



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2022 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Abi Haring-Brito , Vice Chair Dr. Emily McMahan AnnaBell Stevens Traci Willett	Dawnia Clements (E) Jim Bailey, (E) Suzanne Hickel (E)	Debbie Chulick, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Terrence Shanigan, AHD Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

At the best of Vice-Chair Haring-Brito, who was having technical difficulties with sound, Ms. Atkins started the meeting at 10:24 a.m. with a quorum and guided the commissioners through the agenda.

Note: Late meeting start due to the mix-up on the link for the Zoom meeting. With the Senior Center’s assistance, the issue was rectified, and the meeting proceeded. Those unable to access the meeting will be given excused absences.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Stevens; seconded by Commissioner Willett. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Approval of the August 24, 2022 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Presentation

Debbie Chulick, Dementia Educator, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska

Offering services statewide in Alaska, the home office is in Anchorage. They are the leading source of information, support and services for individuals with disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease, related dementias, and their families and caregivers. Ms. Chulick provided information on diverse programs offered; classes and support groups are offered for individuals and caregivers. Training is offered statewide. They partnered with Alaska Mental Health Trust to provide mini grants covering items not covered by other funding sources like therapeutic art supplies, hearing aids, accessibility items, clothing, boots, incontinent supplies, etc. For the general public, consultations and no cost memory screenings are offered. This is not a diagnosis, just a free service providing a window into where a person is ‘that day’ in their memory screening. Another partner is Second Wind Dreams who creates the opportunity to experience what it is like to have dementia – physically, to walk in their shoes. How can our Commission help? They would appreciate anything we could do. Suggestions: sponsoring a senior fair, assisting with fund raising for example the Amblin for Alzheimer’s event in May, put out some public service announcements about the importance of early intervention, be an advocate. Commissioner McMahan commented that

dementia and hearing loss go hand in hand as it is difficult to understand if you cannot hear. Some patients are never able to get their hearing adjusted to their satisfaction - discussion on the importance of continuing to screen for hearing loss, making recommendations to a physician and audiologist as well.

Legislative | AARP Report

No legislative report this month. The Alaska Commission on Aging is urging everyone to complete the survey on the new state Plan for Senior Services (FY2024-2027). Responses will be used to help develop a core set of goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures. Complete the survey by November 15, 2022.

AARP is looking for volunteers interested in legislative information and processes to join their 2023 Legislative Advocacy Volunteer Team. They will be going to Juneau February 14-16 and participate in a virtual legislative action week Feb 27-March 3. Interested? complete the questionnaire. NOTE: Ms. Atkins will send out links to both the above items.

Old Business

Focus Point Alzheimer's. Ms. Chulick provided ideas on how the commission can assist their organization. Brainstorm next month.

Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Tabled. Will ask Commissioner Bailey to report in. at the next meeting

Commission Vacancy Update. Congratulations to AnnaBell Stevens who was reappointed to the Commission by the Assembly on October 11, 2022. Dr. Emily McMahan and Gordon Glaser's applications have been forwarded to the Assembly for approval. It is anticipated they are on the November 9, 2022 agenda. Upon their approval, that leaves one vacancy to fill – do you know of someone who is passionate about seniors and would like to help? Urge them to complete the online application.

New Business

2022 Letter to the Mayor. Commissioner Willett has prepared the commission's annual letter to the Mayor and asked for comments or changes. The letter received positive comments. The number of attendees to the free health screening should be included. Commissioner Willett will accept input and then finalize the letter. Ms. Atkins will format and send to the Mayor. The letter will be posted on the commission webpage.

Public Comment

Commissioner/Announcements

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner Haring-Brito; hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:06.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 16, 2022