



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

December 5, 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** - 8:32AM
2. **Agenda Approval** – Wayne Stevens motioned for approval of the agenda. Roy DeAsis seconded motion. Agenda approved.
3. **Minutes Approval** – Sharyl Yeisley motioned for approval of the minutes. Wayne Stevens seconded motion. Minutes approved.
4. **SREC Project Update** – Tonya Muldoon
 - a. Call for Best Practice speakers for January meeting.
 - i. Would you like topic discussions in addition to Best Practice topics?
 - ii. Tonya Muldoon will reach out to Jen Twito at Bartlett Regional Hospital to discuss what they are doing for workforce development.
 - b. CNA class update, UAS Juneau will be having a class this coming spring at JDHS for 10 students.



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- c. Innovation Summit Feb 25-26, 2026, please Save the Date. We will have themes on the changing demographics in Alaska, especially with the continued rise of seniors.
- d. Construction Survey, SREC will be issuing a survey to the construction industry to work too develop a directory of contractors with interest in Environmental Modification and Aging-in-Place work.
- e. T&H Lunch Presentation, Provided a presentation about SREC coalition and the project. Issued the same survey that has been issued to the rest of SE Alaska. Will be processing the data. There were 17 referrals made to Catholic Community Service - Se Alaska Senior Service, Elder Case Managers.
- f. Thank you to Dr. Emily Kane, Leslie Thompson, and Emily Lloyd for their feedback on the NAVI Tool website

5. **SREC Steering Committee Report**

Erin Walker-Tolles

- a. Future of the Coalition. Planning.
- b. Annual Meeting, January 7, 2026, 8AM-1PM at JEDC Summit Conference Room. Steering Committee has three seats open.
- c. We will be voting on officers during this annual meeting. If you have interest in joining the Steering Committee, please reach out to Erin Walker Tolles, Sharyl Yeisley or Tonya Muldoon. We will also be reviewing the charter and would like to start discussing strategic planning for funding additional projects.

Sharyl Yeisley

- d. Sub-Committee Workforce Development – Tabled until after Annual Meeting in January 2026.

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



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- a. Priorities meeting brief
 - i. Senior Services Grants request to continue \$1.5 million, priority to request additional funding of \$1.5 million.
 - ii. Housing E-Mods, restore funding for grants
 - iii. Nursing License Compact – to allow for ease of access to Alaska licensure for nurses that can travel across states.
 - iv. Long-term services and support (rates)
- b. Wayne Stevens and Erin Walker-Tolles presented at the State Capital to visit with the local representatives regarding senior services and needs.
 - i. Wayne noted that the coalition will need to look for areas of change that can be recommended that are not related to funding, such as process changes. Wayne asked, how do you want to focus, SE or statewide.
 - ii. SREC is an Age-Net member, they will have their fly-in the first week of February, ISL Feb 4-6 and AARP is the following week of February.
 - iii. Some ideas:
 - 1. Ask DSDS to provide PCA Tool criteria on the website
 - 2. Request to get ride of electronic verification requirements especially in rural Alaska.
 - 3. Request to increase the personal needs allowance from \$1645 to a higher amount. This rate has not ben adjusted in many years.
 - 4. Revision of the PCI Assessment Tool utilized for supporting entry into Wavier services.
 - 5. Encourage DPA to reach out to other states for direction of improved software processing or outsourcing eligibility for services to reduce the back up.
- c. Does your agency have priorities? Wish to share?



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i. December 17, 2025, at 9:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 850 1879 1334

7. **Best Practice:** Island Care Services, Heidi Young and Josh Hill Care Coordinator.

Island Care Services offers statewide Care Coordination with a focus on staying in your home community. They have 7 care coordinators in-house with shared case loads so someone is always available to support the clients. The agency is open to acting as a resource for providers and they are happy to answer questions and give some guidance.

8. **Comments from members:**

Rita Gray: Upcoming request for changes in SOA regulations

- 1) Regulation and policy to reduce verbiage.
- 2) SOA working on State Plans and input is needed for drafts.
- 3) Speak up now about changes to policy, send lists of changes needed.

9. **Adjournment**

10. **Next Meeting**

Scheduled January 9, 2025, at 8:30AM

11. **Upcoming events**

Community Events

Galley Walk

December 5, 2025



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Downtown Juneau, Alaska

Made in Sitka Holiday Market

December 13-14, 2025

Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka Alaska

"Nutcracker" - Ketchikan Theatre Ballet

December 5, 6, 7

Kayhi Auditorium

Ketchikan, Alaska

businessoffice@ketchikantheatreballet.com

[907-225-9311](tel:907-225-9311)

ACoA Free Community Webinar: Kinship Family Support with Haa Yatx'u Saani, Volunteers of America Alaska and Generations United Dec 11

Our Grandparents Day Kinship Family Support Webinar is now happening Thursday, December 11th, and we hope you will join us for this wealth of information! **All are welcome to learn about supports in Alaska for relatives raising children**, featuring Southeast Alaska's Kinship Navigator Program [Haa Yatx'u Saani](#) and [Volunteers of America Alaska](#) on Dec. 11th at 12pm. Are you a grandparent or relative raising children in your family? Do you want to learn what support exists for kinship families in Alaska? Join us!

Zoom link to join at noon on December 11th:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85770530178>

For questions or help accessing Zoom, call our Program Coordinator at 907-230-0871 or email us at doh.acoa.info@alaska.gov.

ACoA Webinar: Social Security Administration 101 on January 15

The government shut down is over and we have rescheduled our SSA webinar for January 15th. Social Security Administration Regional Public Affairs Specialist Nathan Cole (who covers Alaska) will be joining us for an exclusive conversation on Social Security 101 with Q&A to follow. Join



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ACoA on Thursday, Jan. 15th from 12pm - 1:30pm to learn all things Social Security and get your questions answered. Are you looking for help with a particular topic of SSA? Please email us your requests so we can share them with the presenter: doh.acoa.info@alaska.gov.

Zoom link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89488304910>

Alaska Dept of Health: SNAP Hot Foods Waiver Now in Effect
SNAP households now have temporary access to a hot foods waiver approved for Alaska. You can use your Quest Card to buy hot, ready-to-eat meals at SNAP-authorized grocery and convenience stores statewide. [Learn more here.](#) [Facebook post here.](#)



RurAL CAP

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

WE'RE HIRING



TEMPORARY VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Temporary Positions January - June 2026

Location: Hub Communities outside of Anchorage (Bethel, Dillingham, Unalakleet, Tok and more!)

Compensation: \$28-35 hourly depending on location; flexible work schedule; 20-30 hours/week.

Description: Position will coordinate the implementation of the Senior Companion program regionally. Coordinators will collaborate with tribes or other local entities to host activities for elders such as dance, crafts, and games. The position will recruit for volunteers to join the Senior Companion program and support Elder services in communities.

Positions are remote and require regular travel to regional communities. Internet will be provided and depending on location an office space may be provided.

To apply visit ruralcap.org

Questions?

Call: 907-717-7932

email: asp@ruralcap.org



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The RurAL CAP Senior Companion Program is seeking community-minded individuals who enjoy working with Elders to serve as temporary Volunteer Coordinators! [Learn more and apply here.](#) (Note: the location is NOT Anchorage based despite the job description listing.) The Volunteer Coordinator will collaborate with tribes or other local entities to host elder support groups and help initiate the Senior Companion program in rural communities. This position will require regular travel to communities in their region. Volunteer Coordinators will work with 3-5 sites to set up Elder Support services and volunteer host sites. Position will be remote with support for internet connection and depending on location an office space may be provided.

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week December 1 - 5

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- In 2023 there were 7,891 people 65 and older killed in traffic crashes in the United States, accounting for 19% of all traffic fatalities.
- In the last 10 years (2014-2023), the number of older drivers involved in fatal crashes increased 41%, while the number of older licensed driver increased 38%.

Older drivers face unique safety concerns including vision, reflexes, and physical fitness. Review NHTSA materials to help guide the discussion with older drivers, and children and caregivers of aging adults. Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is December 1-5, 2025, a good opportunity to increase messaging. For more information, click [here](#).

US Department of Justice: Developing an Elder Abuse MDT in Your Community

The U.S. Department of Justice has released a comprehensive guide to support communities in creating and strengthening elder abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDTs). The guide outlines core MDT structures, functions, and common challenges teams may encounter when forming or sustaining a case review MDT. Recognizing that no single model fits every community, the DOJ provides a range of ideas, templates, resources, and tools that can be adapted to local needs. The guide emphasizes that any community can establish an MDT, and its design



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should reflect local circumstances. While empirical research on elder abuse MDTs is still emerging, the document draws on strong evidence and best practices from related fields such as child abuse, education, business, and medicine. It is intended as a living resource and will be updated as new research and tools become available. Updates will be shared through email announcements, and organizations can join the MDT TAC distribution list by contacting the DOJ's MDT Technical Advisor, Talitha Guinn-Shaver: talitha.j.guinn-shaver@usdoj.gov

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Curriculum Release

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is proud to announce the release of [The Truth and Healing Curriculum - Volume II](#), a continuation of NABS 2020 curriculum, Volume I. This new edition aligns with state education standards in Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, offering educators culturally grounded and historically accurate materials for classroom use. The project was supported in part by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). Following this high school edition, middle school and elementary versions will be released, creating a complete grade level pathway for teaching this history. NABS emphasizes the critical need for these resources, noting that the experiences and harms of Indian boarding schools have long been minimized or excluded from U.S. curricula. Their effort aims to ensure that Native voices, perspectives, and truths are fully represented and taught in schools across the country.

Weekly Events

- **Sitka Coffee Time**

Thursday December 18th, 2025

Wednesday February 4, 2026

Wednesday March 11, 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 2026



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Thursday May 14, 2026

11AM-1:30PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

Sitka, Alaska

Contact: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (907) 747-3207

- **Auntie's Knitting and Crocheting Group, Sitka**

Tuesdays at 5:30PM

Are you a fiber artist or interested in becoming one? Join STA's new "Hooks & Needles" Knitting and Crocheting Group Instructed by Gasayáa 'Rose' Demmert from 5:30-7:30pm on Tuesdays throughout the winter in Harrigan Centennial Hall Room 3. This group is open to the community to all, from beginners to advanced. Beginners materials provided; advanced knitters and crocheters welcome to bring their own materials.

Questions? Contact Jean Swanson at (907) 747-3968

or jean.swanson@sitkatriben-sn.gov

- **Tlingit Song and Dance Class**

6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Sheet'ká Kwáan Naa Kahídi Community House

STA invites the community to learn Tlingit song and dance Tuesdays October 28th through April 27th from 6:15-7:30pm. All are welcome, no Tribal affiliation or dance experience is needed. Elders and volunteers are encouraged to assist with dances. All ages welcome, children under 18 must attend with a participating adult.

Contact Lillian Young with questions at 907-966-9660 or

lillian.young@sitkatriben-sn.gov.

- **Gentle Flow Yoga**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Yoga Union, 115 College Dr, Sitka, AK 99835, USA



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STA offers Yoga in partnership with Yoga Union, Mondays from 6-7pm. Classes are open to all with no cost to Tribal citizens and STA staff.

- **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://tcalaska.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



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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

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



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- **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

Support Groups (Juneau)

- **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.



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- **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
- **Caregiver Support Group**
Every 1st Friday of the month
Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center
2401 Eagle Ave
Saxman, Alaska
Information: (907) 225-8080
- **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