

JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

Ending the hopelessness of homelessness.

Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) • Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (4As) • Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ACH2) • Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation • Alaska Legal Services Corporation • Catholic Community Service • City and Borough of Juneau • The Front Street Clinic/SEARHC • Gastineau Human Services Corporation • The Glory Hole • Housing First • Cathy Johnson, Residential Mortgage Consultant • Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc (JAMHI) • Juneau School District • Juneau Youth Services, Inc. • Love, In the Name of Christ • NAMI Juneau • Polaris House • Rainforest Recovery Center • REACH, Inc. • St. Vincent de Paul • Sims Foster Group Home • Southeast Alaska Food Bank • Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA) • Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) • Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority • United Way of Southeast Alaska • Zach Gordon Youth Center

Juneau Homeless Coalition

Mission Statement

Ending the Hopelessness of Homelessness.

History

The Juneau Homeless Coalition originally organized as part of the Continuum of Care process in 1997. Representatives from five organizations; AWARE, Inc., the City and Borough of Juneau, Gastineau Human Services, St. Vincent DePaul, and The Glory Hole collaborated on a transitional housing project at St. Vincent DePaul's. The Continuum of Care committee utilized multiple funding sources to complete the project that included housing development and social services.

In subsequent years, other local organizations, including JAMHI, SAGA, and Juneau Youth Services joined the Continuum of Care committee to pursue grant opportunities that required collaboration. In 1999, St. Vincent DePaul was awarded the first Homeless Assistance Program grant and managed the activities until 2007 when Gastineau Human Services took over the administration.

In 2002, this collection of local agencies formally became known as the Juneau Homeless Coalition. By making this change and scheduling regular meetings, the Juneau Homeless Coalition was better positioned to apply for the balance of state grant funding provided by the Department of Urban Development and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

In 2006, the Juneau Homeless Coalition created a ten-year plan titled, *A Roof Over Every Head in Juneau: Our Community's Plan to End Homelessness.*

The Mental HealthTrust Authority recognized the work of the Juneau Homeless Coalition and funded a part-time coordinator from 2007-2009 at the United Way of Southeast Alaska to help facilitate the progress of the Juneau Homeless Coalition.

The Coalition has been extremely active since its inception and has sponsored and received joint grant applications, worked with the City and Borough of Juneau on affordable housing, hosted statewide conferences, developed community education and outreach tools, conducted research on homeless populations in Juneau, and engaged in municipal and legislative advocacy. Better participation in the AHFC Point-in-Time Homeless Count, production of the 2008-09 *OUT OF THE RAIN* calendar, and a significant presence at the Capital City Forum in Juneau were some of last years highlights.

The Juneau Homeless Coalition remains an organization of committed social service providers, non-profit housing agencies, state and local planners, and concerned citizens who volunteer their time and expertise to further the goals of ending homelessness in our community. The Coalition is not a 501©3 organization and therefore has no fundraising capacity.

JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

Ending the hopelessness of homelessness.

2009 Juneau Homeless Coalition Retreat

In May 2009 at the Juneau Homeless Coalition Retreat a number of challenges faced the Coalition. In June 2009, the JHC was to lose funding for its part-time coordinator, participation was spotty, especially amongst decision-makers from participating agencies, and too much of the Juneau Homeless Coalition's work focused on the direction of the part-time staffer.

In order to rectify some of these problem areas for the long-term, the Coalition agreed to change the structure of the organization.

I. Oversight Board (3-5 members)

- a. Original JHC Member
- b. Tribal Representative
- c. JHC Client/Advocate – person with experience with homelessness
- d. CBJ Representative
- e. Business Community

Responsibilities to include attendance of quarterly or 6 times a year meetings and the JHC retreat. Oversight and guidance of the work of the Coalition are the primary goals, with Treasurer Responsibilities also included.

II. Co-Chairpersons (2)

Chairpersons will be voluntary unless funding becomes available. The primary responsibility will be to facilitate information-sharing, assist with the work of the focus groups, organize JHC materials, write letters of recommendation, and run meetings.

III. Focus Area Chairperson (3)

Based on JHC priorities, each focus area will have a chairperson who organizes a committee to work on the priority chosen; setting goals, maintaining contact with JHC Co-Chairpersons, and reporting on progress at JHC meetings.

The areas of focus for 2009 are:

Housing Development, Outreach/Marketing, Project Homeless Connect

IV. Focus Area Members

Members will align themselves with a focus area of interest to their organization.

V. Rest of the JHC Coalition Membership

Given that the JHC cannot address every need in a given year, it is expected that some members will not be vested in the chosen focus areas. However, information-sharing and JHC support until a focus area of interest in future years is chosen.

The transition to the new structure is currently taking place with an Ad Hoc Personnel Committee forming and consisting of members from AWARE, Inc., Polaris House, Alaska Mental Health Board, Front St. Clinic, The

JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

Ending the hopelessness of homelessness.

Glory Hole, and the Juneau Economic Development Council leading the way. Focus Area Chairpersons have been assigned and have been holding subcommittee meetings.

Looking Forward

As the Juneau Homeless Coalition makes the transition to a more diverse, better organized group, the addition of a part-time coordinator would greatly benefit the organization. It has been acknowledged that the Coalition can be more productive, including improvement in the areas of long-term planning that include progress toward a ten-year plan to end homelessness, better communication with the local community and its funding partners, and to ultimately provide more resources for the persons in risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.