



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2021 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center / Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Vice Chair Dawnia Clements AnnaBell Stevens Hattie Gardner Mary Shields Theresa Brisky Pam Kelley Jim Bailey, Chair	Hattie Gardner (E)	Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Bethany Burgess, Hospice Sarah Pye, Hospice Marge Stoneking, AARP <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Vice Chair Schuh started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice Chair Schuh called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Shields moved to accept the Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Kelley. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the June 23, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Shields moved to approve as presented; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. A missing word was pointed out in the first line of the ACoA Report. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved with correction.**

Introductions

Presentation – Bethany Burgess, Hospice of Anchorage

Hospice of Anchorage is the resource for navigating a serious illness, working together with everyone to support the transition from life to death and helping those left cope with grief and their loss. They focus on caring, and services are available to people of all ages with any serious or life-limiting illness. A team of trained professionals and volunteers provide emotional and spiritual support, information, in home assistance and companionship. They also assist with resource coordination and can refer a client to a medical hospice if need be. They will coordinate with others to provide needed medication and equipment and can also provide limited in-home respite and chore services. Ms. Burgess provided information on qualifying for hospice care and how to start the process. All services provided are free. Up to one third of their budget comes from the state, the rest from donations as they are a 501.c.3. organization. Many books are available from their Lending Library (samples provided for commissioners); their Loan

Closet has walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, etc. available at no charge. Items are available that may assist those with dementia like robotic pets, fidget blankets and music players. Hospice can also assist you with advance directives and power of attorney options.

Mayor Dave Bronson attended the Anchorage Senior Activity Center construction tour and stopped by the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission meeting to introduce himself and make short remarks. Thank you and welcome.

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking

The state legislative session started a week ago and will continue for 30 days. Permanent fund dividend issues are a hot topic along with many others. The House finance committee focused on governor's appropriations regarding specific education items. Alaska Legal Services legislation is a concern as 20% of their clients are seniors. Currently, AARP messages has been to focus on revenues and additional cuts to state services. AARP has created a five part series – revenue sources conversations with legislators which is open to AARP members.

Senior Note: Commissioner McMahan encouraged seniors to write their U.S. Senator in reference to a bill to remove the required referral system of medical recipients that want to seek a provider. Gives you direct access to the providers. The bill number is HR 1587 and S1731. Text of S1731 reads: *This bill provides for Medicare coverage of certain audiologist services. Specifically, the bill expands coverage to include diagnostic and treatment services that are furnished by audiologists and that would otherwise be covered if provided by a physician, including incidental services, regardless of whether such services are provided pursuant to a referral from, or under the supervision of, a physician or other health care practitioner.*

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser - none

Old Business

Focal Point – Alzheimer's. Commissioner Kelley reported the Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska is back to seeing clients in person with precautions but not convening small gathering classes or sessions and continuing to apply mitigation policies. There is a dementia action collaborative that's convened to implement a 10-year plan developing for the State of Alaska in its early stages now with working groups forming. It is exciting as it pulls from many sectors and the important aspect is the assurance that this is coming from every region incorporating lots of involvement from rural native communities assuring that what is proposed has the appropriate needs of individual communities considered in the design stage. Great promise to support those with dementia and their families.

Sunset Audit. The Sunset Audit Report for the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission has been completed and will be presented for approval to the Assembly soon. Nothing of any consequence to note in the report.

New Business

Presentations for Monthly Meetings. November and December meeting dates will be changed to November 17 and December 15. September 22 will feature a tour of the Senior Center; October 27 – possible topic is Mental Health-Gayle to work obtaining a presenter; November - ask Nila Morgan present on Medicare; December – ask Brittany with ASAC to present their current programming. A suggestion was made to speak with the Chugiak Eagle River Senior Center in the future also to educate ourselves as to what they have available as well.

Comments from the Chair

Chair Bailey said he spent most of July in Providence Hospital but is home now and receiving home health care. As a senior he really respects and appreciates the health care workers in Anchorage and they do a wonderful job and we need to continue respecting them at this time He also appreciates that the commission is going forward without him temporarily. He hopes Mayor Bronson becomes more involved with our commission.

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.