

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
April 30 & May 2, 2014
Anchorage Senior Activity Center
1300 East 19th Street, Anchorage, Alaska
APPROVED Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2014 Roll Call

Commissioners present: Mary Shields, Chair, Edna DeVries, Vice Chair, Rolf Numme, Eleanor Dementi, Marie Darlin, Paula Pawlowski, Banarsi Lal, Anna Frank and Rachel Greenberg.

Excused Commissioners: Duane Mayes

Staff present: Denise Daniello and Lesley Thompson. Jon Erickson and Sherice Cole were off-site preparing for the Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium, May 1.

Meeting Agenda

Rachel moved to approve the meeting agenda. Edna seconded the motion. The meeting agenda was approved.

Meeting Minutes February 2014

Marie Darlin moved to approve February 2014 meeting minutes. Rachel seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved.

Safety Moment

Edna DeVries presented the safety moment to the Commission at the Anchorage Senior Activities Center.

ACoA Chair Report, Mary Shields

Mary commended staff and Commissioners on their work since the February board meeting stating “The Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium is in good shape and is moving along nicely. We have had a huge response to the Symposium. Besides the Symposium we have the “Older Americans Month Celebration” on Friday May 2nd. In addition to the Symposium, Commissioners have been actively involved in the Legislative Advocacy Committee and Senior Legislative Advocacy teleconferences. The Commission was able to accomplish a public-private-partnership with Conoco Phillips for their sponsorship of the Symposium.” Mary further explained that she attended the Producers Dinner at the Alliance Board Conference and was able to visit with Gina Luckey, ConocoPhillips Alaska Program Officer. On behalf of the Commission, Mary offered our appreciation to Gina Luckey for the financial support from ConocoPhillips for the Symposium.

ACoA Vice-Chair Report, Edna DeVries

Edna echoed Mary's comments regarding staff and Commissioners' efforts for the Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium. She stated that there seemed to be a few little glitches but staff was able to address them quickly. Edna was amazed at the list of the people who wanted to attend the Symposium. Hopefully we can look to more private-public-partnerships in the future.

Executive Director Report, Denise Daniello

Denise reviewed the activities of the ACoA since the February Commission meeting. She also provided a written report of activities accomplished that was included in the Commissioners' meeting binder.

Denise reviewed current planning efforts for "Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias." The purpose of the Roadmap, Denise explained, is to provide a comprehensive plan to address the needs of Alaskans impacted by dementia, including the individual with dementia and their caregivers. This plan is being developed by a core team of representatives from public and private agencies. An overview of the Roadmap will be presented at the Power of Aging Symposium. The Commission is waiting for data information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey regarding participant responses to questions about cognitive impairment. That information will also be included in the Roadmap. In late summer, there will be a Stakeholder meeting scheduled to gather input from other agencies outside of the core planning team to include in the Roadmap and to encourage their participation in the Roadmap's implementation efforts.

Denise summarized the Commission's work during the legislative session. ACoA monitored a total of 41 bills this session, advocated for 8, of which 7 were approved by the Legislature and waiting to be signed by the Governor. At the time of drafting her written report, the Legislature was still in the process of finalizing the operating budget and the capital budget. The final legislative advocacy report will be presented by ACoA's Legislative Advocacy Committee.

In April, Denise attended the Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum in DC as Alaska's Ambassador for people affected by Alzheimer's disease. Denise received an invitation to this forum from the national Alzheimer's Association. They paid her travel expenses. During the forum, Denise presented twice to forum participants and visited with Alaska's Congressional delegation and staff about the need for legislation and budget items benefiting efforts to address Alzheimer's disease.

Denise noted that the current Alaska State Plan for Senior Services will expire on June 30, 2015. By statute, the Commission is charged with drafting the four-year plan in collaboration with Senior and Disabilities Services and other stakeholder groups. This Plan is prepared for the Department of Health and Social Services to submit to the U.S. Administration on Community Living/Administration on Aging to satisfy the federal requirement of all states to draw down federal funds through the Older Americans Act that funds a variety of senior programs and services statewide. The White House Conference on

Aging is being planned for 2015. We will try and coordinate gathering public input for these two activities in order to maximize our resources.

May is Older Americans Month and the theme this year is “Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow” which focuses on health and fall prevention. This year, we will celebrate “Older Americans Month in Alaska” with the Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission on May 2nd at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center.

On Thursday, May 8th, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Senior Advisory Commission will host the annual “Senior Recognition Day” event at the Carlson Center. Commissioner Banarsi Lal is the Chair of the FNSB Senior Advisory Commission. Denise will be able to attend that event as she will be in Fairbanks attending a Trust meeting scheduled for the same time period. The Governor is expected to attend the Senior Recognition Day event as well.

Executive Committee: Mary Shields, Chair, & Denise Daniello

Mary reviewed the Executive Committee Report, specifically page nine of the minutes, ‘action item for future meeting dates.’ Mary suggested that we should look at changing the Juneau February meeting dates to early March, since the Legislature will be setting its agenda around that time.

The Executive Committee discussed the upcoming Rural Outreach Meeting. They ask Commissioners to consider four options for rural visits in September: (1) Southeast Alaska with the business meeting in Haines and site visits to Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan; (2) Middle Southeast Alaska with the business meeting in Petersburg and site visits to Petersburg, Kake, and Sitka; (3) Northern Alaska with the business meeting in Fairbanks and site visits to Fairbanks, Nenana, Delta Junction, Tanana and possibly Barrow (pending travel costs and budget considerations); and (4) East of Kenai with the meetings and site visits in Seward.

Denise said the Executive Committee developed and approved their FY2015 committee goals.

Legislative Advocacy Committee: Marie Darlin, Chair & Denise Daniello

Marie reported on the legislative meetings, teleconferences and the Commission’s legislative priorities. Marie reviewed the final discussion list of the bills passed that the Commission was tracking. Commissioners commended Marie for all of her good advocacy work!

Pioneer Home Advisory Board (PHAB) Report: Banarsi Lal

Banarsi, Chair for the Pioneer Home Advisory Board, provided a report on the Pioneer Homes. He explained how the Pioneer Home waitlist works. Banarsi said the Legislature has commented on Pioneer Homes beds being open. The Pioneer Homes have been working to change the care level on the available empty beds. They are looking to increase the number of beds and how that might positively impact the income stream for the Pioneer Homes. The Pioneer Home Advisory Board met with all of the Homes’ administrators at their last meeting.

The PHAB has two face to face meetings each year and monthly teleconference meetings. At the first face to face meeting, they visit Pioneer Homes in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Palmer. The PHAB's second annual face to face meeting is in February or March. At this time, they visit the southeast homes in Sitka, Juneau and Ketchikan. At these home visits, the board members check with the Pioneer Home administrators to see what they have done in the past 12 months and ask about resident needs. The PHAB has decided to hold public comment periods at upcoming face to face meetings to gather more public input.

Banarsi mentioned information that the Pioneer Home Executive Director, Ken Truitt, noted in his report to the PHAB. Ken explained that the operating budget remained almost the same as last year. There were capital funds approved for deferred maintenance. The Legislature asked how the homes might maximize the use of Medicaid funding. One suggestion was to systematically remove the "Payment Assistance Program." The idea behind the Payment Assistance Program is for the state to provide financial assistance for residents who become income eligible to pay for their Pioneer Home residence but are not Medicaid eligible. Another suggestion offered is to look at the system and reduce our general dependence on the use of the State's general funds. Banarsi also noted the issue of beds not being filled in some of the homes. The PHAB looked at the Anchorage Pioneer Home and saw that 10 to 15 beds could be added at the cost of approximately \$1.8 million by converting the rooms now used for storage for residency. There are approximately 30 available beds in Sitka. These beds are at different levels of care. On the ground floor there could be 10 beds added at level one which would cost approximately \$800,000; \$1 million could add 10 to 15 beds at level 2 on the upper floors; and \$8 million could add up to 45 additional beds for the homes.

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

Banarsi reviewed the Council's Legislative Priorities this last session.

- 1) House Bill 211, Employment First Bill. This bill passed the Legislature and is waiting for the Governor's signature.
- 2) House bill 210, Safe Student Act. This bill passed the Legislature and is waiting for the Governor's signature.
- 3) Complex Behavior Collaborative. Base funding in the amount of \$525,000 was approved for the Complex Behavior Collaborative which serves Alaskans with challenging behaviors who would otherwise not be served in the community. This was a joint advocacy priority for the Trust and other advocacy boards, including ACoA.
- 4) House Bill 220 & Senate Bill 111. This bill passed and repeals the requirement for the Secondary School Exit Examination.
- 5) House Bill 278, the Governor's Education Bill that passed the Legislature includes the provision to repeal the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.

Banarsi said overall the Council was successful in advocating for their priorities this legislative session. The Council's next meeting is scheduled for April 28-30, 2014.

By-Laws Committee: Marie Darlin, Chair, & Denise Daniello

Marie reported. The Commission approved revision of ACoA's By-laws at the February meeting. The By-laws Committee will be drafting a new Policies & Procedures Manual that will complement ACoA's Bylaws. Procedures that were in the old bylaws were removed and placed into a working draft of a Policies and Procedures manual. The Committee plans to have a draft Policies and Procedures Manual for the Commission to review at the September board meeting.

Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium

Symposium Ad Hoc Committee Report & Discussion: Ad Hoc Committee Members

Committee members expressed their excitement for the Symposium on May 1. More than 200 RSVPs have been received for the Symposium. Most of the RSVPs have come from seniors who are our target audience. The Committee then reviewed the schedule for the Symposium. Sandi Doyle, who served as the Symposium Committee Chair, resigned from the Commission a couple of weeks prior to the meeting due to family and professional obligations.

Nomination for Election of ACoA Officers: Nomination Committee

Banarsi Lal, Committee Chair

Banarsi, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the report. Banarsi said that there has been a lot of interest in the seats for Chair and Vice-Chair. The two candidates for the Chair seat are Mary Shields and Edna DeVries. The candidates for Vice-Chair are Marie Darlin, Rachel Greenberg, and Rolf Numme. An election of officers is scheduled for later in the meeting.

Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) Commissioner Bill Streur

The Commissioner stated that the legislative session has been a very difficult one. The Department of Health and Social Services has by far the largest budget in the state. The good thing is that the Department has a great relationship with the Legislature.

The Commissioner recognized the Commission for its efforts on Older Americans Month and legislative advocacy accomplishments however said that we cannot rest on this important work. He noted that 'Elders and children are so important and must be advocated for.' He thanked everyone for their efforts.

The Commissioner noted the budget process. He said that legislators are very clear about the budget - The bottom line is "hold fast." We need to figure out the best way to have the greatest impact for the people of Alaska. We must measure what we do in order to have the most impact. Some programs have not done well and the money was not well spent. Look to innovations that help Alaskans the most. We will be tweaking and making enhancements to programs. We are going to have to do more with less. We are looking at having less revenue than past years. And there is not much promise for higher oil prices. We need to be more accountable for everything.

The Commissioner went on to explain that there will be no Medicaid expansion at this time. He said that we have to reform Medicaid. The Governor assigned a new task force to look at this issue. They had their first meeting 10 days ago. It was a good meeting and it was a good mix of people.

Medicaid spending continues to grow. There are currently 150,000 people in Alaska on Medicaid. Funding has been mostly flat over the past years but this past year, there was an \$18 million increase in Senior and Disability Services budget. More beneficiaries have higher expenditures because we are aging as a state. We need to look at different ways to support providers because we cannot afford to keep the program as is currently designed. Alaska has the highest health care cost in the nation. Juneau has the highest cost of health care in the state. How can we fix that? Do not keep quiet during the Medicaid Reform process. It will affect everything we do. Deliver a clear message. The Reform report must be to the Governor November 15th.

The Commissioner listed three programs using most of the State's General Funds in Alaska. They include Education, Retirement, and Medicaid. In 2020, if we do nothing, 90% of the budget will be based in these areas.

Finding Medicare providers continues to be a challenge. The two Medicare clinics in Anchorage are helping with the shortage of doctors and more specialists are willing to take Medicare recipients.

The new Alaska Native Clinic in Kenai has fully integrated services. Tanana Chiefs and South Central Foundation clinic are also integrated services. This is the way to go in the future.

Public Comment

Jim McCall introduced Dr. Laverne Joseph, President and CEO of the Retirement Housing Foundation based in California. This organization is a faith-based, national non-profit organization. Dr. Joseph said the challenges today are finding the resources for development, and making sure you have the resources to provide the quality of care that you want to provide. Dr. Joseph will be one of the Symposium speakers on May 1.

Paula Pawlowski reported recent activities with Serve Alaska, a program under the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development. Paula is the Executive Director for Serve Alaska. Paula noted that Serve Alaska has a grant from the federal government and receives federal pass-through grants for the AmeriCorp program that funds volunteer projects in Alaska. AmeriCorp offers valuable volunteer labor for Alaska's community projects and provides participants with job skills to secure employment. Paula believes in matching the volunteers with their skills. Paula believes that volunteer skills are what connect the dots to employment.

Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission (Anchorage SAC)

Joan Fischer, Chair, Ella Craig, & Dawnya Clements, Anchorage SAC Members

Marie Lavigne, Anchorage Senior Program Coordinator

Joan Fischer reported. Joan is the Chair of the Anchorage Senior Advisory Commission. She introduced Marie Lavigne, as the new Senior Services Coordinator, replacing Lynda Meyer who was the former coordinator. Joan explained that Marie has 20 years of leadership experience with non-profits and health care. Marie was the Executive Director of the Alaska Public Health Association, is involved with the National Association of Social Work Alaska chapter, and also worked for the Alaska Native Tribal

Health Consortium and Providence Hospital in their cancer programs. Marie was a social worker in Michigan prior to moving to Alaska in 1977.

The Anchorage SAC is conducting a needs assessment. They are working with Sheila Soule with the University of Alaska Anchorage on this project. The top needs for Anchorage seniors are housing, housing with supportive services, transportation, and access to quality and affordable health care. At the SAC meetings they are going to develop six topic areas and will hold forums. They hope to partner with the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) in conducting these forums. The Anchorage SAC will have a report on their needs assessment findings in May 2015.

May 2nd is the Older Americans Luncheon. Bill Popp will be the guest speaker at this event. He is the President and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation. He is going to talk about their effort called "Live, Work, Play" which is a grassroots effort focused on community improvement. Their goal is to make Anchorage the #1 city in America to "live, work and play" by 2025.

Marie said the Anchorage SAC hosted public hearings with the Department of Transportation at the Municipality. They successfully advocated for continuing the "free senior rides" on the city buses. The Anchorage SAC is planning to conduct a collaborative forum this fall to gather public input about senior needs. Marie said she manages the Muni's Aging and Disabilities Resource Center and provided an update on what they are doing to address community homelessness.

ACoA Commissioner Discussion of Community Issues Impacting Seniors

Rachel Greenberg talked about the needs of the Mat-Su Valley. Rachel said the Mat-Su Foundation has greatly helped the Mat-Su senior community. Elizabeth Ripley is the Executive Director for this foundation. The Foundation, in collaboration with other partners, drafted a plan to maximize efficiency of senior services in the Mat-Su area. Their report highlighted the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) as an important strategy for helping seniors and others who need long-term support services by providing information and help navigating the service system. The Mat-Su Foundation funded the Mat-Su ADRC for the first three years. The Mat-Su ADRC received a one-time funding of \$75,000. During legislative session, funding for the Mat-Su ADRC was added to the capital budget but then removed by legislators during Conference Committee deliberations.

Rachel said Denise was invited to make a presentation to the Mat-Su senior providers about the role of regional senior advisory commissions. Denise presented to the Mat-Su senior community in November and provided ideas about how to organize a senior coalition. Rachel said they organized a new commission and call it the "Mat-Su Senior Council." The newly formed Council includes representatives from several local senior coalitions. It also includes a designated seat for the ACoA which Rolf Numme serves.

Rachel said the Mat-Su Borough has a variety of needs including senior housing, transportation, and health care. Additional needs include assisted living homes that specialize in memory care, skilled

nursing, hospice, substance abuse which is more of a medication management issue, and behavioral health needs. Rachel noted that the Mat-Su senior population is underserved.

Mary Shields said the Anchorage Senior Center is looking for a new Director.

Marie Darlin reviewed the needs of Juneau seniors. Marie said there is a need for a senior assisted living facility in Juneau because Juneau has none. As a result of the Juneau senior survey, the Juneau Commission on Aging found that there is a need for a larger senior center that models after the Anchorage Senior Center, but not as large. Transportation is an issue and the Juneau Commission on Aging talked at the assembly meetings in Juneau. One area they wanted to expand is holiday bus service.

Anna Frank talked about the Denakkanaaga organization in Fairbanks which serves Alaska Native people. Anna serves on their board of directors as the Secretary. Anna said that Denakkanaaga is concerned about the assisted living needs of Native Elders in Fairbanks, especially one that serves people with dementia. They drafted a resolution about the need to develop an assisted living home in Fairbanks for rural Elders that provides culturally appropriate services. This resolution was forwarded and approved at the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference last fall.

Division of Senior & Disabilities Services

Jon Sherwood, Deputy Director

The Legislature approved Senior and Disabilities Service's (SDS) budget and the budget went through with no cuts to positions or programs. An increment of \$545,000 for the Nutrition, Transportation, and Support (NTS) services senior grant was approved. Senior and Disability Services appreciated the advocacy from ACoA and other senior advocacy groups that helped to secure the increased funding for NTS. The funding from NTS will be distributed regionally based on the funding formula approved in the State Plan for Senior Services.

Jon said SDS's automated service plan is underway. It is an automated system that will encompass all of their work and data in one database. The database will include data from Adult Protective Services, provider certifications, critical incident reporting, and the Assisted Living Provider Network. SDS hired a company named "Harmony" to help develop the system. A couple weeks ago, SDS conducted a mapping session for the core parts of the system. The first session was Adult Protective Services and their critical incident reports. SDS is now working with intake reports. The new program is demanding on their staff. SDS is receiving good participation from providers.

Regarding grants, SDS is working on continuation grants for core senior grant-funded services. They are implementing an electronic grant system called "GEMS" which is being used Department wide.

SDS is running a pilot for the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in Kenai. "ADRC First" aims to connect individuals being assessed with the right services – whether they are waiver, Personal Care Assistance (PCA) or grant. This pilot project also helps to connect people with behavioral health needs to

appropriate community services. SDS will provide more information about the ADRC First pilot project at the next ACoA meeting.

Jon provided an update about Alaska's waiver programs. SDS is striving to release changes to regulations for home and community based services. SDS met with a couple of provider groups and they will conduct a 45-day comment period. Another waiver-related issue is the need to develop a transition plan for the State to implement the final ruling of new federal regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) regarding residential and non-residential waiver services. Jon explained that the new CMS regulations were announced on March 17. States have one year to develop a transition plan and up to five years for implementation of the new regulations. The areas that these regulations will impact are more formal requirements around person-centered planning. Some of the regulations will require new documentation from providers to be eligible for reimbursement. Jon said SDS will request stakeholder input this summer.

Jon noted that SDS discovered several cases of Medicaid fraud which resulted in indictments. SDS closed down one agency that had been indicted which served approximately 400 clients.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust)

Jeff Jessee, CEO, Paula Easley, Trustee, Nancy Burke, Senior Program Officer, & Amanda Lofgren, Program Officer

Nancy Burke, Trust Senior Program Officer, reported for the Trust.

Nancy reviewed the Trust's Request for Recommendation budget process that will begin in July for determining budget recommendations for General Funds/Mental Health funds (GF/MH) that are included in the Trust's recommendations for the Mental Health budget bill and Mental Health Trust Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR). Nancy believes that this year was very successful in terms of priorities such as the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC) which did not start out in the Governor's budget but it did make it in the Governor's budget and was funded in a way that really shores it up. Funding for the CBC was approved in the amount of \$525,000 base funding. Nancy noted that the CBC is very important for populations that the Trust works with, such as people with Alzheimer's disease. The Trust is supporting the Alzheimer's Roadmap, a plan to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in Alaska. Nancy believes the CBC is a very important component of that work. Nancy said it was rewarding to see something go well because of the joint advocacy and ACoA's support. The Trust thanks the ACoA for their advocacy efforts.

Now the Trust is preparing for the upcoming FY16 budget cycle. Today the Trust began the Request for Recommendation (RFR) phase for the recommendation process. The request for recommendation is in the Trust's statute. They are required to conduct the RFR process with the statutory advisory boards that include the Alaska Commission on Aging, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Alaska Mental Health Board and Alaska's Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse.

The four boards collaborate with the Alaska Brain Injury Network and develop recommendations for the budget. The board/council/commission recommendations help the Trust spend monies for the Trust's beneficiary populations.

The Trust's Focus Areas include Housing & Long-Term Support Services, Disability Justice, Workforce Development, Beneficiaries Project Initiative, and Bring the Kids Home Initiative. The Bring the Kids Home Initiative had 400+ youth going outside of Alaska for psychiatric services and now it is in the 100s. Nancy explained that is an example of how the Trust's Trustees feel that if we put deeper resources in place, we can change the system. This strategy takes a lot of effort and a lot of time. The Trust is now going to start focusing on the rising senior population and look at who to partner with to move forward. It may take two years of planning but this is an exciting time. Two other areas that the Trust is addressing is employment for Trust beneficiaries so that they are able to find jobs and gain economic stability. The Trust has been working with Vocational Rehabilitation with the Department of Labor to identify what is needed to achieve this goal. The Beneficiary Project Initiative will include this new emphasis on Employment for Beneficiaries and funding will be considered by Trustees at their September board meeting. The Trust plans to work with the Rasmuson Foundation, the Mat-Su Health Foundation and other funding partners around the state to address alcohol abuse.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Jim McCall, Senior Housing Program Officer

Jim gave an update on AHFC-funded senior housing.

Delta Junction received new housing and funding for the project that was approved by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's (AHFC) Loan Department. AHFC funded the Howard House, a group home for seniors with physical and mental disabilities which is part of an assistance provider interest rate reduction program. AHFC financing also funded the renovation of Northwood Apartments in Soldotna (23 units of senior housing).

Jim provided a legislative update. He noted that increased funding for AHFC's Senior Citizen Housing Development Grant Fund was supported by the Alaska Commission on Aging's Resolution for AHFC. Unfortunately, capital funding was approved at the same level of \$4.5 million, which is the same level of funding for the last 6 years. The capital budget is waiting for the Governor's signature. Since 2008, the Legislature appropriated \$323 million in Home Energy Weatherization funds which resulted in \$9.5 million being expended monthly, which equates to a little over 200 units monthly being improved.

Since 2008, the Legislature has appropriated \$237.5 million for the Home Energy Rebate Program, plus the \$15 million that is currently in the Capital Budget which takes it to \$252 million. With the Home Rebate Program and the Weatherization Program, the energy saved annually is 2.9 trillion BTUs. That amount equates to 502,000 barrels of oil as well as 21 million gallons of fuel.

AHFC conducted an audit in 2012 of the number of people that use this rebate program. The audit showed that the average rebate is \$6,900 and the homeowner spent \$4,700 out of pocket and saved \$1,500 annually in energy costs.

Jim provided a housing update. AHFC currently has the senior disabled waitlist and the voucher program waitlist closed due to sequestration. The senior disabled waitlist stands at 616. The following places are accepting applications for housing; Cordova; Golden Towers in Fairbanks; Mountain View in Juneau; and Glacier View in Seward. Housing Choice Waivers can be applied for in Petersburg and Wrangell.

AHFC Board passed the rent reform timeline. AHFC will begin recertification of existing applications for temporary affordable-housing. For each additional unit available, four additional families are waiting. There is a Step Program for seniors and the disabled to fit under this affordable housing program. Monthly rent is based on 30% of the renter's income.

Elder Protection of Older Adults

Diana Weber, Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO)

Barbara Dick, Adult Protective Services Manager (APS)

Diana said she has had a heavy case load since the Commission's February meeting of an average 64 cases per month. This is up from 60 cases per month last year.

Adult Protective Services had to close three assisted living homes in Anchorage due to Medicaid fraud and had to move 15 seniors. OLTCO visited the 15 displaced seniors since in their new placement and found them doing fine in their new housing location. They will continue to monitor these individuals to ensure that the new housing placements are working.

One of the reasons why there are so many cases is because OLTCO is doing an increased number of unannounced visits. The more seniors we talk to, the more problems we find. As the sequestration takes money and with the administrative costs going up, she doesn't know how they will be able to keep up on their unannounced visits.

Diana said she is very grateful for the Alaska law that advocates for seniors outside of long-term care. They were called to investigate an assisted living facility in Kenai. OLTCO found that the property manager was bullying a 96-year old woman. After reporting their findings, the USDA Civil Rights in Washington D.C. became interested in senior housing in Alaska and have asked for materials on developing a resident council. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman is the only one that can investigate if the problem is not criminal. Diana said she went to the annual Long-Term Care Ombudsman Convention in San Diego and was elected to the National Board. They requested Diana to work with AARP on national volunteer recruitment.

Barbara Dick, Adult-Protective-Services Program Manager

Barbara explained the APS intake report process. APS has an investigating unit and receive an average of 5,000 reports annually. When Barbara began work with APS eight years ago, they received 1,500 per year. This is a significant increase in reports. Her office works with the Ombudsman's office. The average age in the reports of harm is 62 with the oldest age recorded in a report of harm being 102. Females make up the majority of the reports and the largest percent of allegations are concerning neglect from caregivers and allegations of self-neglect. Their case management has had some turnover recently as one employee left and one employee retired. Things are going well and there are even people who are now independent and no longer need assistance from APS. We are seeing cases of elders with mental illness and/or dementia who can benefit from assistance from APS.

Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency of Alaska (ADRAA)

Karl Garber, Executive Director

Karl introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency of Alaska. Karl began his new position last year. Karl said Dulce Nobre, the previous Executive Director, "left big shoes to fill." Karl was previously the administrator for Providence Health Services in the long-term care unit.

The resource agency expects the cases of people with Alzheimer's disease to nearly double in the next decade. Services are funded through grants and donations. The agency conducts classes for professional caregivers and their education and support services program has nine education specialists and provide services statewide. The Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency serves Alaskans impacted by Alzheimer's disease statewide.

ADRAA's provides care coordination and makes sure that persons needing services receive appropriate services. According to their customer satisfaction surveys, 99% of their clients report that they are satisfied with their services. They also provide respite relief for family caregivers, which is an important break from caregiving. Last year the agency provided services for 100 communities in Alaska. The agency is a non-profit organization and they are dedicated to their mission. They have a broad geographical representation on their board and they look to the future to continue to advance their mission.

Advocacy Reports

Ken Helander, AARP Advocacy Director, & Marie Darlin, AARP Capitol City Task Force

Ken said he looks to Marie Darlin to summarize the legislative session. He thinks they faired pretty well and is grateful for the Commission's advocacy. Ken commended Marie Darlin for her great work as an advocate on senior issues and said he really appreciates Marie. Today he had the privilege of visiting with Jeannine English who is the new President Elect for the board of AARP. Jeannine will be the keynote speaker for the Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium. She lives in California.

AgeNet, Rachel Greenberg gave the report.

Rachel is AgeNet’s Vice-Chair and serves on the Commission in the Provider’s seat. AgeNet is comprised of 33 providers statewide. AgeNet collaborates with the Alaska Commission on Aging and shares most of the Commission’s priorities. AgeNet times their legislative visits with ACoA to jointly advocate for their shared advocacy priorities.

AgeNet’s three budget priorities include an increase in base funding for the National Family Caregiver Grant Program, increased base funding for Nutrition Transportation and Support Services (NTS), and funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The NTS additional base funding was approved in the amount of \$545,000. Although additional NTS funding was not originally in the Governor’s budget, the budget request was put in by Senator Dunleavy during Senate Finance Committee and approved during Conference Committee. The other two priorities did not receive additional funding.

AgeNet has concerns about the “Final Rulings” on waiver regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) and the impact it will have on the providers. Rachel noted that the State of Alaska has set up a home and community based system differently than in other areas in the nation and has been successful in keeping people out of nursing homes, which in part, is done with waiver and grant-funded care coordination services. The issue is that providers who provide care coordination cannot be the same provider providing the services identified in the person’s plan of care developed by the care coordinator for waiver services. Many providers offer care coordination and other services for seniors and others who qualify for waiver services.

There have been provider complaints about the transition to the MMIS system managed by Xerox as there is a backlog of reimbursement requests. Providers use the MMIS system to request Medicaid reimbursement from the State for waiver services.

AgeNet’s annual meeting will be June 16th in Anchorage. Rachel noted that the partnership with ACoA and AgeNet is invaluable.

ACoA Committee Discussion
ACoA FY15 Committee Goals & Membership
Discussion of additions or changes to ACoA Committee Goals
Action item

Executive Committee Goals FY15
No changes recommended

Planning Committee Goals FY15
No changes recommended

Legislative Advocacy Committee FY15 – Action Item

Addition suggested: Access to primary health care, housing and transportation should be added as legislative priorities.

By-law Committee FY15

No changes recommended

Paula suggested that the Commission should notify which staff person is assigned to which ACoA committee.

Action Item

Marie moved to approve recommendations to FY15 Standing Committee Goals. Rachel seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Discussion & Action of ACoA FY2015 Rural Outreach Meeting

Action items

Banarsi moved to have the Rural Outreach Meeting in Northern Alaska with the meeting in Fairbanks. Rolf seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Paula suggested two extra sites for visits such as the Fairbanks Pioneer Home and the VA Hospital. Anna suggested the Fairbanks Native Association.

Marie moved for the December meeting to be held via teleconference on 12-9, 12-10, 12-11, 2014. Rachel seconded. The motion was approved.

Marie moved to move the February meeting to first part of March 2015. Rachel seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Elders Committee Report

Kay Branch, Elders Program Coordinator & Melissa Heflin, Outreach Coordinator.

Kay gave an update on the ANTHC Elders Committee. Kay recognized ACoA Commissioner Anna Frank as a member of the Elders Committee. Kay said the main concern of the Alaska Native Elder Health Advisory Committee is the lack of personal care assistants (PCA) and waiver services in the rural areas. Last December, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, which had the longest running PCA program, was forced to close the program because they were subsidizing it with \$200,000 annually, which they could not sustain. The Yukon Kuskokwim Corporation has been subsidizing these programs for the last 20 years.

Kay said a pilot program that the Elders Committee has worked on would bring back the Medicaid Reform Legislative Project. If Tribal health members receive services from a Tribal health program, the federal government pays 100% for these services which in turn save the State money. They are working with Tanana Chiefs Conference, which is the only Tribal health organization in Alaska that is providing home health services, to implement the pilot project. The Elders Committee is requesting Tanana Chiefs

to do a pilot project that can bundle three crucial services; personal care attendants (PCA), chore services, and respite.

The Elders Committee has a new pilot project for case management which is targeted case management for tribes. This program would be for Elders and the disabled who are at risk of being put into a nursing home and it would be tribal-specific Medicaid reimbursement. The Anchorage Pioneer Home is full and there is a lack of long-term care in the state.

Board Training: “Lifelong Learning in the Second Half of Life”

Rolf W. Numme, Ed.D., ACoA Commissioner

Rolf gave a presentation on “Lifelong Learning in the Second Half of Life” as board training activity.

Through education we become more knowledgeable. Being in a higher class allows us to afford more education. Schooling requires an investment of time and money and changes our socio-economic status. Education increases our workforce flexibility. Post-secondary education is important for older people seeking employment. One of the big concerns for seniors is not having enough money for living expenses. There are higher divorce rates in mid to later life, so when retirement comes you expect to have two incomes but when the divorce happens you only have one pension. Education may help address this concern for seniors who are in the job market.

A copy of Rolf’s presentation is included in the ACoA May 2014 meeting binder.

ACoA Board Elections conducted by the Nomination Committee

Action Item

Mary Shields elected as ACoA Chair and Rolf Numme as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Closing Comments

Paula said that she had a conversation with Mike Lesman, Governor Parnell’s Special Assistant, who said he was “awed” at the variety of issues affecting seniors that he learned about through the Power of Aging Symposium.

Marie said it was a learning experience for all of us.

Paula said the Symposium was wonderful and we need to continue to push information forward.

Rachel said she loved the Power of Aging Symposium. From the provider-side, they are always talking about outcomes.

Banarsi said he is always amazed at the staff and it humbled him to see the process of putting together the Symposium.

Rolf said it impresses him with the amount of work the staff does and the dedication from the ACoA Commissioners.

Eleanor said she enjoyed the Symposium and liked how it stayed on time.

Adjournment: The ACoA board meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.