



## Priority Area – Education and Awareness

STRATEGY	ACTION	YEAR					LEAD
		1	2	3	4	5	
<b>1. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN: Coordinate a robust communications strategy, using existing channels and established organizations, to highlight success and solutions to homelessness.</b>	a) Finalize all branding (logo, materials, etc.)	X					Kellie to reach out to LT about decision (Jack send feedback)
	b) Define target audiences						
	c) Develop research strategies						
	d) Conduct market research on perceptions and attitudes and learn more about how audiences get their information.						
	e) In coordination with Data committee, develop a concise data summary and contextual overview after annual market research is conducted, so it is available to highlight when talking about the strategic plan.		X	X	X	X	
	f) Consistently provide testimony into public record at city council and borough assembly meetings. Repeat at various public forums. "Consistent" defined as Spring and Fall, then yearly thereafter.	X	X	X	X	X	
	g) Use data from other locations (such as Juneau and Fairbanks) to show how local programs are successful. (Joint Effort with Data group)		X	X	X	X	
<b>2. MESSAGING: Use messaging that is clear, consistent, and compelling and distribute using local print media, radio, and social media.</b>	a) Draft elevator speech to clarify message, updating yearly.	X	X	X	X	X	
	b) Host workshops for advocates to practice their elevator speeches.	X	X	X	X	X	
	c) Agree on a consistent message when audiences ask: "what can we do?"	X	X	X	X	X	
	d) Create and distribute printed materials like flyers to advertise meetings and stories; provide updates and share data.	X	X	X	X	X	
	e) Create advertising messaging for radio and newspaper.		X				
	f) Social media – once branding finalized, consider best approach to advertise meetings and stories; provide updates and share data.						
<b>3. STORIES: Share data, as well as personal experiences and anecdotes, to tell the stories and address the stigma associated with those experiencing</b>	a) Identify, train, and assist interested people and organizations in sharing their stories regularly on public radio/local radio stations (Story Works Alaska, Affinity Films)	X	X	X	X	X	
	b) Collect voice and film recordings of those willing to share their stories of homelessness.	X	X	X	X	X	



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<i>homelessness on Kenai Peninsula.</i>							
<b>4. RELATIONSHIPS:</b> <i>Leverage partnerships to build positive relationships with the larger community, policy makers, funding institutions, faith-based organizations, and other coalitions and groups working on homelessness.</i>	a) Identify relevant policymakers and build positive relationships with by meeting with them and keeping them updated.	X	X	X	X	X	
	b) Identify relevant community members and organizations and invite to KPHC meetings and public events. (Faith organizations through Love, Inc.)	X	X	X	X	X	
	c) Coordinate spokespeople who will represent KPHC at relevant partner meetings to encourage collaboration and consideration of those who are experiencing homelessness. Spokesperson will consult with Data committees to collaborate on information shared.	X	X	X	X	X	Kellie and Christiana (need someone from Homer)
	d) Research and locate grants, sponsorships to fund a coordinator, print costs, etc. Communicate opportunities to LT. Grant writing would be contracted out.	X	X	X	X	X	
	e) Create and maintain a donor and sponsor program to offset costs of education and awareness projects.	X	X	X	X		

Meeting 4.15.22

Attendees

Kellie Bartelmay – ILC serves entire KP. Offices in Seward and Homer

Christiana Smith - Eastern Peninsula

KT Cowgill - Re-Entry Coalition Office in Kenai, serve whole KP

Facilitated by DDA: Jack Darling



## Priority Area – Education and Awareness

We are still hoping for membership from Homer, Seward  
Maggie Winston would be here, works at ILC

Messaging ideas – What do we want to get out there?

Target audience: The general public. Provide the example of Juneau addressing homelessness in their community, such as showing reduced police pickups and ER use.

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7.13.22

Present:

Kellie Bartelmay  
Amanda DeTavernier  
Christiana Smith  
Kathy Gensel  
Dana Roberts  
Maggie Winston  
Abby Struffert

Jack on tech support. Most work reflected in action plan table.

People on coalition in Homer and Seward to represent Coalition at partner and public meetings. Will be putting a call out spokespeople from these areas. Spokespeople will invite or consult with Data or other relevant committees for updated details to inform talking points.

Selecting a date far in advance for this group is most helpful.

Added “sponsorships”, “donations” and the idea of a wish list – a public facing list of services the committee is looking to have donated, i.e. printing services, grant writing. May be simply asking for a discount to offset full price.

**8/10/2022 at 2PM**

**Attendees:**

Kellie Bartelmay  
Abby Ferrer  
Christiana Smith  
Kathy Gensel  
Maggie Winston



## Priority Area – Education and Awareness

Jane Dunn

Jack with tech support and notes

Kathy

Work on Elevator speech – what is it we want to say? Some ideas for social media, whether pushing out homelessness numbers that the state provides, or something else, but something every month for until we can get the actual coalition going.

Kellie

So, having information available. What information?

Who we are? Spreadsheet of info? What is the group about?

Maggie

If talking to legislator, someone selling it to – 1min, really simple who, what, when, where, why

Kathy

Grassroots? Collaborative?

Started by our community. Collaborative x3 – organizations and individuals coming to the table

Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition is a collaboration of multiple service programs and partners from the communities within the entire Kenai Peninsula region.

When: formed in \_\_\_\_\_ in response to \_\_\_\_\_ the increasing number of residents dealing with houselessness or at risk of becoming houseless

Rapid re-housing is a rare occurrence – most are not able to get new housing when pushed out via landlord, etc.

Definition of what “homeless” can look like, not just someone on the street. Doubling up – not having a permanent place to lay one’s head is a part of homelessness.

Kelly King’s FB post – resources and explanation included couch surfing

The definition of homelessness is in question – people have a misunderstanding. The qualifications for services don’t reflect this reality.

People who are doubling up might not know that they can access services or might be eligible for some services while not others.

Can elaborate further but elevator speech is the hook to grab someone’s interest. Toward the end, welcome audience to ask questions now or later on.

Social media folks?



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Coalition is using KP CoC social media – will that page name change or will another be created? Who is posting to that? Something today about income necessary to rent 2Bd apartment – not seeing it on homeless connection page.

Jodi Stuart manages this page. Shared the “students in transition” post yesterday.

May end up having a dedicated page for KPHC – once legal entity status/501c3 is established - as part of strategic plan

Suggestion: being elevator speech suggestions to next meeting?

Typically speech identifies organization’s needs – what is the ask and who do they contact?

A building in every town, landlords who will rent to folks with limited rental history, evictions

How do we engage students in transition? Unaccompanied minors? How to include folks who may be hesitant to self-identify.

Students in Transition (SiT) = Either young people living with guardians who are unhoused or unstably housed, OR unaccompanied youth not living with a guardian.

1<sup>st</sup> Homeless Connect event in Seward, two guardians were connected with the SiT program, who were previously unaware of it. Having a representative, a liaison in each community would mean a lot for people to understand what’s really available, what would qualify someone, and how long someone can receive help.

SiT provides services like getting connected to basic resources – SNAP, Medicaid, free lunch at school, school supplies, clothes, etc. Cannot provide housing. Choosing Our Roots does that. Host homes can provide housing.

Are they turned into the state? If we know the person is in imminent danger, we have to report to OCS. If we find they are stable and not in immediate danger, we do not report. Vast majority of referrals happen in schools. Need to be eligible to be in school to qualify for SiT program

Elevator speech should share the information that SiT is putting out there and provide opportunity for liaison.

Speeches might share different figures based on goal- otherwise it will be too long. There’s a lot of elements to this – a one pager would feel complete

Maggie

If we have some kind of shared statement – one paragraph for instance, would be a good piece of information we have and can share about what we are doing. Can use that to re-start advocacy activities at city council & borough assembly meetings like Kathy and I used to do.

The main theme and who, what might stay the same, and the figures / ask change based on audience.



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Hotel/Kitchen in Sterling? House next door for sale too.

Going to processors – who have employee housing in the winter – would they make an arrangement to house folks? Some not closed down completely.

Surplus barracks from JBER – where could this be used?

Best Western (Edgewater) hotel unused from Labor Day to Memorial day – ask was made but did not hear back. Windsong Lodge closes in winter as well.

Even some percentage of donation would help – How could we incentivize those with these assets to share them? Educate and correct misunderstandings and assumptions people have about who is homeless – images and explanations of family situations to tell the whole story.

As a conversation starter

Do you want to be involved in representing your community?

Do you have a story to share? (i.e. have you been homeless or are you currently houseless)

Will you donate money or services to secure housing for our neighbors?

Email elevator speech ideas to Kellie Bartelmay [kbartelmay@peninsulailc.org](mailto:kbartelmay@peninsulailc.org)

9.14.22 at 2PM

Kathy Gensel

Kellie Bartelmay

Jack Darling providing meeting support

The homework was elevator speeches – We have a couple to share and discussed garnering support for the housing coordinator ordinance in October. If we can clarify the expected date of ordinance in front of assembly – send email out to group to ask folks to come support approval of ordinance.

Kellie notes that several people she has worked with recently who are easily eligible for housing - have good rental history, jobs, etc, but their housing went away because their landlord wants to rent to AirBNB during the summer months. We just aren't seeing normal rentals for year lease – only winter or weekly are available. People who have a AHFC voucher aren't finding housing they can use it on, and they only have 3 months to use it. Then, it goes to the next person and the original voucher holder goes to the bottom of the waiting list. It's very discouraging when there's nothing more or better a person can do but there's nothing available that will accept it. This can also be a house – the money goes directly from AHFC to landowner.

We need education to landowners. Rental history can still get people turned away.



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A class on renter/tenant expectations and responsibilities could help someone's rental application, could offset poor rental history and increase the chance that landlords will accept their application. This could include referral to tenant rights legal aid. Kellie can host in their ILC space.

Are "community schools" a thing still? Is there one in Juneau? Or perhaps the Re-entry coalition has something? Transitional housing may not be an accurate learning experience for renters as they will allow rent to go unpaid or find funding to cover rent on tenant behalf.

There is a requirement of separate applications for each individual provider of senior income based housing – this is a barrier. There's an out of state corporation that runs it and requires this. AHFC is similar - unless you call in and discuss with a staff member, asking if you can apply to more than one property with your one application. These are large applications

Talking to realtors, discussing if they have heard of this "How to be a good renter", and would they consider renting to people if they've taken the class. Tyson Cox recommended this and said he'd speak at this as well as share with others. Class would offer certificate. Again, if it isn't happening already, this can happen at ILC – nights, weekends, etc.

Next meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2PM

Ended 2:40PM

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October 12, 2022 at 2PM

Kellie Bartelmay  
Kathy Gensel  
Leslie Vines

Discussed at Housing meeting about class for renters. Alaska Housing Finance has the 1<sup>st</sup> time home buyers class. Wayne mentioned Housing authorities. Jane Dunn with COR mentioned classes at AHFC. Having input from prospective renters

Leslie Vines has been keeping up with emails, is all about the youth. Covenant House had a "[ready to rent](#)" program teaching people how to be renters. May have curriculum or resources, this was prevention. Another resource was the Alaska Landlord Tenant – helped me learn what to do. May not know, landlords can take advantage of people.

[Landlord Tenant Helpline](#)

For outside of the Anchorage area, you can call the toll-free number at 855-743-1001.

For housing coordinator position, should be able to use the same resolution with no need to present anything new. Interim Mayor Navarre understands the need and how to make it



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happen. AMHTA funding may not last longer than 1.5 years, and would not begin before January. Jack will continue coordinating committees until housing coordinator has started.

Budget had item that the governor's office was going to hire a statewide coordinator. Then, the pandemic happened and haven't heard update.

Leslie talking to Brian Wilson who was a part of the effort - no update since, but there IS a statewide need. If the statewide need is not met then the local need will need to be met.

First meeting for PHC for Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>, PHC count night is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Kathy will be finding someone else to chair the donations, Kellie will be tied up with open enrollment. Kellie will pass along letters for dentists, veterinarians.

Cooperative Extension program through 4-H, perhaps they have a class.

Leslie in chat: [HOUSING COUNSELING: ALASKA](#)

**Next meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2PM**

Closed 2:32PM

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3.8.23

Attending: Kathy Gensel, Kellie Bartelmay, and Leslie Vines.

Virtual support: Jack Darling

Kellie has been working on the renters education: Jodi said the state was no longer doing the program they were- because of the cost

Kellie - what if we just compile the information together. Realtors and places that are willing to rent and be resources can put themselves on a list.

Kellie: Tips include how to budget wisely, understand your housing needs. Be aware of hidden fees.

The idea initially was for new renters who may not know this stuff, but also for renters with eviction history who are passed over by property managers/owners as poor rental applicants.

This is part of the "education" role of this committee - educating general public. People on boards and the legislature are presented to regularly.



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This course itself is for helping potential tenants with spotted rental history or evictions improve their rental application and better their future rental experience. It is also for helping those who are in charge of choosing which people to rent to – educating on how to work with and understand the barriers to housing for these individuals.

Leslie: My heart is here, I am the at-risk youth coordinator for the Alaska Department of Labor. Have you looked at Alaska Housing? Some good resources on the website.

Leslie - Alaska CAN. One lady from Cook Inlet, Alaska is great, and we have so many resources but people don't know and it's connected. Alaska Housing has stuff including budget, job search. I'm also on the Women's Commission. Why do we talk about everything else when it comes to homelessness? Some can't work. Why is social security not at the table? We see why the housing issues continue. I learned this from Evelyn Moorhead, a social worker. "This is new to you, it's not new to them." Why are the rules as they are. There are different types of homelessness. Many of us are a paycheck away, some dollars would make a difference. Someone who is chronically homeless has different barriers than someone who is one-time acutely unhoused. Starting over burns out workers. We want to empower people, there is a lot of victimization.

RurALCAP safe harbor. I had a client who moved into transitional housing and was a single mother. She decorated, filled it in, there was a misunderstanding. Why do we put employment, social security, or general relief. General relief can get some funds which will pay for assisted living - 3 meals a day and staff.

Reinventing the wheel can be okay – but what if we adjust the wheel? Why did the wheel fall off? If we need to recreate. Alaska Housing has computer classes. If they have extra room anyone can join. They are free. A way to collaborate. What if it could be a central share with collected resources.

Kathy: LoveINC has folks with housing vouchers. The other place we could look is cooperative extension, they may have resources for folks to use on their web

Leslie: community college - can we give a college student a job? DoL has resources, let me know.

Kathy: Give a student practicum hours, give us a different viewpoint.

Leslie: college students would be impressed by Kellie's office. If it's someone under 24 can we pay them. Like a paid internship, where skills are earned and they have a reference

Kathy: If we get this coordinator and then also a paid intern that would be great.



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Leslie: I'm an ideas person, carrying it out is another story. Back when I was at 9 Star, until I sat down and began doing the work myself, I didn't know how complex the idea's implementation was. Regarding creating a job, if they are under 24 there are funds for that. If over 24 we have to figure out how to fund paying them. Paid work experience is usually for 3 months at the youth program, we can probably stretch to 6 months. Maybe even the college can help with that, making it a teacher's apprenticeship

Jack: Do they need to be a college student?

Leslie: Not necessarily, 55+ is another pot of money - MAST is now under DPR. Have to be mindful of how we advertise so that it is not flagged as age discrimination. Can find folks with great skills.

Jack: This could be more than just the renters class, could be maintaining resources and more than that.

Leslie: Can't stop turnover but the position can include structure to pass along the roles and responsibilities to the next person in that role.

Leslie: I need to get out to the Kenai area. What is the homeless population like there? Numbers?

Kathy: For Project Homeless Connect, Homer had 120, Seward 22, Central: 96. They obviously represented a greater number of individuals. School district tells us there are 320 students in transition.

Leslie: There are programs that could be connected. Two types of general relief. They will pay for your room and board. Some jobs will come with housing. At my office we have people that can help fill out applications. How can we help? There's a job center down there, there's rehab.

We (the state) need to be doing more outreach

Kellie: You do have to find someone who is willing to accept general relief.

Leslie: I would go through the list with all the assisted living homes. It's in excel. Sometimes they miss a resource. Some of our families should be connected with a case manager. I do see a lot of gaps in our services. Most offering assisted living want waiver clients. Others only accept general relief, it is less work. Can create a home, it's \$80/day with no notes. The lady I know has 30 clients.

Kellie: We found one place on the peninsula who would accept general relief, and I wouldn't send my worst enemy there.



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Kathy: Need case management down here.

Leslie: there has to be a way to address that need. Data should tell us where we should go. With 1 general relief in the area, and the numbers of homelessness, you definitely need 4. If we have a person who wants to work at home and provide this care, this could be income and a business. Need to build opportunities. A good percentage of those homeless people have disabilities.

Need more general relief businesses. Even two more would make a difference, but they need to be quality. We need to understand the gaps and barriers.

Jack shared about Transportation event on 3/23 for Leslie's information.

Leslie: Have you looked at the transportation plan in Mat-Su? One call, one click? It's a barrier to need to call around. Social safety nets and community are missing.

Kathy: Reentry, folks are dropped off at the highway, 6 miles from Kenai. There needs to be a solution for folks released from incarceration.

Leslie: If Kellie for instance opens a business providing care, the state can support Kellie in her efforts.

Leslie: Planning an apprenticeship event where we are going into jails to start coaching 6 months before release, preparing for transportation. Lots of ideas but need to get the willing folks together.

Leslie: I work with DOC and DJJ and with youth in transition. Perhaps not braiding funding but there is funding everywhere. Taking back to leadership that KP needs general relief in the area and that it would be an employment opportunity. Your house could be added onto (funded) to care for people who need it.

Closed 3:10