



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2022 ~ Microsoft Teams**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Abi Haring-Brito Traci Willett Suzanne Hickel Dr. Emily McMahan Mary Shields	Amanda Rinner (U) Dawnia Clements (E) AnnaBell Stevens (E)	Marge Stoneking, AARP Madeline Holdorf, AARP Teresa Holt, AARP Pam Kelley, Alzheimer’s Resource Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:03 a.m. with a quorum.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Move to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Shields; seconded by Commissioner McMahan; **hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve the January 26, 2022 minutes as presented, Commissioner Shields; seconded by Commissioner Hickel; **hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Presentations

Pam Kelley, Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska

Ms. Kelley relayed information to the commission on dementia issues and walked through supports offered for those who are dealing with dementia in any way. Four full time education specialists work exclusively with individuals in various categories. With offices throughout Alaska, volume in Anchorage is the greatest. Very small support group gatherings have been held on site due to the pandemic with most courses and meetings on Zoom – it can be a daunting process to navigate the course of an illness. Caregiver 101 classes (financial planning, intimacy, communication skills) are offered via Zoom as well. The first step on how to get help is to call them or go to the website. The organization is local and does not support a national organization. Ms. Kelley chairs the Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative which has six goals. There are 35 stakeholders included from all walks of life. Ms. Kelley will provide additional information in an email to be forwarded on.

Teresa Holt, Executive Director, AARP / Madeline Holdorf, President, AARP

The commission has been asked to support AARP and Ms. Holt and Ms. Holdorf in their efforts to obtain an Age-Friendly Designation for the city of Anchorage. Eight out of 10 adults want to live in their own home for as long as possible, remaining close to family and friends. They want

to remain independent, be safe in their neighborhood, have adequate access to health care services, have access to volunteer, social, civic and work opportunities and have the opportunity to choose how they live as they age. It is a five-year process to become an Age-Friendly community. Enrollment starts with a letter from the mayor to commit to becoming an Age-Friendly city. The next steps are surveying the community, creating an action plan, implementation, and the progress/status update. Motion to provide letter of support for Anchorage to become an Age-Friendly city, Commissioner McMahan; seconded by Commissioner Shield. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking, AARP

The Alaska State Legislature is in the middle of the legislative session in Juneau. AARP's Legislative Action session over zoom had 14 volunteers including Jim Bailey and Madeline Holdorf. They met with 30 legislators and addressed priorities for 2022. AARP worked in collaboration with many partners this year; also requesting meetings with Health and Social Services committee members and fiscal committee members. Priorities were: 1. permanent expansion of Medicaid telehealth (HB 265/SB 175); 2. home-community based waiver services which are critical support to keeping folks in homes and communities – ways to continue to expand and improve upon as population grows and becomes greater; 3. priorities increasing senior and disabilities grant funding that support things like meals on wheels, senior centers, day services, respite care etc. Last area of concern is HB 308/SB 216, Dementia Awareness Program, directing the DHSS develop and implement a statewide dementia awareness program.

Old Business

Older Americans Month Event. Chair Bailey and Vice Chair Haring-Brito suggested May 4 (Wednesday) as the Kickoff Event date. Chair and Ms. Atkins will meet with the Senior Center to finalize the date and specifics, will include AARP. Ron Hammett Award criteria and nomination forms have been distributed to the community with a submission deadline of April 10, 2022. The RHA committee will meet then to decide the winner. Ms. Atkins will move forward on requesting congressional videos and proclamations. Chair asked all to bring ideas about who the speaker should be; someone who should speak on the theme, *Age My Way*. BOLD infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. The support letter was approved and sent to members of the Alaska congressional delegation.

New Business

Comments from the Chair

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Adjournment

Next meeting will be virtual on Microsoft Teams on March 23, 2022, 10AM. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.