



## Priority Area – Data

STRATEGY	ACTION	YEAR					LEAD
		1	2	3	4	5	
<b>1. DATA COLLECTION:</b> <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.						
<b>2. DATA GAPS:</b> <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.						
<b>3. DATA SHARING:</b> <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.						
<b>4. LONG-TERM PLANNING:</b> <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.						



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<p><b>5. DATA MESSAGING:</b> <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>						
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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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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.

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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?



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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.

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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



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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.



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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](mailto:bridgesofalaska@gmail.com)

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 LoveInc, 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: LoveInc, 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.

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**



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Meeting adjourned at 11:17AM