



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

May 2, 2025, 8:30AM

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

1. **Call to Order 8:30AM**
2. **Agenda Approval** – Motion for approval by Erin Walker-Tolles, seconded motion by John Smith. Motion approved.
3. **Minutes Approval** – Motion for approval by Erin Walker-Tolles, seconded motion by John Smith. Motion approved.
4. **SREC Project Update** – Tonya Muldoon
 - a. Meeting with Sandy Hussain from the Alaska Small Business Association to work on the development of Business Plan Tool Kits for DSP agency's start-ups. Once completed they will be available on the Navi Tool and the Alaska Small Business Association websites.
5. **SREC Steering Committee Report** – Sharyl Yeisley
 - a. Sub-Committee Workforce Development
 - i. 211 Alaska by the United Way has asked for a list of email addresses from the coalition membership to contact directly regarding getting business established for the 211 Alaska system. If you do not wish to have your email



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

shared, please notify Sharyl Yeisley, Erin Walker-Tolles or Tonya Muldoon. A list of business contacts and websites have been shared to date. SREC Steering Committee strongly encourages everyone to update their information or get their business established on the system. It is free promotion for your programs and a huge help in connecting the community to services. <https://alaska211.org/service-providers/>

6. **Advocacy Sub-committee** - Wayne Stevens

- a. Wayne noted that the legislature's primary focus at this time has been on school budgeting.
- b. Erin Walker-Tolles thanked Wayne for his diligence in keeping track of this year's legislative actions. She shared that she had recently been in Washington DC visiting with the staff of Alaska Senators Begich, Sullivan, and Murkowski to encourage a 1% increase for rural Alaska for senior grants that supports respite and senior services as well as providing them with a copy of the SREC Introduction Letter.

7. **Best Practice:**

- a. Edward Williams, MSW, Juneau Veterans Clinic spoke on Veteran related services.
 - i. There are three main service types: Veteran Health, Veteran Benefits, and Cemetery and Burial. The Juneau Veterans Clinic focuses on Veteran's Health and support for Veteran Benefits and Cemetery and Burial are in Anchorage.
 - ii. Eligibility of services for Veterans Health:
 - 1. Military service prior to 1980 with 1 day of active duty
 - 2. Military service after 1980 with 2 years of active duty
 - 3. Veteran is asked to bring in DD214 to set-up services.It was noted that if a Veteran does not have a DD214, they may not be a veteran or they may have served in



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

the National Guard or in the Reserves. Time served in branches areas is not covered by Veteran Health.

4. Service-related disability has three primary ratings for service eligibility:
 - a. 30% Travel costs are covered for Veteran Health Services only.
 - b. 70% Costs for travel and nursing facility care for Veteran Health services are covered. There are 7 facilities who accept VA coverage in the Anchorage area.
 - c. 100% Costs associated with travel, nursing facility care, medical, dental, and vision are covered.

Pensions can be associated with disability ratings. For example, a veteran with 100% disability can receive up to \$4300 per month for their personal expenses. This income is not considered income for application for Social Security or State Benefits. It was noted that the pension is a thank you to the veteran for their sacrifice.

5. Another program is the HUD VASH and Tribal HUD VASH program for veterans to have supported housing. The HUD VASH program provides the veteran with a voucher that will pay 2/3 the cost of rent and utilities for housing. The VA then provides the veteran with case management support. HUD VASH vouchers are being utilized in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka.

- a. More information:

<https://www.ahfc.us/tenants/programs-opportunities/homeless-veterans-and-their-families>

6. For Veteran Health services the Juneau Clinic is coordinated with medical specialists through the VA system. They can provide a total care continuum. It



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

was stressed that the VA relies on connecting veterans with partner agencies to support veterans to receive care in their homes and communities.

7. Per request by Royal DeAsis, Tribal HUD VASH info will be added to the SREC notes email to the coalition.
8. Concerns by Gloria Burns for Tribal HUD VASH for tribal citizens within Ketchikan city limits will be coordinated directly with the HUD VASH staff. Ketchikan Tribal HUD VASH is available in Saxman and through private properties. Tonya Muldoon will coordinate between Ed Williams and Gloria Burns by email.

- b. Rain Van Den Berg, MPH with Alaska Literacy Program, is working with the Community Health Worker Advisory Network (CHWAN). The mission of CHWAN is to identify the community health worker (CHW) workforce in Alaska and empower their voices. They facilitate networking among CHWs, support their professional development, and advocate for their integration into Alaska's Continuum of Care. By doing so, they hope to strengthen CHW's role in improving health outcomes across the state.

Rain presented a project to develop training for entry level CHW (peer-to-peer navigators) in the region. She will be conducting addition listening sessions next week and welcomes coalition members to join in these discussions. The information will inform and direct their strategic plan to support and develop the CHW workforce throughout Alaska.

CHWAN also needs help getting their survey out to people who are doing this CHW work in the community. Here is the survey link to share with those doing peer-to-peer work:

<https://rcap.jotform.com/250565081018048>



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

For more information about the CHWAN program: please contact Rain Van Den Berg at rainvdbconsulting@gmail.com

8. **Comments from members:**

- a. Community Connection saying goodbye to Besse Clark, Executive Director, as she is retiring and welcomes Tandra Thompson.
- b. AGENet would like to notify the service community about the passing of Joyanna Geisler, Homer Independent Living Center Executive Director. Services will be May 16, 2025, at 1pm Homer, Alaska. See attached obituary with meeting notes.

9. **Adjournment:** 9:30AM

10. **Next Meeting**

Scheduled June 6, 2025, at 8:30AM

11. **Upcoming events**

- **Riverview Senior Living** is offering free Support for Memory Care, RSVP Zoom meeting, See flyer for more details: [Riverview Memory Matter Support Group flyer](#)
- **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
Next Meeting May 5, 2025, 2PM-4PM



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

- **Family Resilience Fair**

Saturday May 3, 2025

11AM-2PM

Nolan Center Wrangell, Alaska

Information email: brave.wrangell@gmail.com

- **Mental Health First Aid Older Adult Training**

May 27, 2025, in-person; Anchorage, Alaska

Contact uaa_akcache@alaska.edu

<https://bit.ly/MHFAMay2025>

- **SERRC PATH Academy**

May 27-30, 2025, in Juneau

- Heartsaver CPR and First Aid
- Crisis Intervention
- Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification
- Bloodborne Pathogen Certification
- Job Searches and Interview Practice

For more information contact (907) 433-7413

- **Community Resources Connect**

Wednesday May 21, 2025

11am-1pm

3239 Hospital Drive

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Topic: Guardianship