



Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition (KPHC)

Meeting Notes

Tuesday August 25, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- The agenda for this meeting and notes from the prior meeting in April were shared ahead of the meeting for review.

2. Introductions

- Abby Struffert, Director of the Family Resource Center Network at the Alaska Impact Alliance, Team Lead of Parent Supports of 100% Communities Central Kenai Peninsula, Coordinator for Southcentral Alliance for Family Resilience
- Alecia Gottlob, Project Coordinator at Cook Inlet Counseling
- Angie Delgado, Director at Central Peninsula Hospital Behavioral Health
- Brandy McGee, Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiatives (KPHI)
- Brian Wilson, Executive Director of the Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
- Cheri Smith, Executive Director of The LeeShore Center
- Jennifer Randleas, Advocate at Independent Living Center of Soldotna
- Jimmy Stokes, Program Support at Providence Seward Medical Center, leads the Seward Homeless Coalition
- Jon Tuttle, Assistant Director of Behavioral Health at Central Peninsula Hospital
- Karen Martin Tichenor, Board Member, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition
- Kathy Gensel, President of Bridges Community Resource Center, Board Member of Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition
- Kelly Whitmore, Patient Eligibility Specialist at Peninsula Community Health Services
- Leslie Rohr, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition / Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness, Coordinated Entry
- Louis Hubbard, Aging and Disability Resource and Outreach Coordinator at the Independent Living Center of Soldotna
- Mary Stockwell-White, Chair of Central Peninsula Hospital Health Equity
- Matt Forester, Program Coordinator 2, State of Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Rural and Community Health Services, Homelessness Health Intervention and Prevention unit

- Maureen DiFranco, Co-Facilitator of Batterers Intervention Program, Education and Training Coordinator at The LeeShore Center
- Paul Whitney, Mayor, City of Soldotna
- Rachel Arnold, Psychologist at Central Peninsula Hospital Behavioral Health
- Sara Whipple, Advocate at the Independent Living Center of Seward
- Sky Livingston, Advocate of the Total Recreation And Independent Living Services (TRAILS) at the Independent Living Center of Seward
- Sofia Wimberly (Costales), Grant Coordinator at Central Peninsula Hospital Behavioral Health
- Tim Navarre, Executive Director of Central Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS), Board President, Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition

3. Report on the Balance of State activities (Brian Wilson, Executive Director of the Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness)

- Brian reported on hosting the Alaska Housing Summit last week, noting that the meeting recording will be posted on the YouTube channel.
- The Right at Home Program is a new statewide homeless prevention initiative being launched early next year.
- Brian also shared good news about a 1-year planning award for a million dollars toward modernization of the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), funded through the Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP), to be intra-operable with state Medicaid systems. This will result in better care coordination across agencies.
- Continuum of Care (CoC) dollars, which the Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness administers, are typically funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The current administration has wanted to implement changes, and this funding has been challenged in court three times. Grants were auto-renewed; however, that decision has been appealed. The HUD can launch another Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), or Congress can also choose to auto-renew. Brian expressed empathy that any agencies on this call are in limbo when it comes to anticipated Continuum of Care funding.

4. Coordinated Entry

- Leslie Rohr reported that the ball is rolling on coordinated entry. She saw representation from Seward and highlighted how much representation helps to better quantify the measure of homelessness on the Peninsula. Leslie also celebrated representation across the Peninsula including Seward and Independent Living. Leslie provided notice of a future monthly call to coordinate case management for individuals who are chronically homeless.
- Cheri Smith of The LeeShore Center asked to join these calls.

5. 100% Community & 907 Navigation Report

- Abby Struffert reported that both the 100% Communities Initiative and the 907 Navigation App were funded for planning grants by the Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP). The Alaska Impact Alliance is creating tools and guides for how to implement the framework at a community level. Four Alaskan communities interested in this model have signed on as

collaborating partners. The project includes building out a housing dashboard as well as a snapshot of all ten vital services. Additionally, there will be enhancements to the Application Programming Interface (API) as well as improvements to the Community Access Assessment.

- The Alaska Impact Alliance also received funding for the 907 Navigation App, which will include API enhancements to the app including closed loop referrals and community action alerts for how to support families in crisis.

6. Nikiski Shelter of Hope Update

- Tonya Silk provided an update that as of August 14th, 2026, and since December 31, 2021, the shelter has housed 245 households, 301 adults, 90 children, and 42 pets. This totals to the shelter providing 26,469 bed nights and approximately 81,000 meals. Of the 22 people housed at the shelter right now, ten are under the age of 10. Our Lady of Perpetual Help has funded an industrial restaurant-style refrigerator. The shelter is looking for support to replace a non-working freezer and will hold a garage sale fundraiser. It is always in need of financial support and basic items like toilet paper.
- The shelter applied for a Partnership Grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for \$54,500 to fund replacement of mattresses, bed frames, and bed accessories, as well as parking repairs and security upgrades. The grant application was supported by Denali Daniels + Associates.

7. Other Discussion

- Kathy Gensel noted that the kickoff for Project Homeless Connect planning may be at the next quarterly meeting.
- Kathy also noted the proposed idea for a hybrid format Housing Gaps and Solutions meeting, potentially in conjunction with the Project Homeless Connect in January.
- Brian announced that the Project Homeless Connect dates have been selected: the Point-in-Time Count will take place the night of January 25th, 2027 and the daytime outreach event will be January 26th, 2027
- DDA will seek feedback about the timing of the Housing Gaps meeting.

8. Next Quarterly Meeting

- Scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 2PM. Addendum: This meeting was shifted to 12PM to join the Project Homeless Connect kickoff.