

# JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

## Juneau Homeless Coalition Retreat Meeting Summary May 17, 2012

The Juneau Homeless Coalition (JHC) meets monthly to review progress and plan for future priorities and projects, and to discuss other issues relating to homelessness. The JHC held a planning retreat on May 17, 2012 to discuss and identify priorities for the upcoming year. The retreat was supported by an outside facilitator, Amy Skilbred, and was composed of two sessions: In the first session, JHC members focused on the framework of the 10-Year-Plan to End Homelessness. They identified areas and populations that needed attention and created a list of items to add to the Plan. From this list, they established their top priorities for 2012-2013 and presented them to stakeholders in the second session.

### **Juneau Homeless Coalition Members Present**

Brian Holst, *JEDC*

Dan Austin, *St. Vincent DePaul*

Heather Marlow, *CBJ Lands*

Holly Handler, *ALSC*

J. Ellen Moore, *Juneau Public Health*

Jen LaRoe, *Housing First Inc.*

Jeremy Kerr, *Alaska Housing Finance Corp.*

Jessy Post, *JEDC*

Joanne Witta, *T&H Regional Housing Authority*

John Vercessi, *Gastineau Human Services*

Jorden Nigro, *SAIL*

Kiel Renick, *Glory Hole*

Mandy Cole, *AWARE*

Mariya Lovishchuk, *Glory Hole*

Pam Watts, *JAMI*

Ruth Danner, *CBJ Assembly*

Sandi Kohtz, *Rainforest Recovery*

Scott Ciambor, *Alaska Mental Health Board*

Shari Partin, *Alaska Housing Development Corp.*

### **Agreed upon outcomes of retreat**

- Shared vision and aligned outcomes
- Consensus on priorities for June 2012-June 2013
- Organization form
- Plan efficiency

### **Juneau Plan to End Homelessness**

Mandy provided a brief overview of work that has been done by JHC Committee on 10-year plan. Discussed areas and populations that need to be addressed in JHC plan include:

- Chronically homeless (inebriates, substance abuse, mentally ill)
- Vets
- Homeless youth
- People with physical and mental disabilities
- People with AIDs
- Seniors
- Low or no income

To address these populations efficiently and effectively and make clear to the greater Juneau community what has been done and what needs to be done, members recommended that JHC collect/continue to collect data and analyze it to understand:

- Who makes up the homeless populations in Juneau
- Availability of local housing stock
- Alaska Homeless Management Information System
- Availability or lack thereof of affordable housing in Juneau
- How to collaborate and connect with those who are homeless

### **Broad Plan Elements**

The group **decided on the following elements to provide the framework for the JHC 10-Year Plan.**

- Public Policy and Education – identify and eliminate statutory, regulatory, policy and other barriers and educate the public about homelessness. Action items might include: developing the 10 year plan, link to Housing First, common definition of homelessness, state & local funding, community-wide buy-in/public communication campaign.
- Housing – develop new housing units and affordable housing units. Action items might include: create new affordable housing target numbers, 811 program, Title 21, AHFC funding, land for housing, housing fund, housing production incentives, linking transportation with housing.
- Information Management – collect data on homelessness and coordinated comprehensive intake, eligibility, discharge, and housing barriers assessment system, including: services and funding responsive to need.

- Targeted Intervention – provide adequate support services for individuals and families to survive and succeed on their own or in the least restrictive environment of their choice; including: daytime respite, project homeless connect, mobile case management, camp impact on community, timely case management, identification of gaps and overlaps, coordinated housing first approach.
- Prevention – promote prevention as the most effective and economically efficient path toward secure, safe and affordable housing for all, including: emergency housing fund, tenant education, eviction prevention, housing choice voucher, linking transportation with housing.

### **Juneau Homeless Coalition 10-Year Plan Outline**

The group listed all current projects and activities, and identified what else needs to be done to eliminate homelessness in Juneau over the next 10 years. The group **agreed that all projects/activities listed were important, however a prioritized list was needed to determine what to work on this year.** Using 4 dots per participant, priorities for June 2012-June 2013 were identified. Projects/activities are listed in order of the number of votes they received under each broad element of the plan agreed upon (see above).

#### List of Projects/Actions by Plan Element

NOTE: One of the top priorities of JHC is to finish the 10 Year Plan – this priority was agreed upon by JHC members and was not included in the listing or voting processes which were to determine what needs to be put into the plan.

#### 1. Housing

- Housing First project (14)
- Contact absent property owners (reuse of resources)/ Inventory properties/Rehabilitate dilapidated property for housing use/Downtown revitalization (11)
- Smith Hall – JHC to endorse Smith Hall studios for low income seniors or other senior housing (5)
- Participation in revitalization Willoughby District (1)
- Teen emergency shelter (0)
- Small emergency facility for alcohol and substance abuse people (0)
- Family emergency shelter (0)
- Review housing ideas and housing projects as they arise (0)
- Consolidate CBJ office for increased housing space in Marine View building (0)

#### 2. Public Policy

- Affordable housing commission policy changes (6)
- Participate in Alaska Coalition on Homelessness – bimonthly meetings and annual conference (5)

- Public awareness campaign: calendar, PHC, public market, public relations (4)
- Coalition expansion: engage more organizations/engage our homeless customers/engage homeless families/volunteers/make connections with AMHT and other key players/agencies (4)
- Identify and address agency barriers to services to end homelessness (0)
- JHC Coordinator Funding (4)
- Funding opportunities – keeping abreast funding opportunities (3)
- Transportation –support and encourage affordable house in conjunction with public transportation (2)
- Expansion of public transportation and routes (1)
- Promoting Juneau affordable housing fund (0)
- Statewide housing and homelessness plan, important to have formal communication (0)
- Access to bus stops and improved shelters (0)
- Public restrooms (0)
- Community development block grant (State, CBJ, agency) (0)
- Coordination on Block grants (feedback to distribute funds) and AHFC Homeless Assistance Program, these funding sources are vital tools to achieve objectives (0)

### 3. Information Management

- Point In Time Homeless Count / Project Homeless Connect, Vulnerability Index (annual survey, use of information, street outreach) (9)
- Need based on statistics and align projects to needs (doing this strengthens grant applications, maximizes efficiency for specific populations) (3)

### 4. Targeted Case Intervention

- Coordinated social services approach / coordinated intake for housing with ready to rent program (15)
- Plan and protocol for veterans housing– vouchers, case mgt, services (3)
- Medical respite program (1)
- Appropriate information releases to communicate with other agencies, possible club house model (0)
- Ask homeless what they want: what kind of services, what percentage want to be homeless (0)

### 5. Prevention

- Flexible and affordable childcare (0)
- Affordable after school programs (0)
- Community food security (0)
- Utilities (0)

### List of JHC Top Priorities for 2013

After listing all the projects/activities needed and determining the priorities for 2012 – 2013, the group **identified the top seven priorities** and then broke into four subgroups to begin to develop workplans and actions to be taken this year for the top four priorities. NOTE: some of the projects/activities were grouped together before deciding on the top priorities and others after, which is why some with more points are lower on the list.

1. Coordinated social services approach / coordinated intake (15)
2. Housing First project (14)
3. Point In Time / Project Homeless Connect/Vulnerability Index (9)
4. Affordable housing commission policy changes (6)
5. Participate in Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (5)
6. Support for Smith Hall – low income seniors (5)
7. Contact absent property owners (reuse of resources)/Inventory properties/  
Rehabilitate dilapidated property for housing use/Downtown revitalization (11)

#### Initial Workplans for Top Four Projects/Activities

The working groups developed initial workplans for each of the top four activities. The committee members listed are the people who agreed to work on this at the retreat. Need to confirm whether they will continue to work on this specific project/action. NOTE: Each of the top projects/actions had at least one member at the retreat who indicated that they would be willing to work on the issue bases on the color dots placed next to each issue.

#### ***Coordinated Social Services and Coordinated Intake Workplan***

Objective:

Stakeholders:

Tasks:

Committee Members: Mandy, Sandy, Pam

#### ***Housing First Project Workplan***

Objective: JHC will support the development group that is pursuing a permanent supportive housing project for those residents identified in the Vulnerability Index Survey (20-30 units).

Stakeholders: AMHTA, THRHA, JAMHI, Front Street clinic, GHS

Tasks:

- Support development group as project proceeds and steps identified
- JHC will promote project and educate community to create support within community
- Participate in observation trip to Minnesota: complete analysis of observations and report findings to JHC and link to Vulnerability Index Needs
- THRHA will move forward on pre-development of actual project

Committee Members: Scott Ciambor (AMHB), Heather Marlow (CBJ Lands), John Vercessi (GHS), Ellen Moore (JPH Center), Jen LaRoe (Housing First)

***Point in Time Count & Project Homeless Connect Workplan***

Objective: Address and understand needs based on statistics

Stakeholders: JHC members, AK PFD, Vital statistics, DMV, Public Assistance, Glory Hole – food, Healthcare providers, hygiene providers, jobs, homeless residents, DVR

Tasks:

- July – secure venue Centennial Hall
- September – Project leads identified
- October – begin monthly planning Meetings
- November – volunteer recruitment, Public Market
- - event date

Funders: AHFC - \$2,500; JHC

Budget: on file

Committee Members: Jordan, Shari, Kiel, Joanne

***Affordable Housing Commission Policy Changes Workplan***

Objective: To make policy change recommendations to utilize the JAHC and JAH Fund to build housing for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Stakeholders: for profit and not for profit organizations, advocacy groups, AHFC, HUD, CBJ

Tasks:

- Liaison position, more than one person to attend meetings
- Send out AHC agenda/minutes to JHC members
- Outreach to developers, home builders association

Committee: Dan, Ruth, Jessy, Jeremy

**Organization Form and Function**

There was initial discussion about the format of the JHC structure when Scott was the staff person. We then moved on to discuss the benefits of having a Steering Committee that can make decisions without the entire group being contacted. The benefits to this structure were to

- Enable the Coalition to take quick action in an efficient manner, particularly when there were time sensitive issues.
- Help maintain continuity during transitions

**JHC members agreed to have a Steering Committee consisting of: two Co-Chairs, treasurer, and Secretary.**

After briefly discussing a new format for the JHC leadership with a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Coordinator/Staff, the group discussed those aspects of the coalition that wanted to ensure were maintained:

- A “face” of the coalition
- Accountability through a paid position
- A link between Affordable Housing Commission and Homeless Coalition
- A point person on housing issues in Juneau
- One person to organize meetings
- JEDC support
- Communication between the AHC and JHC, includes a report from JHC folks on AHC (minutes, agenda) and report to AHC from JHC at their meetings. A suggestion was made for JHC to pursue obtaining a voting seat on the AHC
- Communication among JHC members and with the public

JHC members noted that they want to be included in future with how coordinator position functions and how JEDC works with JHC and any potential changes in coordinator position.

Brian stated that JEDC will provide similar support to JHC no matter the format.

CBJ staff, Heather Marlow mentioned that CBJ will be staffing the AHC and working closely with the JHC Coordinator. This means that what Margaret has been doing will be transitioning to city staff.

**At its next meeting the JHC** will define the roles and provide candidates for the Steering Committee positions. Mandy and Dan agreed to Co-chair the JHC and bring forward names for these positions. In addition, at the next meeting the Committees will be established to move forward with JHC top priorities for June 2012 – June 2013.

### Presentation to Stakeholders

The working section of the retreat was followed by a presentation to stakeholders. This included a short history of the Juneau Homeless Coalition (Scott Ciambor), introduction of stakeholders (Jordan Nigro), presentation of priorities for JHC through June 2013 (Mandy Cole), and discussion with stakeholders.

Stakeholders in attendance: Jean Strafford (CCS), Colleen Jones (CCS), Julie Davis (Smith Hall), Marna Foster (Smith Hall), Jetta Whittaker (CCS), Laura Lucas (calendar, Vulnerability Survey), Josline Ferrar (SE Community Senior Services), Carlton Smith (Human Resources Committee, CBJ Assembly), Joe Conraros (previous homeless person who has taken advantage of programs).

Additional thoughts/ideas provided by stakeholders:

- Provide transportation for shopping

- Provide shoppers for some people
- Eliminate restrictions on Care-a-vans
- Keep issues in front of community using the statistics
- Begin to address barriers to Housing First model: controversial, where to locate?  
Costs to build?
- Locate shelters away from the bars
- Make sure everyone can get housing and services (do not prevent sex offenders from receiving services; may need to address state law/restrictions)
- Address homeless women housing needs and family shelters
- Address emergency chronic inebriate housing/shelter deficiencies
- Make public and CBJ Assembly aware of the high costs to Bartlett and Critical Care that could be decreased with Housing First
- Plans should identify where CBH assistance is needed for 2013, role of CBJ in working on finding solutions should be identified and conveyed.