



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY PLANNING SESSION MINUTES
May 25, 2022 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Abi Haring-Brito, Vice Chair Dr. Emily McMahan Mary Shields Dawnia Clements AnnaBell Stevens	Amanda Rinner (U) Traci Willett (E) Suzanne Hickel (E)	Joe Gerace, Director AHD Marge Stoneking, AARP Maureen Haggbloom, ADRC Gordon Glaser <u>Staff Liaison:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:05 a.m. without a quorum.

Introductions

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking, AARP

Ms. Stoneking shared the status of some of the current legislative bills.

- HB265/SB175 – Permanent expansion of coverage for Telehealth - Telehealth benefits older adults by reducing or eliminating distance and transportation barriers, including cost, travel and wait times, and more. Access to telehealth can also improve independence and autonomy and support the wellbeing of family.
- HB308 – Alzheimer’s and related dementias as a public health issue. Increasing public awareness and healthcare provider training can lead to better patient outcomes and reduced healthcare costs.
- HB111 – relating to the practice of dental hygiene; relating to advanced practice permits for licensed dental hygienists to practice without a dentist on site.
- HB392 – this bill will add advanced practice RNs to the list of providers authorized to sign end of life documents.

*Chair called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:16 am.

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 March 23, 2022 minutes as presented by Commissioner Stevens; seconded by Commissioner Clements; **hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Old Business

Older Americans Month Event After Action Report – Jim Bailey, Mary Shields, Judy Atkins.

Held on May 4, 2022, over 80 people attended in person at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. The program included dignitary introductions, entertainment, food, door prizes and a presentation from guest speaker, Madeline Holdorf, AARP Alaska State President. The annual Ron Hammett Award recognized the accomplishments of long-time Alaskan, Pat Abney and was presented to her via Zoom. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, it is hoped we can open the event up to more people next year. Major sponsor this year was AARP. Additional support provided by the Senior Center and staff, Arctic Rose Restaurant and staff, NANA, OPAG and Senior Voice.

Commission Planning Session/Retreat

As the facilitator, Commissioner Shields, took control of the meeting for the planning session.

Topics for discussion:

- Alzheimer's and related dementias. Mr. Glaser reinforced the fact that Pam Kelley with Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska should be included in the planning process as this is her area of expertise. The commission should continue to support the legislative bills.
- Planned Event. As noted by Commissioner McMahan, hearing is one of the biggest reasons people drop out of society. Dr. McMahan offered to set up a **FREE** hearing clinic to offer a basic hearing test for seniors. It was suggested we hold it at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center on a Friday in either July or August. She is willing to ask her fellow audiologists to assist as well. This would be a great opportunity for commissioners to volunteer. Dr. McMahan would attend their 'social hour' earlier in the week to draw attention to the event and urge seniors to attend. Following discussion, everyone agreed that this would be a worthwhile and rewarding event to offer the senior population. Ms. Atkins will ask Tyler Sachtleben, the AHD PIO, to place some social media posts in support of the event.
- The Senior Citizens Advisory Commission has partnered with AARP to encourage Anchorage to become an Age-Friendly Community. Well-designed, age-friendly communities foster economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages. Commissioner Bailey is working directly with AARP and will represent the commission. Mayor Bronson has provided a letter of support for the Anchorage community. It is expected that the commission will become more involved following the approval process.
- Commissioner Clements brought up concerns about safety for seniors due to break-ins at senior housing units like Chugach View and Chugach Manor. She noted that this was a significant issue in the 80's and is concerned that it may be starting again. Do we have a way of letting those handling senior housing know of the concern? Commissioner Clements was asked to draft a letter of concern for review and for submission to the housing authorities when approved.
- Commissioner Clements also spoke briefly about quality-of-life concerns for seniors and worries about COVID.

New Business

- The commission has decided to take hiatus during the month of June and will reconvene on July 27, 2022.

Comments from the Chair

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

- Commissioner Shields noted that she will be resigning from the Commission as she is leaving Alaska at the end of August.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Shields; seconded by Commissioner McMahan; hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Next meeting – Wednesday, July 27, 2022