

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

June 5, 2026, at 8:30AM

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

1. **Call to Order** 8:34AM
2. **Agenda Approval** – Wayne Stevens motioned for approval, Joan O’Keefe seconded. No objections. Agenda approved.
3. **Minutes Approval** – Wayne Stevens motioned for approval, Joan O’Keefe seconded. No objections. Minutes approved.
4. **SREC Project Update** – Tonya Muldoon
 - a. AHFC – Safe and Sound SE Alaska. Limited funding. Pending Senior Access Notice. Starting to review applications and have meeting set for next week. As Tonya Muldoon learns more. she will forward on information.
 - b. Coalition Survey, where we want to go: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VLZG6C>
 - i. We would love to hear from you. Please go to the survey and take a few minutes to give us feedback.
 - c. Rural Health Transformation Program –Letter of Intent Approved
 - i. St. Ann’s Center for Integrated Care – Redevelopment Project
 - ii. Tonya Muldoon will be working on a full application for the project.
5. **SREC Steering Committee Report** – Erin Walker-Tolles and/or Sharyl Yeisley

a. Steering Committee Meeting Update

- i. Extended funding through Sept 2028 for the coalition.
- ii. Please complete survey would like to get your feedback on the direction of the coalition.

6. Advocacy Update: Wayne Stevens

a. Advocacy update from the Hill

- i. Tyler McNiel spoke on concerns about HB96. Tyler McNiel motioned the coalition for a letter of support to veto the bill due to concerns that the increase in reimbursement rates to employees being mandated at 70-80% would eliminate services for small DSP agencies. The bill was issued by the union representing the large DSP agencies who have come from out of state and are pushing for the bill not realizing that it would greatly impact on the rural communities not being served by the large agencies thus making a monopoly as the smaller agencies would fold on the PCA services.

1. Tyler McNiel motioned for veto letter, Joan O’Keefe seconded and opened for discussion.

- a. Discussed was robust with suggestions and ideas regarding the need for a veto.

2. Vote: None opposed. Letter to be drafted for a request to veto the funding for HB96.

- ii. Discussion continued the topic of other funding and bills. Discussion focused on SB 178 to support early intervention in education and diagnosis. Discussion included the need for early intervention and the tie to supporting the youth engagement as it would support the DSP agencies to be fiscally strong through additional funding over which would help them continue to support seniors. Coalition motioned a need for a letter of support for SB178 as well as for the senior specific budget items in front of the Governor.

1. Erin Walker-Tolles motions for a letter of support. Sharyl Yiesley seconded the motion. No objections. A letter will be drafted and submitted to the governor to support the funding for elders and SB 178.

2. Joan O’Keef motioned for support on the prompt payment” in the Governor’s budget to be added, if possible, to the advocacy letters. Erin Walker-Tolles seconded motion. No objections.

7. Best Practice:

Tonya Muldoon presented a review of SREC Coalition Successes and discussion for the future of the coalition. See attached slides. End of minutes.

8. **Comments from members:**

9. **Adjournment:** 9:36AM

10. **Next Meeting: July meeting is cancelled.** Next scheduled meeting is August 7, 2026, at 8:30AM

a. Sub-Committees:

i. **Senior Empowerment and Advocacy** – Wayne Stevens Sub-Committee Chair

Goal: Support policy, regulation, law, and procedural changes in the Alaska system to improve direct care services for seniors. **Third Wednesday of the month at 9am. Next meeting June 17, 2026**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85018791334>

Meeting ID: 850 1879 1334

11. **Upcoming events:**

a. **First Mondays**

Congressman Nick Begich's Office

2401 Eagle Ave Ketchikan, AK 99901

11AM-2PM

Direct help from Congressman Begich's office for Seniors

They can assist you with issues with IRS, Social Security, Medicare, Veteran Affairs, and other Federal Programs

b. Juneau: Applications Open for 2026 Senior Citizen Hardship Tax Program

Applications for two senior citizen hardship tax programs are open. Juneau residents ages 65 and older may qualify for one or both the Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption and the Senior Citizen Sales Tax Hardship Rebate. Both programs require an annual application, so you must reapply each year. Applications are based on your 2025 gross income level.

More information and applications for both programs can be found online at juneau.org/finance/sales-tax/senior-citizen-tax-benefits.

Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption

The deadline to apply for the Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption is April 30, 2026. Contact the Assessor’s Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4906 or assessor.office@juneau.gov for help applying.

Applicants who receive the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption may qualify for the Real Property Hardship Exemption if the gross household income for all members of the household falls below 120% of the HUD median income for Juneau. HUD data for 2026 has not been published and is not expected to be released until April; below are the levels for 2025 for reference. Please note that final determinations will be based on 2026 data, so seniors are encouraged to apply even if their gross income exceeds the 2025 levels.

Household Size	Median Income	120% of Median Income
1	\$90,100	\$108,120
2	\$103,000	\$123,600
3	\$115,900	\$139,080
4	\$128,700	\$154,440

5	\$139,000	\$179,160
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If it's your first year applying for the Real Property Hardship Exemption, don't forget to file for your Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption by March 31, 2026. If you're not sure which application is which, contact the Assessor's Office for help. Please be aware that the Assessor's Office has moved from City Hall to 1208 Glacier Ave.

Senior Citizen Sales Tax Hardship Rebate

The deadline to apply for the 2025 Senior Citizen Hardship Sales Tax Rebate is June 30, 2026. Contact the Sales Tax Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4901 or sales.tax.office@juneau.gov for help applying.

Applicants ages 65 and older who have established residency in Juneau may qualify for the Hardship Rebate if their gross income falls below 250% of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines for Alaska. Below are the income limits for the 2025 application.

	Individual Applicant	Married Applicants
Gross Income Limit	\$49,875	\$67,625
Rebate Amount	\$325	\$650

For more information about the Real Property Hardship Exemption, contact the Assessor's Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4906 or assessor.office@juneau.gov.

For more information about the Sales Tax Hardship Rebate, contact the Sales Tax Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4901 or sales.tax.office@juneau.gov.

12. **Weekly Events**

- BINGO
Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center
2401 Eagle Ave

Saxman, Alaska

Wednesdays 1PM

Contact Niki at 907-225-6575.

- **Juneau Senior Center**

Mondays 11AM Senior Sing Along with Jackie

Tuesdays 11:45AM Music with Tom Locher

Wednesdays 11:00AM Senior Chair Yoga

- **Art for Self-Care**

Tuesdays

5:30-7PM

418 Harris St #315 Juneau

These are groups designed to promote self-care using a variety of art activities. For adults to help relieve anxiety, depression, and stress especially during the winter months. Please RSVP: Shawn Hatt Cohen (907)321-5414 txt

- **Beginning and Advanced ESL Classes**

Tuesdays

5:30-7:30PM

Mendenhall Valley Public Library

3025 Diamond Park Loop Juneau, Alaska 99801

Beginning ESL offered from 5:30PM-6:30PM and Advanced ELS Classes are offered from 6:30-7:30PM. Free. Check out the Learning Connection website at <https://tlcalaska.org/english-language-learning-citizenship/> or call (907) 586-5718 for more information.

- **Senior Balance Class**

Activities vary each week including tea & chat, trivia, arts etc.

Wednesdays at 2PM

Alaska Native Brotherhood Founder's Hall

Sitka, Alaska

Info Brave Heart Volunteers (907)747-4600

Tai Chi

Mondays 7-8:00AM

Mountain View Manor

Petersburg, Alaska

- **Family Game Night**

Tuesdays and Fridays 6:30-8:30PM

Parks and Rec Community Center, Activities Room

Petersburg, Alaska

13. **Monthly Events**

- **Coffee, Tea and Chat for Patients and Family**

Bartlett Regional Hospital Cafeteria Juneau

Tuesday 10-11:00AM

Event info: www.bartletthospital.org

Contact: Rhonda Ward 907-796-8918

- **Chair Yoga at the Library**

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30AM

Ketchikan Public Library

398 Copper Rd Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

- **Sacred Harp Sing**

Beginners and listeners' welcome

Every Second and Fourth Sundays on the month

3:00PM

Pioneer Home Chapel

Sitka, Alaska

Contact: Sara at (907)747-2915

- **Sharing Coalition Meeting**

The group focus is community health and engagement through strong partnerships between organizations and individuals. Everyone is welcome.

Date varies, monthly.

12-1:00PM

Dorothy Ingle Conference room Petersburg Medical Center

Petersburg, Alaska

14. **Support Groups (Juneau)**

- **Caregiver Support Group**

Every 1st Friday of the month

Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center

2401 Eagle Ave

Saxman, Alaska

Or by TEAMS

Open to all caregivers regionally

Information: (907) 225-8080

- **Riverview Senior Living**, in Juneau is offering free Support for Memory Care, RSVP Zoom meeting, See flyer for more details: [Riverview Memory Matter Support Group flyer](#)
Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
- **Widow's and Widower's Garden Support Group (WE ARE ALL LIVING IN THE GARDEN OF LIFE)**
Riverview Senior Living
3041 Clinton Dr
Juneau, Alaska 99801
First Monday each month 2-4PM
More information contact Diane Kyser at (907) 723-1917
- **Virtual Low Vision Support Group**
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month
Wildflower Court (Juneau)
Call Linda Newman at Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) for more info: Email: lnewman@sailinc.org.
- **Deaf Support Group**
Mets in Juneau in various locations. Contact Pam Guy for details. Email psmguy2@gmail.com or text 907-314-0732 for more information.
- **Cancer Connection Support Group**
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month
First Floor Conference Room
8711 Teal St Juneau, Alaska 99801
Contact: www.cancerconnectionak.org
(907)796-2273, or email: admin@cancerconnectionak.org

- **NAMI Juneau Peer-Led Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Workshop**

First Wednesday of the month

5:30-6:30PM

8711 Teal St. Main Floor Conference Room

Information: www.namijuneau.org/support-groups

- **Low Vision Support Group**

First Monday's 1:00-2:30PM at the Plaza Mall, Ketchikan. Contact Brenda Loughman for more information. Email: loughmanb@kpunet.net





The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) works to create a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other agencies, JEDC implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create jobs and economic opportunities.

JEDC goals are to:

- Make Juneau a great Capital City,
- Strengthen key regional industry,
- Promote entrepreneurship and small business;
- Develop talent,
- Deliver core economic development services.



Mission:

The SREC Coalition is made of eldercare providers from across Southeast Alaska who have joined together to problem solve mutual issues, share information, and be a collaborative catalyst for change.

Focus: In-home care...

Navigation, Workforce Development, and Retention



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SREC Coalition Engagement

Coalition meets monthly on the first Friday of each month. Discuss SREC Project, regional and community events, discussion regarding regional concerns and ideas for solutions, and best practice sharing of agencies or programs. Active since 2021.

Steering Committee (SC) meets monthly

- Have six Steering Committee members active with the Coalition
- Sub-committee- Senior Empowerment & Advocacy

Increased.in.coalition.membership.since.
November.8680?770.SREC.members.to.706
in June 2026.

Webpage for SREC updated monthly with notes, community events.



Direct Support Professional: Agency Collaboration Meeting

Shared Goals

Increase the number of Seniors in Southeast Alaska that receive age-related services.

Increase the number of workers in Southeast Alaska providing services to Seniors.

Assist seniors with age-related home improvements that enable seniors to live more safely and comfortably in their homes.

Workforce

- 1 New Business: 5 employees
- 1 Change in Business: Natural Healthcare
- 12 Staff Catholic Community Services expanded hours/1yr
 - 3 CCS Senior Center staff
- 19 Community Connections Caregiver positions
 - 1 Permanent Position
- 17 SAIL Caregivers
 - 1 Permanent Position
 - 2 Positions Reach/CC Home Emods
- 2 CNA Instructors at UAS
- 2 Positions at JEDC
- 20 Positions through support – SERRC
- 10 CNAs Entering workforce (10 more in Fall 2026)

Total Impact

~95 Positions



Retention/Training

874+ Participants trained
359+ Hours of training provided



Training through Summits, UAS Courses, Agency Specific Courses, Community Outreach, Best Practice Meetings, Job Fairs, Resource Fairs

Offered travel for staff to events, reduced ticketing for events, speakers, and tuition support.

DSP Meeting paid travel/food

Workforce Meetings



Navigation

SREC NAVI TOOL



Professional Resources
A collection of resources for Direct Support Professionals.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



Become a Caregiver
Training, jobs, events and news for prospective caregivers.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



Elder Resources
Resources for elders including a directory of service providers and a tool for determining benefits.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Navi Tool Website

March 2025-June 2026

22,000 Engaged Users

16,000 Return Users

Top States

AK, WA, CA, TX, OR

Alaska Communities

Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Skagway, Haines, Hoonah, Wrangell, Petersburg, Gustavus, Cordova, Kodiak, Nome, Delta Junction, Seward, Valdez, Palmer, Kenai, Kotzebue, Unalaska, Bethel, Nikiski, Utqiaguik, Fairbanks, Homer, Wasilla

Total Impact

Brochure Development Drafts:

SREC Coalition

Navi Tool

SREC Advocacy

Physician Referral Booklet

Foot Path to Services

Elder Protection

Catholic Community Services

supported **regionally 1040 more elders**

over 1 year with increased staff hours

Community Connections / SAIL two

new positions have provided

navigational support to ~300 elders

with ~57 rural elders establishing new

services in 6 months.

Next Steps:

- Finalize, Publish and Distribute Brochures
- Data Analysis
- Advocacy Meeting with future politicians
- Homeowner Assistance Funding Program: Limited funding available
 - Senior Access Funding Pending
- Rural Health Transformation Program – Applicant to rebuild St. Ann’s for specialized senior housing
- Directory of Aging-in-Place Products added to Navi Tool
- Construction Workforce Education
- Planning for Coalition longevity





Southeast Regional
Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

What are your thoughts?
