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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
05/20/15



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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:07 p.m.)

BUTCHER: Okay. I'd like to call to order the Alaska Council on the Homeless. It is a little after 1:00 o'clock on May 20th. And short of having a roll call, I think, we'll just go down the panel and introduce ourselves.

I'm Bryan Butcher, CEO/Executive Director of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

TAYLOR: I'm Ron Taylor the Commissioner of Corrections.

WILKS: Shannon Wilks, I am the director of Program Development and the Corporate Compliance Officer at Anchorage Community Mental Health Services and I'm one of the public members.

BOWEN: I'm Verdie Bowen. I'm the director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Alaska.

PEARSON: Suzi Pearson, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis or AWAIC and I'm a public member.

COLLINS: Carrie Collins with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

JESSEE: Jeff Jessee, I'm the CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

HARRIS: Olen Harris, the Executive Director of North Pacific Rim Housing Authority.

FOLGER: Gary Folger, Commissioner of Public Safety.

1 SVENSSON: Betty Svensson, I'm Deputy Director of the Alaska
2 Municipal League.

3 KUPER: And I'm Dave Kuper with Christian Health
4 Associates and public member.

5 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you everybody. We have a quorum.
6 Welcome everyone that has come today. We've got a
7 pretty full agenda. We had a very fruitful work
8 session this morning discussing our update of our 10
9 Year Plan on ending homelessness and we'll talk about
10 that a little later on today, but why don't we go
11 through the room and if everybody could individually,
12 please, stand and give up your name and your
13 affiliation so we have an idea of who all is with us.

14 (Indiscernible - away from microphone - see sign-in sheets)

15 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you everybody for coming. We'd like
16 to start out with Public Comments. Would anybody
17 like to speak publicly? And the chair in the front
18 is where you need to get near a microphone, please.

19 PETERSON: Hi, this is Kenny Petersen. And thank you for the
20 opportunity to come before you for a moment of public
21 testimony. I'm -- been working on homelessness for a
22 while and I'm grateful for all of you doing that,
23 too, to take some time to be here and very
24 strengthening.

25 As I -- I started this quest quite a long time ago

1 when someone came to me and ask me if I'd put a
2 billboard at my place of employment that said not to
3 give money to the panhandlers. And I was willing to
4 do that for the cause they had at the time, change
5 for the better, I think it was. And -- but then I
6 responded back and said well, if you don't want us to
7 not do that, what do you want us to do, how do we
8 solve that. How do we help folks on the street
9 corner at that time and then I started pursuing and
10 keep showing up.

11 At the time I heard a quote -- not a quote, but a
12 statement from a leader of our church that was
13 quoting a scripture in Isaiah 58 and it inspired me.
14 And so as we talk about finances, talk about where
15 things are coming I realize that the economic climate
16 is such that we need solutions and so I shared this
17 six years ago at Alaska Coalition and I thought it
18 might be time to share it again.

19 This is from Isaiah, Chapter 58 and it's a system
20 that we use in our church to fund of all of our
21 welfare needs. It's called fasting and not for
22 medical reasons I don't think, but just a few quotes
23 and let me go as far until I come out
24 (indiscernible). It says, is this not the fast that
25 I have chosen, essentially going without food and

1 eating.

2 In our church we do that on the first Sunday of
3 each month, go 24 hours, two meals and give the value
4 of that food not eaten, as a fast offering. Anywhere
5 from \$5 and if someone eats a lot maybe more, I don't
6 know, for a generous fast offering.

7 It says, if this not the fast that I have chosen,
8 a day for a man to afflict his soul. So we now
9 afflict ourselves with those that are without food
10 and we feel for them.

11 To los- -- and then listen to these amazing
12 promises, is this not the fast I have chosen, this is
13 Isaiah 58:6, to loose the bands of wickedness, to
14 undo the heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go
15 free and that you break every yoke.

16 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, that
17 thou -- that thou bring the poor that are cast out to
18 thy house when thou seest the naked, that thou cloth
19 him and that thou hide thyself not from their own
20 flesh.

21 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning,
22 thine health shall spring forth speedily, thy
23 righteousness shall go before thee and the glory of
24 the Lord shall be thy rereward.

25 Thou shalt call and the Lord shall answer. That's

1 good, when you're in a position to call and the Lord
2 will actually answer. Thou shalt cry and he shall
3 say, here I am.

4 And then a little bit further it says in verse 10,
5 if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry and satisfy
6 the afflicted soul, then shall thy light rise in
7 obscurity and the darkness be as noonday. Maybe as a
8 community, as a state that would be amazing.

9 And then the final one, and the Lord shall guide
10 thee continually and satisfy the soul in drought. It
11 sounds like we're having a drought coming. Make fat
12 thy bones and thou, and the State of Alaska and the
13 communities maybe, shall be like a watered garden and
14 a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

15 So I propose that as funding goes down for other
16 things, that we might choose to have a community fund
17 that we give voluntarily to make up for the lack of
18 funding that may come in the future.

19 And I'm willing to give the first \$1,000 if
20 someone would have a fund and someone who has a plan
21 like Suzi's plan with the State that she's been
22 leading with others that knows what to do with that
23 money that comes in a coordinated method. I'll give
24 the State money. I'll do it every month if they have
25 a plan that could work and I'll do that through

1 fasting, giving up food. I eat a lot. No, that's
2 not exactly -- it'll be generous though, but I just
3 want to propose that.

4 And then also recognize that there's also a faith
5 liaison folks coming on. You'll need unpaid
6 volunteers to do most of this work. We'll run out of
7 funding and so I recommend that whatever solution you
8 come will probably be a result of personal
9 relationship both for those coming in re-entry, the
10 youth.

11 And the finally I was downtown with all the youth
12 on Town Square and to change the thought of thinking
13 them as unsheltered youth and instead thinking them
14 as disconnected family members, our family. The same
15 thing for the chronic homeless, disconnected family
16 members. Let's all work to unite on families
17 according to eternal principles. Thank you.

18 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Kenny. Anybody else? Okay,
19 thank you. We will move into our agenda. We will
20 start out with a results of a Point-in-Time survey.
21 Can I ask Carrie to speak to it.

22 COLLINS: Sure, all right, thanks So once again here we
23 are. We've just completed the compilation of all the
24 data for the last Point-in-Time count, that was on
25 January 27th this year.

1 And just, kind of, a recap on the Point-in-Time
2 count. It's an annual count that anyone who receives
3 Federal funding and also AHFC funding, I would say,
4 we, kind of, put that hammer down on that, also,
5 those organizations are required to participate in
6 the Point-in-Time count in order to try to get a
7 broader picture understanding of homelessness
8 throughout the State.

9 And with that, organizations who receive that
10 funding are encouraged to reach out to other
11 organizations, work with Continuums of Care in order
12 to include those who aren't receiving funding and
13 aren't required to participate to help the --
14 encourage them to participate in the process, also,
15 so we can try to once again get that larger picture
16 of homelessness throughout the State.

17 One thing that is important to note that this is
18 just a snapshot. It's a one time picture of
19 homelessness, so we know that things can ebb and flow
20 and change depending on seasons and a number of
21 different variables.

22 So for 2015 there were also a number of Project
23 Homeless Connect events that happened throughout the
24 State. This year there were -- I think it was --
25 looks like, five of them Anchorage, Fairbanks,

1 Juneau, Kenai and Mat-Su. And Fairbanks and Juneau
2 did not participate in a Project Homeless Connect
3 event last year, so those are two more, kind of,
4 larger I would say, data sets that are included this
5 year.

6 And Project Homeless Connect is, kind of, a one
7 stop shop typically is how it's developed in each
8 community to encourage individuals who are homeless
9 or at risk of homelessness to come in and get
10 reconnected with services in their community, so it's
11 another way to capture data for that day.

12 There was also an organized street count in
13 Anchorage and a lot more effort, I think, a more
14 robust count around youth this year and I know Carmen
15 is going to speak to that a little bit in her
16 presentation, so I won't go into all of the details
17 on that, but that was something to note.

18 And I also spoke with those who helped organize
19 the street count for adults and they had a lot more
20 participation this year with volunteers and such
21 which allowed them to go out into different areas of
22 the city that they haven't maybe been able to touch
23 in the past.

24 So this year, kind of, to break it down there were
25 1,956 total individuals experiencing homelessness

1 compared to 1,785 in 2014 for that Point-in-Time
2 count. And for the Point-in-Time count it's also
3 important to point out that it only captures those
4 who are unsheltered, so anyone essentially living on
5 the street or in a hotel for a temporary amount of
6 time or those in transitional housing, so it does not
7 include permanent supportive housing.

8 So on the slide 2, the second slide that has the
9 graph of all homeless persons, you can see the
10 comparison for 2014 to 2015 broken out by Anchorage
11 and the Balance of State. And the reason they're
12 broken out this way is it's the HUD Federal
13 recognition between the two Continuums of care. And
14 then we have the State total so you can see where
15 some of the differences are.

16 We're seeing some changes in unsheltered. I think
17 some of it for both -- for Balance of State
18 specifically having two more larger communities who
19 participated in Project Homeless Connect added some
20 more data to the count can -- could essentially help
21 contribute to that. We see a lot of the unsheltered
22 people participating in the Project Homeless Connect
23 events.

24 And then also looking at Project Homeless Connect
25 reports for Anchorage for the last two years they've

1 had a 38 percent increase in people identifying as
2 having slept outside or someplace not meant for human
3 habitation this year compared to the 2014 count, so I
4 think that's reflected. You can see that in those
5 numbers, too.

6 And then if we move on to the Veteran's slide, I
7 won't spend a whole lot of time looking at this one
8 right now. I mean, the numbers essentially are
9 pretty close. We have some increase in unsheltered
10 this year compared to 2014, but I know John Pendrey
11 is going to speak a little bit to that in his VA
12 Federal update later, so essentially just going to
13 give you, kind of, some numbers to think about as
14 we're having this conversation today.

15 And then also wanted to look at chronic
16 homelessness, specifically breaking out Veteran
17 homelessness and chronic homelessness because those
18 are really one of the Federal priorities right now.
19 We're seeing increased funding coming into the State
20 and pressures to move funding to assist both of those
21 populations, so really wanting to point out chronic
22 homelessness, also.

23 And we can see how chronic homeless numbers and
24 unsheltered are increasing a bit. Typically that
25 would be coming from your unsheltered population as

1 we were seeing in some of the previous slides also.

2 So just wanted to, kind of, give some broad data
3 out there, but I'm open to questions, so feel free.

4 BUTCHER: Anybody have any questions for Carrie?

5 JESSEE: Yeah, on the chronic homeless numbers -- well,
6 first of all a general comment and I think I make
7 this every year which is the methodology used to
8 count is so variable from year to year it just seems
9 almost impossible to get any accurate sense of trend
10 over time and I just observe that. It's frustrating.
11 I'm not assigning blame to anybody, it's just
12 frustrating.

13 But looking at the chronic homeless, when you say
14 sheltered, that's some organized sheltered
15 environment, right?

16 COLLINS: Right. Emergency shelter or transitional housing.

17 JESSEE: So did we loose 49 sheltered beds some how between
18 2014 and 2015?

19 COLLINS: I don't think we have lost those beds necessarily.
20 There could be a movement of people moving into
21 permanent supportive housing. There could be some
22 under-utilization maybe in some emergency shelters.
23 I don't have specific numbers, so I definitely -- I
24 don't want to say that, that specifically was or
25 wasn't.

1 JESSEE: Well, that just seems like it would be important
2 to know because you've got basically the same number
3 of chronically homeless people. In fact, a
4 miraculously identical number, but there's this huge
5 shift almost doubling the number of unsheltered
6 people.

7 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8 JESSEE: I don't -- I don't.....

9 COLLINS: Right.

10 JESSEE:get this, I guess.

11 COLLINS: Right. Absolutely, no. We definitely share your
12 thought and your concern and the continued question I
13 think you do propose from looking at transcripts
14 before I started. And then I think we had the same
15 conversation at the last one about how there's so
16 many different variables in the numbers and really
17 trying to be able to drill down to more, like, the
18 community levels, specific looking into really at the
19 provider level seeing what is really different and
20 changing.

21 And I've actually had some preliminary
22 conversation with both of the Continuums to start
23 thinking about how we can, sort of, drill down some
24 of that to get more detail.

25 And also it really comes to the forefront, I

1 think, over the last year or so the importance of
2 really trying to, one, loop in more people into this
3 count so that we feel like we're getting more
4 information or bigger picture.

5 And also really trying to streamline the process
6 in communities so it's consistent so we have maybe a
7 little -- less questions yearly as to what might have
8 happened differently, really trying to support
9 Project Homeless Connect in as many communities at
10 least consistently so we don't see, you know, two,
11 kind of, substantial communities in the State who
12 didn't participate one year and then all of a sudden
13 we have data from them, so I agree, we share your
14 thought and concern on that.

15 BUTCHER: And if I could add to that, that's a national
16 problem we're seeing. In fact, there was an article
17 in the L.A. Times last week that said homeless
18 population in L.A. up 12 percent in 2014. And they
19 were talking about is it really up 12 percent. Well,
20 no, probably not. I mean, the -- you know, the
21 economy is still really bad down there, but it has to
22 do with gathering of the information.

23 In fact, if you go to that article there's a link
24 to an article from 2014 talking about HUD and L.A.
25 County in this battle over what the number should be

1 and how L.A. County was trying to use different ways
2 to get to a count, but HUD didn't necessarily agree
3 with it and, I mean, it just, kind of, gives you an
4 idea. And they have a huge population, but they also
5 have a very small geographic area compared to us
6 obviously.

7 Some insight into something that nationally is an
8 issue which is not just trying to determine what an
9 accurate number is, but also having a year to year
10 consistency where we have somebody participating in a
11 community and we get a number one year and they're
12 not for whatever reason participating the next year
13 and then that alters it.

14 And then you look at some of the other variables
15 such as the -- particular in Alaska, the temperature.
16 If the date that's picked, if it's 10 below zero
17 you're probably going to have more sheltered people
18 than you would if it was a 40 degree day in Anchorage
19 and somebody may choose, you know, to -- where they
20 might have been outside.

21 And so I share your frustration, but I guess I
22 just want to make the point that this is -- we're
23 all, kind of, in this and that at least I haven't
24 determined that somebody's found, kind of, a great
25 model that gets it as accurate as possible.

1 COLLINS: Yeah.

2 JESSEE: Yeah. No, I get that. It's just -- you know, the
3 two things you look for are an accurate number of how
4 many people we have right now and then the second
5 thing you look for is a trend over time. And I don't
6 feel like I have much of a handle on either one of
7 those, so, I mean, I just.....

8 And also on the Housing First Project, you know,
9 my understanding is the majority of those folks would
10 have been chronically homeless at some point, are
11 they counted? How are they counted, if at all
12 because it doesn't appear they're counted as
13 sheltered.

14 COLLINS: Right. No. It only includes emergency shelter
15 and transitional housing, so those who are in the
16 Housing First would be permanent supportive housing
17 and they're not captured. And it would be my
18 understanding that, that's because they're in
19 permanent housing for an indefinite amount of time,
20 so there's not a threat that they could become
21 homeless again in that way.

22 JESSEE: Well, it just seems like it's really a data, you
23 know, morass because, you know, since we're not
24 getting credit for some of the stuff we've done, you
25 know, that's directly related to trying to deal with

1 the chronic homeless, but if you look at this none of
2 the Housing First projects have anything to do with
3 the data.

4 And we could do a whole bunch more and it still
5 wouldn't, you know, indicate to like a policy maker
6 oh, those projects really help. They cut the
7 homeless populations by, you know, however many of
8 those beds we have. It doesn't show up anywhere.

9 COLLINS: Um-hum. I think that's a good point and something
10 that we can -- so we do track the permanent
11 supportive housing through our Housing Inventory
12 Chart which coincides with this, but, you know, we
13 don't usually present that data, but I think that it
14 would be something for us to think about moving
15 forward that we could do it in conjunction and be
16 presenting those, also and seeing how those numbers
17 are changing. Those systems should be in HMIS.

18 We should be able to collect the data just as we
19 do for emergency shelters and transitional housing.
20 So, I think, that's definitely something that we and
21 the Continuums could work to present in the future.

22 JESSEE: Okay. Well, (ph).....

23 BUTCHER: Shannon.

24 WILKS: (Simultaneous speech) to comment, the other data
25 that had -- hasn't been present in the past is -- it

1 was done for just Anchorage, but I think, it could
2 possibly be done for other shelters throughout the
3 State is look at those number of individuals who are
4 repeatedly coming to the shelter.

5 And then the shelters were also collecting the
6 numbers of people who were new who had never been
7 there before who are not in their data system. And
8 that gives an idea of how many new homeless people
9 even if they're there just for short periods of time,
10 but these are newly homeless people that have
11 experienced a period of time when they are
12 encountering the shelter system.

13 And that can go to look toward -- if you -- I
14 can't remember, it was in the -- several years ago
15 that this was -- and I tracked it over a period of
16 about six or seven years and you could really see the
17 number of newly -- new people into the shelters going
18 up steadily on a yearly basis. And because we're not
19 requiring that of the shelters at this point to give
20 us that information we really don't know how many of
21 these individuals are new to the shelter systems.

22 And potentially if the HM- -- if the Homeless
23 Management Information System could be looked at to
24 see if we can capture some additional information in
25 it now that it's under, you know, the State's control

1 and how we can really work with that system to give
2 us some real data that breaks it down into a little
3 bit smaller increment.

4 How many of these people are new, how many people,
5 you know, how long were they there, that type of
6 thing to just really, kind of, look at the Homeless
7 Management Information System to see what else we can
8 actually capture because that can drive strategically
9 where resources go and how agencies that serve
10 homeless individuals how they respond to those folks.

11 BUTCHER: Suzi.

12 PEARSON: Well, I would like to say, Jeff, if that's a
13 personal interest of yours maybe you should help with
14 the data priority. I think that.....

15 JESSEE: Okay, lesson learned there.

16 PEARSON: You bring it up every year, obviously it's
17 intriguing for you.

18 And as far as Point-in-Time I -- this always
19 happens in January for folks. And, of course,
20 January tends to be really cold for us. This past
21 winter in Anchorage we had a pretty mild winter, so
22 the whole 40 degree temperature in January it's very
23 possible, but it's frustrating that for Alaska that
24 it is happening in January.

25 I am very disturbed by the increase in the numbers

1 of unsheltered folks. I think that if we had this
2 information more timely, that Carrie would be able to
3 tell us why there are more unsheltered folks. And I
4 don't think you had complete numbers till last week.
5 And so if we had, had these numbers at least six (ph)
6 months ago, she might have been able to ask some
7 questions of some of the agencies, especially around
8 Anchorage, why.

9 And I would really like to -- I'm excited to hear
10 about Carmen and Scott talking about HMIS and that
11 sort -- them taking over as far as the Coalition, so
12 that's another thing that we need to make sure that
13 our data is coming in timely enough that we can do
14 some analysis so the Council can better understand.
15 This is not as helpful. To have some back data would
16 be -- or information would be very helpful.

17 And the other thing as far as numbers that I think
18 has been the most helpful for me as a Council member
19 have been the ones that have come from the Department
20 of Education. They're very consistent and very
21 thorough in how they count and they do unduplicated
22 numbers. And I think that, that's a significant
23 reflection of the homeless issue in Alaska because
24 family -- homelessness among families is one of the
25 biggest growing populations of homelessness in this

1 State.

2 And so I would like to request that at least in
3 the October meeting we get the prior year's school
4 data numbers and I think that, that would give us
5 time to get the numbers and as well as get some back
6 story on that so we would have a real conversation.

7 BUTCHER: Absolutely. Any other questions? Okay. Thank
8 you, Carrie.

9 I'd like to go to Item 2, Carmen, Anchorage
10 Coalition to End Homelessness.

11 SPRINGER: Good afternoon. Okay. Well, I will follow-up
12 with my piece on the Point-in-Time since we're on
13 that topic. I'm not going to repeat any of our
14 numbers since we just heard about it, but I will say
15 that we've done some work over the past two years to
16 try to address the methodology issue. A lot of it is
17 prescribed by HUD, so there's not a lot we can do
18 about the definitions, but we have been doing some
19 work with the outreach piece.

20 We are working both with our adult outreach and
21 specifically with our youth organizations to try to
22 firm up a methodology so from year to year we are
23 doing it in a consistent way.

24 We're also working with some of our colleagues at
25 UAA to get a objective perspective on how we can

1 carrie this out in a way that's replicatable, but
2 also consistent with what we are prescribed from HUD.
3 So we're pleased with the work that's been going on
4 so far. It is a multi-year process, but we do feel
5 that the data is getting better.

6 And it is frustrating, but I would encourage you
7 to remember that our Point-in-Time numbers are just
8 one of our numbers. It's an important number. It
9 does give us a picture into one day of homelessness
10 in Anchorage and in Alaska, but the other piece of
11 data in Alaska is what we get out of HMIS.

12 And so the second piece we're mostly going to hear
13 from Scott on, but is the transition of the system
14 administrator for our Homeless Management Information
15 System and that's been one of the main projects we've
16 been working on over the last few months. And so as
17 we look into the transition of that system, I think,
18 we'll be getting better access to information on an
19 ongoing basis.

20 And so with the two pieces that we can use in
21 tandem, both our Point-in-Time and our ongoing
22 census, as Shannon was saying, we'll be able to use
23 those pieces together and get a better overall
24 picture of what this looks like and that tells a
25 better story about what's actually happening on the

1 ground, so we'll hear from Scott about -- more about
2 the HMIS (indiscernible).

3 One of the other major projects the Coalition is
4 just in the beginning stages of embarking on is the
5 design of a coordinated entry system. This has been
6 brought up many times over several years using
7 different iterations of the same name, coordinated
8 access, consolidated entry. A lot of different
9 things, but it's got the same general idea.

10 The concept is that it's a system that's designed
11 to prioritize the most vulnerable people experiencing
12 or potentially about to experience homelessness and
13 to maximize the resources we have in the community,
14 so we are working with HUD TA.

15 We have a contractor who has helped design
16 coordinated entry systems in several communities.
17 And also in dialogue with peers, peer communities
18 across the country that are a couple years ahead of
19 us in designing these programs, looking at different
20 models and how we can put together a design team
21 within Anchorage to start the process of setting up a
22 system here.

23 You already heard about our community plan. I'm
24 happy to answer questions if you've thought of any in
25 the past couple of hours.

1 And we are hoping over the next few months to
2 recruit a landlord liaison position that will sit
3 within the Coalition.

4 The idea behind the position would be to have
5 somebody, hopefully with a property management
6 background, but somebody that can work on behalf of
7 all of the agencies within the community to form
8 relationships within the landlord communities and
9 really form a pool of stable units and landlords that
10 are open to working with our agencies and the
11 beneficiaries of the programs that we support.

12 Form lasting relationships and a better
13 understanding of what our programs are, the benefits
14 that come along with working with our individuals and
15 to doing outreach to people who may currently be a
16 little resistant to working with us.

17 And I believe Scott is also going to do a recap of
18 some of the joint work that most of the State
19 spearheaded through the Legislative Session, but we
20 did obviously support the SNHG and BHAP fund. We
21 also supported the passage -- or the work done on
22 behalf of SB-49. And the Coalition drafted and is
23 still supporting a resolution for the support of
24 expansion of Medicaid.

25 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Carmen. Do we have any

1 questions? Okay, thank you.

2 SPRINGER: Thank you.

3 BUTCHER: Scott, Scott Ciambor, Alaska Coalition on Housing
4 and Homelessness update.

5 CIAMBOR: Great, thank you. First, I'd like to thank the
6 Council for, you know, allowing us to present again.
7 And then also to participate again in our annual
8 conference in October. We think having the meeting
9 at the conference is key to getting our members
10 outside of Anchorage together and in front of you and
11 maybe we'll get some more public comment in years to
12 come.

13 But first, I'd like to recognize other Coalition
14 members in the audience, John Sperbeck, Sherrie
15 Hinshaw, and Jess Lederman in the back. Are there
16 any other Alaska Coalition members on line?

17 And then also on line a subject that we're going
18 to talk about in this presentation, too, is our new
19 HMIS system administrators. They may be listening in
20 today to get a feel for some of the concerns with
21 HMIS and start -- get a feel for how to make
22 improvements, so Dave or Adam or Julie, are you on
23 the line?

24 EBERBACH: Dave is on.

25 CIAMBOR: Great. Thanks, Dave, so I'll introduce you

1 shortly.

2 EBERBACH: Sure, great.

3 CIAMBOR: So in your packet from the Coalition you have your
4 power point presentation. You have the Coalition's
5 thoughts on the 10 Year Plan. You have the process
6 for the HMIS selection and the recommendation from
7 the joint Anchorage and Balance of State Committee
8 that looked into the HMIS transition.

9 You have a copy of a draft Balance of State
10 Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures that we
11 want to put into play for the Balance of State here
12 in the short future.

13 And then also mentioned earlier was some summary
14 pages on some advocacy that we did during the session
15 getting folks to understand the legitimate impact of
16 cutting the basic Homeless Assistance Program and the
17 SNHG funding from the budget and what that would have
18 meant to members across the State.

19 And so if you look at the first part of your
20 slide, this is really, kind of, geared to why we're
21 taking all the activities that we are. This is
22 pulled from the next round of the Continuum of Care,
23 they're registration NOFA and it talks about, you
24 know, the Continuum of Care.

25 And for council members that don't know two years

1 ago the Balance -- the Alaska Coalition on Housing
2 and Homelessness agreed to take over the management
3 of the Balance of State Continuum of Care Program and
4 so that Continuum of Care Program oversees every
5 grantee outside of Anchorage.

6 And typically it's about 11 or 12 grantees at
7 about \$850,000 a year for that program. And so for
8 many, many years it was really governed as kind of
9 that, as a program, you know. And, you know, people
10 apply, grantees get funding, you go on.

11 Well, in recent years HUD has -- requiring more of
12 Continuums of Cares in order to track progress and
13 gauge performance on how those funds are working in
14 the various Continuums of Care. And so two years ago
15 when the Coalition agreed to take this on, I don't
16 know if we clearly knew what we were taking on, but
17 it's a complex program and it covers the majority of
18 the State.

19 And so for the Council I wanted you to just
20 recognize some of the stuff that we're going to have
21 to address in the future and it's in your first
22 slide. So using performance and outcome data, CoCs
23 should decide how to best use the resources available
24 to end homelessness within the community including
25 the CoC Program, the ESG Program, state and local

1 funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream
2 service resources such as Medicaid and philanthropic
3 efforts.

4 And so as a Continuum of Care we're supposed to
5 address all of these in our applications every year
6 and these are basically all of the elements of a 10
7 Year Plan. And so this, kind of, goes into our
8 suggestions and comments in January that we really
9 would like to see the Council, you know, take this
10 activity and show us where we are going to plug this
11 information into the program that we have to apply
12 for every year.

13 The second slide, kind of, goes into some of the
14 details of what we've been working on specifically.
15 The Homeless Management Information System
16 administrator and technical assistance RFP. The
17 policies and procedures we'll talk about in a second.
18 The 10 Year Plan comments and the advocacy piece.
19 And so the big component is the Homeless Management
20 Information System.

21 As Jeff Jessee has suggested, there's been
22 questions and concerns about the accuracy, the
23 validity, you know, the process of doing the Point-
24 in-Time count, as well as the other functions that go
25 along that can be utilized in the HMIS system. And

1 both the Anchorage Continuum of Care and the State
2 Coalition have had this similar concern.

3 And so last year we had an outside evaluation from
4 Barb Ritter (ph) from the Michigan Coalition to End
5 Homelessness who put together a report on the system
6 for us to take a look at.

7 Based on those results, the State Coalition in
8 conjunction with the Anchorage Coalition decided,
9 look, we need to do a little bit investigation of our
10 system on our own. And so as you may remember
11 leading into our conference in September we had just
12 completed a user survey and got a lot of information
13 from users as to what was working and what wasn't and
14 where there was some gaps. And had some quality
15 dialogue at the conference and subsequently in the
16 month after about how to take that information and
17 put it into a work plan.

18 And so the work plan came out and identified, you
19 know, four basic areas of concern. One is it's a
20 business plan. You know, we didn't really know who
21 had licenses, who had art (ph) licenses and where
22 they were located around the State, as well as the
23 cost mechanisms and if we were getting as much out of
24 the system for the money we were putting into it, so
25 there was some business concerns.

1 There was also some concerns with the process, the
2 Point-in-Time count, you know, how information was
3 relayed and that came down to communication and
4 training gaps that we identified. And then also the
5 reporting and analysis.

6 One of the key concerns for Balance of State
7 communities with the system is that we've always got
8 data in congregate as the Balance of State CoC (ph).
9 Well, we're so spread out folks in Juneau don't
10 necessarily need to know exactly who's homeless in
11 Nome in order to solve their local problem, but we
12 couldn't extract that information from the system as
13 being administered, so stuff like that was addressed.

14 And so over the last six months the Anchorage
15 Coalition, the State Coalition have had some pretty
16 -- pretty delicate conversations about whether to
17 make a move, whether -- how big this problem was with
18 our current administrator. And finally came to a
19 conclusion about three months ago that we wanted to
20 make a potential shift.

21 A joint transition team, Kathi Trawver UAA,
22 Carmen, Dave Mayo-Kiely from the Anchorage side,
23 Balance of State with Sherrie, John, myself worked
24 through an RFP, were able to get three submissions as
25 of April 30th and through our ranking and selection

1 process decided on the Institute for Community
2 Alliance to be our next HMIS system administrator.

3 During the lunch time hour we're actually trying
4 to put together the final details of the contract so
5 that we can get it to them, but the goal is to have
6 them in place and helping to administer HMIS for the
7 State as of June 1, so we're super excited about
8 that.

9 And before I give it to you Dave for just a couple
10 words, the Institute for Community Alliance is a non-
11 profit organization based in Des Moines. They
12 provide HMIS training and support for Wisconsin,
13 Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska and Missouri homeless service
14 agencies.

15 One of the key targets for the RFP transition team
16 was to really reach out to them. Dave and Julie had
17 been to our conference three or four years ago and
18 had some engagement with our system so they were
19 somewhat familiar with Alaska. And so we are super
20 excited to get our contract finished and over to
21 Dave.

22 And, Dave, at this point if you just want to say
23 hi, we'll let you have it.

24 EBERBACH: Can you hear me okay?

25 CIAMBOR: Sure.

1 EBERBACH: Okay, great. I'll try to keep it brief, but I've
2 been doing this for a number of years and I still get
3 really revved up about this, so I'll have to try to
4 contain myself.

5 And just listening to the conversation, I've been
6 on since your public comment period and listening to
7 the conversation, I can already tell that your CoCs
8 process, the two CoCs, the people there in the room
9 are already more aware of the use of data than some
10 of the communities that we've been in for a longer
11 period of time, so it's really exciting for us to
12 here.

13 The energy that you have in spite of the
14 challenges that you've had over the last several
15 years of getting good stuff out of your system, the
16 fact that you're still excited about potential uses
17 for good data coming out of your HMIS.

18 We see ourselves a partner in this case. In some
19 of our jurisdictions, you know, we're there for the
20 long haul. In this case it's a shorter process to
21 assist you, but we're very excited to be there and be
22 of assistance to you as you transition through the
23 next several years.

24 And so we'll help out with Point-in-Time to a
25 certain degree. Some of that, the ground work that

1 you all obviously know that you have to do that we'll
2 participate as such as we can and then the real time
3 counts (ph) during the rest of the year and the
4 reporting that you have been seeking we'll be
5 focusing on starting June 1st.

6 CIAMBOR: Great, thank you, Dave.

7 BUTCHER: Do you have any questions?

8 PEARSON: I just wanted to say thank you to you and you've
9 done some amazing work here as has Carmen. And I
10 don't think that everybody realizes the extent and
11 the amount of energy that they invested and that
12 they're crew invested in making this happen. It was
13 a very, very fast turnaround.

14 Folks in the Anchorage Coalition challenged some
15 of the initial steps that were being taken and the
16 response from the group was really nimble and they
17 made it work and they got us a great provided. I'm
18 very excited to hear what we do with HMIS and what
19 comes out of this partnership. So, thank you, very
20 much for your work.

21 CIAMBOR: Yeah, thank you. And, I think, our transition
22 team are equally as excited. We had a brief
23 background meeting with Dave and his team on Monday
24 and we said, you know, we had -- you know, for
25 example one of our problems has been not being able

1 to break out our Point-in-Time count for the local
2 level and he's like oh, that will be taken care of by
3 the next time around, so I think that's great for us.

4 It's great for the Council and it's great for
5 communities who are either just becoming aware of
6 their homeless issue or are at a point where they're
7 prepared to deal with it, so I really am looking
8 forward to this partnership as Dave talked about.

9 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions? Okay. So thank you,
10 Scott and Dave.

11 CIAMBOR: So I have a couple more things.

12 BUTCHER: Sure.

13 CIAMBOR: Okay. And so, sorry, that -- that's number one.

14 The second thing is the Balance of State Continuum
15 of Care, there's a slide in there that just shows you
16 the huge geography that we're trying to manage this
17 program.

18 And so again, the importance of putting together
19 some draft policies for agencies in these communities
20 who are looking at Continuum of Care funds is for
21 them to understand the program, know whether it's a
22 program for them to invest in and to also help us
23 understand how these funds are used, how they're
24 performing in the Balance of State so that we can
25 keep those dollars coming in and from HUD.

1 And also the administrative burden for that
2 program is pretty substantial and so if and when
3 there are changeovers in leadership positions, they
4 won't be starting from ground zero for the next
5 administrator.

6 The 10 Year Plan, I think we talked a lot about
7 this, this morning. Again, you know, just re-
8 emphasizing that the work and the programming that's
9 going on the State and, you know, Federal level, you
10 know, we need to know that on the local level so that
11 we can pinpoint to it either for advocacy purposes or
12 to put into the grant programs that either individual
13 agencies or as a Coalition we're applying for.

14 So, again, education is the key. Education,
15 education, education. Although (ph) the 10 Year Plan
16 doesn't have to be exact even at a fifth or sixth
17 grade level, just so that we know where the
18 information is and what generally speaking everybody
19 in the State should be going for to end homelessness
20 here in Alaska.

21 With that said, too, you heard a little bit of
22 presentation from Sherrie Henshaw about the Technical
23 Assistance Collaborative. You know, our thoughts on
24 that is we've been very supportive of that process.
25 We tried to get a lot of -- as many agencies and

1 communities and interface with the consultants during
2 that process and realistically that seems like
3 information that should go into a 10 Year Plan.

4 You know, there should be a permanent supportive
5 housing section of any 10 Year Plan because that's
6 what's been coming out of the two CoCs for the past
7 few years. We need supportive housing in both CoCs
8 and it's the number one priority, so how are we going
9 to get that done.

10 And finally, again, the advocacy piece. Bryan
11 mentioned earlier about the agencies within the
12 Coalition really coming and stepping up once it was
13 recognized that the initial version of the budget
14 from the Governor did not include the basic Homeless
15 Assistance Program and the Special Needs Housing
16 Grant.

17 Special thanks to Covenant House, Catholic
18 Community Services, United Way of Anchorage, AWAIC
19 Fairbanks Rescue Mission, NEST, ACMHS, RurAL CAP,
20 Mat-Su Health Foundation, Glory Hole, Gastineau Human
21 Services and more, these are all folks who said set
22 up an interview, we'll be in Juneau. And they came
23 down as soon as we could get that scheduled in order
24 to explain exactly the importance of this funding to
25 the work that they do in their local communities.

1 Without that, sort of, in the room conversation with
2 Pat Pitney, I'm not so sure we would be, as Bryan
3 mentioned, in this favorable position of having that
4 stuff signed in yesterday, so special thanks to them.

5 But also, I think, a warning, you know, and
6 another reason to put together a robust 10 Year Plan.
7 You know, we're kind of -- our programs are hidden.
8 You know, there should have been no reason that we
9 were taken out of the budget in the first place if
10 people in the communities knew the value of the
11 agencies that we're working with.

12 So I think, you know, a 10 Year Plan can have a
13 preventive mechanism for us as well going forward and
14 just to make sure that it is understood that housing
15 and homeless services are key to the health of every
16 community. And with that I'll take questions.

17 BUTCHER: Okay. Does anybody have any questions of Scott?
18 Okay.

19 CIAMBOR: Thank you.

20 BUTCHER: Scott, and I'd like -- before you leave I'd like
21 to reiterate what you just said. The work you did
22 and Jeff and a lot of the people on the Council and a
23 lot of the people -- Carmen during the Legislation
24 Session was amazing and I can't even imagine where
25 we'd be without you.

1 Through the process of the budget almost
2 everything was at zero at one point in the whole
3 capital budget and then it looked like this was
4 coming back and then it was still at zero and then it
5 was back and then it was in limbo and it was finally
6 signed into law.

7 And so what our -- what AHFC's Board had approved
8 at the beginning of the process for the Homeless
9 Assistance Program was eight million. What ended up
10 being funded was 7.7 million which isn't exact, but
11 when you look at the rest of the State Capital Budget
12 it's an amazing number. I don't know that there are
13 others in Transportation, matching funds for Federal,
14 I don't know that you're going to see a program that
15 stayed intact that way.

16 The Special Needs Housing was at 1,750,000. It
17 ended up at 1.5, so once again it wasn't where the
18 process started, but it was much closer than almost
19 any other program which is -- this would not have
20 happened if it had not been for -- in fact, I think I
21 went to OMB one day and saw you in the meeting with
22 Pat waiting for my meeting Pat.

23 So it really took the education and letting folks
24 know, not just, you know, people at OMB, but also
25 Legislators and others what this program does. It's

1 important and just as importantly what would happen
2 if it didn't exist.

3 CIAMBOR: Yeah. There was a legitimate fear, shelter
4 providers were talking about cutting staff or closing
5 down, Housing First projects were in jeopardy, so it
6 was -- it was dire there.

7 BUTCHER: Yeah, and you heard -- there were some Legislators
8 that would ask the question to you when you would
9 talk to them about all of these looking for cuts in
10 the whole State budget, well, if we cut this out is
11 somebody going to die. And with most things in the
12 State budget the answer to that isn't obviously yes
13 because they're important State functions, but it's
14 not life or death. This is one that, that is the
15 answer and there aren't that many of them that,
16 that's the case, so I think that played a big role in
17 getting it back.

18 So I just personally wanted to thank you.....

19 CIAMBOR: I appreciate that.

20 BUTCHER:and everybody that worked because it made a
21 huge difference.

22 CIAMBOR: Thank you.

23 BUTCHER: Thank you, Scott. Going on to Item 4, John
24 Pendrey, Federal Program Update, Department of
25 Veterans Affairs.

1 PENDREY: Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to
2 give the update from the Federal Program from the
3 U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness primarily
4 HUD and the VA.

5 The first thing I'm going to cover on here is
6 under funding. On March 2nd HUD announced 7.7
7 million in Section 811 rental assistance to Alaska
8 Housing Finance Corporation. And DHSS to provide
9 permanent homes to 200 extremely low income
10 households and disabled persons.

11 May 19th HUD announced an award of 781,000 in HOPA
12 (ph) Program Renewal funding to the Alaska Housing
13 Finance Corporation to provide rental assistance and
14 supportive services to extremely low Alaska families
15 and individuals living with HIV and Aids.

16 February 18th and 19th the Anchorage HUD office
17 has a listening session for a HUD VASH expansion into
18 the Native communities for a demonstration program.
19 \$4 million is going to be awarded nationwide for a
20 pilot program expected to be published in the Federal
21 Register in June, about mid-June. What they're
22 hoping for is to have -- Tribes (ph) will have about
23 two months time to complete the applications and the
24 awards will be made in November of 2015.

25 April 20th in the ongoing effort to end Veteran

1 homeless, HUD and the VA announced nearly 65
2 million to help more than 9,300 homeless Veterans
3 find a permanent place to call home.

4 The rental assistance is provided to the HUD VASH
5 Program, HUD VA Supportive Housing which combines
6 rental assistance from HUD with case management and
7 clinical services provided by the VA. \$131,998 was
8 awarded to AHFC funding 17 additional VASH vouchers
9 throughout the State of Alaska bringing the total in
10 Alaska to 247. And just an add item on th- -- those
11 are currently being used at about 93 percent to
12 actually provide a roof.

13 HUD announced the 2015 NOFA for the Indian
14 Community Development Block Grant Mold (ph)
15 Prevention Re-mediation Program. The purpose of this
16 NOFA is to make awards solely for mold re-mediation
17 and prevention. The application deadline is 22, June
18 and the amount of funding available nationally is
19 \$12,400,000.

20 Under Indian Veteran Homelessness, February 27th
21 the Anchorage HUD office posted a Region 10 Mayor's
22 Challenge Form that included video conferencing with
23 other Region 10 offices. It was a three hour video
24 conference that included Boise, Portland, Seattle, as
25 well as people in the office in Pocatello and

1 Washington D.C.

2 The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the
3 status and the many tools that have been found most
4 effective in reaching out and serving homeless
5 Veterans in an effort to meet the challenge toward
6 ending Veterans homelessness by the end of calendar
7 year 2015. Formed as a part of a nationwide campaign
8 for the Mayor's challenge to end Veteran
9 homelessness, it was launched by First Lady Michelle
10 Obama at the White House in an event in August of
11 2014.

12 At this time Anchorage is the only community to
13 undertake the challenge of ending Veteran
14 homelessness by 2016. In Alaska the U. S.
15 Interagency Council Alaska Chapter has been
16 encouraging other communities to undertake this
17 challenge and we hope that this Council will also
18 encourage community partners to support the
19 challenge.

20 Under Fair Housing, May 14th, HUD announced an
21 agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage
22 resolving allegations that its zoning laws violated
23 the Fair Housing Act and other Civil Rights laws by
24 discriminating against people with disabilities.

25 Specifically HUD's complaint alleged that city's

1 zoning code imposed restrictions on groups with
2 certain disabilities such as the maximum occupancy
3 standards and fees which were not imposed on other
4 groups.

5 The agreement is the result of a HUD complaint
6 that was brought under the Fair Housing Act, Section
7 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the
8 Americans with Disabilities Act all of which prohibit
9 discrimination because of a disability. Anchorage is
10 subject to HUD's enforcement of all laws because it
11 receives Federal funds, financial assistance from
12 HUD.

13 The Municipality of Anchorage has updated the
14 Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing. A new
15 report dated February, 2015 was prepared by Sue
16 Fisson (ph) and funded by AMHT and the United Way of
17 Anchorage.

18 In addition to that some items specific to the
19 VA's efforts to end Veteran homelessness, right now
20 the Point-in-Time count shows that there's 130
21 homeless Veterans in Anchorage, 180 homeless Veterans
22 across the State. Of those there's 12 Veterans shown
23 as chronically homeless in Anchorage. This is down
24 substantially over previous years. It has not yet
25 been broken out for the balance of the State.

1 What this really means for the issue of Veteran
2 homelessness in Alaska, it's actually within reach to
3 not only -- for not only the Municipality of
4 Anchorage to reach a functional zero in Veteran
5 homelessness, but for the State of Alaska to
6 potentially be one of the very first states to reach
7 a point of functional zero across the entire State,
8 but what it would take is some real serious
9 partnerships across the State to do this.

10 One of the biggest challenges we have right now,
11 we have the numbers, the numbers look like they're
12 about right, but what we don't have is the names. We
13 can't get the names unless agencies are willing to
14 ask the Veteran for a release of information to share
15 those names and to actually come together as a
16 community, as a statewide or as a local community to
17 pull those names out so we know who we're talking
18 about. We know what their situation is because while
19 this count was done in January, we've housed an
20 additional 60 something Veterans in that -- in the
21 times between the time the count was done and now, so
22 are they the same Veterans or are they new Veterans
23 coming in.

24 What the Point-in-Time counts have shown us -- or
25 shown me between the 2014 and the 2015 counts, it

1 looks like we have a net gain of two homeless
2 Veterans across the State. Meanwhile in 2014 the VA
3 was able to move 134 individuals from homelessness to
4 permanent housing, so did 136 people come out of the
5 woods that we didn't know about or have we had 136
6 people come into the State.

7 Regardless of what the answer is, the issue of
8 ending Veteran homelessness ties to the communities
9 putting together resources that would allow us to
10 move people from homelessness to permanently house at
11 a rate that exceeds the numbers that are coming into
12 the State of Alaska.

13 And, I think, that is everything that I have. Any
14 questions?

15 BUTCHER: Any questions for John?

16 PENDREY: That was easy.

17 BUTCHER: Yeah. Thank you, John. Okay. Mark Romick,
18 Special Needs Housing and Housing -- Homeless
19 Assistance Program update.

20 ROMICK: Hello, again. So just to -- the purpose of the
21 update, what you have in your packet, I'm not going
22 to go through all the different detail, but just want
23 to, kind of, bring you up to speed on where we are
24 with the existing program and also to update you on
25 what happened with the Capital Budget which as Scott

1 mentioned the Mental Health Bill was signed this week
2 and so our Capital funds for these two programs have
3 been approved for 2016.

4 So right now we have a NOFA that is out and it
5 closed and we received a number of applications for
6 the 2016 money and so pending -- or since the budget
7 was approved we will be able to go ahead and complete
8 that process that we have out there.

9 And the funding round for the SNHG Program this
10 year was a total of \$5.2 million. And part -- most
11 of that -- or not most of it, but some of that was a
12 result of a partnership with the Municipality of
13 Anchorage.

14 The Municipality of Anchorage made available a
15 couple million dollars in Community Development Block
16 Grants and HOME funding that they had in hand and
17 also are scheduled to receive in their next funding
18 cycle for supportive housing. And so there was a
19 substantial amount of money available and we're
20 hoping to fund at least three or four applications
21 that we received this year and get those projects up
22 and running within the next 18 months.

23 With that Capital funding also will come operating
24 assistance for the program. And as the Council knows
25 from previous conversations we've been managing the

1 SNHG Program in conjunction with the Homeless
2 Assistance Program to, kind of, maintain consistency
3 over a three year period of time. And so in your
4 packet where it talks about the average grant being
5 \$2.2 million per project, that's over a three year
6 period of time.

7 And back, just to remind the Council, when -- and
8 the folks in the audience, when we started the
9 Special Needs Housing Grant Program in 2009 as a
10 collaboration between agencies, we made the conscious
11 decision not to allocate more funds than we were able
12 to realistically maintain in terms of projects. And
13 so we've been funding the operating assistance at
14 three year grants and so every third year there's a
15 fairly hefty renewal.

16 And so based on the way that we've managed the
17 program in collaboration with other partners over the
18 last five years, the \$550,000 reduction that both
19 programs combined took in this -- in the FY-16 grant,
20 we don't anticipate making much of an impact on our
21 renewal since -- so we'll be able to continue
22 renewing all of the agencies that we've made
23 commitments to. We'll be able to renew the agencies
24 we're going to make commitments to this year through
25 2026 assuming that the funding doesn't go below the

1 level it is now.

2 So we're obviously extremely excited about the way
3 that the Capital Budget turned out and the vast
4 majority of the SNHG and the HAP money being approved
5 in the '16 budget.

6 So coming up this year we'll be renewing a number
7 of grants that we've made in the past. There's five
8 operating grants that are set to expire on June 30th
9 that we'll be renewing with existing funding.

10 And then we'll be funding the -- making the awards
11 for the projects that we have in the application
12 process now. And we anticipate making that within
13 the next two weeks -- making that announcement. And
14 that it will be a combination of the State SNHG
15 funding, the Municipalities Capital Funding and the
16 Homeless Assistance funding.

17 And then on the Homeless Assistance Program this
18 is a renewal year for us and so those folks that
19 received grants last year, we'll be renewing them and
20 we're in that application process right now for those
21 renewals.

22 So that's, kind of, where we're at. We're, kind
23 of, in a status quo mode aside from this last funding
24 cycle that we're going through right now. And, as I
25 said before, we should have the decisions and the

1 awards announced within the next two weeks on those
2 projects.

3 If there's any questions I'd be happy to.....

4 BUTCHER: Does anybody have any questions for Mark? Okay.
5 Thank you, Mark.

6 ROMICK: All right.

7 BUTCHER: Okay. Cathy Stone, AHFC's Public Housing's
8 Director on an Update on Public Housing.

9 STONE: Thank you, Mr. Butcher. Good afternoon, Council
10 Members. A couple updates I'd like to give you
11 relevant to our homeless populations. I think over
12 the past few years in the Public Housing Division we
13 have found that we get the most success and usage of
14 our vouchers through partnerships. And so towards
15 that end over the past three years we have created a
16 number of partnerships throughout the State.

17 The benefit we have as the only statewide Public
18 Housing -- or one of the only statewide Public
19 Housing Authorities in the nation is that when we
20 make a partnership agreement with the Department of
21 Health and Social Services or the Department of
22 Corrections we can implement it statewide. And so
23 I'll just go through and give you some updates on
24 some of the set asides programs that we have that are
25 through partnerships with other agencies.

1 As Mr. Pendrey discussed we've had a lot of
2 success with the VASH Program. We are -- I think
3 we're recognized as the number four VASH Program in
4 the nation in respect to lease-up and these are for
5 homeless Veterans. And so we're very proud of that
6 statistic and with that success we continue to get
7 new allocations. And as Mr. Pendrey said, we just
8 got 17 new VASH vouchers about a month ago, so that
9 brings us to 247 VASH vouchers to administer
10 throughout the State.

11 We have a couple tenant based rental assistance
12 partnerships. One with the Department of Corrections
13 in our Prisoner Re-Entry Program. We currently have
14 49 leased and 50 allocated with an eye toward
15 expanding that into Anchorage through an additional
16 agreement with the Department of Corrections, again,
17 putting vouchers in that program.

18 We also have an agreement with the Office of
19 Children Services throughout the State for youth
20 aging out of foster care. It's a smaller program.
21 We only have 17 leased, but again, these are young
22 adults coming out of foster care that are case
23 managed by an independent living specialist and we're
24 hoping that they're finding success living on their
25 own through the assistance of the rental assistance.

1 Recently we just started our Moving Home Program.
2 It's just being launched. We have 11 families out
3 shopping and this is a direct referral from the State
4 of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,
5 again, our partnership with that agency. And these
6 families must be receiving supportive services. We
7 make sure that they're getting and usage of the
8 voucher is effective to meet their housing needs.

9 And then also towards a decision of partnerships
10 our FY-16 Moving To Work Plan this year has been
11 submitted to HUD. And the only activity we've asked
12 for is an expansion of the Housing First model.

13 Currently we only assist Karluk Manor in
14 Anchorage. We went into this a few years ago with
15 them and have been pleased with the success of that
16 program, the efficiency of the use of the housing
17 assistance, so we have gone back to HUD and said we'd
18 like to expand this realizing there's opportunities
19 in Juneau and Fairbanks and hoping that HUD gives us
20 that approval and then we can get some kind of RFP
21 out for them to, you know, submit a solicitation for
22 that.

23 And I think those are the high- -- oh, and the
24 Empowering Choice Housing Program. I'm looking over
25 at Ms. Pearson. And that's a collaboration with the

1 Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual
2 Assault, as well as the Council. And we have 181
3 Empowering Choice vouchers leased throughout the
4 State for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual
5 Assault that are in shelters that are given a
6 referral directly to -- from the shelter to us for
7 usage of these vouchers.

8 And I am free for any questions.

9 BUTCHER: Does anybody have any questions for Cathy?

10 KUPER: It has a little bit to do with supply and demand.
11 You mentioned and Mr. Pendrey mentioned the
12 additional vouchers. We have additional vouchers.
13 What do we need for housing stock to accommodate the
14 vouchers that you now have 'cause my understanding is
15 that we don't -- that even with the additional
16 vouchers there may not be housing available for those
17 people that could use the vouchers?

18 STONE: Sure. So what Mr. Pendrey was referring to was
19 the VASH vouchers and Mr. Kuper, you're correct, in
20 some locations throughout the State there are
21 challenges with using the vouchers.

22 And that's part of the benefit that we found with
23 the partnerships is that when you have hard to house
24 populations, giving them a voucher some times doesn't
25 mean that they're going to find a place, but if they

1 have an advocate or they have a case manager or
2 someone else helping them locate a home, the success
3 rate of actually leasing up with the voucher is much
4 higher than a typical voucher.

5 In respect to the Vash, you know, there has to be
6 the -- you know, and these other programs there has
7 to be a referral coming with them meaning that
8 there's someone who is recognized. This is a person
9 that we want to give this voucher to and we're going
10 to be, kind of, a partner with them in finding them a
11 unit.

12 So, you know, I think about 25 percent of the
13 vouchers that we issue in the regular Voucher Program
14 come back to us for various reasons not all of which
15 are not being able to find a unit. Sometimes
16 circumstances change or sometimes, you know, people
17 move in with someone else, but there is a certain
18 amount in certain communities where the availability
19 of affordable housing is not there.

20 KUPER: Thank you.

21 BUTCHER: And I think, Cathy, talking about how we're fourth
22 in the nation in utilization of our VASH vouchers, I
23 think that really does speak to the departments
24 working together to get the homeless VETs in, whereas
25 if the State were to just hand vouchers out like

1 Cathy had mentioned they're seeing very low
2 utilization rates and which we have been successful
3 in getting out (ph), but it is -- it's a challenge
4 and states are at varying levels of competence with
5 that challenge. Fortunately we are up near the top.

6 Any other questions for Cathy? Thank you.

7 STONE: Thank you.

8 BUTCHER: Okay. Carrie Collins and Sherrie Hinshaw, 811
9 Program.

10 COLLINS: Great. So Sherrie and I are very excited about
11 this new program coming to the state. So, I think, a
12 year ago, just over a year ago, DHSS and AHFC applied
13 for funding under the Section 811 Project Rental
14 Assistance Program.

15 And we were recently awarded funding under that
16 program, 7.7 million from the U.S. Department of
17 Housing and Urban Development with an additional 5.8
18 million in matching funds coming from --
19 substantially from DHSS and some from AHFC to put
20 together this program for 200 units of rental
21 assistance for 200 units of Alaskan individuals and
22 families experiencing disabilities.

23 And so I'm going to briefly touch on a couple of
24 the housing pieces and then Sherrie can chime in
25 with, kind of, supportive services side.

1 So AHFC is helping to coordinate owner or projects
2 -- I'll say implementation and projects and DHSS is
3 working with the target population and then helping
4 to get them into housing, also.

5 So some of the key things with this program is it
6 is -- it's available to low income or extremely low
7 income individuals between the ages of 18 and 61.
8 You can be -- you would be entering (ph) those ages,
9 but you can continue to remain in the program after
10 61, so there are some -- kind of, some age
11 limitations on that.

12 It is an integration program, so individuals who
13 can live independently, trying to get them living in
14 an integrated setting. So restrictions are that no
15 more than 25 percent of the units in a multi-family
16 unit are restricted to individuals -- serving
17 individuals with disabilities.

18 It is -- funding is not available for development.
19 It is strictly rental assistance, so it can go into
20 rehabilitated units, new units and existing units.
21 And we're going to start out with four, kind of, key
22 communities based on identified need from the target
23 population and so they'll be starting in Anchorage,
24 Fairbanks, Juneau and Mat-Su Valley and then if needs
25 are identified in other communities than it could be

1 expanded.

2 So I'll turn it over to Sherrie.

3 HINSHAW: Hi, Sherrie Hinshaw, Division of Behavioral
4 Health. And just to check in, Al Wall, are you on
5 the phone?

6 Okay. Well, I'll go ahead. So the target
7 population, again, is folks who are on State General
8 Relief Programs through the Division of Behavioral
9 Health. And I just wanted to recognize in the
10 audience Kelda Barstad with Senior and Disability
11 Services as the new Supportive Housing Lead from SDS.
12 Kelda, if you want to raise your hand. Fine.

13 So when we wrote this a year ago we had at that
14 time 650 people in assisted living. Now that's
15 closer to 700 because there were no other housing
16 options. And so what we had heard from the 811 is
17 that it was really being targeted to states (ph) who
18 were in Olmstad litigations and needing to provide
19 integrated housing opportunities. So we're really,
20 really glad that this was awarded.

21 DHSS put in quite a bit of funding into this
22 project, a little over five million for the first
23 five year ramp-up period and I think that goes to
24 show our commitment to housing and providing these
25 opportunities.

1 The average cost for one person on general relief
2 is about \$16,000 a year and that's not including
3 additional Medicaid support services. So our
4 internal estimates show that in the five years of
5 ramp-up starting with 60 people in the first year and
6 200 people -- you know, moving up to 200 people by
7 year four is that over that period we'll show offsets
8 in the General Relief Program of 11 million. So it
9 is an investment, but it's also a savings, too by
10 providing a lower cost, more integrated housing
11 opportunities. So we see this as a great way to
12 start moving the system in that direction of
13 community integration and appropriate housing
14 settings depending on the persons need.

15 So I just wanted to recognize Al Wall and then
16 Duane Mayes at SCS as being two big supporters of
17 this program and not just being a program, but a way
18 to integrate permanent, supportive (ph) housing into
19 what we -- into our business and what we do. And
20 being -- I believe this is the first time that DHSS
21 has put money into permanent rental subsidies and so
22 I just think that also shows that we're committed to
23 supportive housing.

24 COLLINS: Great.

25 HINSHAW: So we're open for any questions. It is very

1 preliminary for us, so we're still working through
2 all of the details, but we'd be happy to answer any
3 questions that you have.

4 BUTCHER: Okay. Any questions for Carrie or Sherrie?

5 JESSEE: I just want to say this is really a big deal and
6 it's been a great collaboration between AHFC and the
7 Department and this is huge. This is really going to
8 help a lot.

9 KUPER: Is this the first time there's been an 811 Program
10 in the State of Alaska?

11 HINSHAW: No, this is the first iteration of the new 811
12 Program, so the legacy 811 Program there are many
13 projects across the State that AHFC has funded and
14 I'll let Carrie jump in, but this is the new
15 iteration of the PRA, the project subsidy (ph)
16 scatter sites model. So the legacy program has gone
17 away and now it's this no more than 25th percent
18 community integration whereas before it was 100
19 percent, like, a six-plex and everyone who lives
20 there had a disability.

21 BUTCHER: And Jeff, kind of, said exactly what I was going
22 to say, which is if we didn't have DHSS and AHFC
23 working together on this, it never would have
24 happened. And only through this collaboration did we
25 get the 7.7 million and Alaskans are going to

1 benefit.

2 I just really wanted to thank DHSS for all their
3 work on this because it would not have happened
4 without you.

5 HINSHAW: And thanks to Carrie for leading putting the
6 application together, so.....

7 BUTCHER: I already thanked her.

8 All right. Well, we're a few minutes ahead of
9 schedule. Maybe we can take a five or six minute
10 break, stretch our legs before we finish the second
11 half of the agenda.

12 (Off record - 2:26 (p.m.)

13 (On record - 2:36 (p.m.)

14 BUTCHER: I'd like to call the meeting back to order. Let's
15 move to status report, Item 8, 10 Year Plan Update,
16 Suzi Pearson, please.

17 PEARSON: Okay. So during our work session that we had this
18 morning we reviewed the proposed 10 Year Plan and
19 looked at what we discussed as far as changing
20 direction quite a bit. And with that we talked about
21 some of the plans as far as what we need to do with
22 identifying the agencies. And one thing that came
23 from that is that the 10 Year Planning Committee is
24 going to meet on June 2nd.

25 We've already set a date 'cause I said I would

1 tell you all in three weeks. And we're going to look
2 at what it might look like to -- for different kinds
3 of agencies and who to be involved in those five
4 priority areas that were identified in the plan.

5 And then we're going to start calling everybody
6 and talked to them about the roles that we think that
7 they might be interested in. And Jeff is just with
8 his own free time going to do data. So there, I'm
9 trying -- I'll get us out of here by 3:00 o'clock.

10 BUTCHER:

Okay. I'd like to add I really appreciate the
11 work the subcommittee did. I feel like at the
12 previous Council meeting we talked a lot about how
13 there were some things we'd like to change and there
14 was a new direction we'd like to go, but then the
15 subcommittee actually had to work to then put
16 together, kind of, what we talked about in a not very
17 fleshed out way.

18 And, at least speaking for me, I think you are
19 absolutely on the right road. I think this is a
20 great start and I really appreciate the work you put
21 in 'cause things like that just don't happen between
22 meetings.

23 Does anybody have any questions or comments for
24 Suzi or Dave (ph). Okay, thank you.

25 All right. Sherrie Hinshaw, DHSS Supportive

1 Housing Strategic Plan.

2 HINSHAW: Hi, again, Sherrie Hinshaw. So, Al, are you on

3 the phone?

4 WALL: I am.

5 HINSHAW: Okay. We have Al Wall on the phone. And Patti

6 and Jim with the Technical Assistance Collaborative?

7 YATES: Hi, folks, this.....

8 HOLLAND: We are here (ph).

9 YATES: is Jim.

10 HINSHAW: I think we're turning up the volume, but we heard

11 that you are there.

12 So, Al, do you want to do the intro or do you want

13 me to go ahead?

14 WALL: You go ahead, please, and I will chime in as I am

15 able.

16 HINSHAW: Okay. So Sherrie Hinshaw with the Division of

17 Behavioral Health. And I spoke to some of you this

18 morning about a Strategic Plan effort we are

19 undergoing with the assistance of the Technical

20 Assistance Collaborative as the contractor. And just

21 to mention, we are also lucky that they are also the

22 contractor on the 811 Program for HUD that we gave an

23 update on earlier, so they're already becoming very

24 familiar with our State and then also helping

25 implement the 811 Program as well. So we're really

1 excited to get to work with them in this project.

2 So you should all have the slides in your packet.
3 (Indiscernible - away from microphone). So I'm going
4 to go ahead and run through the presentation and just
5 give an overview of the Supportive Housing planning
6 project and then leave some time for discussion from
7 the Council and the group.

8 And then also to give an opportunity for Patti and
9 Jim -- or at least Patti to talk a little bit about
10 TAC and the work they've been doing and then with AC
11 (ph) (indiscernible) in this project. They work with
12 quite a number of states on similar projects and
13 Olmstad plans, so they really do bring a lot of
14 experience on the intersection (ph) of housing and
15 health care that we can benefit from.

16 So basically some background on this, we started
17 with a conversation last August between DBH and the
18 Trust where we decided we could partner together and
19 throw in matching funds between the two organizations
20 because we really needed a way to streamline our
21 efforts and funding around supportive housing within
22 DHSS system, outside of the DHSS system and then with
23 our partners at AHFC and others in the community.

24 We have looked at funder (ph) collaborative ideas,
25 like, with the Special Needs Housing Grant between

1 the Trust and AHFC and how do we bring those to scale
2 (ph) essentially for the needs in the State.

3 Also, the CoCs have identified permanent
4 supportive (ph) housing as their number one need as
5 Scott mentioned earlier.

6 And the DBH grantees also at the last Change
7 (indiscernible) Conference which is when all of the
8 grantees in the State come together, they identified
9 supportive and transitional housing as their number
10 one gap in the service system, too.

11 So this is really becoming a priority and,
12 therefore, it became more important for us to look at
13 how we're creating integrated housing opportunities
14 and service opportunities for folks that are served
15 in the State.

16 Okay. So the scope of work with TAC is looking at
17 developing a strategic plan to, again, increase
18 supportive housing and integrated housing
19 opportunities for people served by the State of
20 Alaska. And part of that is looking at the existing
21 resources in State, local and Federal funding and how
22 that -- assess how that's leveraged and used and then
23 what, sort of, best practices and continuous quality
24 oversight to -- for consistency of projects can be
25 established in the State.

1 So that scope of work is through July and then we
2 also have a year add-on for -- to assist us with
3 implementations so a lot of that's going to be TA I
4 imagine around Medicaid refinancing in the State Plan
5 to support supportive housing activities, as well as
6 other strategies in the plan to assist us in
7 implementing those.

8 So if I could really breakdown the goal of this
9 plan it's to do a cross disability approach to
10 integrated housing and services so, again, this is
11 not just behavioral health.

12 So what are the services. Looking at it from the
13 beneficiaries perspective what are the services that,
14 that individual needs, the housing and services that
15 they need, those served by DHSS. What role can
16 Medicaid play in that and other funding. What
17 services are needed for non-Medicaid -- or what
18 (indiscernible) are needed for non-Medicaid services.
19 And then how best to restructure our system and
20 communications to carry out those strategies and
21 streamlining.

22 So in December the Phase 1 was awarded by the
23 Trust. Two months of off site planning from TAC to
24 become more familiar with our system. In March was
25 the first site visit.

1 April was the second site visit where Jim Yates as
2 their senior housing (indiscernible) came and met
3 more with housing developers, both for profit and
4 non-profit housing developers. May was continued
5 interviews over the phone.

6 Then the third and final site visit will be in the
7 first week of June and then drafting the plan.

8 So I mentioned this morning this is a pretty
9 aggressive timeline, but we felt like with what was
10 happening in the State around potential Medicaid
11 expansion and the fact that the majority of the
12 expansion population would be those who are homeless
13 and needing supportive housing services, that we
14 really needed to have a plan in place, as well as the
15 major reforms going on with the Corrections Re-entry
16 system.

17 So one of the things that this planning process
18 has really helped me understand is that supportive
19 housing is not just a program model or a program in
20 itself. It's a system -- it's a policy platform for
21 approaching your system and integrating that into all
22 of the different projects you do, like, at AHFC and
23 DHSS. We want to provide services in the person's
24 home (ph) and in the community, so it really is --
25 that model is a policy platform and that's how we're

1 approaching it with this plan.

2 So on the next one talking about the plan itself.
3 In carrying this out and making sure that we had
4 broad stakeholder input into it, we split it up into
5 four focus groups or work groups. One being the
6 housing utilization and maximization group which was
7 essentially funders (ph) of HUD. HUD, AHFC, the
8 Muni. We had the Coalition, the Trust, those who
9 fund housing development in the State.

10 We did have, also, United Way and we invited some
11 of the Regional Housing Authorities as well in that
12 conversation.

13 So how -- and that work group was really tasked
14 with how do we discuss and explore how to increase
15 affordable housing in the State.

16 The second work group was on supportive housing,
17 specifically eligibility and allocation. So for
18 those affordable housing units that are created and
19 prioritized for supportive housing, how are
20 populations -- how do they find those units, what's
21 the mechanism for that.

22 The third group was around service needs and
23 realignment, so we're looking at meeting with
24 primarily service providers on what services do you
25 provide. Where are the gaps. What do you need that

1 we can (indiscernible) or expand this.

2 And then workforce is looking at what are the
3 competencies (ph) needed for those staff who are
4 delivering the services.

5 So in carrying out this plan -- or this planning
6 process, I think what we've learned so far is we
7 started off with a small group that felt more
8 manageable with behavioral health providers and we're
9 really expanding it to all providers in the SDS (ph)
10 world. We're also going to be doing focus groups
11 with assisted living homes in June.

12 We also recognize that even though we had a first
13 meeting with funders and had invited the Regional
14 Housing Authorities which came, there really is a
15 very separate system for -- with the Regional Housing
16 Authorities and the Tribal Health providers. So the
17 strategies for rural Alaska are not going to be the
18 same as -- strategies and the funding is not the same
19 so we almost have to have two tracks in the plan. We
20 want to make sure that (indiscernible) and continue
21 that conversation.

22 The other thing we're really learning is there's,
23 you know, some -- some people might be asking well,
24 how does this fit in with the 10 Year Plan, is it
25 duplicative, is it the same, so the way that I'm

1 thinking about it and the way that TAC helped me
2 understand is that you have the disability Olmstad
3 population for those who are at risk of
4 institutionalization or are institutionalized, so
5 it's a broad disability group.

6 And then you have the homeless group and those are
7 almost two separate groups and tracking systems, but
8 they do overlap greatly, so it's really important
9 that we figure out how to align this with the 10 Year
10 Plan that you guys are working on and championing
11 through this Council.

12 As Carmen with the Homeless Coalition mentioned
13 them working towards a coordinated entry system, one
14 of the things that TAC has taught us, too, is that
15 some states are doing a coordinated entry type system
16 for that disability Olmstad population group so --
17 with the 811, so how do people access. Although the
18 811 is starting off with a very specific target
19 population, as time goes on and we expand that we'll
20 have to look at how do we recruit (ph) and prioritize
21 within that system.

22 So my last two slides we're talking about, kind
23 of, opening it up for discussion and I want to pivot
24 to Patti is how can this plan compliment what this
25 Council is doing.

1 And then, Patti, if you want to add anything from
2 your perspective.

3 HOLLAND: Sure, but I want to first see if Al has anything
4 that he'd like to add.

5 WALL: Yeah. Just -- so this is Al Wall. I'm the
6 director of the Division of Behavioral Health. And I
7 just wanted to add I think this is a tremendous
8 opportunity for the State of Alaska and for -- in
9 particular for services of homelessness across the
10 spectrum.

11 As Sherrie mentioned it is not a specific
12 Behavioral Health study. This is an assessment of
13 all housing, supportive housing and what's available
14 and what could be available. So I think it's a
15 tremendous opportunity for the State and I'm glad
16 it's underway and I'm anxiously awaiting the
17 findings. That's all I have.

18 HOLLAND: Thank you. Yeah, so this is Patti Holland from
19 Technical Assistance Collaborative. TAC is a, you
20 know, national, non-profit technical assistance and
21 consulting firm. We're relatively small comparative
22 to other firms.

23 We really do most of our work at that intersection
24 of affordable housing and human service systems for
25 individuals living with disabilities,

1 institutionalization and homelessness or at risk of
2 homelessness. And most of our staff come from either
3 the housing world or the services world. Most of us
4 have done some time in state government, if you will.

5 And TAC is also a consultant for HUD. We're the
6 consultant for the SSVF (ph) Program, so I was very
7 pleased to hear you speaking about Alaska getting
8 very close to being able to declare a functional zero
9 for ending Veteran homelessness. It's very exciting.
10 And we're glad to see that. SSVF can support that
11 mission.

12 So Sherrie, I think, overviewed it really well.
13 You know, I would just add that we try to present
14 states that are interested in really looking at HUD
15 increased access to supportive housing, integrated
16 models in a very actionable way.

17 We look at a cross disability population since --
18 you know, and Sherrie mentioned this, the individuals
19 that this Council is concerned with. Those who are
20 homeless, at risk of homelessness and those
21 individuals with disabilities often are the same
22 people. And the most vulnerable often cross all of
23 the systems.

24 They're in and out of homelessness. They're in
25 and out of institutions including hospitals and jails

1 and prisons and so we really want to make sure that
2 the system is grounded in recognizing that housing is
3 the foundation for a healthy Alaska.

4 And that services while voluntary should be as
5 individualized and appropriate to the person's needs
6 and so we try and create plans that -- that (ph) --
7 ambitious, but realistic targets for developing new
8 units and leveraging existing resources.
9 Coordinating and streamlining eligibility and access.

10 You have a lot of great work going on between
11 building your coordinated entry and the 811 Program
12 really creates a strong foundation, so we would want
13 to build on that, prioritizing and targeting the
14 populations that are most in need, most at risk so
15 that there's not separate silos of housing programs.

16 So I see the efforts that DBH is doing with this
17 strategic housing plan as very much being embedded
18 into your efforts towards the 10 Year Plan. We're
19 looking at creating a three year plan that involves
20 really looking at some of the most vulnerable
21 citizens, so I think we could embed a lot of what we
22 find and what we recommend as part of your action
23 steps in your plan.

24 And then we also take a look at as the system
25 moves towards a platform of supportive housing and

1 moving towards integrated, independent models what do
2 the services need to look like.

3 And then what is the work force development issues
4 that need to be addressed and acknowledged so that
5 staff really feel competent and capable of supporting
6 people living in the most independent and integrated
7 setting as possible.

8 So with that I would just open it up to questions
9 that you may have or comments.

10 BUTCHER: Okay. Does.....

11 HOLLAND: Sherrie, I don't know if there's anything you
12 would add.

13 BUTCHER: Any questions for Sherrie, Al or Patti?

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Am I on line?

15 BUTCHER: Go ahead, please.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Hello?

17 BUTCHER: Yeah, go.....

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, okay, I'm very sorry. This is Sue with the
19 Nome Emergency Shelter in Nome and I only was able to
20 join a little while ago 'cause we were doing a
21 screening that we couldn't reschedule.

22 And I just wondered -- now, I -- and I'm sorry to
23 be ignorant, but when you refer to -- is Section 8
24 housing this 811?

25 HOLLAND: No, no. So Section 8 housing is the Housing

1 Choice Voucher Program. And, Carrier, you might be
2 able.....

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, okay.

4 HOLLAND:to address (simultaneous speech).....

5 UNIDENTIFIED: No, I know what that is. What I'm wondering is if
6 as part of this 10 Year Plan -- I mean, currently
7 much -- all of Rural Alaska is ineligible for any of
8 the voucher programs including the VASH because we
9 don't have a Section 8 Housing office in -- you know,
10 in all of our small outlying communities. So is that
11 going to be looked at so that we can reach those
12 individuals in rural Alaska that meet all the
13 criteria?

14 HOLLAND: I could talk about the plans that Cathy is working
15 on for DBH and then the Council can talk about the 10
16 Year Plan.

17 So, one, I would love the opportunity to talk with
18 you. So, Sherrie, maybe you can help us connect
19 after this meeting so I can learn more about the
20 shelter and your services in Nome.

21 So yeah, we would be looking at, you know, where
22 are the resources and where are there not resources
23 'cause what these states have to do is they have to
24 start making very difficult decisions.

25 For example, in some states that are very diverse,

1 very rural with maybe small pockets of urban
2 populations, when the Human Service Department
3 whether the DBH or another department has a bridge
4 rental subsidy, for example, that they operate,
5 sometimes they'll look at those resources being
6 prioritized in areas or for people that don't have
7 access to other resources so that resources can be
8 leveraged across the state to all that need -- all
9 that needs in a -- in a way that's equitable.

10 So really would be looking at where are the
11 resources, where are resources needing and over the
12 course of the three year plan where does attention
13 need to be targeted to develop resources.

14 BUTCHER: Okay. Well, we have AHFC's Public Housing
15 Director Cathy Stone here. Maybe, Cathy, you can
16 comment.

17 STONE: Sure.

18 HOLLAND: Great.

19 STONE: So, you know, our Public -- our Voucher Program is
20 in 12 locations throughout the State. We have
21 approximately 4,600 vouchers spread around the State.
22 And it is true that we can't be in every location
23 where there are housing needs just because, you know,
24 the administrative cost associated with creating
25 separate voucher programs in every location would

1 make it, you know, unworkable. So we try to spread
2 around the vouchers as best we can in locations where
3 there are the largest number of people needing the
4 vouchers that we have.

5 And I do understand that Nome has been wanting some
6 sort of housing assistance. We do have public
7 housing in Nome, but it's family housing. It's two
8 and three bedroom units and -- so this was just an
9 individual that I know Nome has been struggling with
10 finding some housing assistance for him. We've put
11 them in context with the Indian Housing Authority up
12 here, as well as other resources to try and find some
13 assistance for -- for this person.

14 UNIDENTIFIED: No, and I appreciate the leads you've given me,
15 Cathy and I've pursued. I guess I just would like to
16 challenge the State and AHFC to create some new
17 models so that rural Alaska where there is a need
18 could get a per capita share and that might be one
19 voucher, but I mean, we're not at zero on our
20 homeless Vets. I can only get my homeless Vets
21 housed through Housing First grant because I can't
22 get a VASH voucher for him and that's a more
23 expensive way to go, so that's all.

24 I understand the current limitations, but I want
25 to keep arguing for a new model, that's all. And I

1 do appreciate, you know, the dilemma.

2 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you for your comments. That's
3 certainly something we'll take a look at. Thank you.

4 STONE: Thanks.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

6 HINSHAW: And Patti -- Patti, this is Sherrie. When we gave
7 a short overview of this earlier this morning one of
8 the things we ended on was how can we align our
9 planning efforts and had some suggestions or
10 possibilities in the power point in either someone
11 from DHSS co-staffing this Council to help bring that
12 together, a Council member joining the plan Steering
13 Committee, other suggestions that the Council might
14 have.

15 And I wanted to wait for that discussion for when
16 you could be here to talk -- if you could briefly
17 talk about how you've seen that structure or (ph)
18 most successful in other states. If you had any
19 ideas. And I don't know if that's a discussion that
20 we need to have or resolve today, but Patti, if you
21 want to just speak to that really quickly?

22 HOLLAND: Sure, I can just make some points and then it's
23 something for the Council to consider.

24 I mean, one of the recommendations that we have
25 for the strategic housing planning process is that

1 DBH create a Steering Committee, so one way that the
2 -- that planning process can stay connected to the
3 Council's 10 year planning process is to have a
4 member from the Council be also on that Steering
5 Committee because a lot of those members will also be
6 on the oversight committee for the HUD 811 project as
7 well.

8 And then in some states on the -- at a Governor's
9 level housing homelessness council staff from
10 different agencies have service staff, so perhaps
11 someone from DHSS and the housing and finance agency
12 can co-staff the committee -- the council to provide
13 support and to make sure that there's cross
14 communication and that there's updating on the
15 different planning processes.

16 So that, again, it's not separate planning
17 processes, but that it's joint planning process and
18 this way the planning that goes on really takes a
19 look at those individuals who are homeless or at risk
20 of homelessness, as well as those individuals who are
21 institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization
22 and, therefore, in danger of creating possible
23 Ulmstad (ph) issues for the State, that becomes a
24 joint planning process for all of the individuals
25 with the most serious housing and service needs.

1 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Any further questions? Okay,
2 thank you very much.

3 HINSHAW: Thank you.

4 BUTCHER: Alaska.....

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you for your time.

6 BUTCHER: Absolutely. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
7 Update.

8 JESSEE: Most of the items that we were going to talk about
9 have already been covered earlier in the day. One
10 thing I might add is, again, back to the re-entry
11 recidivism issues. There are a number of re-entry
12 coalitions around the State. The Trustees last week
13 approved \$500,000 to fund staff for five of the re-
14 entry coalitions and we'll be putting out an RFP for
15 that.

16 And I mentioned that here because we expect those
17 coalitions to be, in part, focused on housing issues
18 around people that are re-entering the community, so
19 I just wanted to put that out.

20 Otherwise, I think everything else has been
21 covered.

22 BUTCHER: Thank you. Council Member Reports and Discussion,
23 do any Council Members have any comments, anything
24 they'd like to bring up?

25 TAYLOR: This is Ron Taylor, the Commissioner for

1 Corrections. Next week we will be working on our
2 Prisoner Re-entry initiative and the Governor and the
3 Lieutenant Governor are co-chairing the Re-entry
4 Policy Council and then afterwards we'd have an
5 Implementation Steering Committee meeting.

6 Right now we've probably got about 50 people that
7 are sitting on the Implementation Steering Committee.
8 And it really is designed like Jeff was talking
9 about, focused on those five communities right now
10 that are actively involved in re-entry, so Anchorage,
11 Fairbanks, Palmer, Dillingham and Mat-Su and working
12 with community coordinators as they get hired so that
13 we could develop community assessments.

14 And not to do a new assessment, but really to make
15 sure that we're gathering all the information around,
16 substance abuse, housing, all the areas that are
17 going to impact re-entry and ensure that it's being
18 brought to bear so that we have a good understanding
19 of what's going on in the community.

20 And then we'll be working from there in terms of
21 ensuring that people are actually leaving the
22 institution with some connection to the community
23 prior to them leaving that institution and then doing
24 our best to keep them as successful when they're in
25 the community.

1 BUTCHER: Thank you. Any other comments?

2 PEARSON: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

3 TAYLOR: At the Dena'ina Center. Let's see, the Re-entry
4 Policy Council is 9:00 to 11:00 and then the
5 Implementation Steering Committee is 1:00 to 4:00 I
6 believe it is.

7 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Commissioner.

8 TAYLOR: No problem.

9 BUTCHER: Any other comments?

10 KUPER: I have just one or two comments. One has to do
11 with the recommendation that -- or planning alignment
12 possibilities about co-staffing the Council, our
13 Planning subcommittee has just really benefitted a
14 great deal from the staffing that AHFC has provided
15 that process.

16 And so I don't know if this is the time or place,
17 but I'd like to speak in support of that -- that
18 possibility because I think that while all of us as
19 Council Members are well intentioned, we don't always
20 have the energy and time resources to give to the
21 things that really have to take place. And so Carrie
22 was a real key part of our coming forward with a plan
23 to this point and I just see great strength in that
24 possibility.

25 The second thing that I just wanted to report to

1 the Council and it admittedly is in Anchorage a bit
2 of piece -- a bit of information, one of the groups
3 that I, as a member of the Anchorage Coalition To End
4 Homelessness, one of the groups that I'm part of is
5 the Beyond Shelter Steering Committee who eight years
6 ago committed -- it's a group of providers and social
7 service agencies that decided that it was not
8 acceptable that any family sleeps in an unsafe place
9 during the winter.

10 And so they -- over the years they've gotten
11 together and there -- today there are seven churches
12 in the City of Anchorage that have committed to
13 providing at least one night of emergency cold
14 weather shelter in the winter so that no family
15 sleeps in an unsafe place.

16 Someone commented earlier that the -- a real
17 concern about family homelessness and I just want to
18 give you a couple of statistics to confirm that
19 concern.

20 This past winter in Anchorage the Emergency Cold
21 Weather Sheltering System in churches provided 1,346
22 sheltered bed nights, that's 694 adult shelter bed
23 nights, 652 children. And that was made up of 82
24 unique families that at one time or another found a
25 need to find shelter in one of the churches that

1 signed on to do that with volunteers from their
2 organizations.

3 So the number of families that experience that
4 kind of homelessness is up. Last winter it was 56
5 families. This year it was 82. So just a little
6 report on something that doesn't show up in the
7 Point-in-Time data or HMIS for that matter, but
8 nonetheless it's a group of citizens that have
9 rallied together to ensure that one group of people
10 are ensured of a safe place to sleep.

11 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Dave. Anybody else?

12 JESSEE: Well, Bryan, what -- you know, the first part of
13 David's question was the co-staffing of this Council
14 and a member of this Council being on the permanent
15 supported housing group, what do we want to do about
16 that, anything?

17 BUTCHER: Well, we will -- you know, Alaska Housing is
18 always going to have strong staff presence for any of
19 these things at least, you know, while I'm sitting
20 here. It's one of our priorities and we will always
21 do what we can.

22 And so building from what AHFC provides is, kind
23 of, the way I view this, that any -- any opportunity
24 DHSS or others have is great, but we're always going
25 to the base to make sure that everybody gets the

1 information they need and that the programs are
2 administered and so that's my personal view about
3 that (ph).

4 The only other thing I have to add is that we're
5 certainly always reliant on our funding levels and
6 you never know what's going to happen when we get new
7 leaders in our State. And I just wanted to point out
8 that the new Legislature passed our programs at
9 almost 100 percent. Our new governor signed it into
10 law without taking a dollar from it.

11 And we have a new Mayor of Anchorage who has put
12 together a transition team and if you read in the
13 paper this morning, he has a homeless transition
14 (ph). And so I think that the acknowledgement and
15 understanding and awareness of this issue is about as
16 good as I've seen it from community, State leaders in
17 quite some time. And, I think, that's heartening
18 because in this time of lean finances it's going to
19 be really, really difficult and building off what
20 we've built is going to be integral (ph). And I --
21 we just -- at this point in time things are about as
22 good from that perspective as I think they can be
23 (ph).

24 PEARSON: As far as co-staffing, I'm wondering since DBH
25 brought up the suggestion, was there some interest in

1 DBH being a part of the co-staffing for the Council
2 or is that something that would have to be discussed
3 with the higher ups or.....

4 WALL: If I may, yes, we would be interested (ph).....

5 PEARSON: Hold on there's -- Al, you're -- can you talk
6 louder?

7 BUTCHER: Yeah, hold on a second, Al, let's get your volume
8 up.

9 WALL: Yeah, I'm having some technical difficulty on my
10 end as well, so my sound keeps cutting in and out.
11 However, yes, we -- DBH would be interested in
12 serving on that.

13 BUTCHER: That would be great. That would be great.

14 PEARSON: Okay.

15 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you.

16 PEARSON: Cool. So that solves that.

17 JESSEE: And then do we want to designate -- I mean, some
18 of us are already involved with the permanent
19 supportive housing. Do -- is there a feeling we want
20 to designate a person? I'm trying to figure out what
21 you guys want to do.

22 BUTCHER: What we want to get done right now?

23 JESSEE: No, whether we want to designate a Council Member
24 as the official liaison, is that what you have in
25 mind? I'm not really clear what you're.....

1 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, that's something your Steering Committee
2 (indiscernible).....

3 KUPER: So, Jeff, are you talking -- there's the last
4 planning alignment slide, the possibilities
5 (indiscernible) to the Council?

6 JESSEE: Yeah, the Council Member joining PSH (simultaneous
7 speech).....

8 KUPER: Council Member joining the PSH (simultaneous
9 speech).....

10 JESSEE:which is Permanent Supported Housing.....

11 KUPER: Yeah.

12 JESSEE:Planning and Steering Committee.

13 HINSHAW: Well, on the break earlier I was talking to Mark a
14 little bit about when TAC is here and with Kevin
15 Marcel (ph) in June and pulling together a few people
16 from the Council, but I think if there was one
17 designated person that could carry that message
18 forward and back to the group, I think that would be
19 helpful or you could have, you know, Bryan or Mark
20 potentially from the housing perspective and the
21 Trust as a major funder and (indiscernible) and then
22 Ron Taylor with the Correction focus.

23 I think those are really key players in the
24 Steering Committee establishing -- which we haven't
25 established yet, so I think we need to establish the

1 Steering Committee at this point before -- as we try
2 to pull together some draft recommendations. That
3 way the Steering Committee can look at what TAC has
4 pulled together and make a decision about what they
5 want to keep and carry forward or not, so I don't
6 know if that answers your question specifically. I
7 think (simultaneous speech).....

8 JESSEE: Well, it, kind of, does. I mean, if you're
9 looking for somebody to, sort of, have the
10 responsibility of reporting back from the Steering
11 Committee, you know, I'd be willing to do that. I
12 think it might be better to have somebody else on the
13 Council that isn't already as involved as the Trust,
14 but if no one else wants to volunteer I'm happy to do
15 it if that's what we're after.

16 PEARSON: Maybe we should wait until they do have their
17 committee gathered and then (simultaneous
18 speech).....

19 JESSEE: I mean, the more Council members that can
20 participate the better.

21 PEARSON: Right. And once you've gathered that together
22 make sure that we -- we are aware and we can -- as
23 Dave and Shannon and the staff and I designate
24 people, we can talk about that (simultaneous
25 speech).....

1 JESSEE: Okay.

2 BUTCHER: Yeah, I don't -- I don't feel like I have -- I
3 don't feel like I have -- know enough to know which
4 direction to point my finger (ph).

5 JESSEE: Yeah, I hear you. All right.

6 KUPER: I think there's a possibility that a member of our
7 Planning Committee might be the person that could
8 perform that,.....

9 JESSEE: There you go (ph).

10 KUPER:but I -- but I don't want to mention any
11 names.

12 BUTCHER: All right.

13 HINSHAW: I guess if there are Council Members who are
14 interested you can just let Carrie know or e-mail me,
15 but we'll be meeting over the next months to try to
16 establish that Steering Committee at DHSS and then
17 reach out to some other senior members
18 (indiscernible).....

19 BUTCHER: Okay. Thanks, Sherrie. All right. Any Other
20 Matters to come before the Board? All right. I'd
21 like to remind everybody mark your calendars, the
22 next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,
23 October 13th. We're doing it in conjunction with the
24 Coalition On Housing and Homelessness' Annual
25 Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage.

1 So with that we are adjourned.

2 (Adjourned - 3:17 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3 STATE OF ALASKA) ss
4

5 I, Suzan K. Olson, Notary Public in and for the State
6 of Alaska, residing at Anchorage, Alaska, and Electronic Reporter,
7 do hereby certify:

8 THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING of the
9 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE**
10 **HOMELESS**, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 20th day of May,
11 2015, commencing at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the offices
12 of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, 4300 Boniface Parkway,
13 Anchorage, Alaska, pursuant to Notice;

14 THAT this Transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a
15 true and correct transcription of said Public Hearing, taken by
16 AHFC and thereafter transcribed by Suzan Olson;

17 THAT the original of the Transcript will be lodged
18 with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation;

19 THAT I am not a relative, employee or attorney of any
20 of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
22 affixed my seal this 5th day of June, 2015.
23
24
25

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 08/01/15

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
05/20/15

