

**Alaska Commission on Aging – Planning Committee Report
December 6, 2011**

Dear fellow Commissioners:

Your attention is drawn to the list of six (6) goals that were set by your Planning Committee for FY 2012, and approved by the Commission (ACOA) at its September meeting in Wrangell. Since then, the Committee has solidified its plans to proceed with work related to implementation of Goals 1 and 6.

Goal #1: State Plan for Senior Services implementation committee is scheduled to meet in Anchorage for a two day meeting at the B.P. Exploration Building beginning December 8, 2011. The Commission E.D. has been able to secure the services of Mike Walsh, Ph.D, a Consultant with the Foraker Group, to facilitate the meeting and the work of this group. By holding this meeting immediately following the ACOA's quarterly meeting on December 6-7, we are able to ensure maximum participation from our Commission members. Also, the two days available for this meeting will provide ample time and opportunities for developing a framework for an Implementation Plan with roles and responsibilities of Agency Partners and others, along with timelines for implementing goals, strategies, performance measures etc.

Goal #6: The Committee's goal calls for the development of a State Plan to address the needs of people with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) and their family caregivers. The prevalence of ADRD is growing nationally, and Alaska can reasonably expect to have greater demand for services in this area because of its fastest growing senior population. We will begin work on developing the State Plan for ADRD by holding a series of community forums during ACOA's quarterly meetings, with the first one planned for the December meeting of the ACOA in Anchorage. Through these forums, we hope to learn more about the needs, how well the services are working and the gaps in services. "The intent of the State Plan is to elevate public understanding about ADRD and to identify next steps and to improve services and supports for people with ADRD and their families over the next 3 to 5 years." A set of questions have been developed to provide a basic framework/structure for initiating a discussion and gathering information.

Work relating to **Fall Prevention** and **Healthy Lifestyles for Older Alaskans** is an ongoing effort in collaboration with SDS, Public Health, Trust, ANTHC and other Partners. The Commission staff continues to participate in the **Long-Term Care Steering Committee** to develop a set of recommendations for long-term care of older Alaskans and other vulnerable populations. These recommendations will be presented to the DHSS, the Governor, the Legislature, the Trust and the Alaska Healthcare Commission by the Long-term Care Steering Committee.

Respectfully submitted
Banarsi Lal, Chair, Planning Committee

