

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Retreat Outcomes

Goals & Action Steps

The *Senior Citizens Advisory Commission* (SCAC) chose the following as its priority issues for April 2006-March 2007:

- I. COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- II. HOUSING
- III. TRANSPORTATION
- IV. AREA AGENCY ON AGING
- V. COMMISSION DIVERSITY

COMMUNIUTY OUTREACH

1. **Enhance** the community's awareness of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission.
 - Develop contacts including Community Councils and other organizations. Assign SCAC liaisons to these groups to meet with them on a regular basis.
 - Create and maintain a set of up-to-date talking points and presentation(s) for Commissioners to use at public forums.
 - Create Public Service Announcements related to senior topics (sponsored by the SCAC).
 - Select 1 or 2 topics/issues on which the SCAC will concentrate (e.g. Senior Tax Relief).
 - Compose an Anchorage Daily News *Compass* article on selected topic.
 - List SCAC meetings in A.D.N. Community Date Book and/or Volunteer Opportunities columns
 - Update and maintain an SCAC website.

HOUSING

1. **Research and compile** information related to senior housing options
 - Ascertain the number independent, assisted, low-moderate income, and skilled nursing units available within the Municipality of Anchorage.
 - Compare the availability of such housing options with current and future needs.
 - Identify communities with high numbers of seniors or early (1945-55) Baby-Boomers.
2. **Determine** the level of senior concerns related to neighborhood safety
 - Survey seniors on this topic through the Anchorage, Chugiak, and Mabel

- T. Caverly senior centers, as well as other organizations (OPAG, AARP)
- Engage the Public Safety departments (APD, AFD, DHHS, etc.) in a discussion of these concerns.
- Determine areas on which the SCAC can advocate for change.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **Identify and connect** with partners with common transportation interests/concerns.
 - Partner with the Americans with Disabilities Act Commission.
 - Request regular updates from the Municipal Department of Transportation.
2. **Increase** senior awareness of transportation options, both for specialized and general publics.
 - Engage the Department of Transportation to assist in these efforts.
3. **Determine** senior concerns related to transportation.
 - Survey seniors on transportation through the Anchorage, Chugiak, and Mabel T. Caverly senior centers, as well as other organizations (OPAG, AARP)
 - Meet with representatives from AnchorRides to discuss their customer feedback.
4. **Advocate** for continued improvement of existing transportation options, as well as supporting new alternatives to better meet the needs of seniors.
 - Support the Department of Transportation's grant applications and funding requests by writing formal letters and speaking at Public Hearings.

AREA AGENCY on AGING

1. **Research** the potential for establishing an Area Agency on Aging in the Municipality of Anchorage.
 - Continue the information gathering work of the AAoA Committee.
2. **Recommend** formal action to the Administration and the Assembly based upon the work of the AAoA Committee and SCAC
 - Continue the work of the AAoA Committee in order to make a formal recommendation to the full SCAC.
 - Recommend action to the Administration and the Assembly.

COMMISSION DIVERSITY

1. **Support** increasing acceptance of diversity throughout the Municipality.
 - Participate in the Mayor's Diversity week in the fall.
 - Compose a letter to the Mayor in support of overall diversity, both on the

SCAC, and the community as a whole.

2. **Ensure** a diverse applicant field for the SCAC
 - Solicit applicants from different communities and cultures and forward to the Mayor for his consideration.

2. **Increase** the Commission's understanding of diversity issues
 - Invite Malcolm Roberts, Susan Churchill, and others to discuss these issues with the SCAC.