



Priority Area – Data

STRATEGY	ACTION	YEAR					LEAD
		1	2	3	4	5	
1. DATA COLLECTION: <i>Evaluate and consider the best alternatives for improving the data collection and analysis on homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula.</i>	a) Analyze and evaluate how similar communities are collecting data.						
	b) Consider improving collection and management methods using new and advanced technologies.						Awaiting State technology updates
	c) Design and implement new data collection strategies based on best practices research and identified data gaps.						
2. DATA GAPS: <i>Identify gaps in data collection on the Kenai Peninsula and design strategies to better gather data across systems and agencies.</i>	a) Work with coalition partners to first identify all data collection systems, then implement strategies to pull all data systems together (HMIS, DVIMS, CDVSA) for a more comprehensive view of homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula.						
	b) Identify methods to better understand and collect data on practices like “couch surfing” and/or “doubling up” housing situations.						
3. DATA SHARING: <i>Coordinate a robust process for shared data collection.</i>	a) Work with partners (ICA) to expand access to HMIS data and better educate stakeholders on how to use, collect, and understand data from both HMIS and data that is not reported through HMIS.	X					
	b) Identify data gaps - service providers not already reporting data to HMIS. Identify strategies to increase reporting, such as another agency reporting on behalf through MOU.	X					
	c) Evaluate and consider new and innovative technologies to collect, manage, and share data on homelessness, on the Kenai Peninsula.						Awaiting State technology updates
	d) Prioritize the development of a more coordinated intake process across systems and services.						
4. LONG-TERM PLANNING: <i>Build long-term sustainable capacity to support data collection and coordination.</i>	a) Work with Kenai Peninsula Borough to hire housing coordinator with support from the AMHTA to coordinate data collection and data sharing for the Peninsula.						
	b) Establish a transition plan for this responsibility after year three of support.						



Priority Area – Data

<p>5. DATA MESSAGING: <i>Leverage the data to communicate the story of homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula.</i></p>	<p>a) Use stories and data to demonstrate the “cost of the status quo” and use insights to better educate the community and policy makers on the homelessness problem on the Peninsula.</p>						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

4.19.22 12PM – 1PM

Present:

Kim Kovol at governor’s office.

Frances Seward Community Health Center, Seward Homeless Connection

Kathy Gensel, Soldotna, serves central

Need list of different agencies, locations, services that exist.

Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness - permission for comprehensive list of providers that enter into HMIS - ICA is under. ICA may have templates - MUAs, MOAs, etc. Meg.

Exploring idea of LoveInc Satellite and cycling data collection for Seward. Willing to be trained and qualified to do that, work via MUA, MOA with Health Centers, library, for data collected.

There are MOUs/MOAs between service organizations providing data to HMIS. This means we have access to all Balance of State data. Reports can be canned or requested, any data wanted in a few days time maximum.

Borough has approved building use for food pantry in Anchor Point.

HMIS Data reports require 3rd party retrieval. Difficulty connecting data to measurable outcomes.

Many providers don’t enter data, for a variety of reasons including that the data doesn’t match word used in overall planning.

3 top bidders for more modern systems of data technology. They are already in use by providers. HUD definition not only definition.

Systems would run concurrently, parallel, rather than stopping use of HMIS overnight. Organizations will be invited to participate free of charge.

Could homeless coordinator enter data for smaller organizations through MOU? Would need user agreement per relationship.

Easier for programs to switch over when they don’t rely on grant funding. Don’t want to add to the burdens and challenges. Ease of use i.e. tablet or smartphone access is a priority.

Preventing need for double-entry into multiple systems.



Priority Area – Data

Kim mentioned funding for statewide coordinator on housing and homelessness

HMIS has not had canned training in the past, some annual training updates that are self-directed. New user training is 1:1 or small group and is intensive. Working toward improving that, training schedule has been blocked out with high turnover. Need to expand the users.

May 18, 2022

Touching base on Friday's ribbon-cutting. Tim talking to Hadassha about snacks? Haven't heard back. Let's connect with him and find out.

Radio stations are in loop

Begin at 10:36

Kathy re: Jack's forward on HMIS data sharing/participation. 501c3 actions. Did connect with Foraker group, suggested we do a parent 501c3, then under that an LLC. LLC is that which owns titles to property, etc. Kenai Peninsula Shelters of Hope. Can be any type of shelter. One service Foraker does is help get 501c3, see process through IRS determination. Costs about \$3200

This Friday 4-6PM open house and ribbon cutting, All are invited.

Chair for this group? Not yet. Budget in Juneau not yet passed, so unclear if will have funding. KP coordinator a hope as well. Could have a practicum student - social work student through UAF. 15 hours a week, August through May.

Love Inc, SP Haven House, one other currently entering data. 1047 individuals in 2021. Link in email from Hayden. As a reminder, DV shelters are not entered or included. Nor school district, other entities. Could almost double it - students in transition. Over 200 - at least one parent or sibling attached to that person it grows quickly

Thought we would be combining DV data with HMIS. How to do that without compromising DV private information.

Already limited to gender, race. Curious if users of both systems can connect and get that count data.

When entering data sets, anything that doesn't appear complete will be kicked out.

Hope this can be resolved. Some of this falls back to HUD. Sen. Sullivan heard this.

This group's focus is to get more people / groups using data systems. Would be great to have a person in the coordinator position. No concern about duplicates, system kicks those out. Stops you so you can go update instead.

Coordinator position timeline?



Priority Area – Data

Tim was still working with cities and borough in terms of giving support for that. Then would go back to MH Trust. As soon as some governmental entity can show support for that, it sounds like MH Trust will then match support. Hiring is a whole other game, perhaps you all have someone in mind.

Practicum student came to us looking for something to do and without this work we wouldn't have enough to occupy her.

HS placement of practicum student usually entails orientation / groundwork prior to the school year beginning to get momentum going. Regarding intake process, she could spend time at our office too.

Needs for Friday?

Reporting already needed from Seward. What about Change for the Kenai, Kenneth? Not sure, would need to ask. If so, not into HMIS.

Leslie: People who come into the program from homelessness, or exit the program into homelessness - need to be tracked.

Frances, anybody in Seward have feelings either way regarding whether they want to participate? Frances: I would not know but unclear why not!

Food bank collects very minimal information. Not sure if they are up for increasing info collections. One of access points so makes sense to have access to data there. Include gal from Anchor Point.

6/15/22

Present:

Cheri Smith

Dana Roberts

Kathy Gensel

Tim Navarre

Tonya Silk

Tech Facilitation by Jack Darling

Kathy - Forwarded response from ICA about what they do, helping get new folks into the HMIS system. I re-sent that out to make sure folks had it.

As the data committee, what we want to do is collect but also to reach out to existing places that aren't giving data to help them start doing that. Would help ICA number be realistic. Also having our own inventory of what's available on the Peninsula, in any area but altogether collected. Number of beds, who they serve, etc. Would be about housing and facilities on this? They have a coordinator in mind for this, so we wouldn't be stepping on their toes. Practicum



Priority Area – Data

student could help with this. Getting data from these varied shelters, etc. Give her names of places and get her set up with talking points to get people on board with data sharing.

Contact person? Application Type? Beds? Availability? Population Served?

Coordinated entry system in our community? Leslie can help with how to ask this. Knowing where to refer people to may be a skill of experienced navigators. In process of expanding? Service Area? Transitional Housing?

We know many are left out of that system. There is a statewide service agreement.

Expansion of size or of service area, population. Sobriety Requirement?

What about funding? What type? Federal, private, grants. Who are they reporting to? This could tell us if they have data they can share with us that they previously haven't.

Demographics? Some restrictions on what you can ask of a person coming in. We don't have a policy any longer of needing to be sober to enter. Would want to know what data is kept and who it is supplied to.

May be interesting to get applications and compare what the rules are. If we have a homeless coordinator, can call this person to determine where is the best fit.

Agree with this and don't want to set someone up for failure with too many restrictions. To have this information available would be so helpful to know. Working really hard to get someone into a shelter and it really not working. Restrictions haven't helped but incidents do happen – someone isn't necessarily kicked out for doing something illicit. Who is setting the parameters.

Practicum student can review the website and familiarize self with services before calling. Are they wanting to expand and can we help. We have a few lists to start with – Kathy and Cheri

Community partnership, buy-in is something that can strengthen grant applications.

Steve Rouse(sp) KPHI director still? - permanent supportive housing, underserved populations.

No shelters, only rent restrictive and supportive housing. What information would we want from Steve?

We can't indefinitely hold the people we're sheltering right now so I don't know where these folks will go.

Recipients of South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services only? How eligible? What is the point of entry?

Need to include groups like KPHI and our larger landlords that have big lists. May be two lists, that's okay.



Priority Area – Data

Cheri - Another equally important question that applies to any type – transitional, shelter of hope, DV shelters, majority have a timeline. How long can people stay? We don't have a timeline really. If there's a 30-day limit that's important to know.

Emergency shelter is important help but also giving a place for someone to get resources in one area. Set up for success and give responsibility. Shouldn't be an endless stay, need some time frame however we do need extensions of timelines because people have nowhere to go. Longer term options for assistance. If we have 500 people homeless at a given time, but only 300 beds, leaves 200 homeless. Not only beds for transitional, supportive, emergency, etc. shelter, but longer-term situations.

Issue of tourist impact on housing availability.

Hope for a positive trajectory for someone getting resourced.

Building a list for our practicum student to reach out to, and what she'll collect from them.

We hope that in the next several weeks people will share with us leads to reach out to. Send to Kathy Gensel! bridgesofalaska@gmail.com

7.13.22

Kathy looking for update from Kim Kovol on budget. List of type of data we want our practicum student to collect. She'll be starting 2nd week of August. Come up with spreadsheet. Including the Education piece too (are you familiar with the KPHC, etc). Pulled up info regarding AK-HMIS – who has agreement to put data in there. Some contacts – incomplete list. Copy of organization partnership agreement. ICA seems to be a great partner – we can use them to get people help with how to enter data. They are willing to help with training and more. According to LovelInc, Hayden mentioned definite ability to help. They send out notices of trainings, we want to be sure this gets forwarded.

3 agencies on DB at this point: LovelInc, KPHI, and South Peninsula Haven House. Leeshore data is collected but using another data system, unclear how counted amongst remainder of numbers.

Diane Casto of CDVSA working on housing as priority – AHFC and other entities to come up with a more user-friendly entry system.

Students in transition – bound by same privacy issues as DV? Counted in HMIS? Receive information verbally from Kellie but not details like ages. Ask Leslie? Want to be sure these are included if not already.

End of August scheduling poll for next meeting



Priority Area – Data

Meeting adjourned at 11:17AM

9/1/22 11:05AM

Present:

Cheri Smith
Frances Azzad-Smith
Tim Navarre
Gene Wiseman
Dana Roberts
Dana Loutey
Kathy Gensel

Leslie and Cheri found when looking at HUD grant that core data being asked for was missing. There wasn't a way to look at who was referred by coordinated entry system for emergency services, reasons for seeking services. Any grant moneys through AK housing finance corporation are affected by this. 2019 protocols were finalized. What we were supposed to do was tighten up the count for the referral process. HUD grant was wanting more information on the count.

Gene Wiseman introduces self and Dana Loutey, from Department of Public Health; they are doing an environmental scan and learning about homelessness coalitions throughout the state. Governor has appointed two positions, one position that is an epidemiologist II that will link into data sources and look for how public health and homelessness intersect. Have allocated funding toward HMIS, hoping to learn where deficits are, where could \$ be used under that theme. The second position is a Public Health specialist II, this person will help build the program. Dana and I have been traveling and learning – this specialist will help keep the partnerships alive. Long term non-permanent positions – around 2.5 years, and the hope is that the positions can be extended. One of our big questions is: Why is so much homelessness outreach work not reflected in HMIS?

Dana Loutey added – Outside of the public health realm, there is an additional position in the office of the governor – high level coordination meant to work with recently re-established Council (est. 2021). There is a lot of interest in how the State can support local efforts

Cheri: Looking at the data system / how we keep data. Has there been talk of improving the data system We have our own DVIMS but that doesn't work with HMIS. How do you get the data from all places that are inputting data? It isn't complete and won't be until we have a system we can all access and enter data into.

Gene: Looking for solutions, bridge system. Apricot is a system social services – they are doing double entry. This is the first I've heard of another system, that isn't talking with HMIS. I want to hear more about this and other spots where the link breaks down.



Priority Area – Data

Cheri: Diane Casto of CDVSA and Brian Wilson AHFC are in talk of resolving this – Of course it is a confidentiality issue, but this is thousands of people a year that we are not capturing data on, which has a big impact on funding coming in to the state for housing.

Gene: Yes, we are looking for areas where we can create a bridge, leverage this money to create a use agreement, memorandum, etc. have all the data in one place without breaching privacy concerns.

Tim: Appreciate you taking the time and linking in today – This time last year we did not have a strategic plan, and I hope you'll take a look at our work over this year. Regarding the homeless coordinator – I am continuing to work on this. Assembly could do this – new acting mayor won't have veto power and there's a good chance with all of us working together the borough will hire a coordinator through an ordinance. I think that can happen by October, which may be the soonest of any avenue.

Kathy confirms that all is complete nothing in our court we can do to push along 501c3 status. Thanks to the folks from the state for joining us.

Gene: It would be helpful to hear struggles based on the database – pinch points, etc. An email lining those out – different systems at play – we could use help sorting out and streamlining these data collection and storage and management processes.

Kathy: Who are the folks that are entering data into HMIS, who are those that should be entering data. An inventory of housing, beds available, and do those folks report their data to anyone.

Gene: finding that every community has providers that are not entering information. We don't know who they are and why they don't. What are their barriers. The more information we have, the better we can be able to get a full picture. If had access to enter, what is the barrier.

Frances VP of Seward Community Health Center – believe none are using HMIS. Safe Harbor DVSA program are under SCHC. We use EPIC medical records, and track my own work, but that information isn't going anywhere

Dana: Does anyone on the coalition have connection to statewide board that reviews the vendor

Cheri: I don't think we have someone who knows about that or participates

Tim: Haven't heard either – partnership and review to find ways to combine those data systems and get more complete data that all can use, so that we are not missing those numbers,

Frances: EPIC system at providence, Seward Community Health Center. Markers we collect on each person includes homeless status, but it doesn't go anywhere. I wouldn't know how to transfer it or make it useable.



Priority Area – Data

Gene: Cerner is another one – health records could be bridged together with some sort of information exchange. We are hoping to learn how to tie systems together, we hope to first learn about all the systems that are in place. How captured?

Frances: It's primarily medical information, one determinant is social determinants. Federally funded, required to collect household size and income level. Whether homeless, what type, are they on street or in shelter. It may be incomplete, but it is helpful and we can report on it.

Tim: Cheri, is that something we can include in the action plan to look at? A contractor that bridges all of these. Or modify an action point to at least assess this at a

Cheri: I anticipate it will be a while before we see a change on data collection. It just takes a long time to make change. We can share data in this group – get a better handle on what we're seeing in our community, while we wait for a larger data system improvement.

Tim: 11th or 12th year of data collection of homelessness. That piece of information has been something we've organized around. Doesn't get entered into HMIS, among many we are capturing, this information one of the tools we're using to address homelessness from the strategic plan.

Kathy is hearing that Homer, Seward, Anchor Point just need to complete their count within the week to be timely.

Dana Loutey shared about Board:

<https://akhmisddocuments.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Software+Review+Committee+Recommendation+-+FINAL+DRAFT+2022.04.15.pdf>

Dana L: Any examples of success stories of data systems working together? Maybe the answer is no

Dana Roberts: I can speak to this, I think the answer is no, that people are asked to share their story over and over sometimes multiple times a day to receive services. A youth homelessness coordination meeting with SPBHS and Choosing Our Roots and 9-Star were a part of that. Haven't heard further information since

Gene: How many systems are you aware of in the Homer community that are being used?

Dana: I think just the HMIS, maybe LoveINC and Kathy would be able to speak better on that. PHC PIT in January – that was put in not by individual agencies. Lindsay from Haven House is not on this committee. The information was gathered and input by one person.

Cheri: Leslie Rohr is the only person who can and does enter data. Designated for coordinated entry I took forms to her to enter them.



Priority Area – Data

All victim services agencies enter individually—HUD funded – enters its own data.

Gene: Is there one central system?

Cheri: That's the crux, it's ICA which is the contractor for HMIS as well. It really doesn't make sense. Why can't we also have that for DVIMS? We can get aggregate reports but they are not together. It seem that we are waiting on this change.

Contract is between Leeshore Center and ICA. We have to do a formal MOU, buy the data system.

How different from how the HMIS system is administered. Do they also contract for HMIS service with ICA in the same way?

Leslie Rohr as the person entering, may know about that contract - leslie@peninsulaloveinc.org
Dana Loutey and Gene Wiseman provided their contact information and would be grateful for collected information about provider issues with HMIS systems, names of systems used, and the like. Their emails are: eugene.wiseman@alaska.gov and dana.loutey@alaska.gov

Meeting ended 12:05PM

10.3.22 at 2PM

Attending:

Kathy Gensel

Jennifer Randleas

Leslie Rohr

Tonya Silk

Cheri Smith

Dana Roberts

Frances Azzad-Smith

Last time we met, staff from the Department of Health attended, we gave them a lot of information. Have others reached out or heard from Gene Wiseman or Dana Loutey from DoH? Not yet.

Jack: They did mention being interested in a list of “pinch points” or issues with data entry.

Introduce Jennifer Randleas who is our practicum student – she has been working on spreadsheet for housing

One of the questions Jennifer is asking as she contacts agencies:

Do you enter your data anywhere?



Priority Area – Data

Jennifer: I have received some data, others are harder to get ahold of. Learned about some outdated information, removed, and found others to add.

Kathy: We could invite Gene and Dana back to next meeting, ask for an update. Gene mentioned “Apricot” do others know about that?

Leslie: We looked at Apricot when ICA was doing a review of platforms. While it seems good, it doesn’t do much different than what we have now.

Kathy: Priority area of data includes waiting on improvements. Perhaps with Jennifer’s list we can start getting in touch with those who are not entering

Housing coordinator still on the horizon. Hoping it will be put to the assembly on October 11 with November final passage. Probably wouldn’t be until January that we have a coordinator hired. Tim has discussed with Mike Navarre and knows this is coming. Mayor Pierce did know about it. “Why wouldn’t we do this?”

Leslie can add: Had a conversation with 3 borough assembly members who are adamant about moving this forward. Hearing assembly support.

Kathy: Would be bringing back former ordinance.

Leslie: We heard back from HUD grant this morning, CoC board had meeting to approve recommendations. Approved for \$235,000 spread over 3 years, now need to wait on HUD who needs to return paperwork. Special NOFA – made it by 1 point, they only funded the top three request in each category.

PHC will set a meeting soon - January 31st for count night

Dana to Leslie: How to connect with Nikiski Shelter of Hope?

Leslie: Through Love INC

Dana: Haven’t worked with shelter yet or sent anyone over.

Leslie: Tonya can speak to waitlist

Tonya: We will have 17 at the end of the day today, we can house 22 and there are applications to process. Numbers change on a regular basis

Cheri: Do we have anyone on Coalition on the reentry coalition?

Kathy: Kathleen Totemoff is president. They hired program manager and case manager. Should I have them reach out to you?



Priority Area – Data

Cheri: I would appreciate that, I have missed their meetings since COVID. Want to make sure they are a part of this, want to be sure that homelessness after incarceration is counted.

EDD might be able to help out with transportation, go from there.

Tim and Karen Martin-Tichenor had a conversation with Brandy at Kenaitze, their system is hoped to be up and running in summer 2023.

501c3 paperwork is submitted, needs approval.

Things are moving along and coming together, even if not before the end of the year. Leslie noted, it's been a year since we got the call about the location of Nikiski shelter.

May shoot an email to show support of the housing coordinator at the borough meeting.

Opeeka training – has some interesting possibilities. Leslie attended and will discuss Kathleen how this might be applied for our purposes. The focus may be on healthcare.

Set next meeting for November 2nd at 11AM

Closed 2:34PM

11.2.22 11AM

Cheri Smith
Kathy Gensel
Jack support via Zoom

Kathy: Have received 501c3 status for KPHC. When I return to work we will be setting account up, move things underneath it – CoC, shelter, PHC, etc. Reached out to interim Mayor Mike Navarre about update on the coordinator position. Hopefully we have an update soon.

Boroughwide transportation meeting happened to prioritize those projects. There is money for transportation.

Karen and Tim had talked to folks at Kenaitze about their transportation endeavor, it is still in the works and not fixed. Routes are still being decided. It's a big facility build there, room to grow. Have seen vans moving around some, used for direct service clients.

Kathy and Cheri set the next meeting for January 4th at 11AM. At that point it may be helpful to discuss what schedules/frequency people want to meet at.

Ended at 11:18AM



Priority Area – Data

1.4.23 at 11AM

Kathy Gensel
Dana Roberts
Cheri Smith
Jack support via Zoom

Kathy: Do we have a feel for how many clients we will see at PHC this year?

Cheri: Last year the count was 68. I would estimate between 65 and 70 people.

Kathy: How do we get students in transition into PHC?

Maybe there's a way we can work with Kellie so they don't actually have to come down – if Kellie could get the data from them and they could be followed up with. There's a confidentiality issue, and they are minors.

Dana: Here in Homer there were a few high school students that came down to PHC and I don't know if they did a full intake though I know we are supposed to. That one year it was for needed items. I certainly think working with counselors and letting them know its going on. This year it's being held at Spark, right by the middle school. When Jane Dunn was the homeless liaison here, she promoted the event to clients and coordinated transportation. Still unsure on intake – I don't think any parent signature is needed. If the child is couch surfing or not at home, the information is a number. We are looking for a number of children – not more info.

Cheri: If you have families in transition, you could get a duplicate count if parents are attending PHC. Perhaps Kellie knows who in particular the students in transition are without parents.

Dana I think you're right, you don't need the parent signature or concern about confidentiality with counting only unaccompanied children, but when we don't know which are unaccompanied or with families our count is off.

Perhaps Kellie could provide intake before the event.

Is there a way for students who do want to come, can we coordinate with principals to arrange transportation and can students get out of school for this?

We don't see a lot of homeless youth, though we know they exist. We know there could be a hesitance to come to events and be seen. It's about getting supplies, but it's about the data.

Cheri: We're not a community that has independent housing for youth so trying to help them in that aspect is a mute point. I don't know how many are homeless without adults, I know its in the hundreds borough-wide but that may include those with families.

We don't take ages of children or names of children, only names and ages of parents that are coming in.

Kathy: I will connect with Kellie to brainstorm what we can do.



Priority Area – Data

Cheri: If Kellie can do this, we have a form specifically for homeless youth she could use. I can go over these with her to be sure she's comfortable using it.

KPHC is now its own 501c3 and Peninsula Shelters of Hope, LLC is its own 501c3 and the Nikiski shelter is under it.

There's a lot to still do, for instance funding for a homeless coordinator, but where we are is greatly improved.

Cheri: Where are we at with that?

Kathy: We haven't got any further with the borough, AMHTA seems to be phasing out their funding. For the HUD funding that Leslie applied for, we are also waiting to hear.

Cheri: Funding limitations are happening for addressing homelessness across the country.

Kathy: We are ready for Project Homeless Connect –

Cheri: Yes, it will be quick work for me to compile the data into the report.

Jodi is going to present at the Borough assembly and it would be good to have the data to her.

Cheri: I will have my report out no later than the 6th or 7th of February.

Next meeting of the data committee will be February 8th at 11AM.

Meeting closed 11:28AM

2.8.23 At 11AM

Attendees:

Cheri Smith

Dana Roberts

Frances Azzad-Smith

Tonya Silk

Cheri: Kathy sent out draft report for PHC, will be getting her final report today. It was a really good event – er had 96 individuals who participated, household numbers were 164. 62% it was their first time participating. It was our 12th year. High number of people with disabilities – 73% had one or more disabling conditions. AMHTA recipients. Exit surveys – 96%. Top 3 needs were food, transportation, and clothing. We had about 40 vendors: DMV was there which people were glad about.

Dana: We had 78 intakes in Homer – actual completed intakes and exits, so that was awesome. I'm sure there were more people there that didn't do official intakes which is fine too. There were 43 in Anchor Point. It went really smooth; this was the first year we had it at the SPARK



Priority Area – Data

rec center facility. We met the night before, and navigator volunteers prioritized people's lists with them so they got a soft handoff on where to go next. I don't have numbers on people who reported a disability. We are having a follow up meeting on the 21st when team members are available. Services provided: haircuts, 25 vendors with nice tables. It was a good day with our highest number yet. Some of that had to do with focusing on the change of name: Community Resource Connect – this was well-publicized to be sure no one would be alienated. No need to be literally homeless to connect with resources.

Cheri: We keep the name because of HUD definition

Dana: We retitled but still give the same information to HUD

Cheri: Not everyone who comes is homeless. A percentage of people are doubling up, or who have a place to live but need resources for food, mental health, etc. Talking about this as a larger group – there are many people in this category. It will be interesting to see what Seward does.

Dana: We were happy – At first I was sad it wasn't going to be at the Methodist Church, and I asked if there was any reason for that. It's a resource, the food pantry is there. The reason was mostly for space and having more vendors, being more spread out. I'm happy we changed to SPARK because it was so much bigger – the spaces where items were gathered for folks to choose from items. It helped to keep it not be so overwhelming for folks seeking services

Frances: I have updates on Seward cares. We had 25 survey completions, around 8 or 12 did not want to complete. We had 20 vendors, a lot of positive feedback about the networking. We had a last minute visit from someone at Food Banks of Alaska and a Public Health Nurse for vaccinations and blood pressure. A health provider offering consults. Our numbers were lower than last year – 57 – but it was at the library on a Thursday which is the same day as the food bank. We no longer had COVID restrictions, so we secured a gym. We know it is used as a resource center but don't know if the change of day or venue was a barrier, or that it was a bigger event. Some mentioned feeling overwhelmed in the space.

Cheri: Ideas on why the hesitation to fill out intakes?

Frances: Not yet, we will be debriefing with volunteers and will see if reasons were given. I did notice a couple people come in, go to a couple tables, and then come back.

Cheri: In previous years there were fewer people declining. I wonder if people are concerned about their name being out there on a list, and if we can work on informing about aggregate data collection.

Frances: We have called it Seward CARES but considering changing name. Part of the population we see is not necessarily homeless but is vulnerable to homelessness with rising costs of living. We are also thinking of relabeling our shopping table. We didn't have as many participants take advantage of what was available. Unsure if there was a misconception about cost – participants were offered to be handed their choice of color. Perhaps the wording could



Priority Area – Data

be revised. This is our 4th year doing this, would like to use the AVTEC gym again because there was plenty of space.

Dana: Can Tonya give an update on Nikiski Shelter of Hope?

Tonya: We are not at capacity. We have about 14 residents here. I know that Allison has a stack of applications at LOVE Inc but when she contacts them they are not interested. Allison is the Housing Case Manager with LOVE Inc. LOVE Inc oversees who comes into the shelter. Leslie Rohr is with LOVE Inc but she is not online today. We can house 22 residents counting school-aged children. So under school aged kids heads are not counted so we can actually have more than 22. But right now we only have 1 baby here & no kids. We have more men than women at this time.

Dana: When I'm working with someone who is really struggling, they are often in a position that they don't want to leave their community. From my position it seems better than sleeping outside, and it wouldn't have to be permanent.

Frances: Have had opportunity to work with several Seward residents experiencing homelessness, where there's not a shelter option in Seward. People have not been interested in leaving the community.

Next meeting on March 8th at 12PM

Adjourned 11:35

Order 12:05PM

Uptate / final report from Homer area – numbers exceeded what we had in the Peninsula

Dana: 57 reported it was their first time going, 10 said they had gone in the past. As we discussed before, it could have been information that got out there the name change. What a great report of all the breakdown, capturing all that information so impressively. It really isn't a solution to a housing issue, lack of housing, but there is this solid feeling of, it doesn't mean there isn't care and awareness with all agencies coming together. Even if it's not housing

Leslie: As we have progressed over the years we have identified that homeless or near homeless populations is rising. Identifying people who are in cirri but not wuote to that homeless ot nerar homeless stagte. Noticed a lot of food insecurity and the inability to work enough minimum wage jobs to afford rent. It doesn't add up.

Kathy: Interesting how they have on here: shopping list and hoe many people picked up stuff. Tells us what the needs were. Also everything they had to give away.

Kathy: What did you think of the oen from Seward?



Priority Area – Data

Leslie: My board president put this together

Kathy: They did a good job of reporting, AMHTA abilities – we haven't done that before.

Leslie: tricky because not required HUD element. It is critical for us when you look at percentage of Trust beneficiaries, that is ammunition. When we go to the Trust and tell them we are serving X number of people, that helps us get funding. The other part is getting Native corporation statistics. In 2018 the Fed changed regulation on many grant programs available to tribal entities and other housing agencies. Used to be if there were non-Native folks they would need to serve them. No longer the case, under grants they do not have to serve non-Native folks. For DV they are still doing some but it is limited. Children's MH program is only available to Native children. Those numbers are going to make a difference in who we serve. Going to the Native corporations and asking for partnership is a reasonable request at this point.

Kathy: This is going backwards to silo services?

Leslie: It is, and I am concerned about the transportation project. I knew some projects had changed but it is actually across the board for Kenaitze

Kathy: What about Ninilchik Tribal?

Leslie: They could partner too.

Kathy: Homer area did have 7 folks under 18 and we didn't see youth in central peninsula. How do we get those students in transition?

Leslie: My perception is Homer has a larger pop of unaccompanied youth than central peninsula. Unsure if it is because of services available, how school works with them. At the school here, very few of those students are out on their own. They are almost all stably housed.

Kathy: Interesting/ .I know when Homer did theirs at the high school, it would have been easy for kids to stop in as needed

Dana: that location was convenient next to the HS and Flex. Maybe that kind of helped with the awareness of the event that carried over to this year.

Kathy: did Anchor point break out by age? It might be all added together.

Kathy: regarding homeless coordinator, we got to sit down with Peter Micciche new mayor. About the position. He has worked over the years with AMHTA and was going to follow up with what Mike had done with them on if that grant was still available. He asked why we couldn't hire a contract employee as that would be easy to do.

Tonya: Not to bring politics into the conversation.....Possibly on a positive note...I received word that the new borough mayor, Peter Micciche, is very interested & FOR affordable housing.



Priority Area – Data

So hopefully with his help & his backing,, there will be more affordable housing becoming available around the Kenai Peninsula.

A \$20K and a \$4k. We have documents ready to sign. It had been held up at the borough.

Kathy: We found out about that money, that it was ours, over a year ago and it has taken that long

Leslie: We never did really get official notification from the borough until several months after that. It was at a borough assembly meeting wehre we found out.

Kathy: We also received funds from the Kenai Peninsula Foundation, \$7500. \$5000 goes into the new account for the KPHC Help the Homeless fund. And the other \$2500 is going to Denali Daniels + Associates for the transportation coordination event on 3/23

Kathy: The Kenai Peninsula Care Center is fdone, the last three clients have had their care taken over. They havce some office furniture they are looking to give away. If anybody knows of nonprofits needing furniture.

Leslie: Tell him to take pictures, it is easier to say “yay or nay” with pictures

Kathy: We don’t know how long a coordinator will take but we have been patient this long. I’m going to the Soldotna Citu council, special session for mini grants. Jodi is doing her presentation of the Central Homeless Connect to Soldotna. I should see Stephanie Queen and will be able to see what the status of the bathroom setup is, what we need to do.

Leslie: I scanned and it is in the packet for city council. I’ll be there too.

Kathy:

Leslie: we have a new/ returned data person who is getting up to speed. I input data from central peninsula. I’ll be in Junaeu for homelessness advocacy day. Part of the discussion will be HMIS data system. State had been Pishin gto start using another data base. They have backed away noticing they don’t have adequate funding to switch. Better to know the system we have – we will see increased use and data reporting so that we can pull more information better. It’s all there, just a matter of knowing how to pull it out.

Kathy: I registered

Leslie: We will be meeting with representatives about the Alaska Housing Trust, that is being set up. Legislative advocacy.

Any

Leslie: Because that’s not a data element that has been tracked consistently, though we are getting to a place where we are. So many surveys, we will have some significant data to show.



Priority Area – Data

In our meeting with Mayor Micciche we determined we don't want to call it the transportation meeting for homelessness, that we didn't want it to seem like it was just for homelessness.

-

Jane Dunn via email:

As some of you know, I am working with a small group to host a community conversation on March 25th to evaluate the issue with housing in the Homer area and to start developing some solutions. The collection of community members we are looking to gather include social service workers, property management, realtors, investors, philanthropists, dreamers, thinkers and doers.

I am also putting together some resource guides to help everyone get a better idea of what is available locally and the paths to housing.

Here is a link to our website. Soon, we will have surveys for those who have been struggling to find housing as well as a survey for employers who are struggling to find employees due to a lack of housing.

<https://ddaalaska.com/homer-housing-solutions/>

I'll be on KBBI's coffee table next Wednesday to talk about the event more (9am). AM 890

-

Closed 12:37PM