



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

August 7, 2026, at 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, non-opposed.
3. **Minutes Approval** – Juneau Minutes were attached, no vote due to no meeting in July.
4. **SREC Project Update** – Tonya Muldoon
 - a. UAS is looking for a CNA Instructor for Skills (RN/LPN) for Fall 2026 courses
 - b. Brochures
 - i. Physician's Guide
 - ii. Alaska Seniors Support Alaska
 - iii. Fraud and Abuse
 - iv. Footpath to Medicaid Wavier
 - v. IDD Footpath to IDD Medicaid Wavier

Theses are posted to the coalition website, www.jedc.org/eldercare/

- c. Coalition Survey, findings



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- i. Reviewed data collected and extended the request for coalition member to complete the survey.
- d. Rural Health Transformation Program –Letter of Intent Approved
 - i. St. Ann’s Center for Integrated Care – Redevelopment Project
 - ii. Pending, notices should be available in the next 2 weeks.
- 5. **SREC Steering Committee Report** – Erin Walker-Tolles and/or Sharyl Yeisley
 - a. Steering Committee Meeting Update
- 6. **Advocacy Update:** Wayne Stevens
 - a. **Advocacy update from the Hill** – Special sections has been recently focused on gas pipeline discussions.
 - b. **Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging: New Congressional Bills & Federal Legislative Updates (ACoA)**

Several federal policy proposals aimed at strengthening support for older adults and other vulnerable populations are currently advancing in Congress. Senators Chris Murphy and Kirsten Gillibrand have introduced the **Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act**, which would provide \$62.5 million annually to Area Agencies on Aging and community organizations to implement outreach, training, and evidence-based programs that reduce social isolation among older adults and people with disabilities.

Senator Murphy has also introduced the **National Strategy for Social Connection Act**, establishing a permanent Office of Social Connection Policy in the White House to coordinate federal action, develop a national strategy, and promote evidence-based approaches to increasing social connection across the lifespan.



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Representative Rob Bresnahan has introduced the **Protect Seniors and Veterans from Health Care Fraud Act**, which would strengthen data-sharing between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to reduce duplicative or improper health care claims and better protect seniors and veterans from fraud.

Representative Suzanne Bonamici's **Elder Pride Act of 2026** would create a Rural Outreach Grant Program under the Older Americans Act to support older LGBTQ+ adults and people living with HIV in rural communities, improving access to health and supportive services and reducing isolation.

The **STOP Scams Against Seniors Act**, introduced by Senator Rick Scott and Representative Gabe Amo, would allow Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds to be used to establish elder justice task forces that investigate and respond to financial exploitation and fraud targeting older adults, while enhancing coordination among federal, state, and local agencies.

Senator Maggie Hassan has introduced the **ReportScams.gov Act**, which would create a centralized federal website (ReportScams.gov) to simplify scam reporting for consumers and support coordinated federal action through a new Federal Scams Action Plan.

Finally, the bipartisan **21st Century ROAD to Housing Act**, introduced by Representative French Hill, became law on July 11, 2026. The new law aims to increase the nation's housing supply by modernizing federal housing programs, streamlining regulatory barriers, expanding financing options, and supporting new development. It advanced with broad congressional support and took effect without the President's signature.



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7. **Best Practice:**

CCS Senior Needs Assessment Analysis for Southeast Alaska, Tonya Muldoon

Tonya will post the presentation and draft research finding at www.jedc.org/eldercare/, coalition website. A copy of the form used to collect data will also be posted online for those who would like to help obtain data from the region to be added for research purposes regarding the status of senior needs in the region.

8. **Comments from members:**

- a. Explore SAIL Sitka new Gear closest, flyer attached to meeting reminder.
- b. We should have a sharing time with participants of the coalition to encourage further engagement and cross discussion.
- c. Also discussed the use of surveys and the reducing number of respondents to questionnaires. Noted conducting the survey during a meeting to get feedback directly instead during non-meeting times.

9. **Adjournment:** 9:48AM

10. **Next Meeting:** Next scheduled meeting September 4, 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 August 19, 2026**



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Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 850 1879 1334

11. Upcoming events:

- a. Dementia Care Core Competencies for more information
www.alzalaska.org/core-competencies/ or Alzheimer's Resource
Alaska call 907-711-9146 (flyer attached to reminder email)
- b.

**October
15-17th,
2026**
★
Anchorage | Hybrid

Statewide
— SUMMIT ON AGING —
Systems Transformation
for a Stronger Future in Aging

★
Providers, Agencies,
Seniors, Advocates,
and Policymakers

Topics will cover issues facing
Alaska's aging population,
including people with physical
disabilities and intellectual and
developmental disabilities (IDD).

Contact
jenny@northernlightsconsulting.org
for sponsorship and exhibitor
opportunities

✦ Continuing education credits available ✦

Statewide Summit on Aging this October: Register Now!

You're invited! Please join us this fall, either virtually or in-person at Turnagain Social Club in Anchorage for the Statewide Summit on Aging October 15-17th. We have combined forces with the Aging and



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Disability Summit traditionally held at Special Olympics to bring you this Summit on Aging. Continuing education credits are available.

[View all Summit details, including the complete agenda, and register here.](#)

c. Speech Language Therapy Available Virtually at No Cost

Are you a care partner or adult seeking speech language therapy services? Virtual Patient Education (VPEd) is offering speech services from speech-language pathology graduate students virtually, at no cost to you. Call 616-288-4785 or visit [Virtual Patient Education](#).

d. First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference October 18-21

The [Annual Statewide Elders & Youth Conference](#) October 18-21st in Anchorage is hosted by First Alaskans Institute. This year's theme, k'ets'e kk'ūdaa neehūghlet (Denaakk'e, Koyukon Athabaskan) — "We are approaching change" — was inspired by the concept of Adapting to Changing Landscapes. Registration is open now! Join Elders, youth, and community members from across Alaska for four days of connection, learning, and celebration.

e. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority: Improving Lives Conference Early Registration

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is hosting the [Improving Lives Conference](#) on September 17–18, 2026, at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. This year's event builds on past efforts to enhance Alaska's behavioral health and disability



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care system, uniting leaders, providers, advocates, policymakers, and Trust beneficiaries across the state.

In addition to the main conference sessions, three pre-conference workshops will take place on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at the same venue. Participants can choose from:

- “Improving Complex Care in Alaska: Where You Fit In,” presented by the Alaska Department of Health and Department of Family & Community Services – a deep dive into cross-system coordination and collaborative care planning.
- “‘Super Advocate’ Advocacy Training,” led by the Trust’s Joint Advocacy Coordinator, offering practical tools for engaging with policymakers and public testimony.
- The “RHTP Workshop: Transforming Beneficiary Health in Alaska,” presented by the Department of Health Rural Health Transformation Program Team, addressing future support innovations.

These pre-conference sessions provide early access to specialized, interactive content aimed at enhancing collaboration, policy engagement, and beneficiary health outcomes.

Attendees can expect insightful keynote presentations, hands-on trainings, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen Alaska’s continuum of care and improve quality of life for Trust beneficiaries.

Early registration closes August 15!

f. First Mondays

Congressman Nick Begich’s Office
2401 Eagle Ave Ketchikan, AK 99901
11AM-2PM



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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

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



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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



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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](#)



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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



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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