



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2021 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center / Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Vice Chair Dawnia Clements AnnaBell Stevens Pam Kelley Dr. Emily McMahan	Hattie Gardner (E) Mary Shields (E) Theresa Brisky (E) Jim Bailey (E)	Marge Stoneking, AARP Gordon Glaser, ACoA Staff: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Vice Chair Schuh started the meeting at 10:30 a.m. without a quorum. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center led by Rebecca Parker, Executive Director.

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser

Greetings from the commission. ACoA meets on a qrtly basis; the executive committee meets in interim. The commission had planned to go to Kodiak for onsite listening sessions, that is placed on hold for now. No meetings will be held in person for now. Mr. Glaser's term expires in December; incoming President is Bob Severson from Ketchikan a good transition is expected. A new team member from Mat-Su has been working in senior programs for many years and worked for AAA in lower 48. Mr. Glaser's term with the Anchorage Senior Activity Center is expiring as well and Paula Pawlowski will be new chair. Commissioner Kelley suggested that when a listening session is next held in Anchorage, ask that the Senior Commission be included. She will draft a letter to ACoA and invite ourselves to be heard! Express our desire to be involved. Let them know we have a perspective that would be valuable to them.

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking

Legislative: The third special session of the Alaska legislature has ended. They passed the probations bill that restored some funding previously vetoed including Alaska Legal Services funds. 40% of their population served are older Alaskans. Also included was the permanent fund dividend which was \$1,100. The Governor signed the bill and also noticed the legislature for a fourth special session to begin October 1 on the comprehensive fiscal plan. Lots of progress was made on fiscal solutions during the third session including dozens of bills related to the comprehensive fiscal plan.

AARP: AARP is presenting the final installment of Revenue Solutions on September 23; the topic is income taxes. On the Federal front: the bi-partisan infrastructure bill will be voted on by the House next week, this bill is supported by Alaska Senators. AARP's top priorities are broadband and public transit funds inclusion in the package. The single party reconciliation package, a large funding package that democrats can pass on their own and they are still negotiating – includes AARP priorities- hearing, vision and dental under

Medicare – other interests as well. AARP is offering a Tele Town Hall on October 6 – topic is COVID-19 delta variant and booster shots.

Anchorage Senior Activity Center – Tour Update

Vice Chair Schuh provided an update on the tour of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for those on Zoom. Much has been accomplished however construction is expected to continue until Spring/Summer 2022. The new skylight looks amazing however the area is still under construction; gift shop to be totally renovated. Rebecca Parker, Executive Director, has contacted the mayor and asked for an exemption to the mask mandate for the Center. To keep seniors safe, they would like to mandate that masks be worn all the time at the center. She said the Performing Arts Center has been granted an exemption and that masks can be mandated. She feels optimistic that they will receive the exemption. Staff, board members and fitness participants are required to wear a mask.

Meeting called to order with a Quorum at 11:03

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the August 25, 2021, meeting. Commissioner McMahan moved to approve as presented; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

Introductions

Presentation

Old Business

Focal Point – Alzheimer's. Commissioner Kelley shared that working groups are being stood up for the dementia action collaborative. They are now meeting and convening three working groups: capacity building and advocacy; workforce; and outreach – which needs participants. They will be planning for actions over the course of the next 10 years. Coming up early in 2022 and supported by funding thru AARP Alaska and from the trust, a Caregiver Guide will be produced and distributed through the state. Alzheimer's Resource will act as the clearing house for requests for the copies. This will serve to start many conversations. Alzheimer's Resource continues to offer classes and supports virtually however some are now coming in person.

Virtual vs In Person Meetings. Two commissioners attended in person today. If the majority of commissioners feel that virtual is a better way to go we should do that. Feedback from those on Zoom: Commissioner McMahan, as a doctor who sees so many

patients, she does not want to expose the commissioners, so she is good with virtual. Commissioner Clements wants to continue virtual meetings as does Commissioner Stevens. Comments were made about the current environment having scary statistics for those with mitigating circumstances. Commissioner Kelley Pam came in person because of the tour but would be more comfortable virtually a few more meetings. Vice Chair Schuh agreed. We will meet virtually through Microsoft Teams in October.

Presentations: Vice Chair Schuh will contact Hospice to present in October speak about maintaining our sanity as we are losing light and going into winter and strategies to keep our spirits up. She will touch base with the senior center for a Medicare presentation in November and a presentation on all senior center programming at the December meeting.

New Business

Commissioner McMahan will draft a letter supporting health mandates to send to the mayor. Commissioner Clements brought up a concern that age is a huge consideration regarding who gets care at the hospital right now. Commissioner McMahan went over the current criteria for crisis standards of care - best outcomes are a major consideration. Concern about age discrimination was discussed. HIPAA rules apply. AARP reviewed state guidelines and they were not concerned about age discrimination. The Senior Commission would like to support the Health Commission and their recommendations.

Comments from the Chair

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

- Mayor Bronson has appointed Joe Gerace as the Anchorage Health Department Director pending Assembly approval.
- Commissioner McMahan urged everyone get their flu shots as usual. If you get ill, hospitals will be unable to accommodate you.
- Commissioner Gardner having knee surgery in October – hope all goes well.

Adjournment

Next meeting will be virtual on Microsoft Teams on October 27, 2021, 10AM.

Motion to adjourn – Commissioner Kelley; seconded by Commissioner Clements..

Meeting adjourned at 1130