



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2025 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Abi Haring-Brito – Chair Jim Bailey Gordon Glaser Debbie Bear Dr. Emily McMahan Traci Willett Suzanne Hickel	Emily McMahan (E)	Darcie Montalvo, HSD Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Jeanne Larson Vickie Drussell, Becky Crawford Downtown Hope Center Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Commissioner Haring-Brito called the meeting to order (with a quorum) at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Bailey. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Approval of the February 26, 2025 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Bailey; seconded by Commissioner Glaser. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Introductions

Presentation

Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative: Sandra Heffern. The Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative is a coalition of public-private partners committed to preparing Alaska State for the growth of the dementia population. Alaska is one of the fastest aging states in the nation. An aging population means an increase in a difficult diagnosis: Alzheimer’s Disease. Every person with Alzheimer’s Disease eventually requires round-the-clock care. Alaska is not prepared to meet this quietly encroaching epidemic. The needs of Alaskans with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) are complex and require an ongoing focused action-oriented commitment to address the many layers, funding mechanisms, and solutions needed to build a sustainable system capable of addressing this public health challenge. The ADRD address six goals: expanded service options and capacity of the systems of care; establish a dementia-capable workforce; create resources and information that are readily available and make family caregivers feel supported and capable; establish the importance of prevention and early diagnosis in communities statewide; develop a system that consistently monitors the prevalence of ADRD; promote innovation and research into effective interventions.

Downtown Hope Center. Vickie Drussell and Becky Crawford provided an overview of the vast programs and services offered by the Downtown Hope Center to include food truck, a garden, culinary and catering services, and the bakery program. They also offer a shower house and transitional housing. Subsidized housing to women needing trauma care, treatment for abuse, addiction and victims of human trafficking. They are privately funded and do not depend on government funds. Volunteers are always welcome, and several opportunities are available.

Legislative | AARP Report

Marge Stoneking was not available to attend. Commissioners have requested a summary of the work that is happening so that they may stay informed.

Commission Focus Points

Anchorage as an Age-Friendly Designation - Commissioner Bailey reported that he is regularly meeting with members of the Mayoral Administration to advocate for Age-Friendly designation. A lot of the domains of Age-Friendly overlap with the improvements for the city that the mayor already has in mind and is working towards. Discussions around a presentation in September are happening.

Continuing Business

Older Americans Month Kick-Off Event. Ms. Atkins has worked on tying up loose ends for the kick-off event on May 7th. The congressional videos are requested, all proclamations have been requested, the cake will be delivered that morning, the singer has volunteered, additional volunteers are secured to assist with seating. Commissioner Bear is securing door prizes. Commissioner Haring-Brito will ask Mayor Suzanne LaFrance to be the guest speaker; if she agrees, the program will proceed. The Ron Hammett Award winner will be decided in April and the trophy will be ordered-OPAG has agreed to pick up the award cost.

Motion to approve resolution supporting Older Americans Month by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Glaser. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

New Business

Public Comment

Commissioner Comments | Announcements

Commissioner Bear will tender her resignation following the Older Americans Month event and will concentrate on her health.

ADRC staff will request that health surveys be completed on April 30th.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Bailey; seconded by Commissioner Glaser. **Hearing no objections, meeting adjourned at 11:43. Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 23, 2025**