



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2025, 8:30AM

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

1. Call to Order 8:32AM

2. Agenda Approval –

a. Additions:

- i. Diane Kyser asked some questions regarding promotion of the Widow and Widower's Garden Group.
- ii. David Ringle, ER Shelter Data
- iii. Tommie Jimmie, Healthcare social services providers list needed. He would like to share his recent experience trying to coordinate services.

Agenda was motioned for approval by David Ringle and seconded by Diane Kyser.

Agenda Approved

3. Minutes Approval –

- a. Minutes for December 2024 minutes, motioned for approval by Diane Kyser and seconded by David Ringle.

Minutes Approved

4. SREC Project Update –



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- a. Tonya Muldoon encouraged SREC Coalition members to join in an event on March 6, 2025, at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka, Alaska. SREC Project staff have partnered with Sitka Tribe of Alaska to provide a resource fair in conjunction with their monthly Elder Coffee Time luncheon. We are seeking vendors and asking you to spread the word to others about the event. Flyers will be available via the email distribution of monthly minutes and at the SREC website – www.jedc.org/eldercare/.
- b. SREC Project staff have been developing a Navigation website AKA, NAVI Tool that can be found at www.jedc.org/srec/. The website has a service directory, referral pages, and a ton of social service-related information. We ask that you review the website and provide feedback. We are adding new information and processing to the website weekly. Latest plan is for AI, chat bot to be added. This is experimental and will take some time to ensure accurate information delivery. The more feedback we get, however, the better the results will be for a regional tool.

5. SREC Steering Committee Report –

- a. Summary from the Steering Committee Annual Retreat, Erin Walker Tolles presented a summary of the meeting. The Steering Committee met for their annual meeting on December 16, 2024. They reviewed the SREC Charter, membership, organizational chart, and voted on Steering Committee Positions.
- b. Steering Committee Members identified themselves in the Coalition Meeting with a special warm welcome to Wayne Stevens and John Smith III as the newest Steering Committee members.
- c. Election results,
 - i. Sharyl Yeisley and Erin Walker-Tolles, SREC Co- Chairs
 - ii. Sioux Douglas, stepped down as Secretary
 - iii. John Smith III appointed as Secretary
- d. 2025 Work groups,



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- i. **Discussion:** Background checks. There has been an ongoing concern by providers regarding the ability to train staff while they are awaiting a background check. There was a recent DSDS e-alert issued addressing the State of Alaska expectations that new employees can receive training while pending their background check. Tyler McNiel of Community Connections was asked about the ongoing need for a sub-committee for background checks and it was felt that the e-alert helped to provide the details needed for the agencies to better understand the expectation. He commented that there is not a need for changes in the regulations, just clarification.
 1. Side discussion occurred as Coalition members were not aware of how to access the e-alerts for the state of Alaska. This is a sign up process in which you will need to provide your email to the State and they will have you enter a secured site to make choices regarding which alerts you would like to receive, <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOA/subscriber/qualify>
 2. Erin Walker-Tolles commented and suggested if a Thank you should be sent by the Coalition to the State DSDS regarding the clarification. Several concurred. Erin Walker-Tolles will send a thank you from the Coalition.
- ii. Wayne Stevens has agreed to chair the Advocacy Sub-Group. No other sub-committees were formed at this time.

6. **Advocacy Sub-committee** Wayne Stevens. Wayne is a retired Lobbyist and former President of the United Way.



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- a. **Discussion:** Priorities. SREC joined AgeNet last year, which is a statewide advocacy group focused often on funding for programing. Their two focuses this year are:
 - i. Increase Community Based Grant funding
 - ii. Transportation Match Funding
 - b. SREC Coalition priorities and project have been focused on increasing the workforce to support in-home care in Se Alaska.
 - c. Wayne Stevens explained that most legislators have never heard of SREC. He strongly suggests going to meet with legislators to talk to them, bring out for coffee etc. especially in the rural and smaller communities.
 - d. Wayne Stevens suggested that each agency draft a letter to send to the Legislators that say:
 - i. What your agency provides to seniors
 - ii. Why you have joined the SREC Coalition
 - e. Wayne will research other coalitions to create a list of priorities for the following groups: AARP, ACOA, and AgeNet to draft a list of priorities. On February 5, 2025, at noon, AARP Luncheon with the Legislators will occur at the State Capital to support discussion on priorities. You are welcome to attend.
 - f. Age Net has legislative fly-in dates scheduled. Please contact Maryanne Mills, Catholic Community Service for more information.
7. **Best Practice:** Martin Bonifaz, Service Coordinator for Consumer Direct Care Network Services presented services available statewide through his programing.
- a. **Discussion statewide challenges:**
 - i. No agencies in my area
 - ii. Can family be paid to care for elders/disabled
 - b. **Program:** Consumer Directed Care Network provide self-directed services



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- i. The client oversees the caregiver who is paid for by Medicaid or VA benefits.
- ii. Client hires the caregiver: this could be family, friends, or neighbors.
- iii. Client coordinates scheduling and terminated agreements if the relationship with the caregiver fails.
- iv. The agency provides payroll/tax processing, general oversight, and required State of Alaska training (CPR, First Aide, Bloodborne Pathogens, etc).
- v. Client will train the caregiver on personal care needs specific to the client's desire.
- vi. Timeline for hiring requires a back-ground check, basic training, and obtaining a MCI number (Medicaid Provider number).
- vii. Legally Responsible Individuals (AKA LRI, Guardian, conservator) can act as a caregiver and be paid, however they are required to have the duties and agreement outlined in the court issues orders for the guardianship. A Power of Attorney cannot be a paid caregiver.
 - 1. Coalition member question: What about safety from Abuse? Concern that sometimes caregivers overstep boundaries and clients are too embarrassed to say anything because they need the help. Martin explained that the key is good communication with the clients.
 - a. The clients must have capacity for decision making to engage in the program. The caregivers are not required to have any experience. Consumer Direct Care Network provides basic training to the caregiver and all other training is provided directly by the person receiving the care.
 - b. Consumer Direct Care Network staff conduct monthly meetings with clients and caregivers to



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check in on the working relationship and to provide support. Care Coordinator, if involved, also conducting follow up visits with the client monthly.

- c. Home visits are conducted by Consumer Direct staff. Staff provide assessment of the client for capacity for ongoing decision making. If capacity is in question, a Critical Incident Report is filed with the State for processing and review.
- d. Any concerns for safety are reported to Adult Protective Services with the State of Alaska.

- 2. Services are offered statewide, in Se Alaska
Consumer Direct Care network is serving Juneau, Haines, Skagway, Hoonah, Angoon, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, Prince of Wales, and Yakutat.

8. **Comments from members:**

- a. **Diane Kyser:** Widow and Widower's Garden Group is an in-person event that meets monthly at Riverview Senior Living in Juneau, Alaska. Meetings are conducted on the first Monday of each month. There has been a time change to accommodate participants. New meetings time will be 2PM-4PM.
- b. **David Ringle, Exc. Director St. Vincent De Paul:** David wanted to share the recent Warming shelter data as it related to seniors in Juneau. The Warming Shelter is currently operating from 8pm-6:45AM daily with about 177 total individuals accessing services. Of the total, 21 individuals are over 61 years old, 36 are over 50 years old. They have been asking about the challenges with housing. The staff are finding that more landlords are raising rents and people are not able to accommodate the increase in costs. As for turnover of units in Juneau,



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they are seeing still a 2-year waiting list despite lots of community effort. Senior Housing units have turned over more than any other specified apartment unit. However, a primary problem with the senior units is when a senior is no longer able to maintain independently in a unit and is evicted for lack of support. This has been continuing to occur.

- ii. John Smith II, Motion to discuss further and to ask for additional feedback from T&H Regional Housing and others. Coalition member suggestions Ketchikan Indian Community and Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation.
 - a. Suggested for next agenda
- c. John Smith III and Tommie Jimmie, would like to have time to discuss their adventures, seeking services in Juneau, and the challenges that they faced at each step of the process.
 - i. Suggested for next agenda

9. Adjournment

10. Next Meeting

Scheduled February 7, 2025, at 8:30AM

11. Up Coming Events

a. Se Senior Services presenting Ti-Chi Courses

January 27, 2025, starting

- 1. 11AM-Noon x2 weekly Riverview Senior Living
- 2. 1-2PM by Zoom

b. Sitka Tribe of Alaska Elder Coffee Time is partnering with SREC

on March 6, 2025, for a Resource Fair at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka, Alaska. Regional Vender tables are available. Register with Tonya Muldoon or Tess Rouse by emailing your agency name,



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contact information, and staff contact to srec@jedc.org. Space is limited so please reply ASAP. Register for vender tables will end on February 7, 2025.

c. Widow and Widower's Garden Group

Riverview Senior Living

February 3, 2025

2PM-4PM

d. SERRC

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Monday January 27, 2025 (flyer notes 2024 this is an error)

9AM-4PM

Free but registration is required. Pre-register at:

www.bit.ly/YMHFAJan2025 Or call (907) 433-7413

e. T&H Human Trafficking Awareness

February 3, 2025, 9AM Learning Session

February 4, 2025, 8AM MIP Awareness Session

Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall Juneau, Alaska

Free with registration

www.tinyurl.com/THTraffick

www.tinyurl.com/THMMIP



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**f. Honoring Traditions of Uplifting Strengths and to Promote
Brain Health: The Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map for
American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples**

Wednesday January 22, 2025

2:30PM-3:30PM ET

Registration: www.tinyurl.com/HBIRoadMapAIAN

**g. Estate Planning Series: Juneau Public Libraries and Alaska
Legal Services at the Mendenhall Valley Library Large Meeting
room**

i. Part 1: Power of Attorney and Advance Health Care Directive

1. Wednesday January 22 6pm-8pm

2. Register: <https://forms.office.com/g/2spiWNcQaA>

ii. Part 2: Basic Will

1. Wednesday January 29, 2025, 6pm-8pm

2. Register: <https://forms.office.com/g/7zRfY2HbUK>

Questions contact Sheri Somerville at (907) 586-0885 or by email
at sheri.somerville@juneau.org

h. UAS Spring Career Fair

February 25 11AM-2PM

Employer Registration: (on Handshake)

alaska.joinhandshake.com or contact uas.career@alaska.edu to
set up an account.

More information can be found at

<https://career.uas.alaska.edu/career-fair/>