

# JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

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## Juneau Homeless Coalition Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2012

11:30-1:00 PM

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

### I. Roll Call/Introductions

Co-Chair Dan Austin called meeting to order at 11:37am.

### II. Approval of Minutes

September 20, 2012

Copies of the September 20 minutes were sent out electronically before the meeting but not distributed at the meeting. Dan motioned that the minutes be approved at the November meeting and to proceed with rest of the agenda. With no objection, the motion was approved.

### III. Discussion Items:

#### A. Treasury Report

Treasurer, Joanne Wiita, gave a report on JHC's finances. Twenty-one members have paid their FY2013 dues. From dues (to date), JHC has \$1,880. The latest expenditure to date is a \$215 deposit for the Public Market booth. The total funds are \$7,062.26.

#### B. Project Homeless Connect Update

A Project Homeless Connect meeting was held on October 4. Jessy shared the 2013 budget and explained that the breakout costs would be very similar to last year's, except for an increase in Centennial Hall charges for tables and other needs. She plans to send a letter of request to AHFC for funding. It was suggested to write a letter to the Juneau Empire, to describe Project Homeless Connect and to ask that donations be sent to the United Way. Committee leads shared what they were working on: Ellen Moore of Juneau Public Health is working on how to transport "Nolan the Colon"—an inflatable colon, down from Anchorage to educate about colon cancer. Ellen is trying to find sponsors to help with the costs of transportation because Nolan is very heavy and expensive to ship. It was suggested to reach out to Alaska Airlines, especially if anyone had a family connection with an employee, for an employee discount. Another recommendation was to tap into a community resource grant through Walmart. Ellen explained that Nolan would need to be blown up and the fan is one of the heaviest parts to transport. Suggestions to find a big local fan, such as the one owned by the gymnastics academy could help with costs. Gus Marx proposed contacting the Department of Health & Social Services. They have grant money to support facilities and management projects.

Project Homeless Connect volunteer lead Vickie Wilcox will reach out to high school National Honors Society, Interact, and Early Scholar students to help volunteer at the event. Getting high school health classes involved was a suggestion to add to the volunteer list. Webforms are up on the website and forms for healthcare and service providers are starting to be sent in. Gifts and graphics agreed to donate volunteer t-shirts again. The next PHC meeting will be scheduled for the week after Halloween.

#### C. Respite Care Program

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This Medical Respite Care Program was a pilot program started via the Juneau Homeless Coalition in 2010 to provide short-term motel stays for homeless patients who are discharged from the ER or local clinics that need sanitary or non-communal accommodations. Hospice and Front Street Clinic provide ongoing medical care and the Glory Hole provides meals. JEDC collects all forms for billing and manages the funds for motel stays and taxi rides (from the clinics to the motel). All of these organizations donate their services to the program.

The amount of time that a client can stay is three days. If needed, the medical provider can determine whether a client needs an extended stay—up to seven days. Jessy shared updated metrics from the program: The program has currently served 28 clients. The average cost per client is about \$330, which is very cost effective, compared to the tremendous public cost of a patient who frequents the hospital often.

## **D. Prisoner Re-Entry Coalition**

Melissa Abrami is the Project Coordinator of the State-wide Prisoner Reentry Task Force. She works to reduce the State's recidivism rate by supporting and implementing Coalitions around the state. With her help, Juneau is organizing a Prisoner Reentry Coalition to have a venue to educate the community on resources and successful prisoner re-entry outcomes. Katie Chapman, formally of NAMI, is chairing this new coalition. As it is in the first stages of development, she wants the Juneau Homeless Coalition to be involved. Goals of the coalition are to identify gaps in services, resources, and education and develop a strategy to fix gaps in our community. There are working coalitions already in Kenai, Anchorage, and Mat-Su. Although Melissa couldn't provide Juneau specific data on recidivism and reentry support, an Alaska Judicial Report found that Anchorage and Southeast had the highest rates of rearrests and convictions. The highest recidivism rates occurred during the first year after return to the community, with 35% of the misdemeanants and 27% of the felons rearrested within that time. Recidivism rates continued to rise. After two years, 48% of the misdemeanants and 39% of the felons had been rearrested. Recidivism rates were highest among youthful offenders, males, and those with lengthy or more serious prior criminal histories, and Alaska Native and Black offenders.

## **E. Report from AKCH2 Conference**

Juneau has great representation on the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Board of Directors, which held elections at the Annual Conference. Scott Ciambor is the new State Coalition chair, Mariya Lovischuk is the vice-chair, and Jorden Nigro, Brenda Knapp, and Jessy Post are on the board as well. Scott explained the state coalition board structure. There are 15 members from around the state, each serving a three-year term, while leadership roles change every year. In the future, member terms will be staggered. Board members are on specific committees within the board. There is an executive committee, finance committee, small communities, board and membership development committee, annual conference planning committee, and a continuum of care committee. The state coalition is organized to present recommendations before legislation decisions are made. Scott will be meeting with Kris Duncan of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and Carma Reed of HUD to discuss what is expected for the Continuum of Care and HUD regulations. Scott will email board member duties and names to the JHC.

Kiel Renick reported that he had good discussions with Nome about their emergency shelter project. It was a great event to bring everyone together. There was a full-day workshop called "Bridges out of Poverty." Kiel would like feedback on the presenter and questioned the value of a whole day presenter. He suggested that the statewide coalition make it known that those who attend the conference can have input for presenters in the future. Laura Lucas reported that there were excellent opportunities at the conference for networking and expanding knowledge on many of the issues related to housing and homelessness. Housing First projects

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were backed by strong data and she enjoyed a short visit at Karluk Manor, Anchorage's Housing First project that opened a year ago with other Juneau Homeless Coalition members that attended the conference. Jessy went to workshops on youth homelessness, prison reentry and several on housing first. Housing First was a big focus at this conference and was a big reiteration that Juneau would greatly benefit from this model. Seeing, and talking with staff and residents at Karluk Manor in Anchorage and hearing about the success of Fairbanks' Housing First project, really made the project real and feel attainable.

Scott gave a brief Housing First update. Those that participated in the Minnesota trip gave initial presentations on what they learned and now organizations are giving these presentations to their boards—JAMHI, Bartlett, Rainforest Recovery, JPD. Specific details for this project are being worked on and should be ready by mid-November. In the meantime, the JHC can help spread the word about the harm reduction model and general characteristics of housing first, especially at the Public Market.

## **F. Public Market**

Members can sign up for a shift at the Public Market via Ruth Danner. The plan is to have two members cover the booth for a two-hour shift. Kiel brought forth ideas for the Public Market to be discussed and voted on. Originally the Steering Committee thought to have a membership form, asking for donations and different "levels" of membership. The Committee pulled away from the idea because our mission as a coalition is outreach, education, and advocacy. Kiel proposed a "Friend's List"—a list of individuals who support the work of the JHC, and a list that could be used to show community support when advocating. The Steering Committee urges those who will be working at the Market to use it as a time to advocate on behalf of the JHC, but can also talk about their specific agency and how their agency's work ties into the JHC's mission. Mary Ellefson recommended that the Coalition have three strategies for the booth: concise information, visuals – (have photos from PHC, the Vulnerability Index Survey), and show the diversity of homelessness. Kiel discussed our options: does the Coalition solely provide information or do we offer a product as well? Kiel proposed a fund no greater than \$250 to create a sticker stating "End Homelessness in Juneau" and/or a house shaped cookie. Jordan Nigro made a motion to authorize a budget, not to exceed \$250, in which the Steering Committee can use JHC funds for the Public Market. Doug Harris seconded. With no objection, the motion passed unanimously. Phoebe Rorhbacher will look into commercial kitchen space.

## **G. Coalition Name Change**

Dan emphasized that the Juneau Homeless Coalition has held its name for 15 years. He and many members agree that the name needs to be more descriptive of our efforts, but does not want to see the process to select a new name rushed. The proposed names are:

- Southeast Coalition to End Homelessness
- Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Juneau Coalition to End Homelessness
- Juneau Committee to End Homelessness
- Juneau Alliance to End Homelessness
- Southeast Alliance to End Homelessness
- Housing For All
- Capital Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Juneau Coalition to Make Homelessness History
- Advocacy to Support Ending Homelessness

Joanne Witta suggested that the Coalition tie our mission to a long-term plan that matches our advocacy and outreach goals. Time and thought is needed to really connect our mission with a name and identity. She

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suggested creating a committee to look more in depth on this topic. Other comments were to solicit suggestions for names at the Public Market, to see how the public perceives the JHC. Another comment was to consult the homeless population on a name. The Coalition agreed that more time is needed and will not decide on a name before the Public Market, or even Project Homeless Connect. It was proposed that we dedicate a whole meeting in February to the name change discussion, but will discuss and work on the name prior to February. Doug made a motion to dedicate the February meeting for the name change topic. Jonathon Estes seconded. With no objection, the motion passed.

It was requested that the Coalition revisit the priorities and goals that were set at the Planning Retreat in May to review what has been accomplished and what areas need more work. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Dan adjourned the meeting at 1:00PM.

## **V. Informational Items & reminders**

- A. 2013 Membership Dues
- B. Public Market – Nov. 23-25

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 15, 2012 11:30am-1:00pm, THRHA.