

# JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

---

## **Juneau Homeless Coalition Meeting Minutes**

February 16, 2012

11:30-1:00 PM

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

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

Jorden Nigro called the meeting to order at 11:40PM.

Mandy Cole moved to strike C from the agenda and approve with that change. Liza Slotnick seconded. Agenda approved.

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

Mandy Cole moved to approve the minutes. Liza Slotnick seconded. Minutes approved.

### **III. Action Items**

None

### **IV. Discussion Items**

#### **A. Project Homeless Connect Outcomes:**

This year's event had the highest number of participants ever. The planning and organizing went well this year, which in turn created a less chaotic event. The PFD table worked well at the front of the room this year, they had a lot of people sign up, it is important they attend again. Some other notables were people receiving birth certificates, two families found housing from attending this event.

Mandy Cole mentioned she thought the event went really well and was pleased with the data collected. It seemed like a good visual representation of who attended.

Some notables on the health care end were that 2/3 of the people had abnormal blood pressure, more eye glasses were needed. It was noted that many of our homeless have health insurance but might not have access to it. JHC should look into some way to remedy that problem.

Dan Austin suggested an independent advocate to help them navigate the system of getting health care. When one isn't eating or sleeping well it is hard to get them to the health care. This is why housing first is so important, people are more likely to want to get help when they are eating and sleeping.

#### **B. Vulnerability Index Update—Introduction of Outreach Coordinator:**

Kiel Renick introduced himself as the new Outreach Coordinator with The Glory Hole. He is excited to be working on this project and with the coalition. The surveys done will be opposite of Project Homeless Connect, the surveyors will go out into the community and seek out the homeless. There will be 6-8 teams of 4-6 who will survey three mornings in a row from 4am-8am.

# JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

---

There was a lot of debate on when the best time for the survey would be. If it was early in April people might have money for a hotel, however, if it was in late April there might be more transient people from Folk Festival and spring. It was decided that the last week of March would be the best time. Kiel is attending a 100,000 homes “boot camp” and will be kicking it into high gear after to make sure we are prepared. He acknowledged all the hard work the coalition and Anchorage has done already. Kiel pointed out that the two deaths in Karluck Manor in Anchorage were two people in the top five of their vulnerability index—this system works.

The survey is 35 questions and we can add five of our own, if there are any suggestions please email Kiel.

Kiel Renick explained that while 100,000 homes provides the model, the Juneau Homeless Coalition uses it to fit Juneau’s needs.

Jorden Nigro said its our responsibility to work with the survey and create our own list.

Mandy Cole stated that we decide how we want to rank our population. If we want we can put domestic violence above mental disorders or vice versa.

Kiel Renick commented that Anchorage is still working on their list; it is an ongoing project.

## C. Statewide Housing Plan:

Just a quick note, last year, the JHC wrote a letter for overall concerns. At the very least read the executive summary.

## D. JHC Retreat:

Still up in the air, wanted to wait to see if there will be a new Affordable Housing Coordinator.

## E. Affordable Housing Coordinator:

Brian Holst, the Executive Director of JEDC, came to hear the JHC’s thoughts on this position and what they want out of it. What are the one or two things JHC wants out of this position? Recruiting hasn’t stopped and the interview process has started.

Jorden Nigro said they would like someone who knows the community. Scott didn’t have the skills he left with, so JHC would be willing to help someone gain those skills and teach the different pieces of the position.

Mandy Cole stated they really did want one person and didn’t want the position split up. It would be a step backwards in the bridge between the homeless and affordable housing communities. The two are linked and JHC doesn’t want to lose that.

Dan Austin agrees with Mandy and Jorden. With the current economy, neither group can rely on the government so they need to work with each other. This position is the advocate for both groups.

Ruth Danner spoke to the fact that it would be good to have someone who can make sense of all the technical information and be able to pass it along. You need someone with strong people skills and good writing and speaking skills.

Brian Holst stated that these are all valid but a lot of expectations, which are all in the job description and it is hard to fill that. There needs to be a focus on achieving deliverables like producing housing.

Ruth Danner asked if JEDC feels like they can fill one side of the job description?

# JUNEAU HOMELESS COALITION

---

Brian replied that there isn't one person with the whole package and they would have to decide to go one way or the other.

Mandy Cole stated that JHC would love for housing to be built.

Dan Austin agreed. JHC should be outcome oriented and be able to state that 200 units were built, that's what we care about. If you look at the consolidated plan, there was no state money spent in Juneau for affordable housing. This needs to be fixed.

Ruth Danner requested to add an item "F" to the agenda. No objections. Item added.

## F. Human Resources Meeting Report:

Scott Ciambor spoke about the Continuum of Care and the need for housing in Juneau. Nancy Burke spoke about the housing first model and why it works. Matt Felix gave a presentation about how the State of Alaska adopted a medical model and needs to treat alcoholics accordingly. He stated that housing first is a social model and doesn't deal with the medical problems appropriately. Dr. Carolyn Brown said that each agency is acting within their silo and the silos need to get connected.

Ruth spoke to both Nancy and Jeff Jessie and they both spoke about the housing first model right away. Jeff told Ruth that he believes she needs to visit one of these models to see it in work. Ruth also spoke to Chief Browning about tightening up certain city ordinances however, Jeff mentioned a much larger city tried this and it failed. There is the potential to find some housing first naysayers and send them on a tour of the facility in Seattle.

Carlton Smith of the Juneau Assembly had spoken to potentially have a Mayor's townhall to be able to continue this dialogue. It was decided that a broad presentation could be made, not necessarily advocating one certain model, to this townhall and then let the public discuss. A sort of "state of the state of homelessness."

## V. Informational Items

### A. Point-In-Time Count numbers to AHFC

Get your numbers in to AHFC. If you have any questions, ask Mandy or Dan, they have done it for many years.

### B. First Friday, March 2, State Museum

There is the Out of the Rain photography show. Nancy will be speaking about housing first as well. The whole month of March there will be brown bag lunches at the State Museum, individual flyers will go out for each speaker.

The Women of Distinction event is March 3<sup>rd</sup> at AWARE.

### Next Meeting:

Thursday, March, 15, 2012 11:30AM-1:00PM, THRHA.

No other news. Jordan Nigro adjourns the meeting at 1:15PM.