



Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

September 4, 2026, at 8:30AM

Meeting Agenda

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

- a. **Call to Order**
- b. **Agenda Approval –**
- c. **Minutes Approval –**
- d. **SREC Project Update –** Tonya Muldoon
 - a. Rural Health Transformation Program –Letter of Intent Approved
 - i. St. Ann’s Center for Integrated Care – Redevelopment Project Resubmission 8/21/2026
- e. **SREC Steering Committee Report –** Erin Walker-Tolles and/or Sharyl Yeisley
 - a. Steering Committee Meeting Update
- f. **Advocacy Update:** Wayne Stevens
 - a. **Advocacy update from the Hill**
 - b. **Medicare at Home Act & HCBS Access Act introduced in Congress**



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Long-term care is one of the biggest expenses facing older adults and their families. Medicare does not have a comprehensive and accessible home care benefit. Recently, lawmakers introduced the [Medicare at Home Act](#), aimed at helping Medicare better meet the needs of older adults who rely on the program. This legislation would create a personal care benefit under Medicare Part B, allowing older adults to receive assistance with daily activities before experiencing financial strain. The benefit would complement the existing Medicare home health program, and Medicaid home-based care would continue to be available for those who qualify.

Also re-introduced in Congress this year, the [HCBS Access Act](#) is designed to improve Medicaid long-term care by making home and community-based services (HCBS) a fully covered and comprehensive Medicaid benefit. Read more about the HCBS Access Act plus The Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act by clicking above.

- c. [AK Advocates 2025-26 Legislative Report](https://www.akadvocates.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-AK-Advocates-Legislative-Report-6.30.26-final.pdf) link or direct:
<https://www.akadvocates.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-AK-Advocates-Legislative-Report-6.30.26-final.pdf>

g. Best Practice:

- a. Yasmin Radbod, of the Alaska Commission on Aging, will speak about the upcoming Statewide Summit on Aging to occur in Anchorage Oct. 15-17, 2026. ACoA website:
<https://health.alaska.gov/en/senior-and-disabilities-services/alaska-commission-on-aging/>



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- b. Shannon Davenport, Board President of the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNa) will be visiting with us about what the association does to support nurses throughout Alaska. AaNa website: <https://aknurse.org/>

h. **Comments from members:**

i. **Adjournment:**

- j. **Next Meeting:** Next scheduled meeting October 2, 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 September 16, 2026.**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 850 1879 1334

k. **Upcoming events:**

- a. **HCBS Strategies: Introducing the SPAN Framework Webinar
Aug 31**

HCBS Strategies is holding a webinar introducing the SPAN (Sustainable Performance Aligned Networks) Framework. SPAN is a new framework to help Aging and Disability Networks do more with constrained



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resources while strengthening safeguards against fraud, waste, and abuse.

SPAN identifies three inter-related core domains central for improving program operations: Sustainability, Performance, and Aligning Networks. Enhanced Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) provides an example of this approach in action; states can use enhanced MAC to: 1) generate more revenue; 2) build documentation of time and costs that can be used to improve efficiency and defend against waste, fraud and abuse investigations; and 3) create incentives for integration across No Wrong Door (NWD)/Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) networks.

The webinar will provide an overview of the framework and allow State leaders in Alaska, Maryland, and Michigan to discuss how they can apply the framework to improve program operations.

If you are interested in learning how Alaska can leverage the SPAN Framework to strengthen program operations and build a stronger business case for sustained funding, join HCBS Strategies on Monday, August 31 at 10:00 AM AKT. [Click here to register](#). For more information, review the [SPAN flyer](#) and the [Webinar flyer](#). Questions? Email HCBS Strategies at info@hcbs.info

- b. *The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education shares the following upcoming event:*

**ADVOCACY: We Can Make a Difference Virtual Training Event,
Sept 1-2, 2026 10AM to 4 PM**

Join the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education for a free online virtual training event. Learn about advocacy and actions for people with disabilities in Alaska with provided sessions, which include:



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- Disability History 101
- I Have Rights Panel
- Self-Advocacy Experience
- Voting Rights and Access
- Legislative Advocacy and Telling your Story

Information provided will be for self-advocates, family members and guardians, and professional staff serving people with disabilities. Featuring speakers from disability network partners of Alaska, come visit and connect to agencies and providers.

Register online [here](#).

c. Department of Labor One Stop Training Academy, September 30, 2026.

d. Juneau Housing and Homeless Coalition is starting to gather again. Next meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at noon at Gruening Park Apartments. In-person only event.

1. Deb Etheridge, Director of the Division of Public Assistance will answer questions about changes to SNAP and Medicaid.

e. 2026 Alaska Health Information Exchange Summit October 7

Registration is open for the 2026 Alaska Health Information Exchange Summit! Join healthcare professionals, leaders, policymakers, and community partners from across Alaska for a day of learning, collaboration, and discussion focused on health information exchange and the future of connected healthcare. October 7, 2026, at Egan Center, Anchorage + Online Option. This event is free. Lunch included for in-person attendees. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Doors open at 8:30 a.m.)

[Learn more and register here.](#)



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- d. AARP has a new Caregiving AI tool, check it out at [AARP Resources for Caregivers and their Families](#) or <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/>
- e. The **Dementia Care Core Competencies for Professional Care Partners** training provides practical, evidence-informed education to help care professionals deliver individualized, person-centered support to people living with dementia.

Whether you work in healthcare, long-term care, home and community-based services, or another caregiving role, this training can help you build confidence and enhance the quality of care you provide.

- ✓ Learn practical care strategies
- ✓ Improve communication skills
- ✓ Better understand dementia and its impact
- ✓ Support individuals and families with compassion

Learn more and register today:

alzalaska.org/core-competencies/

907-771-9146



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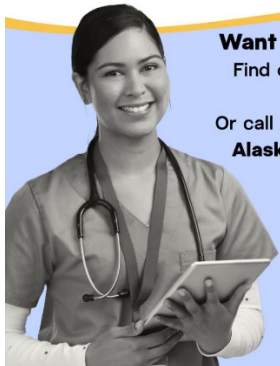
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**Dementia Care
Core Competencies**
for Professional Care Partners

Need Dementia Care Training?

Strengthen your understanding of dementia and learn practical skills for providing individualized, person-centered care.



Want more information?
Find out more and sign up here!
Or call **Alzheimer's Resource Alaska** at **907-771-9146**



Scan here or visit:
alzalaska.org/core-competencies/

f. **Alaska STEPtember CHALLENGE 2026**

The Alaska Falls Prevention Community of Practice, in partnership with Alaska Active Transportation Coalition, invites our partner organizations to join the STEPtember CHALLENGE 2026, September 1–30! The challenge is a simple way to take steps for your health, stay active, and help prevent falls. There is no cost to participate.

The Challenge

This is not a competition. The goal is to encourage each of us to challenge ourselves, stay active, and build healthy habits. Track your steps throughout September and aim for an average of at least 4,400 steps (approximately 2 miles) per day for the month, with a total goal of 132,000 steps. Participants who complete the challenge may be eligible to receive an incentive, while supplies last. All ages welcome!



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We will also recognize individuals who complete the STEPtember CHALLENGE! A list of finishers with 132,000 or more steps will be shared with the Alaska Falls Prevention Community of Practice and Alaska Active Transportation Coalition.

How to Participate

Track your steps from September 1–30, 2026 with a phone, smartwatch, fitness tracker, pedometer, or another method to record your steps. Work toward at least 132,000 total steps in September. At the end of the challenge, submit your final step total through our SurveyMonkey

link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STEPtember_Challenge_2026. Or email a tracking calendar (see attached) with your recorded steps to doh.injury.prevention.info@alaska.gov. Please submit your completed step record or final step total by **October 5, 2026**.

Walking is one of the simplest ways to stay active and can help support strength, mobility, balance, and healthy aging. Participants are encouraged to take part at a level that is safe and appropriate for their individual abilities. Whether you walk indoors, outdoors, around your neighborhood, at work, or on one of Alaska's many trails, every step counts!

Help Us Spread the Word!

Please feel free to share this challenge with additional partner organizations and colleagues who may wish to participate (flyer attached). We would love to see partners from across Alaska join us in getting active this September. Questions? Contact



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doh.injury.prevention.info@alaska.gov. Join us as we take steps toward a healthier, more active, and safer Alaska!

g.

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 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.](#)

a. Speech Language Therapy Available Virtually at No Cost



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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](#).

b. 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 Athabascan) — "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.

c. The Foraker Group, Alaska Board Match, service to help get the right board members. [Alaska Board Match](#) or <https://akboardmatch.org/>

d. The Foraker Group is offering a webinar on Advocacy in Action training September 29, 2026 or November 10, 2026 from 10AM-11am. Course is free. For more information: [Advocacy in Action - The Foraker Group](#) or https://forakergroup.org/site/index.cfm/calendar.catalog_class?typeid=8&Classid=290.



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e. 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

h. 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



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- **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

i. Monthly Events

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

Bartlett Regional Hospital Cafeteria Juneau

Tuesday 10-11:00AM



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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

j. Support Groups (Juneau)

- **Caregiver Support Group**
Every 1st Friday of the month
Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center
2401 Eagle Ave
Saxman, Alaska
Or by TEAMS



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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



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- **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