Alaska Commission on Aging Staff

Interim Executive Director
Lesley Thompson

Program Coordinator I (Rural Long Term Services and Supports Coordinator)
Michelle Rogers (will start on Monday, August 31st)

Planner I
Lesley Thompson
Alaska Commission on Aging

- Mission: To ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.

- ACoA consists of 11 commissioners and three staff members.

- Represent Alaskans that are 60 and older.
Alaska Commission on Aging

- ACoA Mandates:
  - Prepare and approve a comprehensive state plan for senior services and produce annual reports
  - Make recommendations directly to the Governor and Legislature
  - Provide recommendations to the Mental Health Trust Authority
2019 Population of Alaskan Seniors 60+

2019 Population of Alaskans aged 60+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Population Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alaska Seniors with Alzheimer’s and Related Dementia-ADRD

Source: ADRD information is based on national prevalence rates, an estimated 10% of Alaskans aged 65+ have ADRD.
Covid – 19. Impacts on the Senior Population with ADRD which will be included in the new updated Roadmap

- Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) roadmap

Description: The population of older Alaskans is increasing and those that suffer from Dementia is also increasing. The road map is a guide for prioritizing and implementing strategies that will improve the quality of life for Alaskans with ADRD and their caregivers. The Trust has awarded a contract to get this plan updated and several members of ACoA are working on this project.
Covid – 19 Impacts on the Senior Population

**CDC Has Information For Older Adults at Higher Risk**

8 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older. Visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for steps to reduce your risk of getting sick.
COVID employment task force

Description: Duane Mayes, Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the Department of Labor, holds a monthly webinar with a variety of state partners to understand the employment concerns of different stakeholders due to COVID-19 and to help establish relationships and collaboration to help solve the concerns.

Seniors are especially affected with finding employment during Covid – 19

The Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training program is having some success but also is struggling to find people during the Covid – 19 Virus able to be employed
Covid – 19 Impacts on the Senior Population

Other potential long term impacts of the Covid – 19 Virus
FY2021 Legislative Session

New Legislators in Key Positions

Educate current and new legislators on the senior population

Look for cost savings in senior grant programs and within the ACoA
  
  What programs are yielding positive outcomes
  
  Federal programs were we might receive additional percentage of federal funding
  
  Work with DHSS to review the cost savings of telework

Continue to educate legislators on the importance of Home and Community Based Services

Continue to monitor and advocate for bills and funding that will affect Alaskan seniors.
FY2022-2023 Trust Budget Requests

Encouraging restoring cuts to the program Alaska Training Cooperative
Supports Workforce Development
Supports Early Childhood Programs
Housing and Home and Community Based Services policy coordination and capacity development
Thank you so much for the continuation of the Planner I position and the new Program Coordinator I (Rural Long Term Services and Supports Coordinator)
Questions?

“Feel the force!” – Yoda