



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2019 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kevin Turkington, Chair Gayle Schuh AnnaBell Stevens Jim Bailey (T) Dawnia Clements (T) Hattie Gardner (T) Emily McMahan (T)	Jenna Bruner (U) Theresa Brisky (U)	Alice Applegate-State of Alaska Maureen Haggblom-ADRC Ken Helander-AARP Sheron Patrick-Alaska Better Business Bureau <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Kevin Turkington called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:07 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Turkington called for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Schuh. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair Turkington called for approval of the minutes for the March 27, 2019 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Commissioner Schuh, seconded by Commissioner Stevens. Two minor changes were submitted to the minutes. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved with changes.**

Introductions

Presentations

Sheron Patrick, Alaska Better Business Bureau. Mr. Patrick is the Marketplace Manager for public relations and business and community outreach. The BBB was founded in 1912. Identity theft is the illegal use of someone else's personal information to obtain money or credit. Tips to protect yourself are: secure your social security number; don't share personal information; collect your mail every day; pay attention to your billing cycles; shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, expired credit cards; create complex passwords, review your credit reports yearly; freeze your credit files. Social media scams are more prevalent – check privacy security settings. The top scams are: online purchasing, phishing, employment, tax collection, debt collection, tech support, government grant, sweepstakes/lottery/prizes,

fake checks/money orders. Mr. Patrick urged usage of their website to check on a business prior to committing to a purchase. A complaint can also be filed on their website. To track the current scams go to <https://bb.org/scamtracker> Ken Helander, AARP commented that they are partners with the AK BBB and in July, the Age Smart topic will be on fraud and scams. In August, AARP is sponsoring a visit by Frank Abagnale, who became one of the most notorious imposters, claiming to have assumed no fewer than eight identities. Reformed now, he is a spokesperson on how to protect yourself. This free presentation will be at the Wendy Williamson Center.

Anne Applegate, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. Ms. Applegate spoke about the Supported Decision-Making Agreements (SDMA) Act -- written agreements that give people the help they need to make choices about their lives. These choices could be about where to live, what to do during the day, how to spend money, or when to see a doctor. SDMA's can extend periods of independence for seniors and can be an excellent tool to allow people to make their own decisions. The SDMA does to protect an individual from bad decisions and people have to take responsibility for their decisions, good or bad. Ms. Applegate asked the commissioners to review the information and provide feedback on any concerns. She provided sample forms and indicated Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska is trained to complete the form.

Legislative | AARP Report

Ken Helander, AARP. Ken Osterkamp is no longer state director. The local office will be closed all next week as they are attending the National meeting in D.C.

Legislative report. Seniors are faring fairly well with exceptions like those living in the senior living have higher payments. Money is being set aside for those already in the system that cannot afford the rate increase, trying to soften the blow to those living in the pioneer homes already. He is encouraged about senior benefit program, which has been zeroed out with no funding. Two bills to repeal were killed in committee and the house and senate encouraged level funding for this year. There was a shortfall for this year's senior benefits funding, the \$76 check for May and June were cut off without notice. There are several health-related bills that address seniors: tele-health-providing health services to those in rural areas; a bill allowing providers to buy vaccines in bulk; a bill – sharps free – renews the program providing incentives for health care providers to have low reimbursements or cash bonus in signing up to practice in Alaska. "Sharps 3" – does not require any state money. Proven record, providing incentives for hundreds of healthcare providers. Additional legislative concerns are: a reduction in funding for Alaska legal services, a statewide program providing legal services to low income seniors. Seniors use this service a lot. Without this service, there is no legal support for vulnerable population; Transfer on death of real property. If you own a house, you can register that on your death, the house can pass to who you designate. Immediately. Would not have to go through probate. This bill is similar in that addresses vehicles and boats. If it passes, you have opportunity to give vehicles away and not part of the estate.

Old Business

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event. Ms. Atkins reported that the event planning is coming along as expected with only a few items outstanding: picking up the trophy for the Ron Hammett Award winner; receiving a senatorial video and receiving the city proclamation. Volunteers are in place, the senior center is ready to go with the food and decorations and we have received many door prizes. The emcees will be Gayle Schuh and Kevin Turkington.

New Business**Commissioner comments/Announcements****Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Stevens; second by Commissioner Schuh to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is May 22, 2019.