



**COMMONWEALTH
NORTH**

Illuminating Alaska's Issues

**HEALTH CARE ACTION GROUP
MAY 14, 2009
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:05am by Tom Nighswander and co-chair Duane Heyman

Members/Guests Present: Jay Butler, Jan Harris, Randall Burns, Carolyn Heyman, Stacey Frost, John Riley, Matti Dupre, Regan Mattingly, Deb Erickson, Randi Sweet, Pat Luby, Shelly Hughes, Cathy Giessel, Elizabeth Ripley, Carl Ekstrom

Staff Members Present: Josh Wilson, Josh Hemsath

2. **Alaska Health Care Commission Update**

- Goals of the Commission
 - i. Examine the role of consumer responsibility in health care
 - ii. Address access to medical care for Medicare patients
 - iii. Address the medical work force shortage
 - iv. Support and guide Electronic Health Records
 - v. Establish a permanent Alaska Health Care Commission
- The Commission does not take sides on pending legislation, but Commonwealth North has that ability
- National health care reform is expected and will set the context for Alaska efforts

3. How the Commonwealth North Health Care Action Group can help:

- i. Gather and prioritize information
- ii. Review policy recommendations on behalf of the board
- iii. Draft reports or recommendations for the board

4. Pat Luby of AARP offered Action Group members a link to "Herndon Clips," a Washington D.C. insider column on health care politics.

5. The Action Group voted to recommend that the CWN board pass a motion urging Governor Palin to accept the energy efficiency Stimulus funds since they benefit health care in Alaska.

6. Suggested future meeting topics:

- UA's Karen Perdue on the health care work force situation in Alaska.
- Denali Commission

7. **ADJOURNED** 8:40 am

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** TBD