The TRUST
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

DENALI COMMISSION ALASKA

MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION

RASMUSON FOUNDATION

United Way
United Way of Mat-Su

May 12, 2011

Dear Senior Advocate:

We are pleased to share with you a copy of the ***Mat-Su Regional Plan for Delivery of Senior Services***. This plan was prepared by the McDowell Group in association with Health Dimensions Group. It was commissioned by the following Alaska-based funders: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Denali Commission, Mat-Su Health Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, and United Way of Mat-Su.

The rate of population growth among the 65 and older demographic in Alaska is one of the highest in the nation. The increase in senior citizens is putting a strain on the senior service delivery system, particularly in Mat-Su. This plan was prepared to better understand the needs of Mat-Su's senior population and to match those needs with an efficient and productive delivery system that can be implemented on a regional level. It analyzes senior service delivery across the entire continuum of care and presents strategies with corresponding financial analysis. It offers opportunities for both the private and public sectors to engage to shape future service delivery.

Many local and state stakeholders played a role in shaping this plan. We are grateful for the time, perspective and data they offered to help round out the plan. They share a concern for the senior citizens of Alaska. They recognize the significant impact the aging of Alaskans will have on our families, communities, businesses and systems. Most importantly, they are committed to proactive planning and implementation to ensure Alaska seniors have an opportunity to maximize their contributions and live out their years with dignity.

We hope this plan informs you and your work on behalf of Alaska's seniors. Feel free to reference, quote and engage in the implementation of the plan. We want this to be a catalyst for meaningful change, and are grateful for your assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ripley

Elizabeth Ripley
Executive Director
Mat-Su Health Foundation