

## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

January 5, 2024 at 8:30am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966612080?pwd=Y2s1MU16dzdjbFkraF09>

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

### MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:** Tonya Muldoon, Sioux Douglas, Erin Walker-Tolles, Sharyl Yeisley, Cameron Young, Joan O'Keefe, Sue Nielsen, Jennifer Garrison, Stephanie Johnson, Brian Holst, Amber Smith, Brandy Boggs, Jim Swanson, Caroline Fenton, Melissa Showers, Margaret Minmaugh, Linda Kruger, Glenn Mitchell, Alyssa Fernandez, Jeannie Monk, Kirsten Testoni, Marianne Mills, Tyler McNeil, Deborah Craig, Donna LaCoeur, Stacy Kimbrough, Heidi Young

1. **Call to Order** 8:33AM – Welcome by Steering Committee Co-chair Erin Walker-Tolles. Sharyl Yeisley Co-Chair is out of town and attended later in the meeting.
2. **Agenda Approval**  
Approved as presented.
3. **Minutes Approval** – December 1, 2023 (attached)

Motion: Glen Mitchell

Seconded: Sioux Douglas

Approval: Approved

4. **SREC Project Director Report – Tonya Muldoon**
  - a. SREC Project has partnered with UAS to create a training polit that will be offered in Sitka June 3-21. 10 students are welcome (current employees seeking hands on training or new). The pilot course will cover all the training required for agency-based PCS DSP services and result in certification by the State to provide PCS support. The State has already approved UAS as the instructor and is working with us on the project. SREC will financially support 10 students to attend the training. SREC is looking for several agencies to support the pilot project through the acceptance of apprenticeship employees (1-10 employees) and who are willing to provide a letter of support to the SREC Project. The plan is to have the polit included in an apprenticeship to have a sustainable track for the region to access training to provide PCS/DSP services in the future. Once apprenticeship is established, funding and support for students is available through the Department of Labor and the program will be available regionally into the

future. If you have staff that may be interested, you want to develop your workforce and have new staff training options or know of someone who would be interested in the training please let me know, as soon as possible.

- b. If your agency has current DSP openings, please let Tonya Muldoon know as she will be presenting at the Path Academy February 9<sup>th</sup> and the students will be looking at agencies for employment opportunities. Per Cameron Young the next Path Academy will be Jan. 29 – Feb. 9. SREC Project will help pay attendance fees. Academy will be presented both on-line and in-person in Sitka. Alyssa Fernandez would like to talk with Tonya about this to see how Riverview Senior Living can be involved. Deb Craig expressed her support for dual/hybrid approach by Path Academy as well as her interest in focusing on Home Health Care. Tonya added that State nursing regulations are challenging, and that SREC Project will support various types of new training.
- c. Tonya Muldoon can be reached at [tmuldoon@jedc.org](mailto:tmuldoon@jedc.org) or by calling (907) 523-2331.

## 5. **Steering Committee Report – Charter Revision Update – *Erin Walker-Tolles***

Attached: Updated SREC Charter for 2024

The SREC Steering Committee (SC) met in December and January to revise the Charter. The revision was to support the strengths and expertise of the coalition. The mission continues to remain the same: Bringing eldercare providers from across Se Alaska together to problem solve mutual issues, share program information, and be a collaborative force for change.

The SC conducted their annual leadership election. Co-Chairs Erin Walker-Tolles and Sharyl Yeisley were re-elected, and the Secretary position changed to Sioux Douglas. We thank Deborah Craig for acting as Secretary for the SREC.

There are vacant seats available on the SC. We are looking for coalition members who have an interest in serving on the SC, especially members outside of Juneau to better represent the entire Southeast region. The vacant seats are open to all members. The position is for the calendar year 2024.

There are four sub-committees of SREC: Advocacy, Workforce Development, Best Practices, and Funding. New sub-committee chairs are needed for Advocacy and Workforce Development. This is open to SREC members, if interested please contact Erin Walker-Tolles, Sioux Douglas, or Tonya Muldoon for more information.

The SREC can work to help lobby during the upcoming Legislative session. Erin Walker-Tolles will send an email to all members with a copy of

the revised Charter. She will ask that all members, especially Executive Directors, business owners, and Elder Advocates, respond by email stating “yes” they would like to officially be a part of the Coalition. This process is important to support lobbying efforts for system changes with letters of support and requests that can be sent from the total membership of the SREC and not just from our Co-Chairs as interested individuals. If you have a business logo that you can share with Erin Walker-Tolles, it will be helpful to include it in your affirmation of membership email to her.

a. **Discussion:**

Members asked if SREC will be hiring a Lobbyist. Erin Walker-Tolles explained that Catholic Community Services, AgeNet, AARP, and other groups are represented by lobbyist Kevin Jardell who advocates for various regional and statewide Senior needs. SREC can be more supportive of lobbying efforts once members respond to Erin Walker-Tolles request for email responses to membership. Erin Walker-Tolles will reach out to Kevin Jardell to see if he may be available to come to speak with the Coalition.

Marianne Mills, who is President of AgeNet, said that Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) has vacant seats and particularly needs members from Southeast. She encouraged contacting the Governor’s Office to apply.

- b. **Comment:** Sharyl Yeisley shared that one area of needed regulation change relates to services associated with pet care. Several agencies are refusing to have staff provider care for seniors’ pets. The service is allowable under Respite services for those under a Medicaid Wavier service plan. Veterans, in addition with direct professional care (other than VA Voices) are not being helped with pets (private pay?).
- c. **Volunteer:** Sharyl Yeisley volunteered to be on the Advocacy Sub-Committee.
- d. We are updating our membership contact list. If you have not yet done so, please send Sioux Douglas an email with your name, title, business association, and contact information. Sioux Douglas can be reached at [siouxinak@gmail.com](mailto:siouxinak@gmail.com).
- e. If you would like to provide information about your program or suggest others to present Best Practice Presentations for March or April, we are looking for presenters. Please contact Linda Kruger at [linalaska2003@gmail.com](mailto:linalaska2003@gmail.com).

## 6. Old Business

**Summit Planning – Tonya Muldoon**

a. SREC Summit will be held in Juneau Oct 1-2, with a September 30 early bird registration and an evening vendor and networking event. The theme for the event is *Professional and Family Caregivers: Keep Our Community Connected*. There will be a focus on home health care workforce.

b. We are brainstorming ideas for topics for four audiences: Elders/Family, Providers, Leadership, and Caregivers. If you have any ideas about what you or your staff might like to learn more about or feel would be beneficial to the audience, please send Tonya Muldoon an email or call. [tmuldoon@jedc.org](mailto:tmuldoon@jedc.org) or (907) 523-2331.

c. Please consider having a vendor table or acting as a speaker at the SREC Summit. We would love to hear from you, including if you have suggestions for guest presenters/speakers. Again, please send Tonya Muldoon an email or call [tmuldoon@jedc.org](mailto:tmuldoon@jedc.org) or (907) 523-2331.

d. Registration for vendors and participants will be available soon. Some scholarships will be available for those who would like to attend from outside Juneau.

## 7. **New Business**

### Staffing Update – *Tonya Muldoon*

Positions have been updated and are posted at the JEDC website located at <https://www.jedc.org/jobs/>.

## 8. **Member Presentation – Rural Cap Senior Companion Program – *Maddy Stokes***

a. Maddy Stokes, Program Director for Rural Cap, presented on two programs that she is managing: Elder Mentor Program and a new Senior Companion Program. The programs are offered statewide.

The Elder Mentor Program started in 2013 as a volunteer opportunity for elders to participate with youth in the school system. Rural Cap is currently servicing 20 communities and has about 40 Elder Mentor volunteers.

The Senior Companion Program is funded by AmeriCorps. It offers a volunteer opportunity for those 55+ years or older to act as a companion to help reduce social isolation. The volunteers can engage in several activities with individuals such as transporting individuals to the store or doctor, engage in light household chores, pet care, act as a language translator, or provide a friendly visit. Each volunteer will have 1 to 4 individuals. Rural Cap offers an hourly stipend of \$4 per/hour to volunteers, mileage reimbursement, liability insurance, auto insurance, conference attendance for an Anchorage based conference, and training. Rural Cap acts to find and train volunteers. They rely on host agencies to assist with locating elders who would like additional support and to assist with the development of a service plan. Currently, the program has 2 volunteers. There are 10 slots for elders who are Alaska Native. In June 2024, funding will

allow for 40 elders to be serviced regardless of ethnic background. Maddy is looking for more host organizations to help identify clients.  
Contact: 907-744-3044; mstokes@ruralcap.org

- b. If you would like to provide information about your program or suggest others to present Best Practice Presentations for March or April, we are looking for presenters. Please contact Linda Kruger at [lindalaska2003@gmail.com](mailto:lindalaska2003@gmail.com).

## 9. Event Reports

### Outcomes of recent events

Kristen Rioux-Testoni, Home Health Director for Petersburg Medical Center, announced that they have partnered with Petersburg Indian Association (PIA) to develop Adult Day Services in the community. They currently have a small space that they are providing four elders with Adult Day Services, 3 ½ days per week. They have received a grant for lift chairs and other items to make the environment senior freely. PIA is in the process of remodeling a space that will allow the program to grow larger and serve more individuals.

### Upcoming events

- a. January 4, 2024, 12PM-1PM Zoom  
**NAMI Juneau Inside Passages Speaker Series:**  
Approaches to Substance Use and Harm Reduction Strategies.  
<https://www.namijuneau.org/insidepassages>  
  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024: Madison Truitt will present on Neurodivergence.  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Tressa Millam will present on Parenting Supports.
- b. **Sitka Tribe Elder Community Coffee Time**  
Caroline Fenton, Wellness Director for Sitka Tribe is managing the Elder Community Coffee Time. This is a monthly event that occurs at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka, Alaska. The event is open to all elders not just tribally enrolled members. They offer a hot lunch and discuss community resources. They have vender tables set up for elders to talk with providers and learn about services. They are currently servicing about 60 to 70 elders each month.  
  
They would love to receive brochures or flyers for services. They are also looking to partner with other businesses to support the ongoing funding needs for the program to continue.  
[caroline.fenton@sitkatriben-sm](mailto:caroline.fenton@sitkatriben-sm)  
(907) 966-9662

Lunch will be serviced at Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka from 11:30AM-1:30PM on the following dates:

January 9, 2024  
February 13, 2024  
March 12, 2024  
April 2, 2024  
May 14, 2024

c. **Tai -Chi and Bingocize**

Melissa Showers, Case Manager Regional Coordinator from Catholic Community Services/Se Senior Services presented three upcoming events:

a. Tai-Chi (in-person)

Tuesday and Thursday weekly  
January 23-March 14, 2024  
11AM-12PM  
St. Paul's Catholic Church,  
9055 Atlin Dr.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

b. Tai-Chi (Virtual)

Tuesday and Thursday weekly  
January 23- March 14, 2024  
2:15PM-3:15PM  
Via Zoom

Must register for the class to get a link to the Zoom meeting.

c. Bingocize

Tuesday and Thursday  
January 23 to March 28, 2024  
12:30PM-1:30PM  
Riverside Senior Living  
3041 Clinton Dr  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

d. **January 27 at 4PM New Year's Networking Event**, Riverside Senior Living located at 3041 Clinton Dr. Juneau, Alaska 99801. (907) 723-1189 etx304.

## 10. Other

a. **AARP Alaska** Brain Health Series: Expert Panel

January 12, 2024, series event has been cancelled. AARP is working to provide a new Brain Health Series starting in February 2024. Previous broadcasts can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAsez5OFib-Rf0s2qiQnJeVBdteAt3H-7>

b. **SERRC**, Path Academy next class offering in Juneau will be January 29-February 9, 2024. There are PATH Academies planned for Ketchikan in February 26-March 8,

2024, and in Yakutat in April 29-May 10, 2024. If you have potential students with interest and/or your community would like to have the training, please contact the Juneau SERRC office at (907) 586-6806.

- c. **Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) update** by Sharyl Yeisley. OPA is taking conservator and guardianship clients again. The caseloads, however, for each Public Guardian are now closer to about 200 people per Public Guardian. Thus, support for wards under OPA is limited. OPA continues to strongly encourage private guardianship. There are classes that are available for anyone interested in becoming a private guardian. Sharyl Yeisley has additional information. Link for Guardianship business licensure:  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/GuardiansConservators.aspx>

11. **Date of next meeting** – Friday, February 2 at 8:30am via Zoom (Ground Hog Day!) In the meantime, please watch for emails 1) to respond as member in support of Charter and for advocacy purposes; 2) re: issues for legislative session (such as \$2.7M funding cut by Governor to various senior services). We need to be assertive and loud toward not losing funding and instead advocate for increased funding.

12. **Adjournment: 9:44AM**

13. **Attachments**



SREC Full Coalition Meeting Minutes 12



SREC Charter 12.15.23 Final Draft.



Ketchikan PATH ACADEMY flyer.pdf



January 2024 Juneau PATH ACADEMY



Volunteer interest form.pdf



AmeriCorps Seniors Flyer.pdf



Bingocize Jan. 2024.pdf



1.24 Tai Chi poster-2 classes.pdf



*You're Invited*

NEW YEAR'S NETWORKING EVENT  
FOR PROFESSIONALS



Join Riverview Senior Living and Soar in 24! We invite YOU to come and network, we love being a resource for the senior community in Juneau and can only do it with your help. Let's ring in the new year and soar like never before! Hors D'oeuvres. Specialty Cocktails. Amazing People.

WHERE: 3041 CLINTON DR.

DATE: JANUARY 27TH

TIME: 4 PM

RSVP TO 907.723.1189 304

