

## Joint Quarterly Meeting of Continuum of Care and Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition

9.13.22 Began at 12:05PM

Present:

Leslie Rohr, Love INC, have served as chair of KP CoC for several years

Kathy Gensel – cochair PHC, incorporators for Homelessness Coalition

Tonya Silk, facilities manager of Nikiski Shelter of Hope

Rick Abboud Homer city planner, on MAT steering committee, and various community groups with interest in providing for the homeless.

Cheri Smith, director of Leeshore center, been involved with this group and many other homeless groups for a number of years

Brandy McGee, acting ED of KPHI, have low income and special needs and senior housing in 5 communities across the Peninsula, we have about 150 units prioritizing homeless people

Kathleen Totemoff MAT project director for Ninilchik Traditional Council, on the 9 star board of directors, Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and current president of Kenai Peninsula Reentry Coalition

Abby Struffert, outreach for AK Breast and cervical training program. Alaska Families resilience

Bettyann Steciw with Ninilchik tribe, case manager with MAT

Sheri Boggs, moved from Eagle River in 2020. PHC for last 12 years in Anchorage area. Worked with schools and ran drives to collect 1000s items to give to homeless.

Frances Azzad-Smith: outreach and enrollment coordinator at Seward community health center, Seward Homeless Connection, Seward Prevention Coalition

Jodi Stuart - Many hats - Department of Corrections Parole office – just came from community round table discussing housing and homelessness- so I have a couple things to share

Wayne Mundy, member of KPHC

David Smith, represent Seward Homeless Connection, Ministerial Association in Seward, Board member of Love, INC

Tim Navarre – chair of Kenai peninsula Foundation, member of KPHC

Charlene Tautfest – serves Alaska Mental Health Board, Peninsula Community Health Services Board, here representing the consumer

Sierra Moskios – after school youth program youth coordinator, works with homeless, houseless, and most often queer youth in Homer

Jennifer Randles is practicum student, will be working with Kathy and Leslie at LoveINC to create a housing inventory, a resource list, and help with PHC

Captain Brandon Kyle – Salvation Army – Here to serve Central Peninsula. Was homeless with family as youth, was taken in by a shelter much like those represented here. Excited to see how the meeting goes and looking for how the Salvation Army can help in any way it can.

Jodi Stuart re: Today's meeting -

Based on work with Change 4 the Kenai and Points on Prevention

Effort to talk about the 10 vital services within our community, one of which is:

1. Housing

They would like for us as a group – there are a series of survey questions – how to ask about building capacity and using/building on the strengths we have. My hope is now that we have our intern working we can utilize what she is doing with the resource list and implement these survey at the same time. Can be used to support grant funding. Can report back with strengths, areas of improvement, areas to tweak or support. Getting data for them, but more importantly data for ourselves for the city council and assembly etc. because it is looking at housing information.

Presume this would be through the Data group, which as we see onscreen is lacking a lead.

Jodi has the book – chapter about this that Jodi needs to read through. At-a-glance for data systems that tracks supply and demand of housing systems. I don't know all the details but I can scan and make copies and share with the group. There is a survey, 5 questions: what agency? Emergency meetings now? Etc.

Tim Navarre: When needed?

Jodi: No deadline at this time – Community Partnership Round table sponsored by Change 4 Kenai and Points on Prevention. The goal is to not duplicate efforts, use information and relationships we already have.

Tim: I think we should get this out and get as many responses as we can

Jodi can work with people from the data group to get going on the survey

Data committee had visit from Public Health.

Education had elevator speech goal

Tim: Homeless coordinator position from Trust. With change at borough that will happen after 9/30. I talked to one assembly member- they are willing to introduce an ordinance that would allow an employee funded by grant funding. Has to be 25 days unless emergency, so November meeting will be the one it'll come up on. If passes, borough would go out for requests for someone to fill that position. Housed at Bridges, some funds would help reimburse office costs but majority would go to hire of person and their transportation, expenses. Hopefully by January of 2023 we will have a coordinator in place.

Charlene: Position funded for how long?

Tim: Up to 3 years of funding, already in one fiscal year, so depending on when we start. Hearing that the Mental Health Trust is moving away from this funding so it needs to happen soon. The borough simply needs to hire the employee for the Trust to fund.

Charlene: Borough assembly will bring this up at October meeting?

Tim: That's what the assembly member I talked to said, that they are still writing up the ordinance. The hope is that if it is turned in before packet deadline, it is brought up at beginning of meeting under consent agenda.

Leslie: HUD grant application for supportive services CoC unsheltered. Would provide full time position for housing specialist who will work in tandem with housing and homelessness coordinator. Is a 3-year grant for new programs only, so there is expectation that program would be operational before 2024. Community has to come up with 25% match for what ever amount we are awarded.

Kathy: Would you like us to vote on that today?

Leslie: That would be helpful

**LivePoll Vote: 17 Yes, 0 no, screenshot taken to share with Leslie**

Kathy: Centralized dispatch system – Brent Hibbert has with AK Cab a software dispatch system where they can add up to 7 other groups. I think we want to try this, and Brent can help. I know one of our questions was about when the new Kenaitze bus line is beginning. Bus maintenance shop is still going up. Food bank would like to be a stop on the way, others as well perhaps. Brent has GPS as well – this seems helpful with the dispatch option.

Bettyann Steciw shared in chat: Ninilchik Tribe's bus provides services on the Southern Peninsula, Homer to Kenai, with stops in Anchor Point, Ninilchik and Kasilof.

Anchorage meeting on 9/9 facilitated by Alaska Muni League. Appears to be more and new transportation funding which is exciting for nonprofits in the state. Hoping to get that presentation and share it with everybody.

Borough acts as lead agency, builds priority list, and assembly does resolution in support of that priority list. I believe that meeting will still happen as it is a requirement for state funding. Keep in mind there will be notice of the borough meeting – Last year we got full funding on all requests for the first time

52 unique adult and 22 children that have come to the shelter. At our lowest count in a while because we had several families that were able to move into housing. Now we have 13. Allisson is busy filling those beds that are available. We do have a list and do prioritization. Hospital and Department of Corrections has asked why we can't immediately house folks in need. We have a wait list and have to look at the circumstances of each individual who is applying and also who is already staying in shelter. I had someone wanting to stay in shelter when a guest had a restraining order against them.

Kathy: Was it just that landlords are more open to rent at this time? Will it just be for 9 months?

Leslie: Vouchers are for 1 year. The people who left the shelter are now in permanent housing, there were a couple apartments that they were supported in applying for and they just slipped in. There is somewhat seasonal housing but hopefully that doesn't happen, we have heard about a low vacancy rate overall, hearing throughout the Peninsula.

Kathy: Possibility of moving mobile shower unit – We are setting up a time to go look at the unit and then see if we can set it up with the shelter.

Leslie: while we have adequate shelter for residents, if we are to upgrade and begin also providing cold weather shelter, we would need the additional plumbing support. It could be a question of if our water pressure can sustain it.

Brandon Kyle and I discussed it in our meeting – you can truly see transformation in some of the families that have been able to stabilize and move on to sustainable housing.

Tim: I too have heard positive things; one of the families that just left, were excited about new place but were also leaving a place they felt secure in. Greg has food bank funds and is leading effort to upgrade kitchen at shelter to include stove, hood, coolers, etc. We will do a layout soon

We have a date for PHC, it is January 21<sup>st</sup> of 2023. Confirmed with Soldotna sports Complex, we are on their calendar. We'll want to start PHC meetings in October.

Leslie: Moving forward with 501c3 and getting grants is what we need to be focusing on.

December

Ended at 1:06PM