



Priority Area – Education and Awareness

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STRATEGY	ACTION	YEAR					LEAD
		1	2	3	4	5	
1. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN: <i>Coordinate a robust communications strategy, using existing channels and established organizations, to highlight success and solutions to homelessness.</i>	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	
2. MESSAGING: <i>Use messaging that is clear, consistent, and compelling and distribute using local print media, radio, and social media.</i>	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.						
3. STORIES: Share data, as well as personal experiences and anecdotes, to tell the stories and address the stigma associated with those experiencing homelessness on Kenai Peninsula.	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	
4. RELATIONSHIPS: 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.	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

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.

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
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?

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.

1st 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.

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

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.

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 12th at 2PM

Ended 2:40PM

October 12, 2022 at 2PM

Kellie Bartelmay
Kathy Gensel
Leslie Vines

Discussed at Housing meeting about class for renters. Alaska Housing Finance has the 1st 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 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 18th, PHC count night is January 31st. 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 9th at 2PM

Closed 2:32PM

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.

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.

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.

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

Present:

Abby Struffert

Kathy Gensel

Kathy: If we had a flyer, could you put it in your booth?

Abby: Yes - It's Cheri's booth - We are making some decisions on return on investment with the event. WE also have our Town Hall on June 3rd - 100% Alaska. The flyer could be given to the housing work group. A great way to get the information out there. Any new partners can be referred to the KPHC committees.

Kathy: Will you have booths?

How it will work is, there are 10 workgroups, each one will have a lead who will facilitate at the town hall. Working with the Goods, willow king. to get the leads on the same page. At the event we have Dr. Courtney who wrote the assessment, providing the keynote. An overview of the data, packets provided. For some it might be introductions and then an action item. For others like housing it might be referral like I said to KPHC.

5.10.23

Present: Kellie Bartelmay, Abby Struffert

Abby: June 3 Town Hall at Central Peninsula mall, unveil data about vital services, including transportation. Jodi Stuart had some input on that. Will form work groups to further the discussion. Will relay people to KPHC committees. Would be helpful to have people from KPHC attending.

In survey, over half have never heard of Nikiski Shelter of Hope.

Kellie has been collecting information and support for the Class for Renters

Do we need to regroup on this committee?

We've changed the date, and have had minimal consistent attendance.

Abby: Is it that people aren't sure about the mission?

Kellie: I think it's about educating the public, while others might aim to educate boards, etc. This is how the class came up, landlords not wanting to be the second or third chance. The general public who are clueless – they are who needs messaging

Abby: Just came from CrisisNow workshop. Discussion around lack of rentals. If that competitiveness is there (land lords will only rent to those with perfect history because they can) then we're not going to get anywhere

Vacation rentals are a problem - Until we build or create affordable housing we are chasing our tails

Abby: The short term rentals is devastating to housing. It's creating a huge problem for communities. Impacting the system with long term sober living – some could possibly move out sooner but have nowhere to go. **I propose sending out a flyer for this June 3 event and meeting there in person. Getting at some root cause issues.**

7.20.23 9AM

**Kellie Bartelmay
Jennifer Madison
Maggie Winston
Leslie Rohr
Levi Sutton
Tonya Silk**

Kellie: educating possible renters about what it means to be a good renter. Housing is still in low supply. Still, those that are getting started. Those in political arena are aware of homelessness issues, we present to them regularly. Helping renters. The general public though, is clueless as to the numbers. Homelessness isn't as visible when camps are in the woods.

Kathy: board meeting on Tuesday, report from Seward. Francis: nothing in the summer, not even hotel rooms. When they did have capability to put someone in emergency housing like in a hotel, folks end up trashing the room.

Kellie: Long term housing has special rules for getting someone to leave - like a formal eviction

Kellie: Renter-verse resources meant for larger areas but can be applied

Kathy: should it be in the room, or online?

Jennifer what I learned in Spokane, classes were set up so there was a series of mostly evening classes throughout the month, 3 months. After that they get a certificate of completion of that line of education. How to buy, how to improve credit, how to rent, how to apply, what to look for, and so on. Maybe 6 different courses. It took a minute to gain traction but once it got going they had a lot of participation. Once they got more landlords invested, involved, or at least aware, they had better relationships with renters and had a lot of success. It's through community center in Spokane.

Kellie: Reached out to several real estate agencies with rentals, several got back to us that they would be interested in getting involved. Lots of folks with older poor rental history are doing better now but their history won't be looked past.

Kathy: Does the job center offer this?

Heidi: Work at the college but not with college students, rather with low skill individuals. Work under grants to help people upskill - life skills and academics. Support in getting a job, or a higher paying job. One is general life skills, the other is specifically for young adults. One way to qualify is being homeless and being in that age category. It is a WF education program. Computer literacy, some financial literacy. Soft skills, occupational, guidance counseling. Grant to help fund goals like interview clothes, deposit, gas money.

We could take our existing population of people and make the renter piece more robust. Jodi noted access to a renter class.

Kathy: I looked and it is expensive.

Heidi: We have a high risk population who either falls into this category, has in the past, or someday will be. Education of individuals is our part.

Jennifer: It may be beneficial to engage landlords in a conversation about what they want to see from applicants. Perhaps survey them for their top 10 requests and get their buy in.

Kellie: Reaching out to landlords is totally on our radar

Leslie: LoveINC has an extensive list of property managers and building owners.

Kathy: What they would like to see?

Heidi: Classes are free. Sumer classes are limited.

Kathy: how many folks?

Heidi: we served 124 individuals. Most were at a 5th grade reading level. Getting to a 9th grade level makes a big difference for employment options. When it comes to leases, they are complicated and hard to understand. We would break those down. We also have ESL classes. They are held at the college, some are online. Q=Working on unperson classes in Seward. Our grants are for the entire peninsula. DOL requires a registration process. We do a math and reading test to move onto computer skills class. Used for GED assessment but also toward teacher's aide skills. Alaska Adult Education. College prep for those out of high school.

Jennifer Madison:

<https://ywcaspokane.org/event/road-to-renting-class>

<https://spokaneinfolink.wordpress.com/2015/07/28/free-responsible-renters-community-classes/>

Spokane has an immense homeless population and this is just one of those resources

Kellie: I think folks in shelters would be our first stop because they are there physically.

Heidi: We also provide classes at recovery housing.

Kellie: We might get more involvement if we aren't asking folks to come down to the college. If not bathed or whatnot, would rather not need to go be there.

Heidi: It's been a conversation, it's a college grant. It's centrally located but next to nothing.

Jennifer: It would be wise to approach the SUD groups as well, because a lot of them are on the verge of homelessness.

Kellie: Freedom house and other sober living

Jennifer: Yes engage them and give opportunities to give of their time. Might be part of our outlying group who could be borderline homeless themselves.

Kellie: Yes that makes sense. They aren't already teaching those skills

Jennifer: on flip side, having people in recovery who explore programs like the renter program might be the motivation to get sober and recover.

Leslie: We do have vacation rentals on the LoveINC list. It is our hope to provide tools for a rent-ready situation.

Jennifer: getting them involved in what they'd need gets them involved in the coursework.

Kellie: Offering the opportunity to present or teach

Leslie: reached out to what used to be the FBX loving affiliate because they worked with AHFC rent ready program. 6 weeks, one night per week, some incentives for pts. Nobody wants to share that curriculum.

Jennifer: Venture to guess that the community center would share their curriculum

Leslie: Incentives are there to help folks be motivated to come all 6 weeks. We could attach that to - it's part of your requirement, if you're going to be actively working the program at the shelter that you attend. Recommend not having it at the shelter, we could do them at LoveINC. Want to engage the people who are really interested in making a difference. When the others see, they get incentives, we may get others.

Jennifer: Keep in mind, important piece is, we are looking to place people who are homeless, but the only way to maintain that is for them to want to. From my own experience being homeless, there are people that expect to get things for free, and there are people that are willing to work for it. We should be engaging folks that are willing. Requiring it is a good thing, but getting folks who want it is important.

Kellie: make available to new renters as well so they can maintain.

Leslie: We have people coming thru LoveINC on a regular basis looking for their first housing. Financial readiness like Heidi said- if they can't pay their rent it doesn't matter how good of a renter they are

Heidi: YA program, the goal is employment. Lots of guidance and flexibility on how to get there. Academic things like tutoring, soft skills, but also financial skills.

Levi: Thank you for all your hard work and great thoughts. I want to let everyone know that I did get BOTH Tobacco grants from the state of Alaska and great things are going to come for the Peninsula. I am hoping to be big sponsors for "Smoke Free Events" with the Alaska Tobacco Quitline and Breathe Free Central Peninsula Coalition. Please reach out how I can help provide sponsorship for any smoke free event lsutton@kenaitze.org or 907 335 7583
And I commit with running the Breathe Free Coalition for another year with support this and any other groups that are trying to improve the lives of the people on the Kenai... Thank you for all you do!

Jennifer: different sections in the survey. Financial, lifestyle, contract,

Kellie: blanket statement about seeking to facilitate rent-ready, etc. Then, open-ended: What would you like to see taught in a class?

Kathy: Maybe they have something they use they can share. Might share a lease agreement we can look at - anonymize

Highlight some key components in the survey - we already have ideas for classes like finances. Heidi has told us there's some of that. What would you want to see? What would that look like?

Jennifer: It should be short and sweet.

Leslie: regarding property owners/managers, we have most of their email addresses. We can also request as we send out payments to people.

Leslie: Timing - Sooner the better

Jennifer: Winter is coming.

Jack will draft a survey to share with the group within the week.

Next meeting August 24th at 9AM – proceeding with hybrid format.

Ended 10AM

August 24th at 9AM

Present:

Abby Struffert

Heidi Graves

Jane Dunn

Jennifer Madison

Kathy Gensel

Kellie Bartelmay

Maggie Winston

Tonya Silk

Jack: We put out the survey to landlords since our last meeting – there are 5 responses.

Kathy: I was able to speak with the trainer in Spokane who provides the ready to rent class. She shared a brochure with me. They do three 1.5-hour units, which are Finding a Home, Tenant Rights & Responsibilities, and Debt Management. An individual can get a certificate for each unit they complete. She suggested that the class is very location-specific, so it may be good to reach out to a tenant union of Alaska. It was still a good starting point.

Jennifer: Have we connected with someone at AHFC about the class or survey? Troy is there – he has always been cordial and responsive.

Heidi: We [at UAA-KPC] are looking into purchasing the Ready-To-Rent curriculum to add to our adult education programming. It wouldn't be standalone; an individual would need to enroll in the adult education program. With this program we try to address literacy, numeracy, and life skills – generalized skill building. This class could be held off-site, like the GED is. We don't currently have an offsite location for Adult Ed.

Tonya: Life skills training is awesome, we see folks get lifeline phones, laptops, etc and they can sometimes be intimidated if they aren't familiar with recent technology.

Kathy: What does registration into Adult Ed. entail?

Heidi: There is an application form and assessments. The program is at no cost to participant. DEED has regional grants, and we hold one. Per our grant, we need to assess literacy before and after the class and show improvement. To sign up for Adult Education, call the KPC Learning Center at 907-262-0327

Kathy: How long does the entire Adult Ed. course last? Is it by semester?

Heidi: There are no semesters, it can take anywhere from a few months to a few years depending on what is needed for the individual to accomplish their goals. Some have gotten their GED in a month while others took 2 years. It really depends on how much time someone has to devote – many have work and family responsibilities that cannot be left behind, so we work with people at their pace. The computer skills course is 6 weeks.

Jennifer: Leslie could make the request for the population she serves to attend – In fact, that is a good measure to look at. Does Leslie want to refer her Love INC clients to this program?

Kathy G.: For folks in eastern and south Peninsula, is there distance learning?

Heidi: It covers all areas, and is provided over Zoom.

Kathy: Well, there's no need to reinvent the wheel. I don't think we will proceed with our own course after hearing what is in the works at KPC.

Jack: Heidi, would your program like to see the survey results? [Yes]

Kathy: That is a great idea – Let's direct our efforts to the survey and share it with some more contacts, and then provide the results to Heidi at KPC.

Jack: Great, I will be sending the flyer email to Leslie, Kathy, and also Troy at AHFC.

Abby Struffert: 100% Alaska is conducting a large scale community needs assessment survey. We realized we were missing feedback from parents. The survey is open through 8/31/23. Charity Carmody at the Alaska Impact Alliance, presented at the recent Change 4 the Kenai. AIA had funding they wanted to use to fund needs assessment with Qualtrics. 100% Alaska has high-level action teams, and many of these topics already have at least one workgroup already. We are identifying leads in each work group who can come together to reduce or mitigate the silo-ing effect we often see in our inter-related work. Who leads this group and could represent it?

Jack: Are you looking for the leader of this committee or of the coalition at-large?

Abby: I think of the larger group.

Jennifer: Leslie Rohr has offered to step up for the Housing group in 100% Alaska.

Abby: Great, it would be to learn updates on the strategic plan, and otherwise what is happening.

Next meeting: September 28th at 9AM

9/28/23 9AM

Present:

Heidi Graves – Adult Education at UAA – KPC

Kathy Gensel – PHC, president of Bridges

Kellie Bartelmay – Here through role @ ILC, may not be there for much longer

Levi Sutton – Breathe Free Coalition, tobacco grantee. Supporter of PHC – feel free to contact me at Lsutton@kenaitze.org

Natasha Sison – Also at KPC at learning center, more so case management for WIOA – removing barriers to employment through upskilling and education of youth 16-24yos

Sean Neil - Invicta House for men, Americans Allied Against Addiction, and Peninsula Recovery Services in Kenai - livecleanloveliferockrecovery@gmail.com - 907-395-7194

Tonya Silk – facility manager of Nikiski Shelter of Hope, employed by Love INC
nshmgr@peninsulaloveinc.org

Kathy: I would love to have Heidi and Natasha from KPC at PHC.

Heidi: We are glad to, last year we couldn't find anyone who was available.

Kathy: Our date is Tuesday Jan 30th at the Soldotna Sports Center. Night of Jan 29th. Will start having our meetings on October 29th.

City of Soldotna reached out to us to see if we could pass along resources to the folks at the trailer park closing down and has asked tenants to be out by end of May 2024.

Tenants will need to start looking for new spots to live soon, most will need some form of assistance.

Jack to send out survey on listserv, and results to this group.

Sean: what's it looking like for short term emergency shelter?

Kathy: started the process for sprinklers at NSH and will be able to increase occupancy, correct Tonya?

Tonya: We also have to increase occupancy with insurance company, but at reduced capacity due to construction. Moving people around as needed when areas need clearing.

Sean: Asking because I'm seeing inmates released thinking they might have re-entry options, resources, but then when they get out they have nowhere to go. Just yesterday I had a guy who was released after 20 years. One of his release requirements is to be on suboxone, but none of the sober living facilities will allow that. Or they don't service our area, aren't operating, or they lost funding.

Kellie: That's true, there isn't on the Peninsula for emergency, a lot of sober living places are full even if they would accept medicated assisted addiction treatment. It's a vicious cycle.

Kathy: Comes back to needing a coordinator.

Sean: Are we looking for someone? Do we need a volunteer?

Kathy: we are seeking funding to hire someone – if you are hoping to help we'd welcome it!

Sean: Yes, email me what you have. There's always new places popping up and shutting down. I can definitely put something together for what's current.

Kathy: I'll take you up on that and get something to you. We also want to check with folks who have beds to see if they are reporting that data to HMIS system. Many don't, so we don't have that for HUD funding.

Sean: We're around 2200 bed-nights since last November.

Jack: Love INC can enter data for entities that aren't able to do it themselves – using forms.

Next meeting 10/24 1PM

10/24/23 12PM

Jane Dunn
Kathy Gensel
Heidi Graves

Jane: From our local Homer group Mobilizing Action for Planning & Partnership (MAPP), I added Mel Kim to this group.

Kathy: Great! MAPP does an amazing job, there's a lot of stuff in the newsletter

Jane: There is also the resiliency coalition and childcare network

Kathy: In transportation meeting there was discussion about housing, transportation, and childcare as the three-legged stool. Maybe one person for all three? Perhaps KPEDD could be

involved. They are in transition. We want to talk to them about our need for coordinator and see if they can help us strategize or take it on.

Jane: Carin Marks is on board of directors for KPEDD, she and I have worked together in the past and will be moving forward.

I'm pulling data from AK Dept of labor WFD research & analysis, specifically the rental housing market numbers. Do you know where they pull stats from?

Kathy: When Jodi Stuart from DoC does her presentations, she pulls data that shows what it costs to rent a 2-bedroom apt. She may know where they get that data from.

Jane: Seeing a lot of 6-month rentals needing to drop their monthly rental price since they're not being rented. Limitations on vacation rentals like AirBNB coming through via policy changes, but not clear how many rentals like this there are.

Kathy: Next CoC meeting is December 13 – we'll get this invitation out
Sean Neill is working on expanding the inventory of beds and bed types, as well as if they are reporting HMIS data. In Anchorage they had more beds open up but then found there were more people needing beds that were yet uncounted. I talked to a young man yesterday who contacted Bridges. He wants to start his own nonprofit. He is in recovery, and wants to give back. He wants to provide transportation to jobs for other folks in recovery.

Next meeting: December 5th at 1PM

12/5/2023 at 1PM

**Kathy Gensel
Abby Struffert
Levi Sutton
Tonya Silk**

Levi: Donation letter for Project Homeless Connect will be going up to Kenaitze leadership that can follow up.

Kathy: Thanks Levi! KPC Classes are ongoing so it will be good to see how well they are being attended. KPC will have a booth at PHC. Abby, you'll have a booth there too, yes?

Abby: Yes, we will. I did have a question, are there realtors in this group, KPHC that is?

Yes, but not active. Could assist with securing property, buildings.

Kathy: Some movement to limit AirBNB / increase stay length.

Tonya, do people at the shelter have education questions?

Tonya: I was interested in getting someone out to the shelter to talk with people we have - addressing this in the new year. Until construction is completed we wouldn't have many applicants.

Kathy: It sounds like you're thinking about class held on location at the shelter rather than getting folks out to the college?

Tonya: Yes, I think it would be easier than transporting folks out there. We have a van not a bus, van is limited capacity and also broken. A short bus would be perfect for our needs.

For on-location class - people with small children could be provided child care during the class. It would be an exception to the general rule of parents being required to supervise their children while at the shelter. I'm putting together a binder of information for an elderly client who has been homeless for X years. It will be foreign for him when he moves into his own place.

Kathy: We can try to help make something like that happen.

Next meeting: 2PM on February 6th

2/6/2024 at 2PM

Present:

Becky Friedman

Works with PCHS, Levi Sutton invited her. Was at Project Homeless Connect, works with Levi at BreatheFree

Lisa Burkhart

Renters' Education, may attend in place of Heidi Graves at UAA

Heidi Graves

UAA Adult Education. For the Ready To Rent course, we have two trainers, and Lisa was one of them. The other instructor is Linda Tannahill, a retired cooperative extension agent.

Abby Struffert

Southcentral Consulting

Levi Sutton

Tobacco Intervention Change Coordinator - BreatheFree at Kenaitze

Kathy Gensel

Secretary and treasurer of KP Homelessness Coalition, Inc., director of Central Peninsula Health Foundation, and president of Bridges Community Resource Network.

Kathy: Heidi and I were at 100% Alaska leaders meeting. At Project Homeless Connect, Jodi is had 140 check ins representing 203 individuals. 40 haircuts provided.

Abby: I enrolled 7 into the Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening services.

Kathy: Did any have primary care?

Abby: I can check, I think some were connected with PCHS

Kathy: We did more exit surveys this year; some good data from that. Part of the data was asking zip code of last permanent address. Only 4 people from Anchorage - so the story that people are moving from there is not showing true.

Levi: How are you guys doing on quit kits at the Nikiski shelter?

Kathy: Not sure, I will connect you with Tonya

Levi: That is great, Becky and I will make a visit. Keep in mind the Dena'ina Wellness Center in Kenai can host any hybrid or in person event.

Next meeting 3/12 at 2PM

March 12, 2024 at 2PM

Present:

Levi Sutton

**BreatheFree Coalition through State of
Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control**

Leslie Vines

**At-Risk Youth Coordinator at State of
Alaska Department of Labor
for homeless victims of domestic
violence and sexual assault**

Tonya Gillies Silk

Manager at Nikiski Shelter of Hope

Heidi Biskeborn Graves

**Kenai Peninsula College – Director of
Learning Center, serving low skill or
low income people with barriers to
work or education.**

Ashley Blatchford

**Leeshore Center – Crisis intervention
and advocacy services for Victims of
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
and Transitional Living Center services**

Heidi: I have a flyer to share for Renter's Education course. There will potentially be a future course at different locations where supports are being received, like at the Nikiski shelter for example. The flyer is for the pilot class, happening at KPC. The course was paid for through a grant from the Department of Labor. For that reason pre-registration is required.

Jack: I can share that the Transportation committee is hosting another Gaps and Solutions event, to be held from 10AM-2PM on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 in person at the Challenger Center or on Zoom for those who can't attend in person.

Levi: I have been watching Kenaitze drivers practice - hopefully this summer they start picking up people. I have a [flyer for this Friday's health fair](#) at the Dena'ina Wellness Center- youth dance groups, and heartbeat of mother earth performance at 1PM. Would also see current services Kenaitze offers.

Ashley: Leeshore Center is hosting a [walk for awareness on March 27th - Choose Respect](#)

Leslie: Recruitment events and job fairs at community centers. Use [AlaskaJobs](#) for that, there are so many parks and tours jobs coming up in the summer

Adjourned 2:25PM