

July 2, 2020  
Regular City Council Meeting

**Discussion of Suspension of Senior Programs and Services - Councilmember  
Bergeron**

## Karl Amylon

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**From:** Karl Amylon  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 9:23 AM  
**To:** 'samuelbergeron@gci.net'  
**Cc:** Abner Hoage; Lacey Simpson  
**Subject:** RE: Questions from Last Night's City Council Meeting Regarding Suspension of Senior Programs and Services

Sam,

I'll coordinate with the EOC and put something together.

Karl

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**From:** samuelbergeron@gci.net <samuelbergeron@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 9:11 AM  
**To:** Karl Amylon <KarlA@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>; Bob Sivertsen <Mayor@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>; jazenge@gmail.com; 'Dick Coose' <dcoose@kpunet.net>; Emily Chapel <CM1@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>; 'Janalee' <janaleegage@gmail.com>; rainbirdmuse@hotmail.com; 'Mark Flora' <allamericanauto99901@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Abner Hoage <AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>; Lacey Simpson <LaceyS@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions from Last Night's City Council Meeting Regarding Suspension of Senior Programs and Services

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Karl,

last night we heard there were licensing issues as an impediment to dealing with this. We need to fully understand what those issues are and get those to Commissioner Crum for amelioration.

What I heard at the meeting last night was that the council is fully engaged on helping with this problem.

Please place this on the next agenda with an update and any needed council action.

Samuel Bergeron  
907-821-0524  
[samuelbergeron@gci.net](mailto:samuelbergeron@gci.net)

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**From:** Karl Amylon <[KarlA@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:KarlA@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 8:53 AM  
**To:** Bob Sivertsen <[Mayor@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:Mayor@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>; [jazenge@gmail.com](mailto:jazenge@gmail.com); Dick Coose ([dcoose@kpunet.net](mailto:dcoose@kpunet.net)) <[dcoose@kpunet.net](mailto:dcoose@kpunet.net)>; Emily Chapel <[CM1@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:CM1@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>; Janalee <[janaleegage@gmail.com](mailto:janaleegage@gmail.com)>;

## Karl Amylon

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**From:** Abner Hoage  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 4:03 PM  
**To:** Karl Amylon  
**Cc:** Lacey Simpson  
**Subject:** FW: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

FYI,

Update below from John Lee, Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services; key content at the end of the second paragraph states "I expect we will be able to issue this guidance within the next week".

*Abner L Hoage*

Incident Commander  
Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center/Unified Command  
KTN 2020 COVID-19  
Phone: 907-228-2361

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**From:** Lee, John R (HSS) <john.lee2@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** Abner Hoage <AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <heather.carpenter@alaska.gov>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <a.wall@alaska.gov>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <adam.crum@alaska.gov>; Newman, Anthony (HSS) <anthony.newman@alaska.gov>; Russell, Laura O (HSS) <laura.russell@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

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Dear Abner:

Thank you for checking back in. Since last we were in touch I've heard from many constituents and community leaders who, while recognizing care must be taken to protect the vulnerable from infection, are frustrated by the toll social isolation is having--on seniors in particular. I can assure you much hard work has been underway between the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services and our partners both within and outside state government to help us move forward.

Representatives from the Division of Health Care Services; the Epidemiology Section of the Division of Public Health; stakeholder groups for seniors, disabled individuals, health care providers; and others have been meeting regularly to share research and other states' experiences. As I write this we are finalizing fresh guidance on COVID-19 management for: non-residential congregate service providers such as senior centers offering meals and activities; residential service providers such as assisted living homes and skilled nursing facilities; and in-home care providers such as personal care services providers. We also have been holding forums with groups such as the Alaska Commission on Aging to share the most current information and solicit their input. I expect we will be able to issue this guidance within the next week.

The particularly virulent behavior of COVID-19 among seniors makes it critical that we get the recommendations in these documents right. But they will only be recommendations. While the Division stands ready to offer assistance and

guidance, it will be incumbent on the providers themselves, and their surrounding communities, to use sound judgment to keep seniors safe when they re-open their doors.

Thank you for your concern and your work on behalf of the Ketchikan EOC/UC. Feel free to write with your thoughts and concerns anytime.

Sincerely,

John Lee, MHA, FACHE  
Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services  
Department of Health and Social Services, State of Alaska  
550 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 744-8115 (cell)

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**From:** Abner Hoage [<mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 7:42 PM  
**To:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc  
**Importance:** High

Are there any updates on this topic? It has been a little over a month now and I have been quite busy so maybe I missed it.

Unfortunately cases are picking up Statewide, but we need to give this topic some serious consideration soon and figure out how to allow some of these voluntary programs to re-open.

While the rest of us began to reopen and were able to move around and conduct our normal lives in a modified manner our seniors and elders have continued to not have access to the programs and activities they look forward to.

The solution cannot continue to be worse than the problem.

*Abner L Hoage*

Incident Commander  
Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center/Unified Command  
KTN 2020 COVID-19  
Phone: 907-228-2361

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**From:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Abner Hoage <[AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

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Abner,

Great question! We have the Alaska Commission on Aging that we work with carefully and they provide great input on the collective voices of our senior population. The executive director of ACoA is on the task force working on this issue.

John Lee, MHA, FACHE  
Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services  
Department of Health and Social Services, State of Alaska  
550 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 744-8115 (cell)

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**From:** Abner Hoage [<mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

John,

Thank you for the reply, I agree with you whole heartedly that this is one of the groups at highest risk for adverse outcomes. Personally I agree with your rationale to protect this population. I appreciate the direction back to Health Alert 7 that helps me better answer the questions posed by the citizen. It is my understanding that Rendezvous is delivering meals to those who would normally visit the day services center but this of course as you already know is not the same as interacting with others and over the longer term may begin to have a large impact on the mental well being and quality of life for our elders.

The last points of consideration I will leave you with as you go forward and make recommendations to the Governor on this topic. Has anyone asked this population what they want? Has anyone given them the choice? For the rest of our citizens we have started to open facilities including bars and theaters which are in no way essential to living our lives other than for entertainment and socialization value, but for our elders we have decided that we know better and we are going to decide what is best for them.

Maybe at some point soon it makes sense to give our elders a choice, to allow them to decide on their own as free Alaskans to participate or not in these types of activities just as we have for bars, theaters, gyms, etc. as the Governor says on a regular basis Alaskans are resilient, Alaskans are smart, and Alaskans will do the right thing!

Thank You,

*Abner L Hoage*

Incident Commander  
Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center/Unified Command  
KTN 2020 COVID-19  
Phone: 907-228-2361

**From:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** Abner Hoage <[AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

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Abner,

Health Alert 7 closed congregate settings and this alert is still in place. The population served in congregate settings are among those at highest risk of adverse outcomes with a COVID infection, and congregate settings create significant risk for individuals served in those settings. Provider organizations have been encouraged to provide alternative means for socialization and services for those impacted by the closure.

As a State we are continuing to restrict congregate settings for our most vulnerable populations, while also reviewing best practice in other states to determine how and when we might be able to ease back into some sense of normalcy. DHSS has developed a task committee to review congregate settings and to make suggestions for a future phase of the Governor's reopening strategy. The phases will be relying on certain milestones so an exact date they may open up is not able to be produced. The state certainly understands the impact on our seniors as the result of the decision to close services conducted in congregate settings.

Protecting the safety of our most vulnerable Alaskans is the driving priority for this closure.

John

John Lee, MHA, FACHE  
Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services  
Department of Health and Social Services, State of Alaska  
550 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
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**From:** Abner Hoage [<mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>; Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall,

Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

Thank You Commissioner,

I will wait to hear from Director Lee.

*Abner L Hoage*

Incident Commander  
Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center/Unified Command  
KTN 2020 COVID-19  
Phone: 907-228-2361

**From:** Crum, Adam R (HSS) <[adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:06 PM

**To:** Abner Hoage <[AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us](mailto:AbnerH@City.Ketchikan.Ak.Us)>

**Cc:** Lee, John R (HSS) <[john.lee2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.lee2@alaska.gov)>; Carpenter, Heather R (HSS) <[heather.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.carpenter@alaska.gov)>; Wall, Albert E (HSS) <[a.wall@alaska.gov](mailto:a.wall@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Question re: Senior Centers/Programs/etc

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Hi Abner,

This is a tough situation. This is the population that we need to protect because they are high risk, but we also need to make sure they have a quality of life as well.

Day centers are paid from my Division of Senior and Disability Services (SDS).

Director Lee, could you please respond to Mr. Hoage?

**ADAM CRUM** | Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
[3601 C Street, Suite 902 | Anchorage, AK 99503](#)  
[907.269.7800](tel:907.269.7800) (office)  
[Adam.Crum@alaska.gov](mailto:Adam.Crum@alaska.gov)

On May 11, 2020, at 3:51 PM, Abner Hoage <[AbnerH@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:AbnerH@city.ketchikan.ak.us)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Commissioner,

I had a phone call from an angry citizen today asking about programs for our elders that are closed, concerned about the mental well being of this population that is not able to get out and socialize or do the things they usually do because of Health Mandate 001.

In particular she is referring to the ability for residents at her facility The Manor not being able to go to the local senior day center at Rendezvous Senior Day Center. My understanding is that Rendezvous is funded in part through a grant from and licensed by DHSS and that they are not being allowed to reopen due the requirements of mandate 001. I am wondering if this information is correct that this type of operation is covered under that mandate and should not resume operation or is there a potential misunderstanding somewhere along the line?

Thank You,

*Abner L Hoage*

Incident Commander  
Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center/Unified Command  
KTN 2020 COVID-19  
Phone: 907-228-2361

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# "UNAPPROVED"

June 18, 2020

Dee Wright said she is here tonight representing The Manor Assisted Living Home and on behalf of her clients who were some of the first people mandated to stay home by the State. She continued they are still mandated to stay home and not allowed to go to Rendezvous or the Senior Center, because these establishments are not being funded by the State. She felt funding should be opened back up to these establishments and encouraged the Council to reach out to the State to consider reopening these places so our seniors have some place to go.

Chris Parks thanked the community of Ketchikan for supporting Tongass Trading during these trying times. He stated that Tongass Trading has been in business for 120 years and while the business is doing ok he is worried if they will still be here if this continues. He stated he is concerned about the cruise ship season for next year and described how important the cruise ships are to this town and its economy. He reminded everyone that the local businesses are the ones that create jobs and pay sales taxes. He felt that there should be an individual category with the CARES Act Relief funding, but that it should be measured to ensure it is going to the right people. He said the Request for Proposal (RFP) should be scraped and the City should maintain what we currently have on the docks.

Norman Arriola said he would like to address the decision to allow the small ships into Ketchikan. He felt by allowing these smaller ships into Ketchikan we are playing Russian roulette with the people who live here year round, especially our elders who are vulnerable. He questioned if there is still the 14-day recommended quarantine for people arriving in Ketchikan from Seattle.

Breshen Kenoyer said she is here not just to support gay, LGBTQ+ rights but to support human rights, for the safety and security of the community. She continued that discrimination is an infection like COVID-19. She stated while she is sad to even be talking about this she is grateful that we are. She encouraged the Council to continue to talk about it to improve this community.

Martha Thomas said she was here tonight to express her concerns regarding the RFP. She informed the 2020 cruise ship season is basically over, which is a huge loss to her personally as well as all the companies involved in the tourism industry. She voiced her concerns about the loss of local jobs in Ketchikan, and encouraged the Council to drop the RFP process and keep control of the docks for the locals. She continued there are not a lot of jobs out there, and due to COVID-19 many local businesses are suffering.

Carly Hurst stated she was here regarding the need for an antidiscrimination ordinance to protect LGBTQ+ community members. She said she would like these privileges extended to everybody regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. She stated the Supreme Court recently ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects homosexuals, bisexuals and transgender from discrimination at work, but leaves out protections outside of the workplace. She said the City Council can help by passing this ordinance.

Gina Palmer said she owns Palmer Daycare, and has been a childcare provider in Ketchikan for over 38 years. She felt some of the CARES Act Relief funds should be used to help our local, licensed childcare providers recover from their lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She informed the pandemic has caused a financial impact to local daycares by forcing them to lay off employees and make cutbacks. She stated her business has lost over \$22,000. She indicated that Ketchikan is already short licensed, quality daycares, and she requested on behalf of all daycares that they be considered when distributing the CARES Acts funds. She thanked Councilmember Gage for reaching out to all of the licensed daycares providers to ask how they are doing, and to learn what they were going through.

**Exempting the Procurement of the Electric Division Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrade from the Competitive Bidding/Written Quotation Requirements of the Ketchikan Municipal Code – Award of Contract No. 20-14 to Open Systems International Inc. (OSI)**

Moved by Zenge, seconded by Gage pursuant to subparagraph 6 of Section 3.12.050(a) of the Ketchikan Municipal Code, the City Council exempt the procurement of the Electric Division Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrade from the competitive bidding and written quotation requirements of the Ketchikan Municipal Code; authorize the general manager to enter into Contract No. 20-14 for the acquisition of such SCADA upgrade services with Open Systems International Inc. in the amount of \$385,230; approve additional funding in the amount of \$8,770 for Electric Division staff participation in Factory Acceptance Training at the OSI facility located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, bringing the total procurement cost to \$394,000; and authorize funding from the Electric Division's OSI SCADA Upgrade Capital Account.

Motion passed with Gage, Zenge, Flora, Chapel, Coose, Bergeron and Kiffer voting yea.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Introduction of New PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center Chief Administrative Officer Dori Stevens**

Dori Stevens said she is the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center. She indicated she has more than 30 years' experience in healthcare leadership. She said she joined PeaceHealth Ketchikan as health systems across the country faced the challenges presented by COVID-19, and as the virus impacted the Ketchikan community. She stated she has approached this stressful time in healthcare as a leader of a united team, and plans to assist any way she can during this difficult time. She informed she looked forward to sharing an update on the medical center's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts with you on July 2, 2020 during our scheduled quarterly presentation. She said she welcomed any questions or concerns from the Council may have, and thanked them for their time.

**Ongoing Review and Discussion of Cruise Related Issues – Councilmember Bergeron**

Placeholder - no discussion.

**Ongoing Review and Discussion of State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates – Councilmember Bergeron**

Councilmember Bergeron said with the increased traffic from the lower forty-eight and the spike in the number of local COVID-19 cases, he would like support from the Council to bring an emergency ordinance forward for the first meeting in July to mandate the wearing of facemasks in public places. He felt with everything he has read indicates the wearing of facemasks would drastically reduce the spread of COVID-19. He felt that wearing a facemask would help the people who have weakened immune systems and breathing issues from contracting COVID-19. He said as we now know there are people out there that don't follow the rules, which put all of us in danger.

# "UNAPPROVED"

June 18, 2020

EOC Manager Hoage said the EOC has updated their dashboard and daily testing count format, and some of the numbers are recorded slightly different and some of the graphs have gone away. He pointed out changes where they report the number of cumulative cases, and the number of cases that are local and non-local. He shared information on why the elderly are on continued lock down, noting he has contacted Juneau about this and has spoken with Dee Wright a couple of times. He felt this is an issue that needs to be addressed. He indicated what Ms. Wright is referring to is regarding a health advisory that closed the congregate care settings, and the state office that funds and licenses those programs cannot open up services because of that health advisory. He felt Ms. Wright makes an important point regarding the mental health and well-being of those individuals, and will update the Council as the information becomes available. He re-summarized the current state mandates regarding the quarantine periods and testing for individuals arriving in Ketchikan.

Mayor Sivertsen questioned the number of individuals arriving in Ketchikan per day. He indicated as we open up for business in Alaska with regards to the impacts of the small cruise ships versus the same number of passengers arriving at the airport every day, noting the cruise ships have a plan in place where the passengers arriving at the airport don't.

EOC Manager Hoage informed since we began testing the inbound flights that are northbound they have met 33 flights since June 6, 2020. He informed 488 initial screening tests have been given to people arriving and 48 voucher tests have been given at the airport site. He informed we are testing between 30 and 50 people arriving per day, and the daily arrivals are between 100 and up to 140 passengers, noting that number includes southbound flights too. He said a good number are arriving with a test that turn their paperwork in with a greeter on either side and can be on their way.

Councilmember Coose indicated we have a problem of not being able to move our elders out where they want to go and questioned why can't we use some of the CARES Act Relief funding or City money to get them a cab.

In answer to Councilmember Coose, EOC Manager Hoage stated the programs the elders are going to are currently not funded or operating. He indicated if they started operating without permission they would risk the loss of their licensing to continue operating. He said he would reach out to Ms. Wright to see if there is something we can do to help solve this issue locally, and in the meantime wait for a response from the email he sent to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and to Commissioner Adam Crum asking for updated information on what they plan on doing in relation to the current health advisory and allowing these places to re-open.

Mayor Sivertsen informed the Alaska Commission on Aging held a meeting today with several staff members of the DHSS to talk about this issue. He indicated the State is aware of the issue and the mental health of our seniors that are affected by this health advisory, and they are moving with caution because national statistic shows this group of people has a higher mortality rate once infected. He stated they are very aware of the issue, and are talking with providers.

Councilmember Flora questioned if the people who are arriving at the airport that are being tested are honoring the mandate period until they get their test results.

In answer to Councilmember Flora, EOC Manager Hoage said they are supposed to, but it is on an honor system for quarantining.