

JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

Juneau Homeless Coalition Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2012

11:30-1:00 PM

Juneau Economic Development Council

I. Roll Call/Introductions

Jorden Nigro called the meeting to order at 11:35PM.
Agenda Approved.

II. Approval of Minutes

Save for April Meeting.

III. Action Items

A. Letter Supporting Smith Hall Inc's Housing Capital Request

Dan Austin explained St. Vincent DePaul's project. This project would be housing for low-income seniors in our community. Half of all seniors rely solely on their social security income. Juneau has some of the highest growth rates among its senior population. There will be a growth rate of 185% in Juneau's senior population. There has been no subsidized senior housing built since 1998, and the program was cancelled by HUD last year. Right now Smith Hall has 67 people on its waitlist and there are only 55 units available. This new project would provide housing for \$500 dollars a month with no subsidies. This project would create 12 ADA accessible studio housing units in 2 years for only 2 million dollars. There is already a contractor lined up, funding just needs to become available. This type of housing leaves room for more growth in the future as well.

Jorden Nigro motioned to have the Juneau Homeless Coalition write a letter of support. Liza Slotnick seconded the motion. The motion is passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Statewide Housing Plan—comments

Scott Ciambor noted that Alaska Housing Finance Corporation has been good the coalition the past couple of years. The highlights are: helping with Project Homeless Connect, and training and traveling scholarships. The coalition's issues with the plan are that there is a geographic distribution formula that makes it so Juneau can't support the mortgage from AHFC so no one gets any of the money. Dan Austin noted that Juneau has been at a stand still as far as development is concerned. He believes we need a block grant that revolves around per capita rate of homelessness, HAP subsidies have not been solving the problem; more affordable units need to be built. Jen LaRoe stated that the new plan seems to be cutting out new or small agencies that don't have a developer on staff and you cannot hire a consultant either. This knocks them out of

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the running to even apply. Mandy Cole suggests that Jen LaRoe and Scott Ciambor draft a letter and members will give their feedback. Scott and Jen agree to this.

B. Vulnerability Index Update

Kiel Renick reported that everything is going well. There are enough volunteers and team leaders. He will hold a training for these people Monday the 26th and the survey will be the 27th, 28th, and 29th. The preliminary results will be released at the April 2 Human Resources Committee meeting. Margaret O'Neal asked if this related to the Project Homeless Connect surveys. Kiel stated these are completely different surveys that focus on health and other issues, it will extend our knowledge from PHC. This survey is trying to figure out who is most likely to die on the streets. Brian Holst asked if this information will be used against those who take the surveys. Kiel responded that the results will be in a locked drawer and no copies will be given out. There is also a consent form that goes with the survey.

C. Respite Care Update.

Liza Slotnick reported all is going well with the process and we are waiting to hear from the SSAB grant JEDC submitted on behalf of the program.

D. JHC Retreat.

Liza Slotnick noted that there has not been a retreat in a year and a half. Scott Ciambor, Jordan Nigro, and Liza Slotnick met before the meeting to discuss the coalition's 10-year plan and decided it needs to be updated and worked on. Margaret O'Neal suggested a facilitator for the meeting to make sure it stays on course. Dan Austin thought it would be a good idea to have a consensus of the date as soon as possible. Jordan thought it would be a good idea to get the input from people's Executive Directors on the 10-year plan before the retreat. It was decided a doodle survey should be sent out for the date.

E. Affordable Housing Coordinator

Brian Holst informed the coalition that JEDC held a round of interviews and the person they were going to make an offer to withdrew their candidacy. The position is still open at this point and JEDC is still in compliance with the grant. The good news is that resources are being spent slower. JEDC will start the advertising process over again.

F. Day Change of Meetings.

Jordan Nigro stated there would be an issue for someone no matter what day of the week. Brian Holst stated he is fine with the day, just if there were another better day for the whole group he would be open to it.

G. Prisoner Re-Entry Coalition

Department of Corrections is not interested in re-creating the wheel but wants to have this be under the JHC. They would be working on help these people find jobs and housing. Scott Ciambor mentioned talking to AHFC homeless Community Coordination Program and Department of Corrections to put this all together. Dan Austin asked if anyone at Gastineau Human Services

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has taken the place of Allen Hulett. Scott responded no one has as of right now. Mandy Cole thinks it is good that it is brought to the table and should be discussed more.

V. Informational Items

A. Point in Time Count Numbers to AHFC

All agency numbers are in. JSD did a great job getting numbers in. The count has gotten better and better each year. It was noted that UAS has a scholarship for “troubled youth” that no one is utilizing, it would be good to get this out to different agencies.

B. Brown Bag lunch, March 21, 28, State Museum

Mandy Cole will be speaking at the museum on domestic violence and homelessness. Mandy also noted that AWARE is really close to breaking ground on 6 new units of transitional housing.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 14th, 11:30AM-1:00PM, THRHA.

Meeting Adjourn 12:55PM.