



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING/PLANNING SESSION MINUTES
March 24, 2021 ~ Microsoft Teams**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Gayle Schuh Theresa Brisky AnnaBell Stevens Pam Kelley Hattie Gardner	Emily McMahan (E) Dawnia Clements (E)	Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Gordon Glaser, ACoA <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:10 a.m. without a quorum.

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser

Members meet every two weeks as a legislative committee looking at specific issues. A brief summary of current house and senate bills was offered. The ACoA Quarterly Meeting is May 4-5-6, 2021 in the Kenai area. There will be opportunities for public participation both in person (small groups) and via Zoom – more information to come.

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 10:19 a.m.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bailey called for approval of the minutes for the February 24, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Gardner moved to approve; seconded by Commissioner Kelley. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

Legislative | AARP Report

Age-Net and Legislative Priorities – The Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network – AGE-NET – is comprised of 40 different senior service providers throughout state, whose objective is to provide advocacy for those programs primarily on state level that are important for delivery of services and in particular home and community based services to Alaskan seniors.

Members include Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska, in home service providers, senior centers, day care centers. Networking allows them to identify issues and keep them on their radar.

Age-NET is not in a position to do direct legislative lobbying others can however they can educate individuals about what senior services are available; how they are funded-various pay sources; and help give new legislators a better understanding of contributions seniors make to our state.

Legislative priorities – Chair Bailey reported on the priorities: protect funding for senior home and community based services with prevent expensive care, further develop services for those affected with Alzheimer’s and associated dementia; support awareness to the community and support funding for transportation.

Old Business

Letter to the Mayor - Chair Bailey and Commissioner Schuh continue drafting the 2021 Letter to the Mayor.

Older Americans Month – Commissioner Schuh reports that the event is planned to be mostly on Zoom – the Senior Center offered their capabilities. The selected date is May 26, the regular commission meeting date. It is hoped that they can organize a small group to meet at center and Zoom others into the meeting as well. They are drafting an Agenda now which will include information about the commission, the mayor’s proclamation, a speaker and presentation of both Ron Hammett Awards. It is also planned to include Mary Shields in the presentation of the 2021 winner. Gordon Glaser volunteered his assistance in setting up the event with the center and report of their soft re-opening in the near future.

Commission vacancy update – When Mary Shields returns from vacation at the end of April, she will complete the application and submit her resume to join the Commission.

2020 Focal Point – Alzheimer’s Awareness – The commission will continue supporting the implementation of this program. Commissioner Kelley provided comments on family members dealing with dementia in Anchorage; reported on a program to acquire robotic companion animals as comfort for those who are homebound achieving positive results.

New Business

Comments from the Chair

The state will more than likely get 1 billion dollars as part of stimulus \$\$ - send ideas to your legislative representatives on how to spend the money.

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Kelley commented that ACoA now has list-serve. Their executive director is circulating with an update on what’s going on with the commission.

Commissioner Schuh provided information on a movie called All the Lonely People; the producers filmed in Alaska and other states and worked with SAGE Alaska There may be a premier in the fall.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Schuh, at 11:12 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Wed., April 28, 2021.