

# **Juneau Coalition on Housing & Homelessness Meeting**

## **Minutes**

April 25, 2013

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

### **I. Roll Call/Introductions**

Mandy O'Neal Cole called the meeting order at 11:45 AM.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. March 21, 2013**

Holly Handler made a motion to approve the minutes. Kiel Renick noted a change needed to the coordinator funding end date and with the minor change, seconded to approve. With the correction, the minutes were approved.

### **III. Discussion Items:**

#### **A. Affordable Housing Commission Update**

The AHC has submitted a letter to the Assembly Housing Task Force recognizing gaps in services and barriers to housing. The outcomes of the letter were recommendations to 1). Call for a housing action plan and 2). For CBJ to provide a position to help implement the housing plan.

#### **B. Housing First Update**

A hand out was provided for members as Jordan Nigro gave a brief update on the Housing First project. The working group is looking to submit a proposal for AHFC's 2014 Special Needs Housing Grant (SNHG). Jordan mentioned the developer for the project has not been finalized between Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority and Rural Cap. The group will establish a timeline for the upcoming year until the next SNHG funding round.

#### **C. Coalition Identity**

##### **I. Logo Update**

Jessy Post informed the group that she and Laura Lucas met with graphic designer Sarah Olsen. Laura provided three portfolios and bids for the steering committee to review and chose Sarah to move forward with the project. Laura and Jessy briefed Sarah on the Coalition's history, mission, and activities. Sarah will create 3-5 designs for the Coalition's review.

##### **II. Website Update**

Kiel reported that the website [homelessinjuneau.com](http://homelessinjuneau.com) is ready for feedback. The site is live but needs members' suggestions and to benefit all member organizations and the population they serve. Kiel and Jordan and any member are welcome to join in a meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30 at SAIL to discuss the content, structure, and organization of the site. Jessy will invite Sarah, the graphic designer to look over the site and join in the meeting, if available. Once the site is complete, James the web developer can train a designated member on how to manage the site. It was requested to make the site not public yet, as it is still in the development and fine-tuning state. Kiel will have James note that the site is under construction.

#### **D. Coalition Responsibilities**

The Steering Committee met with City Manager Kim Kiefer to discuss potential funding for support services to the Coalition. The outcome of the meeting was that funding for continuation of the coordinator position is not readily available, but a project-based deliverable could be potentially funded. The Coalition now needs to look at the options of: 1). project-based funding 2). reduced coordinator services that could be funded for significantly less than the current levels 3). no "coordinator" position, where the Coalition provides their own volunteer administrative services. JEDC is still willing to provide accounting and administrative support to the Coalition and the Medical Respite Care program at no cost.

The Coalition is not in favor of becoming a 501 3 C or increasing membership dues. The Coalition has historically shied away from becoming a 501 3 C because fundraising would take away from the most important Coalition efforts and organizations don't have the resources to contribute more substantial dues. Right now the Coalition needs to plan to transition to a volunteer-led coalition. Mandy suggested

that the group tackle small pieces of a 10-Year Plan with small committees, meaning members are going to have to put in more work to move the Coalition forward. Several ideas for volunteer support were suggested: To recruit retirees who might be interested and a good fit to support the Coalition, AmeriCorps volunteers, and to talk with United Way to see if their organization could support in any way.

Janna Brewster of Front Street Clinic shared her experience at the National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference. The problems that exist in Juneau are just on a smaller scale, but very similar to many of the major metropolitan areas. Based on success stories she heard at the conference, she suggested that we put a "face" on the people we are serving in order to make a difference—to present the case to all stakeholders and community members who have the means to make a difference. Members agreed that they needed to talk about the people they are serving and will start giving quick updates from their organizations. It's also important to have the people that the Coalition serves at the table. Joe Contraras, a beneficiary of many services, said it would be helpful for housing and all applications to be unified and have one central coordinated system, verses visiting each agency.

**E. Meeting time**

Member Ruth Danner (via email) had proposed to move the meeting time of the regular monthly meeting to Noon. With no objections, Holly motioned to change the meeting time to 12:00-1:30PM, still to take place on the third Thursday each month. Jordan seconded and the new meeting time was approved.

Dan Austin announced that Housing First and St. Vincent de Paul are officially merging. Jen La Roe will be an employee of St. Vincent de Paul, serving as the Director of Housing and Development.

**IV. Informational Items & reminders**

The Glory Hole's Annual Fundraiser Empty Bowls - Sunday, April 28, 5-7PM, Centennial Hall

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, May 16, 2013 12:00 - 1:30PM, THRHA.