



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
February 22, 2023 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Abi Haring-Brito , Vice Chair Dr. Emily McMahan AnnaBell Stevens Traci Willett Suzanne Hickel	Dawnia Clements	Gordon Glaser Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Marge Stoneking, AARP Deborah Bear Dr. Michael Savitt, AHD Marietta Hall Jeanne Larson, Medicare Information Ofc. <b>Staff Liaison:</b> Judy Atkins

**Call to Order**

Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**Introductions**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Stevens; seconded by Commissioner Hickel. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Approval of the January 25, 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Haring-Brito. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Presentation | Alaska Legal Services | Eva Khadjinova**

Alaska Legal Services is private nonprofit law firm that provides high quality free legal services to Alaskans in need. In 2021, assisted 1,924 Alaskans. Although focusing on low-income Alaskans, anyone over 60 can apply for assistance. All services are free. Categories include housing issues, healthcare (Medicaid, Medicare, Long-Term Care, PCA), family law, income maintenance (Social Security, SSI, food stamps, public assistance), advance planning (basic wills, powers of attorney) consumer protection (debt collection, utility cutoffs), elder abuse. Call 888-478-2572 to apply for services.

**Legislative | AARP Report – Marge Stoneking**

AARP representatives recently returned from Juneau. Virtual meetings with legislators will start next week. There are several bills impacting seniors; with the workforce diminishing, healthcare becomes a challenge as we age. AARP has three focus areas. 1) They have partnered with others to advocate for the nurse licensure compact. 2) Medicaid home-based services for Long-Term Care – most seniors want to remain in their own home as they age. 3) Return to the defined benefit pension option for state employees. Bill submission is slower this year due to workforce shortages and a large group of new legislators. The Chair thanked Marge and AARP for all the work and being a part of the commission.

## **Continuing Business**

Focus Point Alzheimer's. The commission would like to continue to have Alzheimer's as a focus point. Two areas we may be able to assist with are access to care and funding.

Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Chair Bailey continues to serve on this committee. He reiterated the need for volunteers and asked that you send your information to him, letting him know how much you want to be involved. Concerns were expressed about transportation issues such as a decrease in bus stops through the community. Listening sessions are being set up and a survey will be sent out asking for age friendly ideas for Anchorage. Participate in the survey and express your viewpoint.

AMATS report. Tabled until next meeting.

Senior Health Care Clinic Closure. The clinic closure at the end of this month will leave over 4,000 without a provider. There are only two clinics actively taking patients right now: Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (ANHC) and Providence Family Clinic. Dr. Michael Savitt, Chief Medical Officer for the Anchorage Health Department, is greatly concerned about the impact on the health of the community at large. He pointed out that without a Senior Care Clinic in the community, the city's 'Age Friendly' designation may come into jeopardy. A work group has been created and started meeting with community partners like ANHC to brainstorm. It is hoped that the partners will step up to identify solutions. When asked if the Commission would like to be an active partner in this work group, the consensus was positive. Ms. Deborah Bear provided comments regarding the clinic closure and an overview of research she has done. She is interested in joining the work group.

Older Americans Month Kick-Off Event. Event to be held May 3, 2023 at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. Sponsored by AARP with a \$2,000 donation. Guest speaker request has been made, congressional videos requested, singer confirmed, plaque for Ron Hammett Award requested. Chairs Glaser and Bailey duties: secure guest speaker, entertainment, door prizes, gifts for speaker and singer; secure governor's proclamation. Ron Hammett Award criteria and nomination form are available on the website. Senior Voice will do a feature in the next edition. Ms. Atkins meets today with ASAC staff to discuss event details.

Commission Vacancy Update. Appointments scheduled for March 7 Assembly Agenda.

Election of Officers. Postponed to March 22, 2023.

## **New Business**

### **Public Comment**

Marietta Hall, a Financial Advisor, came to the Commission with a request. She has prepared a comprehensive financial planning guide for long-term care and would like the commissioners to review and provide feedback. Commissioners would like to participate; Ms. Atkins will compile feedback received and report back to Ms. Hall.

### **Commissioner/Announcements**

Chair Bailey expressed his appreciation for our advocacy for seniors and hopes this enthusiasm extends through the Spring.

**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Haring-Brito; seconded by Commissioner Bailey; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:35.**

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 22, 2022**