karl Garber, Executive Director**

Mr. Garber reviewed the document below about the blocks for their agency's foundation of services.

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The biggest challenge in the future of Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska is implementing the new federal regulations on conflict free case management. They will have to remove that block from their foundation. They are looking at what do with this issue. There will be more cuts to senior services and they plan to work with the ACoA on this issue.

Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska (ARA) reported high marks in satisfaction for their trainings statewide. They have worked hard to conduct "train the trainer" trainings and now have 40 trainers.

Pam Kelly, ARA Education Program Director, is a former UAA faculty member. She was a long term caregiver for a family member. She lets people know how difficult caregiving can be and that the job is often very lonely. She is looking at what support, training and education is needed. They are agents of outreach to people who need the services and information and need one another. ARA conducts community building around dementia. ARA uses distance delivery methods, such as webinars and telephone support groups, to extend their reach around the state. This type of education can help with time and location so caregivers can stay at home and attend a support group.

Rachel expressed her appreciation to ARA for their excellent training which makes a difference in the quality of care provided.

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Marie Darlin stated that Amber Smith, trainer with the Alzheimer's Resource Agency in Juneau, does a wonderful job on Alzheimer's training but is concerned that the job may be too much for one person and hopes that ARA will increase staff at their Juneau office.

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Elders Committee Report - Kay Branch, Elders Program Coordinator and Mellissa Heflin, Elder Outreach Coordinator**

Kay and Mellissa made a power point presentation with pictures of Elders and passed out the Council Newsletter.

Mellissa reported the types of supports ANTHC provides for Elders. They visit nursing homes and provide traditional food lunches, promote cultural interactions, visit elders, provide translation of residents' rights for nursing and assisted living homes, work with dental health aide therapists, work on training universal workers, and much more.

Kay announced that she will be retiring on September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Mary talked about how Kay will be missed!

**Elder Protection Report**

**Teresa Holt, Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO)  
Barbara Dick, Adult Protective Services (APS) Manager**

Teresa Holt: started her report by reminding Commission members of the fire that took place in the Mat-Su earlier this year. After they provided support for these individuals, the OLTCO was encouraged to apply for a grant to identify gaps in emergency services for assisted living and nursing homes. OLTCO was awarded the grant and will be working on the project soon.

OLTCO is working to ensure each LTCO volunteer has a grievance and conflict of interest policy. Teresa would like ACoA to help with a big systems issue of how to prevent seniors from ending up in API as many of these residents have dementia, not mental illness.

Medication delegation is a big issue as nurses cannot delegate medication duties. It then becomes the legal representative to delegate who gives medication. Many times the person delegated is not trained to do this. It puts seniors in a difficult situation. Regulations are needed.

Barbara Dick, APS: September 26 is "Elder Abuse Awareness Day." Barbara plans to attend an event in Juneau. They are establishing a multidisciplinary team to help homeless people find food and shelter.

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**Ken Helander, AARP Advocacy Director, & Marie Darlin, AARP Capitol:** Ken Helander reported that not many items were done during this past session. AARP has a new state volunteer President, Terry Snyder, from Palmer. She is a great addition to AARP Alaska.

Ken noted that four issues took the majority of the Legislature's time:

1. Oil and Gas
2. Budget
3. Marijuana
4. Medicaid Expansion

AARP developed a survey to assess the needs of the senior LGBT community through the Senior Voice and other venues.

Marie reported that she attended the AARP legislative meeting in Portland that focused on strategies for local advocacy. Marie made a presentation about the merits of local advocacy at the Portland meeting.

**Marianne Mills, AgeNet Chair**

Marianne reported that AgeNet is having a face-to-face meeting in Anchorage, June 8<sup>th</sup>. They have a great selection of people as speakers and will have officer elections. They will decide on their legislative priorities for the next legislative session. Denise has been invited as a speaker to the AgeNet meeting representing ACoA.

AgeNet will discuss the assessment process for the Alaskans Living Independently Waiver. Marianne noted that questionable experiences have happened to seniors as they are going through the fair hearing process. AgeNet is supporting legislation to increase funding for Alaska Legal Services which helps seniors with civil legal services like advance directives. AgeNet has submitted a letter in support for Alaska Legal Services.

They are also looking at the conflict free case management requirement. They need quality care coordinators that know how to comply with the new regulations. AgeNet will be having an update from Angela Salerno tomorrow at their monthly meeting. They are also watching the special work group working on cost based rates and rate review.

Senior providers are concerned that local communities may be cutting costs due to education cuts. If communities must fund more cost of education they will have less to spend on senior services. Senior providers haven't received grant awards yet so they don't know what their budgets will be next year. Marianne expressed her appreciation for all those who were involved in the State Plan process.



**Alaska Commission on Aging  
Board Meeting  
Statewide Teleconference  
May 4 & 5, 2015  
Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Anchorage Senior Activities Center**

**Rebecca Parker, General Manager**

Rebecca Parker, General Manager for the Anchorage Senior Activities Center, thanked everyone for coming to the Center. She noted that the Center has been busy making several facility improvements and offering new classes for seniors. The Rasmuson Foundation issued a grant to the Center to purchase a new van. The Center has increased their hours of operation and is going through re-accreditation of the senior center by the National Institute of Senior Center Accreditation.

The Senior Activity Center Board wants more visibility and fundraising for the Center. On June 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a signature fundraising event called the "Gala." On Sunday, they will have a Mother's Day brunch in honor of Arliss Sturgulewski.

**Comments from Commissioners:**

Bob and David thanked everyone for a great meeting.

Paula is going away with 10 additional things that she will need to follow-up on. She thanked the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for their hospitality.

Anna appreciates the diversity of activities at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center.

Rachel thanked staff and Mary for their hard work. There are so many things that are happening in the state with Medicaid expansion and reform and the budget is really changing how services are provided to seniors around the state. The new federal rule regarding conflict free case management is going to change things drastically. She appreciates the opportunity to be able to contribute to the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services and move senior services forward to the future.

Denise thanked everyone for their work on the State Plan and the advocacy work during session. She especially appreciates the good work by Commissioners and their leadership which helps staff to stay focused. She enjoyed the Anchorage Senior Recognition event especially Judge Humphrey's remarks.

Lesley thanked everyone for all their help with the meeting and explained what Red Nose day is. On May 21<sup>st</sup> everyone is to wear their red nose and support children in both Alaska and Outside of the U.S.

Mary thanked the staff at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for all of their help with the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.