

# JOINT QUARTERLY MEETING: Wednesday, March 15th at 12:30 PM (virtual)

>><https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82467271967><<

**Meeting ID: 824 6727 1967**

**US Toll-free: 833 548 0276 ||| 833 548 0282**

## AGENDA

### **- Committees Share-Out: discuss committee action items.**

**Data:** Kathy Gensel/Leslie Rohr

Kathy: Can someone present at Homer city council?

Jane: I wasn't a part of hosting it but I have access to the data. I can get ahold of someone to do this and/or get in contact with Jodi.

Kathy: Jodi did a great job, slides talked about what hourly wage would be needed to rent a 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom apartment. They had state numbers as well – the more rural you get the more housing costs so it is more of an average. Kathy to request Jodi send PPT to Jack for posting on KPHC website.

**Education & Awareness:** Kellie Bartelmay

Leslie Vines joined and shared ideas for the renters class such as creating a paid internship that cycles through staff yearly or more frequently

Heard of Landlord Housing Partnership LHP? Functioning in Anchorage but want to bring services to Kenai area regarding how to rent. It's huge, they work with organizations and with landlords to be the person in the middle. Like an elaborate dating site – connecting rehabilitative or social services with landlords who are willing to take some risk based on poor credit etc. Our landlords as well as those seeking housing would benefit from this – many land lords are inexperienced and using template forms. Clear communication being the basis for any good relationship.

Jane: Alaska Legal Services did a presentation on tenant rights as it relates to the queer community, though I know they are interested in doing that for the community at large.

## **Governance & Implementation:** Kathy Gensel

Update on entity status – officially received from IRS. Had first board meeting and have funding coming to us from Kenai Peninsula Community Foundation of \$5000 which we are opening at First National.

Continuing to have Jack as our coordinator through June using KPHC funding. Hoping by that time we have a coordinator.

Update on Homeless Coordinator Position – we met with the new mayor, and when we explained, he said, why don't we just hire a contract employee? AMHTA would be paying for that, we have office space at LoveINC. We are hoping that is a positive sign with the new mayor.

Once a coordinator is onboard, that person will be running these meetings and the committee meetings.

Jane: Is there information about that position, like a job description?

Kathy: Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau each have one.

Tim: I believe we have some drafts from Juneau. There may be some tweaks. The coordinator in our case includes the whole borough, requiring them to help and participate, traveling to Seward and everywhere in between. Because they will be a borough employee they will have to follow borough code, working with the coalition and other entities. They will be final answer to the mayor office or wherever the Mayor puts the position. Mayor has approved hiring coordinator if funds come in to match it.

## **Housing & Facilities:** Kathy Gensel

Keeping our eye open for property, etc. Can Jane speak to what's happening in Homer?

On 3/25 we are having event, **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:** Housing Solutions in the Greater Homer Area. We are getting stakeholders together to create solutions. We have put out two surveys – for folks looking to buy or rent, learning about what is needed. The other survey is for employers. The event runs from 9AM-12:30, it's not a lecture or presentation, we will have posters with information. Input is still helpful even if someone is not looking to buy or rent. The borough mayor is planning to attend. Here is the link to the landing page with information about both surveys and the event on 3/25. <https://ddaalaska.com/homer-housing-solutions/>

Tim: we could have folks in eastern and central area, the focus is on Homer but could bring in other folks too.

Jane: Right, the entire community is lacking housing – not only folks at the lowest income bracket. We have someone in our group who has been looking for housing in Homer for 8 months.

Kathy: A principal in Seward living in Anchorage because of lack of housing. Maybe at our next quarterly meeting for CoC you can let us know how that went.

Jane: Doing radio spots and talking to city council. Would it be okay for Rick Abboud and I to say that the KPHC and the CoC is part of the work in Homer?

Kathy: Yes, absolutely

Karen: Are we looking for specific, like a certain size of structure, like homes or properties?

Kathy: I would say all of the above. Homer found there isn't any, so we have to figure out what to do. Do we purchase property and someone is willing to operate a 10-plex? Or address people who are doing AirBNB instead of long term renting. We need to look at everything.

Karen: I had someone approach me about a house on the edge of Soldotna on the Spur. They were pushing it as a possibility of shelter. It had a greenhouse, and opportunities for learning to live autonomously.

Kathy: Yes, get the information over to Leslie.

Jennifer Madison: learning resiliency is great - Transitional living with the educational aspect

Jane: Might be a good option for transitional housing, perhaps easier than as a shelter. Because the options tend to be much fewer for lowest income, if we can house more people at the highest risk, that would be a priority. Also: Nomad Yurts wants to be helping. They are cheap, so would just need land.

Karen: We used to have one, they can be four-season for better insulation and construction, wood stove, buddy heater, all that keeps it warm.

### **Transportation:**

Karen Martin-Tichenor

Borough Transportation Meeting – 3/23/2023 (In-person and zoom) 10AM-2PM at the Challenger Center

Karen: If you know someone or a clinic that has transportation – please get in touch. We are hoping to amass the system we have – a broken system – and see where the gaping holes are. We want to create a transit system and a plan for that is the ultimate goal. This meeting is a big first step in getting that coordinated. I'm excited – it feels like we are doing something. Different groups have their vans and their circuits. If it sounds like the entity is diminishing what they provide, encourage them to still attend and share their information, we don't expect them to cover the complete need but they are a piece.

Jane: I can think of a number of organizations that have vans they use for field trips – one off trips that return back to the organization. Would you want that?

Karen: If they legitimately could be a part of the growing system

Jane: What about school system, there are a lot of afterschool programs, with no bus system. They use vans. Even bussing, that is contracted rather than from the district.

**- Update on Nikiski Shelter of Hope**

Leslie Rohr wasn't able to attend.

**- Next quarterly meeting:** Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 at noon.