

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 3, 2024 8:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966612080?pwd=Y2s1MUU16dzdjbFkraFF4ZFZjcXNPQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

1. Call to Order: 8:33AM
 - a. Sharyl Yeisley Facilitated the meeting.
2. Agenda Approval:
 - a. No changes
 - b. No Objections
 - c. Approved
3. Minutes Approval – April 5, 202
4. SREC Project Director Report – *Tonya Muldoon*
 - a. UAS will be starting the Direct Support Professional SDS Certification course May 13 June 28. The course allows students to learn about life span development, infectious disease, providing personal care procedures, and much more. Upon completion of the course and final exam, students will receive SDS Certification. The certification is required for administrators of the CFC Medicaid Wavier Program for both CDDSP and ADSP service providers and for employees providing ADSP services. The course is a 3-credit class with hybrid delivery. There will be five weeks of online learning with one week of hand-on skills training and testing. There are two hands-on training weeks built into the schedule to help accommodate multiple students from an agency. SREC will be offering scholarships for tuition, training materials, flights, and hotel. If students have needs to help them attend or are able to engage in the training, please contact Tonya Muldoon.
 - b. Tyler McNiel: Asked about the course being able to be offered more regularly. Tonya Muldoon explained that the course is polit. UAS will allow the course to be run once. They then look for feedback from the students and others about the course being placed into the course catalog. As a part of the pilot we will want to gather information to provide the

UAS about the class, including interest. So even if you are not able to take the class at this time but would have need or interest in the class for yourself or your business, please let Tonya Muldoon know so that she can gather details on the interest in the course.

- c. Cameron Young commented that they had been attempting to get students for the PATH Academy in Sitka. They spoke with the local agencies about the APCA apprenticeship and found that the agencies did not support apprenticeships. The resistance is affecting the Path Academy.
5. Steering Committee Report – *Erin Walker-Tolles/Sharyl Yeisley*
- a. Erin Walker-Tolles presented that the initial strategies on this project need to change based on the information obtained by the DSP agencies. The SC and the DSP agencies meet, and we thank them for their open feedback about the system and the challenges that each are facing. Based on what they have shared the SC is working to create alternative strategies. The goals of the project remain to increase access and quality of care for the eldercare services.
 - b. Dr. Emily Kane commented about recently studying wage supplementation. She learned that employees who are on Public Assistance lose benefits when they reach a certain income level. She commented that the Older American Act that was created in the 1990's to help with information sharing is only 1% of the total federal budget.
 - c. Erin Walker-Tolles stated that employees do lose benefits with the increased wages. The legislators are looking at a change in the rules to increase the income limit from 130% to 200% and eliminate the asset test. The result would be that more people would qualify for the programs and there would be less work to process the applications. She through CCS and Marianne Mills through Age Net have been active with lobbying efforts to support the changes with the SNAP benefits. The funding is 100% federal and only a small portion being SOA administrative. Kevin Gardel, Lobbyist has worked to identify some Covid Relief Funding that had not been used and a request has been made to add that funding back into the SOA budget. Currently, the budget lists a \$200,000 drop in grant funding as compared to prior years. Several of the food banks statewide are experiencing higher demand for food. Advocacy is needed by more agencies and people. Erin is willing to help answer questions anyone might have regarding CCS efforts. If the SREC Coalition would like to provide feedback to the legislature, please speak more with Erin Walker-Tolles for details and options.

- d. Jim Swanson placed in the chat that those with a disability or receiving Social Security can obtain a benefit analysis (DVR offers this support). He also commented that there also ABLÉ and Trust accounts.
 - i. Tonya Muldoon helped to clarify that the benefit analysis looks that the number of months and earning that a person has made and reviewed how the benefits will be affected by employment over a period of time. She noted that the ABLÉ and Trusts are accounts that funds can be placed into to provide savings while still qualifying for benefits.

6. Old Business

- Summit Update -*Tonya Muldoon*
 - Tonya Muldoon presented an update on the SREC Project. Summit planning is continuing. Pre-conference will occur on September 20 with the Summit Oct 1-2. We are working on a Photo contest and will be asking people to seniors having fun, seniors with caregivers and families from across the region. We continue to look for speakers or topic ideas. If you have ideas, would like to speak, or have a suggestion of a speaker please contact Tonya Muldoon.
- Legislative Advocacy Update - *Erin Walker-Tolles*
 - DSDS will be opening the regulations for the Adult Home Care program through the Community First Choice Medicaid Wavier Program. Public Comment is open May 28th. DSDS will be having a public meeting on the changes on May 10 by Zoom.
 - Tyler McNeil commented that lobbying really can make a difference. What needs to be done is better rates for seniors.
- Joining AgeNet - *Erin Walker-Tolles & Marianne Mills*
 - The SC still needs to have a conversation about joining Age Net. They will have their annual meeting on June 21. Marianne encourages agencies to join Age Net. If folks join now the annual fee will be covered through the next fiscal year.

7. New Business

- Vacancies on Steering Committee
 - There are vacancies on the SC, and we have a couple of applicants. Two SC members resigned as they had a different vision of the project. The SC would like to extend a hand to anyone interested in participating in the SC. We are especially interested in people from outside Juneau joining so that we have a voice from the other communities. If interested please contact Sharyl Yeisley, Erin Walker-Tolles, Sioux Douglas, or Tonya Muldoon.

8. Best Practices Presentation – *Heather Richter -- Director, Home Care Services, Bartlett Home Care and Hospice*

Heather Richter provided a presentation on the Hospice and Home care services at Bartlett Regional Hospital. The services began in July 2023 with Hospice care services and then Home Care was added in August 2023. The program is still waiting for licensure which limits their current patient size. Heather explained that Hospice services are provided to individuals with terminal illnesses who have a life expectancy of 6 months or less that are no longer seeking treatment for their terminal illness. They provide nursing, Chaplin support, social work, bathing, assistance with ALD Care and respite support for the individual, family, and caregivers. The Home Care services provided skilled nursing, PT OT, and speech support. They are not 24-hour care. The goal of home care is to stabilize the person to baseline and discharge them. Often home care is provided post-surgery or for conditions like open wounds. The services are short term.

Referrals are accepted by MD, DO, and mid-level practitioners.

- Erin Walker-Tolles asked how many people are they serving currently? 20 people accepted for Home Care support and about 11 people receiving Hospice Care. Heather noted that they will be able to serve more people again once licensure is obtained. A follow up question, how long until services start? Heather explained at this time they are opening cases within 48 hours of referral.
- Dr. Emily Kane commented about how she had been looking at system gaps and the primary one that she has been consistently told is the need for follow up with referrals. Emily asked how they follow up and if they have volunteers helping? Heather explained that for the hospice program that they do have volunteers and social workers to assist with other services. For the Home Care program, they do not have volunteer support.

9. Event Reports

- Recent Event Outcomes
 - Metlakatla had a community event recently for elders and services. Most of the community was present with several of the SREC membership present such as SAIL, CCS, and Community Connections.
- Upcoming Events
 - Ketchikan is in the planning stages for their summer picnic.
 - SAIL is having their Wildlife Allan Marine Cruise on Sunday May 5, 2024, in Juneau. The second weekend of May in Ketchikan and Sitka follows. Details can be found online at SAIL's website.

<https://www.sailinc.org/>

- Riverview Senior Living will be having an Open Market on Saturday May 11 at 12PM.

10. Other

We will be looking for a Best Practice Speaker for June. Anyone with ideas or know someone please let Sioux Douglas, Sharly Yeisley, or Tonya Muldoon know.

Cameron Young suggested having a speaker from Pioneer Home or another agency that has the Edan model and have them come and speak about it. She discovered that facilities in the lower 48 were not using the model as much and she was surprised.

Shayl Yeisley commented that SEARHC is dropping their Care Coordination services. Mary Shilts will be moving on to other duties. Her case load is being distributed by today. There is a new list available on Harmony for Care Coordinators. Sharyl will share that list.

11. Member Comments

12. Date of Next Meeting – June 7, 2024

13. Adjournment

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!

Senior Disability Services (SDS) STATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM Inaugural 6-Week Summer Course HS193, 3 credit



The Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition (SREC), in partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), is pleased to announce a pilot program for those interested in being certified by the State of Alaska for Senior Disability Services (SDS).

Participating students will receive: **Paid Tuition, Training Materials, Air Travel, and Lodging.** Upon successful completion of the final exam and demonstration of required skills, graduates of the course will be certified by Senior Disability Services.

On June 14 or June 21, CPR/First Aid training will take place in Sitka; this course requirement can be waived for individuals that are currently certified.

- Target Audience:** Administrators, DSP staff with supervisory aspirations, agency-based DSP staff, entrepreneurs interested in starting a DSP agency, and those interested in hands-on ADL care training.
- Learning Outcomes:** Develop and practice the required skills to be an agency-based in-home caregiver or an administrator of the Community First Choice personal care services.
- Dates:** May 13—June 28, 2024
- Delivery Method:** Online T/Th 6:00PM-9:00PM AKT
In-Person June 11-14 in Sitka at UAS (ADL/CPR)
Or June 17-21 in Sitka at UAS (ADL/CPR)



SIGN UP TODAY! SPACE IS LIMITED!

Contact Tonya Muldoon at the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) for more information.

(907) 523-2331

tmuldoon@jedc.org

ENROLLMENT WILL CLOSE ON MAY 8, 2024

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