



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 6, 2024, 8:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

1. Call to Order – *Erin Walker-Tolles, Co-Chair* 8:34AM

- Introduced and welcomed new Steering Committee member Wayne Stevens. He has been in Juneau since 2004 worked for the Kodiak Chamber and for the State Chamber, where I was a registered lobbyist and have been recently retired from United Way after 13 years of service and was involved at United Way in the early days of the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition.

- 2. Agenda Approval** was motioned by Diane Kyser, Seconded by Joan O'Keefe. No objections. Additions today were approved for adding information for the Widow Garden's Group, a letter wished to be shared by John Smith III, and Martin of Consumer Direct Care Network requests time to discuss Self-directed services.



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3. **Minutes Approval** – November 1, 2024, motioned by Diane Kyser and seconded by John Smith III. No objections.

4. **SREC Project Director Report – *Tonya Muldoon***

- a. Navi Tool is continuing to be developed. Tonya Muldoon will be sending out a link to the site and a form for additional feedback from agencies wishing to post a referral process to the site.
- b. Tonya Muldoon and Tess Rouse will be reaching out to coordinate two resources fairs for 2025. They are hoping to coordinate the first fair in Sitka at the beginning of March and then in Ketchikan in Fall.
 - a. Michelle Kavouras would like to participate in the discussion regarding a Sitka Resource Fair.
mkavouras@scpsak.org
- c. Rate Review, Tonya Muldoon explained that several SREC members had met over the summer to discuss a possible rate review for business in Se Alaska. We will meet again to finalize the contract to request the Rate Review.
- d. Tonya Muldoon with Steering Committee member Sioux Douglas have been working with UAS regarding the CNA course for the USA Juneau Campus. UAS in Juneau have struggles to maintain their programing due to lacking funding. Tonya Muldoon is continuing to advocate for



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regional delivery of the course (rural village communities and not just the hub locations).

5. **Steering Committee Report – *Erin Walker-Tolles/Sharyl Yeisley***

- a. Steering Committee Annual meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2024. The members will vote for the two co-chairs and secretary positions. There is one seat open on the Steering Committee for anyone interested in joining. Please contact Erin Walker-Tolles or Sharyl Yeisley. The Steering Committee is very hopeful to maintain diversity on the Steering Committee and encourage those from outside Juneau to consider participating. They strongly encourage members of the medical and tribal communities. Review and discussion will occur on Advocacy and other SREC sub-committees.
- b. The Steering Committee reviewed the SREC Charter last year. The document will be reviewed. The charter has been working well for the past year.
- c. Discussion is planned to review the year's priorities for the Coalition. SREC is a member of Age Net (statewide Advocacy Group).
- d. Sincere THANK YOU to elder members John Smith III, Royal DeAsis, and Tommie Jimmie for meeting with the



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Steering Committee to discuss senior topics and concerns.

a. Special Takebacks

1. Loneliness is a profound challenge. There is a need for community support and more opportunities for connections.

2. Elders often will not speak out. This was discussed in view of regional history and personal trauma histories. Support is needed for continued efforts to speak with the elders and asking them for feedback.

a. Erin Walker-Tolles noted that several of the Senior Centers have organized Talking Circles and have been sharing community photos. The Elders have shown a great deal of interest.

b. Tommie Jimmie added it helps to be heard. It is important to become more involved. He has an interest in the Advocacy Committee.



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6. Old Business

Follow-up about background checks

- a. Tom Sutton, Riverview Senior Living commented that they are waiting 2-3 weeks for background checks to be passed. They have people who have applied for employment but could not wait for the background check to come back. He noted that his parent company has facilities in multiple other states, all of which utilize a lice scan system for background checks. He would like to encourage the State of Alaska to also consider an electric system.
- b. Erin Walker-Tolles, CCS noted that she has worked in the past on background check delays. She has researched and suggested an alternative background check progress. The State of Alaska refused to utilize any alternative options for the background check.
- c. Tyler McNiel, Community Connections, through his role with the Alaska Association spoke with Tnya Newman, Director of DSDS who explained that an SDS e-alert should be issued shortly to the state providers regarding more flexibility with background checks. They have been utilizing training for their newly hired staff for the first 2-3 days.



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7. New Business

a. Widow's Garden – Daine Kyser

1. Diane Kyser presented a question to the coalition about what some fundraiser options and/or activities for the group.
2. Feedback was that activities that offer food and spaghetti feed are very productive fundraisers.
3. Gardening is a favorite for elders.
 - a. Darron Schneider of University of Alaska Fairbanks can provide free information about gardening.
 - b. Could grow garden inside. Fireweed Apartment has a wonderful outside deck and large windows. Mt. View is also in a position that has shared community space that could support gardening.
 - c. Foods could be sold or utilized by those growing it. The grown foods are organic and not processed.
4. John Smith III is willing to be a contact for gardening.



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5. Tommie Jimmie added that he really likes the gardening idea. He worked with Gruening Park apartment in Juneau to support setting a garden at the edge of the parking lot in the apartment complex. Darren Schneider of University of Fairbanks had supported the project with dirt and compose material. The residents were not as active in the garden as he had hoped but plans to continue to the garden.
6. Diane asked about options for seeking out a Ping-Pong Table.
 - a. Juneau Buy, Sell, Trade
 - b. Juneau Free Cycle
 - c. Facebook
 - d. Juneau Community Collective
7. John Smith III asked if both men and woman are encouraged to join the Widow's Garden. He commented that the title "Widow" makes him think of woman only. Diane explained that others have mentioned this to her as well and she will be changing the name to Widower's Garden to be more inclusive.
8. Diane is working on a flier and will share it with the SREC when ready.
 - b. John Smith III shared a letter that he wrote.



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I would like to share with all how important it is to the community to be able to hear the words from our elders. [At] Many events, I have seen elders ask for introducer to speak up or to use microphone.

Then I watch the elders, they give up and just sit there and we never get to hear any response, because they did not hear what was being said. Our elders have a lot of knowledge, and I would like to share some ideas of how we can support them to give us their knowledge.

Can not See:

Dictating systems where you have mics on the floor that can receive sound and write on a TV screen that is zoomed in so words on screen are big. OR if everyone is using a hand around microphone to talk that the Dictating mic is by the speaker dictating what is said onto the TV screen through the Speaker. [Best Dictation Microphones](#) Wi-Fi type speaker is available also.

Can not Hear:

The main mic that all are speaking through is being transmitted to Wi-Fi Headset(S) that are amplified louder and adjustable to the listener (elder), Historian.

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Love & Respect,

John Smith III

Deike Latin

Eagle Nest Kaagwaantaan

- 1. Discussion followed on the need for the use of microphones and the possible need of purchasing headsets for elders to access for events.*
- 2. He also suggested to develop community “Café” for elders to have a place to share their thoughts and ideas safely.*

8. Best Practices Presentation –

- a. Erin Walker-Tolles, presentation was delayed allowing for additional time.
 1. Please keep in mind these questions for a future discussion: *What’s working? What are you proud of? What keeps you up at night? Your one wish that will support eldercare in your community? What don’t we know about eldercare in your community?*
- b. Martin of Consumer Direct Care Network would like to speak with the coalition regarding Self-Directed



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Care. Discussed time needed. He will be placed on the agenda for January 2025 Best Practice meeting.

9. Event Reports

- Recent Event Outcomes
- Upcoming Events

a. Community Resource Connect (CRC) Meeting

Due to meeting space changes, there has been a change to the meeting location and date.

The next CRC Meeting will now be:

Thursday, January 9

11:30-1:00pm

Generations Southeast Learning Center

3239 Hospital Dr.

Parking is limited so carpool if possible. Bring your lunch!

b. UAS Ketchikan Understanding Dementia

1 credit, no prerequisites, Zoom course.

Jan 13-May 3

c. Widow's and Widower's Garden

Riverview Senior Living



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3041 Clinton Dr

Juneau Alaska 99801

January 6, 2025, 6-8pm

First Monday each month

More information contact Diane Kyser at (907) 723-1917

10. **Other**
11. **Member Comments**
12. **Date of Next Meeting** – January 17 at 8:30AM – Note meeting has been moved to this date to accommodate the holiday season.
13. **Adjournment** – *Happy Holidays to All!*