



Kenai Peninsula Continuum of Care

Meeting Notes

April 13 - 12 to 1:00 PM

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- The agenda for this meeting, and notes from the prior meeting in January were shared ahead of the meeting for review.

2. Introductions

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| ▪ Kathy Gensel, Bridges Community Resource, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition | ▪ Mary Stockwell White, Chair for Health Equity Council at Central Peninsula Hospital |
| ▪ Brad Parsons, Independent Living Center | ▪ Velma Glen Carrol, Salamatof Tribe |
| ▪ Levi Sutton, Breathe Free Gulf Coast Coalition | ▪ Leslie Rohr, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness |
| ▪ Anthony Wenzell, Outpatient Care Manager with Primary Care and Internal Medicine at Central Peninsula Hospital | ▪ Desmeranda Napoka – Kenaitze Salamatof Housing Dept |
| ▪ Tim Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition and Kenai Peninsula Foundation | ▪ Helen Renfrew, Director of Programs at Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness |
| ▪ Karen Martin-Tichenor, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition | ▪ Jon Pree, Alaska Department of Corrections at Wildwood Correctional Center |
| ▪ Holly Blood Coordinated Entry for Balance of State, Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness | ▪ Melanie Luna, Community Outreach Coordinator with Ideal Option |

3. Report on the Balance of State activities

- Leslie reported that the Housing Alaskans public private partnership for \$1.5M would be open through April 14. Leslie is on the review committee for housing assistance. The funds came from Wells Fargo, Northrim Bank, and Denali Commission.
- Helen Renfrew provided update on Homelessness Assistance Program (HAP) funding which was cut from 10.1% to 5.5%. Attendees were encouraged to advocate to their legislator about retaining HAP funding to prevent cuts to existing homelessness services. There are 24 programs that are tied to the full amount. Service providers who rely on HAP include the Nikiski Shelter of Hope and Love INC.

4. Funding Update

- Tim Navarre shared that the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition put in application for the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), for a resource hub / community center known as “K-Beach Campus”. This would be a property of 17 acres with tiny homes and a building providing professional services and resources like case management, community gardens, and mailboxes. The building could provide location where offices of ILC, CARTS, KPHC, and other entities can be housed.
- There will be a local regional RHTP convening at the Kenai Chamber from 9AM-4PM on April 30th

5. Shelter Update

- Tim Navarre reported that the Nikiski Shelter successfully made it through another winter and discussed future plans, including the possibility of emergency shelter space at the K Beach campus and continued use of the Nikiski Shelter as transitional housing.
- Tim and others are working to address financial struggles at the Nikiski Shelter with additional funding – In the meantime there have been cuts to coordinator hours.

6. Other Discussion

- Karen Martin-Tichnor provided a reminder announcement about the Kenai Peninsula Transportation Gaps and Solutions event on May 13, 2026.
- Kathy Gensel shared that final Project Homeless Connect reports from Seward, Central, and Homer/Anchor Point were presented to the Assembly for review. Project Homeless Connect will convene on October 13, 2026 ahead of the next event.

- Melanie Luna - shared a new site I created for bed availability, please feel free to share with others. Any organization that has beds is invited to be added to the site <https://sites.google.com/view/alaskabedavailability/home?authuser=0>
- Holly Blood provided an update about another Project Homeless Connect event. In Fairbanks the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness are rolling out two yearly events which were modeled that after data collection practices by the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect and related reporting. Holly expressed appreciation for the example set by Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect, and that having a veterinarian was a great idea.

7. Next Quarterly Meeting

- a. August 13, 2026**

**Rescheduled to August 17, 2026