

2026 Alaska Statewide Summit on Aging Agenda

October 15–17, 2026 | Turnagain Social Club, Anchorage

Note: this schedule is subject to change.

October 15 - Pre-Summit Intensive

- **8:30 AM** | Sign-in, Breakfast
- **9:00 AM** | Welcome & Introduction
- **9:10 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Medicaid Waivers 101 and the Role of Care Coordinators:** *Christine Saling and Kat Sowa-Lapinskas*
 - **Nursing Facility Transition Grant & General Relief in Alaska:** *Denice Gilroy and John Sutton*
 - **Guardianship in Alaska: What's Changed and What's Next?** *Teresa Holt, Stephanie Smith, Jennifer Ivory*
- **10:00 AM** | Break
- **10:15 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Seeing the Person, Not the Disease: A Person-Centered Approach to Dementia Care:** *Kori Mateaki*
 - **Understanding Cost of Care & Personal Needs Allowance in Alaska:** *Deb Etheridge*
 - **How to Prevent Abuse and Encourage Healthy Relationships for Elders and Vulnerable Adults:** *Brooks Banker and Shiela Shinn*
- **11:05 AM** | Snack Break
- **11:20 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Beyond the Bedside: Nursing Practice in Alaska's Community Settings:** *Kori Mateaki, Laine Adkins, Nate Allen, Matthew Thomas*



- **Provider Enrollment with Alaska Medicaid: Understanding the Application Process, Requirements, and Timeline:** *Bobby Nave and Jamie Walker (Gainwell)*
- **Recognizing, Responding to, and Reporting Care Concerns in Home and Community-Based Settings:** *Nathan Laabs*
- **12:15 PM** | Protecting Yourself from Medicaid Fraud (Providers)

October 15 - Summit Opening: Improving Fragmented Systems to Support Aging in Place

- **12:30 PM** | Sign-in, Pick Up Lunch, and Visit Vendors
- **1:00 PM** | Opening Land Acknowledgement: *Dr Rev Chief Anna Frank*
- **1:10 PM** | **The Adult Day Experience - Why Engagement Matters:**
Kori Mateaki with Cheryl Howdyshell and Christine Saling
- **1:55 PM** | Break
- **2:10 PM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Organized Healthcare Delivery for Environmental Home Modifications:**
Joan O'Keefe and Kim Champney
 - **Assisted Living Homes Safe Discharges – The Root of Access to Care:**
Stephanie Wheeler, Christine Saling, Nate Allen
 - **Nuka System of Care and Elder Support Best Practices:**
Chris Klabunde, Ashley Withrow, Lorraine Thomas, Daniel Lieberman
- **3:00 PM** | Snack Break & Visit Vendors
- **3:20 PM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Self-Directed Services in Alaska: Where We've Been and What's Next:**
Maggie Winston
 - **Value-Based Dementia Care: Improving Outcomes for Individuals and Caregivers:** *Gene Quinn*

- **Building Tribal Adult Protective Services in Alaska Native Villages through a Service Provider Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Model:** *Cassie Keplinger and Penny Boschee*
- **4:15 PM** | Closing and Community Drawing
- **6-8:30 PM** | Off-site Reception at the Nave

October 16 - Healthy Aging: Prevention, Protection and Cultural Strength

- **9:00 AM** | Sign-in & Breakfast
- **9:30 AM** | Welcome
- **9:40 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Alaska kinship family services and barriers to finding support:** *Holly Handler, Ginger Okumoto, Jean Swanson, Cassandra Sas, Traci McGarry, Lauren Alberts*
 - **Practical Fall Prevention Strategies to Help You Stay Active and Independent:** *Carie Eastaugh, Mary Moreno, Victoria Ring, Hillary Strayer, Sara Penisten Turcic, Daniel Schramm*
 - **Tribal Alaskan Innovation in Dementia Care:** *Christine Schultz and Tina Svec*
- **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** | **Department of Health Office Hours by Appointment.** Learn more and register by emailing Yasmin.radbod@alaska.gov.
- **10:30 AM** | Break
- **10:45 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Veteran Caregiving:** *Thomas Brass and Beth Dropic*
 - **End-of-Life Planning: Tools and Strategies to Ease Your Mind and Live Your Values Until the End:** *Julie Raymond-Yakoubian*
 - **Aging Well with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Alaska:** *Tori Phillip, Katherine Evon, and Chelsea Burke*
- **11:35 AM** | Visit Exhibitors & Lunch

- **12:00 PM | Medicaid Expansion for Traditional Healing:** *Sharon McConnell, Emily Ricci, Jim LaBelle, Dawson Hoover*
- **12:45 PM | Break**
- **1:00 PM | Breakout Sessions (3)**
 - **Long-Term Care Financial Planning: Understanding Medicare, Medicaid Waivers, and Trusts:** *Chelsea Gregersen, Jeanne Larson, Nathan Cole*
 - **Brain Health, Wandering, and Search & Rescue: Protecting Independence Through Prevention and Early Action:** *Stephanie Sanderlin, Calvin Young, Thomas McCarty*
 - **Senior Nutrition & Meal Delivery: Innovative Community Approaches to Reaching Alaska's Elders:** *Paul Ostbloom, Katie Garrity, Darlene Supplee, Jana Collins*
- **1:50 PM | Snack Break & Visit Exhibitors**
- **2:10 PM | Breakout Sessions (3)**
 - **Traumatic Brain Injury in Older Alaskans and Dementia:** *Adam Grove, Kayla Pokupec, Lucy Cordwell*
 - **Fraud and Scam Prevention: Recognize the Risks and Protect the Future:** *Jesse Jones and Teresa Holt*
 - **Suicide Prevention in Older Adults: Recognizing Risk, Building Protection, and Connecting to Support:** *Niki Knowlton and Adrienne Gregory*
- **3:05 PM | Closing & Community Drawing**
- **3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative Meeting**
- **3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Older Americans Act Title III & IV Gathering**

October 17 - From Vision to Action: Policy, Innovation & the Future of Aging

- **9:00 AM | Registration & Breakfast**
- **9:30 AM | Welcome**

- **9:40 AM** | Alaskan Aging & Disability Projects: Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Panel
- **10:25 AM** | Break
- **10:40 AM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Closing Alaska's Residential Care Gaps: From Shelter/Transitional Housing to Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing:** *Yvonne Humphrey, Theresa Hankins, Nathan Dahl, Robert Lawrence, Michelle Ford-Roberts*
 - **Solving the Healthcare Workforce Crisis:** *Jared Kosin, Nyabony Gat, Jana Bitton, Jacqueline Summers*
 - **Senior Care & Telehealth: Designing Practical Rural Access Models for Alaskans:** *Phil Hofstetter*
- **11:30 AM** | Snack Break
- **11:45 AM** | **State Plan for Senior Services Public Hearing**
- **12:30 PM** | Visit Exhibitors & *Alaska Dinner Factory* Lunch
- **12:50 PM** | **Gubernatorial Educational Forum** | Legislative and congressional candidates welcome if space allows. Moderated by: *Eric Gurley*
- **1:35 PM** | Break
- **1:50 PM** | Breakout Sessions (3)
 - **Addressing Reimbursement Rate Disparities: Guidehouse Study Findings and the Future of Alaska's Long-Term Services & Supports:** *Sandra Heffern, Caroline Hogan, Mike Prax, Amber Halsey*
 - **Senior Independent Housing in Alaska: Trends, Needs, and Opportunities:** *Andy Petroni*
 - **Developing Tribally Run Assisted Living Homes in Rural Alaska: Lessons from the Field:** *Kristel Mahoney, Agnes Sweetsir, Jordan Lewis*

- **2:45 PM | The Future of Aging in Alaska: Federal, State, and Local Perspectives:**

Alaska Department of Health Representative, Alaska Congressional Delegation

Representative, Genevieve Mina, Jasmine Aplin, Suzanne LaFrance, Megan Peratrovich

Questions? Email: jenny@northernlightsconsulting.org.

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event possible!

The Alaska Commission on Aging will produce a Summit report summarizing key findings, recommendations, advocacy priorities and next steps to strengthen services, supports, and policies for older adults and people with disabilities across Alaska.