

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION MEETING MINUTES

**Friday, August 2, 2024
8:30am via Zoom**

Zoom Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966612080?pwd=Y2s1MU16dzdjbFkraFF4ZFZjcXNPQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

Attendees: Joan O’Keefe, Tonya Muldoon, Erin Walker-Tolles, Deborah Craig, Mary Sheehan, Tyler McNeil, Sharyl Yeisley, Jennifer Garrison, Emily Loyd, Donna LaCour, Lesley Thompson, Marty Lange, Erik Peterson, Anna Schumacher, Linda Kruger, Emily Palmer, Brian Holst, Tess Rouse, Ann Stepetin, Melinda Otieno, Mary McEwen, Ljohnson, Michelle Henriques, Sioux Douglas

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 by Co-Chair Erin Walker Tolles.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

The June 14, 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

Project Director Report: Tonya reported that she met with UAS about the CNA program, attended a Rate Review meeting for SE agencies, and that she hasn’t received a response yet from MACP regarding changes to the MACP grant.

Steering Committee Report: Erin welcomed new members to the Steering Committee—Kirsten Rioux-Testoni from Petersburg Hospice and Home Care and Gloria Burns from Ketchikan Indian Community.

Old Business:

- Summit Conference Update – Tonya provided a preview on screen showing Summit Conference announcement on JEDC website, SREC Coalition page. Confirmed dates Sept. 3 pre-conference, sessions on various topics Oct. 1 and 2. She asked all to review and comment on Summit description, agenda, programs, etc. Focus for Sept. 30, 8am-4pm is for training classes. A Job Fair will remain throughout the event. Ticketing is almost ready and will be available next week; an email will be sent to all SREC members.

Erin asked about class capacity: Tonya said max is 30 for Older Adult Mental Health First Aid. BLS Instructor training has a cap of 10. CPR hybrid for HeartCode and Heartsaver cap at about 30 (Oct 2 in-person sign off), and In=person Heartsaver on Oct 1 caps at 10. Tonya said she is working on getting enough trainers to meet all training requests and to apply early!

Erin emphasized that the Summit will be an opportunity to offer education, but we can also learn from each other—listening to what works well in various communities.

- **Advocacy Update:** Erin reported that Governor vetoed Senior program money in FY24 budget. Lobbyist Kevin Jardell is working on what steps can be taken to restore this loss. Now that SREC is member of AgeNet our voices can be added to this effort. The Southeast Legislative Delegation is supportive.

New Business: There was no new business presented.

Best Practices Presentation: Mary Sheehan from the Sitka SAIL office presented information about the VOICE program (*Veterans Options for Independence Choice and Empowerment*) available to veterans throughout Southeast Alaska at SAIL. SAIL works with the VA, which provides funding based on individual veteran needs. Program helps vets age in their own homes and involves them in their own home health care. The program allows them to become employers to hire preferred caregivers. Joan offered to send more details about program. Currently there are 31 veterans in this program with several pending in the region. Ann asked if support from other agencies can be funded by VA for this program and the answer is not at this time. Lesley asked what the average budget for each person might be to keep a vet at home and answer is average of \$2K to \$4K a month. Program will pay for durable medical equipment that is not covered otherwise and is approved case by case by the VA. Most vets hire caregivers who are already taking care of them. SAIL doesn't do the hiring but helps guide vets to find caregivers, often family members. Finding caregivers is challenging but this program is helpful in that it pays higher and for people who the veterans are most comfortable with.

Question was asked about capacity for Veterans at the Mat-Su Pioneer home. There is a waiting list thus it is not able to meet the needs of vets in that region. There is a VOICE program there. Sitka Pioneer Home has the most availability for veterans, while there is a waiting list at the Anchorage Pioneer Home.

Event Report:

The Juneau Economic Development Council is conducting a regional agency survey regarding eldercare. If you have not completed the survey, please help us collect the data needed to support changes.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=hA9xHfQqdPvDfb5rl0klrv_2FalVFLPf31xjtc0ewkshwmWd3gZ88xFLZrHb7fBZX_2B

Upcoming Events:

- **Social Security Assistance** @ Sitka SAIL, August 9, 11am – 4pm
- **Positive Approach to Care Trainer Certification**, PAC Training
September 26-27, Hyatt Place, Anchorage midtown, 101 E. Tudor Rd.

<https://shop.teepasnow.com/event/trainer-certification-sep-26-27-2024-830-am-430-pm-alaska-time-zone/>

- **Department of Labor One Stop Training Academy**, Sept. 13, 8:30 am doors open, event 9am-4:30pm. Lunch is available 12-1:30pm. At Juneau Job Center, 10002 Glacier Hwy, Suite 100. Register by August 30.
- **International Assistance Dog Week** – August 4-10. SETWorks blog about how to celebrate the week. [https://www.set-works.com/international-assistance-dog-week/ugust 4-10 is International Assistance Dog Week - SETWorks \(set-works.com\)](https://www.set-works.com/international-assistance-dog-week/ugust-4-10-is-International-Assistance-Dog-Week-SETWorks(set-works.com))
- **Tlingit & Haida Community Behavioral Services (CBS) Healing Center for a Man's Healing**. Gathering will be in Juneau August 14-16. Don't forget to register! Agenda includes special guest speakers, stories of lived experiences, networking, and cultural values discussion. Breakfast and lunch provided. For more information contact CBS Healing Center by emailing healingcenter@tlingitandhaida.com
- **Understanding Dementia: 1- Credit Course on Dementia** offered by Ketchikan UAS. Online Course starts August 26, 2024.
- **CERT: Community Emergency Response Team**
- Provides education to volunteers about disaster preparedness for hazards that may occur where they live. October 1-3, 2024 9AM-5PM Juneau Federal Building Room 285 More information ACADIS <http://akdhsem.acadisonline.com>

Member Comments: Additional Questions and comments following Best Practices presentation.

Q: Can funding pay for hiring staff through an agency?

A: Funds do not go to a separate organization. They are used to hire staff known to the Veteran by the Veteran.

Q: How long does the program last?

A: Veterans are on the program until end of life. Goal is aging in the home.

Q: What is the average cost to serve the veteran through the program?

A. \$2000-4000 per month.

Q: What about purchasing a chairlift?

A: Yes, durable medical care is available for payment. VA will pay for the durable medical not covered otherwise. They do have guidelines to follow.

Q: How are they getting staff?

A: Most have hired family or friends. SAIL will not hire staff for veterans. But will direct them. Veterans can set the price they pay their staff. Reaching caregivers can be challenging but the program is

able to pay higher and caregivers are becoming more comfortable with

Q: What is the capacity of the Veterans Pioneer Home in Mat-Su?

A: Waiting list is active. The one Pioneer home is not able to meet all veterans' needs statewide. For those in the interior "Links" (ADRC in Mat-Su) has a VIOCE program.

Q: Which Pioneer Home is the easiest to be accepted?

A: Sitka Pioneer Home has been the easiest normally for opening. Anchorage Pioneer Home currently has less people on the waiting list.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2024, 8:30am.

Please note there will not be an October SREC meeting due to the Summit being held Sept. 30 – October 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 am.