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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
10/13/15



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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:30 p.m.)

BUTCHER: Thank you, everybody. I'd like to welcome everybody to the Alaska Council on the Homeless, our fall of 2015 meeting. Carrie, do you want to take a roll call.

COLLINS: Okay, perfect. So let's start at the bottom of the list. Dave Kuiper?

KUIPER: Hi, I'm here.

COLLINS: Hi. Reminders for anyone who is going to speak or testify, push your button on the mic to turn it on and then you just push it to turn it off when it turns red, you're good to go. Great.

I think Shannon Wilks is not here. Judith Crotty is not here. Olen Harris?

HARRIS: Here.

COLLINS: Betty Svensson?

SVENSSON: Here.

COLLINS: Great. Commissioner Folger?

FOLGER: Here.

COLLINS: And Al Wall sitting in for Commissioner Davidson?

WALL: Here.

COLLINS: Sarah Emmal sitting in for Commissioner Hanley?

EMMAL: Here.

COLLINS: Ron Taylor?

TAYLOR: I didn't know I could have a stand-in.

1 COLLINS: Jeff Jessee?

2 JESSEE: Here.

3 COLLINS: Great. And Bryan Butcher?

4 BUTCHER: Here. And.....

5 COLLINS: Oh, I'm sorry, Suzi Pearson?

6 PEARSON: Present.

7 BUTCHER: All right, thank you. This is the second time we've
8 been able to combine our Council Meeting in -- during
9 the period of time with the Alaska Coalition on Housing
10 and Homelessness' multi-day conference. And we're very
11 happy that it's given us the opportunity to sit in on
12 what's going on in your conference and you've been able
13 to join us on ours. We really appreciate that and
14 we're happy that you're here.

15 We also, near the end of our agenda, will be getting
16 to our review and adoption of Alaska's Plan to End Long
17 Term Homelessness that we have put a lot of work in on
18 the interim between our spring meeting and now. Suzi
19 Pearson and Dave Kuiper in particular, but the whole
20 group has put a lot of time in on it and it's, kind of,
21 a little bit of change of direction of how we've gone
22 previously.

23 We're trying to look more towards the future and
24 being inclusive and not as much on, kind of, looking
25 back, so it's the first step of what we see being a

1 very fluid, multi-step, ever changing plan on how to
2 address homelessness in Alaska.

3 So with that I would like to open up Public
4 Comments. I don't know, do we have a sign-up sheet
5 or.....

6 COLLINS: We do have a sign-up sheet. There's no one who has
7 indicated that they'd like to testify, but if you
8 missed the sign-up sheet, you definitely can come
9 forward and.....

10 BUTCHER: Yeah, if --.....

11 COLLINS:testify now.

12 BUTCHER:if anybody would like to testify, please, give
13 us your name and your affiliation and we'd be happy to
14 hear from you.

15 FREEMAN: Hello, my name is Melinda Freeman and I'm the
16 Director of the Municipality of Anchorage Health and
17 Human Service Department. And I just want to address
18 the Governor's Council. Thank you all for your
19 efforts, what you're working on throughout our State.

20 And I just want to take a few moments to encourage
21 you to consider both the Medicaid expansion which has
22 passed, but also to look very thoughtfully and
23 carefully at Medicaid reform, the gains we have made in
24 housing and our partnerships with the Muni, with the
25 Mental Health Trust, with the State and the various

1 Departments within the State of Alaska. We won't be
2 able to maintain those gains in the operations of these
3 housing programs without the use of Medicaid.

4 So I very much appreciate any efforts that have --
5 that you have initiated on that behalf, but beyond the
6 expansion we need to look at Medicaid reform. And we
7 need to look at additional opportunities to be able to
8 ensure the safety and security of people, vulnerable
9 populations that are living in these Housing First
10 programs or various other types of affordable housing
11 that need additional services.

12 Without the Medicaid reform and being able to bill
13 Medicaid for these safety and security measures, et
14 cetera, we won't be able to sustain the operations of
15 these programs.

16 So I encourage you to look at that very carefully as
17 the Council and to see what State agencies and
18 partnerships we can expand to work on Medicaid reform.
19 Without it, we won't be able to operate these programs,
20 so thank you for this opportunity to talk with you
21 today.

22 BUTCHER: Thanks, Melinda. Do we have any questions.

23 JESSEE: Yeah. Melinda, as you know the Department of Health
24 and Social Services has a contractor that's looking --
25 helping them look at Medicaid reform. There is a

1 public engagement process that's ongoing with that.

2 FREEMAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

3 JESSEE: Have you been engage with that? Do you feel like
4 you have had an opportunity to be pretty specific in
5 recommending what particular reforms would be necessary
6 to support housing?

7 FREEMAN: I will be -- we weren't engaged, but we will now be
8 engaged with the process, so yes, several people have
9 reached out to us at the Muni and we will be actively
10 participating and giving feedback and requests and
11 recommendations, um-hum.

12 JESSEE: And the other place you may look is the Legislative
13 Budget and Audit Committee has also -- I'm sorry, I'm
14 going to back up. I think it's -- yes, the Legislative
15 Budget and Audit Committee chaired by Representative
16 Hawker has also retained a contractor to look at
17 Medicaid reform.

18 I'm not sure they will have as a robust a
19 stakeholder engagement process as the Department's
20 effort, but I would urge you as you hopefully write
21 down what it is that you think needs to be done in
22 reform, that you get that also to the
23 Legislature's.....

24 FREEMAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

25 JESSEE:consultants because I think that would be

1 helpful as well.

2 FREEMAN: Okay. So all of you out there have your marching
3 orders. Thank you.

4 BUTCHER: Any other questions for Melinda? Thank you.

5 PETERSEN: Hi, thanks for the opportunity to be with you. My
6 name is Kenny Petersen. And I had come up before and
7 have lots of ideas and I realize that there's one that
8 I had started with six, seven years ago that I needed
9 to come back to and I shared it with you last time, but
10 I thought I'd just mention it again.

11 I'm also a lay minister, Bishop for our church,
12 Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints and as such I
13 administer funds for helping those who are in need. My
14 particular assignment at the moment is done
15 geographically and so I cover downtown Anchorage and
16 midtown Anchorage including Fairview and so I feel a
17 personal responsibility for the folks there.

18 In our church the way that we take care of folks is
19 through a process that's called a fast and fast
20 offerings. Once a month, usually the first Sunday of
21 each month, the members of the congregation, as well as
22 of the church locally and well as the church worldwide
23 go without eating for two meals that day. We call that
24 the fast.

25 And then we give what's called a fast offering. I

1 thought that everyone in the world knew about this and
2 then I looked it up in Wikipedia and it says a practice
3 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, so
4 I thought I'd explain it. Is that every month when
5 someone comes to the church they go without eating and
6 they give an offering in an envelope of a fast
7 offering. We have that money that's available for me
8 to use if someone comes for housing or food or any
9 other assistance and it's just a general fund that's
10 done locally.

11 If I run out of money, the contributions are not
12 enough from our church members in our congregation we
13 can use that which is for a group of 10 congregations
14 or thereabouts in our north Anchorage which is called
15 a stake and so use those funds and share those funds
16 among ourselves. If that's not enough I have access to
17 the worldwide fund that's able to be used.

18 And so I wanted to express that as a way that costs
19 the government nothing more. No one has to budget for
20 it. Would require a sacrifice of a day of experience,
21 if you would, and so I would invite both locally,
22 statewide, wherever, the same practice that we would
23 create a general fund that would be able to be used
24 where folks are actually asked to sacrifice to give up
25 two meals maybe once a month. We do it the first

1 Sunday of each month and to have a general fund that
2 would be used for -- strictly for help.

3 The practice comes from Isaiah 58 and it talks about
4 is this not the fast that I have chosen in verse 6. Is
5 this not the fast I have chosen to loose the bands of
6 wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens and to let the
7 oppressed go free and that you break every yoke.

8 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, that thou
9 -- that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy
10 house when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him
11 and that thou hide not thyself in their own flesh. And
12 there's a lot of promises that comes, so just wanted to
13 suggest that we might have a general fund, that we
14 might offer that as a solution for funding when maybe
15 government money goes down some. Thank you.

16 BUTCHER: Thank you, Kenny. Do we have any questions? Thank
17 you.

18 TAYLOR: Actually I do have one question. Are you connected
19 to the Re-entry Center?

20 PETERSEN: The Pathways for Progress, is that (ph).....

21 TAYLOR: Partners also with the Anchorage Coalition.

22 PETERSEN: I'm not associated with the Coalition, though I'm an
23 absolute fan of what they do, as well as Kathleen and
24 others down at the Pathways down on Third or Fourth
25 (ph) Avenue.

1 TAYLOR: All right. We'll need to get you connected with the
2 Re-entry Coalition then.

3 PETERSEN: Thank you very much.

4 TAYLOR: All right, no problem.

5 BUTCHER: Thanks, Kenny. Next agenda item, we're a little
6 ahead of schedule, Update from the Alaska Coalition on
7 Housing and Homelessness.

8 TAYLOR: Oh, I'm sorry, there's still some more public
9 comment.

10 BUTCHER: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

11 STEINACKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

12 BUTCHER: My apologies. Come on up, please.

13 STEINACKER: Hi, my name is Sue Steinacker (ph) and I'm a -- just
14 recently stepped down as the part time Director of the
15 Nome Emergency Shelter Team or NEST.

16 And I'm not as sophisticated at all of this as a lot
17 of these other folks are, but I felt like this was an
18 opportunity to just let you know how desperate things
19 are getting in rural Alaska, particularly western
20 Alaska.

21 In Nome we're just 3,600 people, but because of the
22 high cost of shipping that housing -- it costs more to
23 build than a building will appraise for, therefore, the
24 banks don't want to loan. It's a very poor economic
25 investment for someone to make and we have virtually no

1 housing stock. What we have, much of it is very
2 substandard and very expensive because renovation is
3 also terribly expensive.

4 And what this is creating is besides people barely
5 hanging on and moving in and out of homelessness or
6 doubling and tripling up -- I mean, we have families
7 who have to spread their kids out to other families.

8 We also -- much of our homelessness in Nome is
9 driven by alcohol. I think per capita we might claim
10 to be the alcoholic capital of Alaska and yet we don't
11 have a local alcohol treatment program yet and we have
12 no sober housing.

13 We don't -- we seem to have all of the problems, but
14 far less of the programs and resources to deal with
15 them, so we're actually, I suspect, feeding a certain
16 number of people into programs in larger areas.

17 The other problem this creates for Nome, we have a
18 number of positions opened at the hospital, opened at
19 the regional non-profit and other entities in town.
20 The School District spent six months trying to get a
21 financial officer. People will not move to Nome
22 because they know there is no housing available, so we
23 are losing capacity to solve the problems that we have.

24 I can assume that this is a problem for other small
25 communities as well. I don't expect you to have the

1 answers. I just wanted to keep it on the table.

2 BUTCHER: Yeah. Thank you very much, too. We are absolutely
3 aware of the problem and you're right, it's all over --
4 actually it's all over Alaska as a whole, even some of
5 the larger areas we have real shortage of housing and
6 of -- folks that are in need, but it's especially acute
7 in rural Alaska.

8 And is it something we're working on, but you're
9 right in that there's not a quick fix to it. And we
10 are in tight fiscal times, but we're absolutely
11 working, collaborating much like this Council does to
12 try to determine how best we can deal with these
13 issues. Thank you.

14 STEINACKER: Thank you very much.

15 JESSEE: Are you still out in Nome even though.....

16 STEINACKER: Oh, yes.

17 JESSEE:you're not working for NEST?

18 STEINACKER: Oh, yes. No, I've been there and will remain
19 there,.....

20 JESSEE: Great. Well, the.....

21 STEINACKER:definitely (ph).

22 JESSEE:Trust, as you may know, sponsors a rural
23 outreach trip every other year and this year November
24 3rd through 5th we'll be in Nome and some of the
25 surrounding villages.

1 And this particular trip is built largely around the
2 Criminal Justice Commission because of the emphasis
3 being placed right now on the prison population and the
4 need to get a handle on that.

5 One encouraging thing is that the Legislature in
6 large measure has began to really understand that to
7 support people coming out of prison, they need housing,
8 they need employment and they need support for
9 recovery.

10 So on that November 3rd through 5th trip, I hope
11 that you'll watch for opportunities to engage both the
12 Criminal Justice Commission members that will be on the
13 trip and others. In fact, some of the members of the
14 Commission -- of this Council will be on that trip as
15 well.

16 You know, as Bryan says, there's no quick fix to
17 this, but we know that to be successful in these other
18 initiatives, housing is absolutely critical to coming
19 up with solutions that will work in rural Alaska.

20 So, please, engage as much as possible and make sure
21 folks on that trip are well aware of the needs not only
22 in the hub of Nome, but in the surrounding villages as
23 well.

24 STEINACKER: I will. And I haven't left NEST entirely. I've
25 stepped back further, but to particularly focus on

1 housing issues, while the new Director focuses on
2 keeping our emergency shelter going and just getting up
3 to speed, so.....

4 JESSEE: Great.

5 STEINACKER:I remain engaged with the problem.

6 And thank you to the Trust, you've been -- you've --
7 able to help us in ways that we wouldn't be able to
8 help people otherwise, so thank you.

9 BUTCHER: Okay. We have another question here, Sue.

10 WALL: And may I just throw out there as well, the November
11 3rd to the 5th visit of the Trust to Nome area would be
12 a good opportunity to engage on the issue substance
13 abuse, treatment recovery in that area as well.

14 STEINACKER: Excellent.

15 WALL: I would be very interested in engaging in that
16 conversation.

17 STEINACKER: I will make sure that those -- it has been an effort
18 for a while through Norton South Health Corporation,
19 but we all work together and we will all be there.
20 Thank you.

21 BUTCHER: Do we have any other questions for Sue? Okay.
22 Thanks, Sue.

23 STEINACKER: Thank you.

24 ROSE: Good afternoon. My name is Dave Rose and I'm the
25 coordinator for the Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and

1 Homelessness. And I'm on the Committee and the
2 Coalition for Mat-Su Re-entry Coalition as well -- Mat-
3 Su Re-entry Coalition.

4 And I just wanted to take a minute as a public
5 comment to say thank you. As I look around this group
6 I realize we're touching base with many of you already.
7 And the leadership you guys provide, the data you are
8 able to get and the funding you have and the vision you
9 have is essential. I could start naming names, but I
10 won't because just -- I just generally want to say we
11 appreciate what you do.

12 We're going to throw some stones every now and then,
13 we're going to make some noise because we want some
14 attraction. We need to raise the awareness of our
15 issues and you already know them and I understand that
16 and you understand where we're coming from. And it's
17 not often, though, that we get a chance to say thank
18 you, so on behalf of the Mat-Su Valley thank you. And
19 expect to hear from us.

20 BUTCHER: Thanks, Dave. Do we have any questions? Thanks.
21 Anybody else?

22 Okay. Scott.

23 CIAMBOR: Hi, good afternoon, I'm Scott Ciambor. I'm the
24 Chair of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and
25 Homelessness. I have some presentation packets for

1 you. Sorry, I'm a little late to getting it -- in
2 meeting the deadline to Carrie, but thank you to Oscar
3 for printing 'em and bringing 'em in.

4 So first, the first message is welcome and thank you
5 for being a part of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and
6 Homelessness annual conference. It's been fantastic so
7 far and I'm thinking these folks will back it up.

8 And so we're really excited to have this partnership
9 in place and continue to do it in the future. It's
10 great to have the opportunity from folks all around the
11 State to engage with the Council, so we really like
12 that.

13 The presentation I just handed you is just a quick
14 overview of the Coalition. One of the things that we
15 recognize that we haven't done in a number of years is
16 just, kind of, review what our goals and purpose for
17 the Coalition is. And so I have a bunch of slides that
18 I gave earlier in the conference that discuss that and
19 so I just want to go over that with you guys as well.

20 So the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
21 is a statewide organization working to develop
22 affordable housing -- develop strategies to increase
23 the availability of affordable housing and eliminate
24 homelessness in our great state.

25 And so as we understand terminology, you know, that

1 might mean different things to different people and so
2 on the second graph, second page you can see, kind of,
3 a table that, kind of, looks at the scope that we're
4 interested in monitoring and improving in local
5 communities all around the State. And so it's
6 everything from, you know, the
7 homeless/social/prevention outreach services,
8 behavioral health services we're concerned with for the
9 homeless.

10 The continuum care, the emergency shelters,
11 transitional housing, permanent supportive housing
12 units all around the State including assisted living,
13 public housing, workforce housing.

14 And then one of the things that we want to make
15 clear, too, on the local level is we're really
16 concerned about the fair market as well. We know a lot
17 of our programs don't work if the fair market is not
18 healthy. There's not vacancies available for folks who
19 are using vouchers or for rental assistance.

20 And so we're really concerned with putting tools in
21 the hands of communities to have a dialogue about this
22 full spectrum of housing that realistically every
23 community needs to address and so that's our goal.

24 The next slide you see that, you know, the sub-
25 populations obviously within that realm we're concerned

1 about addressing as well and it's, you know, the
2 elderly, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic
3 violence and the typical sub-populations that most of
4 our groups and local communities are addressing.

5 And so, again, just reiterating how can we put tools
6 in the hands of communities, even reluctant communities
7 to began addressing these because it's a long term
8 issue and it needs to be addressed consistently and so
9 how can we support communities in doing that.

10 And so we've come up with realistically since -- in
11 the last five years, kind of, three key areas where
12 we've been focusing on. One is data and we've
13 presented to the Council before the initial barrier for
14 a lot of local communities is that they're not
15 addressing housing because they're going to various
16 different housing sources and not data sources and not
17 having a consistent housing data language.

18 Collaboration, obviously we hear about that
19 consistently whether it's through the COC realm and
20 then also on the Federal and State level, you know, the
21 need for agencies and local communities to collaborate.
22 And then the other one is financing.

23 And so just to review these quickly, I think, the
24 Coalition has had great success in collaborating the
25 last year and a half over the Alaska Housing Management

1 Information System.

2 Both the Anchorage Continuum of Care and the Alaskan
3 Coalition Balance of State Continuum (ph) really
4 analyze the need to get better data out of the AKHMIS
5 system and have put a new contract in place with the
6 Institute For Community Alliances to try and provide
7 that information.

8 And so that's going to be fantastic 'cause not only
9 will it provide the Council with better information,
10 but individual agencies will have access to their data
11 to be more proactive on making sure that housing and
12 homelessness are addressed in their community, so we're
13 really excited about that partnership.

14 The other piece is the general Housing Data. Again,
15 going back to one of those initial slides with the
16 whole spectrum, we need to have that data laid out for
17 communities and easily accessible for all of those type
18 of housing components. And so encouraging the Council,
19 encouraging housing partners to come up with a way to
20 make it easier for communities to do so whether it's
21 through the Comprehensive Plan or through its stand
22 alone housing data website.

23 The collaboration piece, one of the updates for the
24 Coalition is we want to be able to facilitate more
25 collaboration and so we currently have an announcement

1 out looking for to hire an Executive Director. So if
2 you have candidates that you think are great
3 communicators and interested and compassionate and can
4 lead this Coalition moving forward, we are looking for
5 that perfect candidate and hoping to have a hire in
6 place in the next month or two.

7 I've already mentioned the statewide AKHMIS
8 improvements as a piece of collaboration.

9 The other program in the purview of the State
10 Coalition is, kind of, helping to manage the Continuum
11 of Care Program. And that's a HUD program that puts
12 out about 850, \$900,000 a year to balance the State
13 communities in the areas of emergency shelter,
14 transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

15 These a lot of planning requirements that go along
16 with that program, so I've worked heavily with Carrie
17 Collins on putting some policies and procedures in
18 place so it's a little bit more transparent as to how
19 that program is operated in the Balance of State.

20 So one of the things Carrie and I discussed at,
21 perhaps, the next Governor's Council meeting, perhaps,
22 I can put together a slide show on what that program
23 really means and what's all involved in organizing that
24 just 'cause it act- -- the planning parts of the -- for
25 the program need to involve agencies that aren't (ph)

1 funded through that program, but if they're not funded
2 through their program it's very hard to get them to
3 engage in the planning component of it. So there's
4 going to be some statewide dialogue around that, that
5 we could use assistance with going forward.

6 The other key piece that's happened in the last year
7 and we're encouraging the Coalition to help continue in
8 the dialogue is the Legislative advocacy over programs
9 that are important to keep our shelters and
10 transitional housing and permanent supportive housing
11 programs up and operating.

12 Obviously the basic Homeless Assistance Program and
13 the Special Needs Housing Grant are key components to
14 that and so trying to determine going into this
15 Legislative Session, you know, how can we be proactive
16 and make sure that, that funding is kept in the budget
17 for the programs that currently exist.

18 The other piece of collaboration that we encouraged
19 our Coalition moving forward is to present here at the
20 Council and to be sure that we make public comment on
21 items and activities that come out of the Council.

22 One of the things that we commented on last year was
23 the 10 Year Plan, so we gave our comments in January.
24 We've taken a look at the revised edition that you're
25 going to discuss today and while, you know, it is the

1 next step in the evolution of the plan, we would also
2 revert back to our original comments in February to,
3 perhaps, make it a little bit more robust.

4 When we talk about collaboration on the local level
5 we are really instructing agencies to be very
6 transparent and open about where funding sources are,
7 what's coming next, what are the plans and intentions.
8 And we really think that there could be that level of
9 detail added to the State 10 Year Plan, so we're
10 encouraged.

11 Perhaps -- and perhaps that's not even the vehicle
12 for doing that. Maybe it's a different type of
13 education, but going back to that original spectrum of
14 housing, we just need information on what all these
15 programs look like for every community in the State, so
16 what does the Moving Home voucher look like a year from
17 now.

18 You know, the DOC has a lot of prison re-entry
19 initiatives, so what does that look down to the local
20 level to, say, a Nome or a Ketchikan. So we're really
21 looking for more information that in our original
22 comments we asked for to be included in the plan more
23 as an educational tool.

24 And so I think for the Council it can be either, you
25 know, amend the 10 Year Plan to include that or find

1 other mechanism for us to get that data and information
2 so we can work with it and get it into advocates going
3 forward.

4 The other piece and we're really super excited that,
5 I think, about five years of trips to Washington D.C.
6 has warranted us with some attention and so earlier
7 today Senator Lisa Murkowski was able to talk to the
8 group and that's something that Coalition members have
9 been working on for a long time.

10 We've often said in our message to the delegation in
11 D. C. that, you know, the Federal budget often times is
12 what it is and there may be limited opportunities to
13 help our cause, but our main -- their main influence
14 could be actually in State by coming and saying that
15 affordable housing is important to all communities and
16 Senator Murkowski delivered that message today, so
17 we're super excited to get that level of engagement in
18 our concerns.

19 And then the final piece of statewide collaboration
20 that we're working on, again, is just being in this
21 building making sure that there's great participate
22 among networks all around the State.

23 We are an industry that is -- needs to collaborate.
24 And as we stated at last year's conference, it's more
25 of a priority to communities than has been addressed in

1 the past, so I think we're making strides there with
2 this conference, with the Council, with engagement of
3 the City Mayor and, you know, just constantly educating
4 folks even with K20 and 360 North here today.

5 And the final piece, without the data, without the
6 collaboration, you know, the financing piece, the
7 infrastructure level type of investment that we believe
8 is needed to get 650 units of permanent, supportive
9 housing to bolster continuum of cares in communities
10 where, you know, those resources don't exist, needs to
11 happen.

12 And so continuing to talk about -- and maybe,
13 perhaps, the data is the piece that gets more local and
14 government dollars into the projects, maybe it is a
15 push for a State housing trust fund which would cover
16 that entire spectrum of housing need that we know, so
17 just encouraging, again, more dialogue, more use of
18 data and more influence to get the resources to build
19 housing in Alaska.

20 And so that is, kind of, the overview of where we
21 stand today as a Coalition and I'm -- yeah, I'll take
22 questions if you have some.

23 BUTCHER: Sure, thank you, Scott. Do we have questions?

24 I'd like to make a comment and then somebody else
25 can jump in after me, but I just wanted to thank you,

1 Scott, for all the work you have done not just
2 improving the collaboration between all of our agencies
3 and the Coalition, but bringing us all together, the
4 Legislative advocacy.

5 I've been chairing this Council for a couple of
6 years, but I've been involved with it as a Staff person
7 since the very beginning and I feel like even though
8 there's a lot of work left to do, we're much further
9 along now than we ever have been before. And it's not
10 a situation where collaboration between all of us is
11 the most responsible way to move forward, it has to be
12 the way we move forward.

13 And in particular with tight budget situations, we
14 don't have a choice of not all working together and
15 making sure everybody is educated and knows what the
16 other is doing and what potential possibilities exists
17 in other areas that we're not even aware of, so that's
18 certainly something we're going to continue to do.

19 CIAMBOR: Great.

20 JESSEE: Yeah, I'd echo Bryan's thanks for that, you know, it
21 was a brutal session down there. And I think it's fair
22 to say without the support of the community it wouldn't
23 have been able to salvage that funding 'cause it
24 definitely was out of the budget at one point,.....

25 CIAMBOR: Yeah.

1 JESSEE:so that's great.

2 As to the plan, do you have specific language that
3 you've submitted to amend the plan to make it more
4 robust, as you say?

5 CIAMBOR: Yes. So, I think -- and, again, I would revert to
6 the comments, you know, we submitted in February and I
7 can't think of them off the top of my head, but the key
8 thing was just being very clear about the roles of each
9 agency in housing.

10 Even going as far as, you know -- obviously, you
11 know, Rasmuson Foundation is a heavy funder of
12 affordable housing projects in the State, you know,
13 including that, sort of, a funding piece in that plan.
14 Like, you know, what is that role if there is any. So
15 just a little bit more specificity about, you know, how
16 these programs line up and how it looks in the future.

17 I think we both, the Anchorage Coalition and the
18 State -- Balance of State Coalition have recognized the
19 supportive housing deficit is huge.

20 I mean, I think we only have 200, 210 units in the
21 Balance of State. And so the pipeline for permanent
22 supportive housing creation, you know, what does that
23 look like especially in communities that are just
24 trying to get momentum towards permanent supportive
25 housing in their own community.

1 I think on the State level we can back that up
2 'cause we as the experts know that, that's what's
3 needed by doing a couple of things. You know, getting
4 it in writing that permanent supportive housing is the
5 best proactive, this is how the State plans to go on
6 about it.

7 And then to communities how you can access that by
8 being -- you know, these are the specific funding
9 sources which had made it happen in the past.

10 I think, you know, one of the foundations of the 10
11 Year Plan is let's put the framework together and then
12 the communities will have their influence to put into
13 it themselves.

14 Well, our experience is that communities don't have
15 that expertise at the moment and are looking for it and
16 so a basic framework just isn't enough to get the
17 dialogue going on the local level. And so that's what
18 we want to do, again, going back to the aim of the
19 Coalition, data, tools, information in the hands of the
20 communities so that they can fight the good fight on
21 their own terms.

22 JESSEE: And then Melinda Freeman very perceptively pointed
23 out the opportunity around Medicaid reform to actually
24 get more funding support for supportive services.

25 CIAMBOR: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

1 JESSEE: And, you know, there are a couple of these
2 contractors out there, the Department's got one,
3 Legislative Budget and Audit has one. Have you guys
4 thought about how to weigh in, in those processes so
5 that Medicaid reform can address these housing support
6 issues to the maximum extent possible?

7 CIAMBOR: Yeah, I think -- you know, one of the things that,
8 you know, with the hire of an Executive Director we
9 want to be able to get into these broader subject areas
10 that affect our population, but what we do have this
11 afternoon is an Emergency Shelter Forum where we're
12 going to talk about the exact approach to not only the
13 BHAP and SNHG going into the session, but, again, you
14 know, what about Medicaid, what are the opportunities?

15 How can we get more education to shelter providers
16 who work with the population. And then do we need to
17 do -- you know, kind of sign up activities or what
18 needs to transpire to help people on the very local
19 level,.....

20 JESSEE: Okay.

21 CIAMBOR:so nothing specific.

22 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions for, Scott? Thank you.

23 CIAMBOR: Great, thank you.

24 BUTCHER: Thanks for all your work, Scott.

25 COLLINS: He's on his way.

1 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Mayor Berkowitz is next. We're a
2 little ahead of schedule, so he is not here.

3 Carmen, should we shuffle this a little bit and jump
4 down to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
5 Update from Carmen Wenger.

6 WENGER: Good afternoon and I appreciate the Council's
7 continued willingness to allow the Anchorage Coalition
8 to share our progress with you.

9 I spoke earlier today about the wonderful
10 collaborations that have made the Coalition successful
11 over the past year and I would just like to reflect
12 that to this body. There's been some wonderful work of
13 agencies coming together to be able to produce the
14 things that we've been able to do this year.

15 The first thing would be the plan which is the first
16 document in your packet. We were able to form a
17 partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage and
18 combined our planning process this year to have one,
19 five year community plan. I believe you saw a draft of
20 it when I presented in May.

21 The draft in your packet was the draft that went out
22 for public comment. Public comment closed last Monday
23 and we did not receive any comment, so this should be
24 the draft going forward that we hope will be approved
25 and moved to the next level at the HCOSH (ph) meeting

1 on Wednesday.

2 So you guys are getting it just before we are, but
3 what I would like to note in the plan is that we made
4 a concerted effort to use the framework that's laid out
5 in the State plan. I believe the intention behind that
6 was that local plans could feed up into that and that
7 is what we tried to do.

8 So we did have five themes, the same as the themes
9 in the State plan of housing development, prevention,
10 supportive services, education and advocacy and data.
11 So while trying to remain within the framework of the
12 State plan, we also tried to incorporate all the
13 elements of the Federal plan of Opening Doors, so we
14 tried to maintain consistency at (ph) the local level.

15 We also appreciate the collaboration we've had with
16 the State Coalition over the past year with our efforts
17 with HMIS and moving to our new contractor. We have
18 been getting very positive responses from the users in
19 the community.

20 And the next step that the Coalition is going to
21 take is our Data Committee is going to start meeting to
22 analyze what information as an aggregate we can be
23 providing to the community that we can make more
24 visible that will both help educate the community, as
25 well as inform public policy.

1 And I would be happy to take input from the Council
2 if there are things that you would find valuable or
3 that we could assist in getting to you through that
4 process.

5 Also as the -- one of two Continuum of Care in the
6 State, we are in the competition process at the moment.
7 We have been doing some work before the competition
8 opened. And now that it is open to make sure that
9 we're moving to a more evaluation and monitoring base
10 system.

11 So we're trying to stay in line with HUD's
12 priorities and HUD's recommendations to move more
13 towards outcome based and so we are making our effort
14 at that this year and we hope to refine it over the
15 coming year of the competition.

16 And the final thing I'd like to share with the
17 Council is our new efforts around coordinated entry.
18 If you've had the opportunity to join us at any parts
19 of the conference, you'll have heard that discussed,
20 but we have brought together a design team that makes
21 up representation from different priority populations
22 within the community and service providers.

23 And we are going to be working over the next nine
24 months to a year to create a system that can help us
25 both prioritize the most vulnerable and most

1 efficiently use the resources in the community.

2 BUTCHER: Thank you, Carmen. Does anybody have any questions?
3 Okay, Jeff.

4 JESSEE: Well, of course, I always do. So who is responsible
5 for actually carrying out and implementing this plan,
6 how does that work?

7 WENGER: It's currently shared jointly between the
8 Municipality and us. We -- as we went through and
9 tried to design the plan, we -- it was important to us
10 to have a relatively short narrative section that could
11 be accessible by people who may or may not have
12 experience in the homeless world, but the -- one of the
13 Appendices is the grid framework that we worked off of
14 for drafting what most of our goals were and we did our
15 best to include three things we thought were really
16 important.

17 The first one were the responsible entities. And
18 then we also had the financial information that we knew
19 that it would take to implement it. And the fiscal
20 impact, if it (ph) would be positive or negative if it
21 were implemented. So we did try to capture the
22 specific parties responsible for each individual
23 outcome and it's in the Appendices.

24 JESSEE: Okay. And I feel like a little bit of a broken
25 record on this, Medicare reform is potentially a

1 significant game changer in terms of being able to
2 provide the support services particularly given the
3 Medicaid expansion and the State budget fiscal issues,
4 have you guys thought about weighing in on that issue
5 with either the Department's contractor and/or
6 Legislative Budget and Audit contractor or Legislators?

7 WENGER: We have, at this point, not done anything
8 practically, but I believe it's something that our
9 Coalition would be interested in.

10 We did have a resolution in support of Medicaid
11 expansion. And I know quite a few of our members have
12 very specific tangible ways that they believe that
13 Medicaid reform could impact their ability to bill for
14 their services, so I believe it will be something that
15 we take into consideration.

16 JESSEE: Yeah. I'd really encourage everybody to hurry up
17 with that because there is deadlines coming up for
18 these contractors to have recommendations by the end of
19 the calendar year, so things are marching on really
20 quickly and this could be a huge opportunity that we
21 don't want to miss.

22 BUTCHER: Thanks, Jeff. Any additional questions? Okay.
23 Thank you, Carmen.

24 WENGER: Thank you.

25 BUTCHER: I see we have the Mayor, Mayor Berkowitz. Welcome.

1 MAYOR: Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to be here
2 even though I think that your mission should be to do
3 your job and disband. At your pleasure, Mr. Chair.

4 BUTCHER: Yes. Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

5 MAYOR: Okay.

6 BUTCHER: Mayor, we're very happy to have you here and we
7 really appreciate the increased focus you've brought to
8 the issue of homelessness in Anchorage and we're very
9 interested in hearing what you have to say.

10 MAYOR: Thanks very much. Well, I'm going to keep my
11 comments relatively brief right now because what I
12 really want us to be able to do is forge the kind of
13 partnerships that are necessary for us to make the
14 maximum use of the resources that the Municipality and
15 the State have available to us, as well as working in
16 conjunction with the non-profits and any other agencies
17 that have a role to play in helping resolve an issue
18 that I think we can and should take care of.

19 Most of you know that Nancy Burke is our Homeless
20 Coordinator. She is the one who is going to tell me
21 exactly what to do, but I wanted to make sure that I
22 was able to outline the Municipality's perspective
23 moving forward and see if we could possibly answer any
24 questions so we could do what's necessary and create
25 the action items moving ahead.

1 Our basic formula is that we need to make sure that
2 there's affordable housing and available social
3 services for those who need it. I mean, we all have an
4 understanding of the number of people that are
5 chronically homeless, as well as those who are in
6 transitional need, but we have the capacity to help
7 address that situation.

8 And to that extent we're very appreciative that
9 Medicaid expansion makes it possible for us to get some
10 of the funds or recover some of the funds that are
11 necessary to address the issue.

12 We hope that the ability to expedited vouchers,
13 housing vouchers will speed up as we get more
14 accustomed to asking for and making use of them.

15 And I've had discussions with the Commissioner of
16 Corrections on this next point before, but to the
17 extent that it's possible for us to have some kind of
18 re-entry from Corrections before people are released,
19 that would be most helpful for us because all too often
20 folks who are released wind up on the street and caught
21 in an ongoing cycle which doesn't serve them well or --
22 and also impedes our ability to deliver a safe, secure
23 community.

24 And our perspective is that if you look at a place
25 like Utah, they've been able to make substantial

1 strides and if they can do it there, we can do it here.
2 And that's the end of my presentation.

3 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Mayor. Any questions?

4 TAYLOR: I feel like he's called me out already.

5 MAYOR: I just -- there's something -- through the Chair,
6 there's something that we can do and we can make.....

7 TAYLOR: Absolutely.

8 MAYOR:and we can make some real progress on that.
9 And to the -- the more we can show progress on this
10 front, the better we're going to be able to be.

11 TAYLOR: We certainly look forward to working with you,
12 Mayor, on this and we'll take care of you. We'll hook
13 a brother up.

14 MAYOR: Okay, thank you.

15 BUTCHER: Jeff.

16 JESSEE: Well, I do have some familiarity with your homeless
17 coordinator and I appreciate that she's now there
18 telling you what to do. I think you will understand
19 that now I am rudderless.

20 MAYOR: Well, from her perspective one of us has lost her
21 wits, but I'm not saying which one.

22 JESSEE: But I do still get directive texts and e-mails so
23 I'm not totally on my own, but really appreciate your
24 emphasis in this area. We were really pleased to be
25 able to partner with the Municipality.

1 We agree that we think that there's a lot that can
2 be done and that we intend to do in partnership with
3 the Municipality. And really appreciate your
4 leadership on this. And we'll just have to roll up our
5 sleeves and get to work.

6 MAYOR: There's an imperative to act and we need to act on
7 that imperative. We have an imperative because it's
8 the morally responsible thing for us to do. We cannot
9 as a civilized society just stand by while people die
10 on our streets. When we have the capacity to provide
11 services and don't provide them that's a morally
12 unacceptable choice. Neglect is not an acceptable
13 course for us to follow.

14 But secondly, in these fiscal times it makes
15 incredible fiscal sense for us to actually do something
16 about the issue because it will save us money.

17 JESSEE: Well, I appreciate that, but you know, all these
18 efforts start with really great leadership and, you
19 know, Bryan has certainly been providing that from AHFC
20 in his tenure and here with the Council and appreciate
21 you providing that at your level as well.

22 MAYOR: Well, thank you. And I appreciate the role that
23 each one of you provides in making sure that this issue
24 doesn't fall by the wayside and that we are prepared to
25 act together to make a difference.

1 BUTCHER: We look forward to working with you, Mayor. I think
2 we all have the same mission on that. I think I can
3 speak for everybody on the Council.

4 MAYOR: Thank you.

5 BUTCHER: Thank you.

6 TAYLOR: Thank you, sir.

7 BUTCHER: Thanks. An update from the Department of Education
8 and Early Development. Is.....

9 EMMAL: Right here.

10 BUTCHER: Oh, I'm sorry, you're are, Sarah.

11 EMMAL: I'm sitting up here, it's okay.

12 BUTCHER: Yup.

13 EMMAL: I want to thank you all for letting me come and
14 speak with you. I am the Homeless State Coordinator
15 for Homeless Education. I am the new Kay Streeter.
16 Some of you may have known her in the past.

17 I'm just going to give you a quick update on what
18 our numbers were for the '14/15 school year. These are
19 preliminary numbers. The reason being is with the
20 shift to the new Statewide Summative (ph) Assessment,
21 the new assessment, we were unable to unduplicate (ph)
22 the numbers as deeply as we would have and we will get
23 that done before we, you know, report to the Feds so
24 it's just, kind of, at a standstill at this moment.

25 With that being said, I work with the McKinney-Vento

1 Homeless Assistance Act. It was re-authorized --
2 sorry, it was re-authorized under NCLB (ph) as Child 10
3 Part C and each state has a homeless state coordinator
4 and every district has to have a homeless liaison.

5 And so I, kind of -- my role is I teach them the
6 definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act
7 which is different than HUD's definition and so they
8 will then serve the kids and help make sure that they
9 are enrolled in school, that they stay in school and
10 that they have equal access and stability.

11 And so in the packet there are some graphs after the
12 last document, so the second document a while in (ph).
13 It starts with these green graphs. This time around I
14 did different graphs than what Kay did in the past
15 'cause I wanted to really show you the history of the
16 numbers, so you can see I started back in 2004 to
17 2014/15 school year.

18 And last year we had about 4,019 students who were
19 considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act.
20 These are the ones that were enrolled. That doesn't
21 mean that we didn't identify kids that were maybe
22 babies that were siblings, so these are just the kids
23 that were prekindergarten through 12 grade.

24 Aa for the national numbers for -- the most recent
25 numbers I have are for the '13/14 school year because

1 they're typically a year behind what we have and for
2 the national numbers there were 1.36 million students
3 identified as homeless.

4 The next graft is how many districts identified
5 homeless students. Last -- for the '14/15 school year
6 only 22 of the 54 school districts identified homeless
7 student.

8 My role is to really make sure that the children are
9 being identified and there is a lot of turnover with
10 homeless liaisons at the district, so we're really
11 pushing to make sure that kids are actually identified
12 as homeless when they are. That's an issue with us at
13 -- in Alaska and across the nation.

14 Going on to the next page, this is where I'm talking
15 about the nighttime residence of homeless students.
16 There are three options. There is, if they were in
17 shelter when they're identified. If they were doubled
18 up meaning they were living with a different family or
19 someone else due to loss of housing, it's not fixed,
20 regular, adequate for them to stay there, so that's the
21 doubled up. Then there's unsheltered and then hotels
22 or motels.

23 We are pretty consistent on our ratio. There were
24 59 percent of our homeless kids were doubled up, 25
25 percent were in shelters, 8 percent were in hotels or

1 motels and then 8 percent were unsheltered. That was
2 the same for the '13/14 school year.

3 Nationally for the '13/14 school year 15 percent
4 were unsheltered, 75 percent were doubled up, 3 percent
5 were unsheltered and 6 percent were in hotels and
6 motels.

7 Continuing on to the next set of graphs at the
8 bottom there I broke them out by age range or grades of
9 kids. I just did this to show that there's
10 homelessness at all ages. Fairly spread out evenly as
11 you can see, 35 percent were high school age.

12 All right. The next page, this is I broke it out by
13 grade and what their nighttime residence is just so you
14 could get a visual effect of what each grades nighttime
15 residence ratio was. As you can see doubled up, of
16 course, is the largest amount and I have the numbers at
17 the bottom for you if you are curious.

18 And then my last graph on the last page is the
19 subgroups for the '14/15 school year. We asked for the
20 unaccompanied youths, if they're unaccompanied, if they
21 were migrant child, if they have -- if they were
22 students with disabilities or if they're an LEP
23 student.

24 This is a duplicated account because a child can be
25 one or more of each of these subgroups or even none of

1 them. And so this is just a visual representation of
2 who it is spread across the grades. As you can see as
3 the kids get older there are more unaccompanied youths.
4 And that's my update.

5 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Sarah. Are there questions?

6 JESSEE: So.....

7 KUIPER: I.....

8 JESSEE: Oh, go ahead, go ahead.

9 KUIPER: I have one, Sarah.

10 EMMAL: Okay.

11 KUIPER: Do you have a sense of how the numbers that you
12 report here have children relates to the number of
13 families they're connected to?

14 EMMAL: I do not. We just ask per student just how many
15 kids you have. We don't know what the kids are at the
16 state level, who they are, what families they are.

17 KUIPER: Thank you.

18 EMMAL: You're welcome.

19 JESSEE: So if 22 school districts are saying they've
20 enrolled homeless students,.....

21 EMMAL: Yes.

22 JESSEE: we have, like, fifty.....

23 EMMAL: 54.

24 JESSEE: four.....

25 EMMAL: Yes.

1 JESSEE: It's inconceivable, isn't it, that a school district
2 has no children.....

3 EMMAL: Yes.

4 JESSEE:that are homeless?

5 EMMAL: Yes, that's.....

6 JESSEE: So a majority of our school districts, not
7 necessarily covering the majority of kids 'cause if
8 Anchorage is reporting that's.....

9 EMMAL: Yes.

10 JESSEE:a huge chunk. Then the.....

11 EMMAL: They are the majority.

12 JESSEE:majority of our districts aren't even
13 identifying their homeless kids.

14 EMMAL: And there's multiple reasons that we've, kind of,
15 determined of why that is. Some of it's cultural for
16 the doubled up. They don't want to be identified as
17 homeless or even in transition, that's a main part of
18 our numbers.

19 Another is we have such turnover in our homeless
20 liaisons because it is an unfunded position at the
21 State. It's just a requirement that each district has
22 to have a homeless liaison. They can use their Title
23 1 funds to pay for that, but some districts just don't
24 have the funds to really help and really take the time
25 to identify.

1 JESSEE: Well, I guess I can understand why their numbers
2 might be poor quality.

3 EMMAL: Yes.

4 JESSEE: It's a little harder for me to understand no numbers
5 at all.

6 EMMAL: Yeah, that's an issue.

7 JESSEE: And it doesn't look like it's really getting any
8 better. Does the State Board of Education ever talk
9 about this or does this, like, ever rise to their
10 level? I mean, this is, sort of.....

11 EMMAL: I don't think -- and I'm new to this position, so I
12 can't talk for long in the past, but not in the recent.
13 Yes, not in recent times it has not talked -- they have
14 not talked about homeless education.

15 JESSEE: Is it your sense -- I know you're new to this, but
16 is it your sense that if a school or a district is
17 aware that they've got homeless kids and they can
18 identify who those are, is there a belief that, that's
19 a factor in their educational success?

20 EMMAL: Can you repeat that question, sorry?

21 JESSEE: Well, if kids are homeless,.....

22 EMMAL: Yes.

23 JESSEE:do we expect that to have an impact on their
24 educational success?

25 EMMAL: That's what we are -- that's the whole point of the

1 Homeless Education Program is because if they're having
2 hard time at home, they may not even be coming to
3 school and we really want to make sure that they are
4 getting supplies, getting into school and staying in
5 school and that's what we support.

6 JESSEE: And although school districts can't solve the
7 homeless problem themselves.....

8 EMMAL: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

9 JESSEE:wouldn't it make sense that if they identified
10 that problem, that they would be reaching out to their
11 partners that could do something about some.....

12 EMMAL: And that's -- that's one of the.....

13 JESSEE:of those impacts?

14 EMMAL:the homeless liaisons duties is that they are
15 supposed to reach out to shelters and other
16 organizations within their community to help serve the
17 children and identify them as well.

18 JESSEE: But if you don't identify any, than obviously
19 there's no.....

20 EMMAL: Yes.

21 JESSEE:asking for any help for any of them.

22 EMMAL: And sometimes the num- -- there could be homeless
23 kids in those districts and they have identified, but
24 sometimes the person's reporting to the State is not
25 the actual homeless liaison because it's one mass

1 report that the district sends to us in the spring.
2 And so there may be communication errors between the
3 homeless liaison and the person who actually hits (ph)
4 -- submits to the State.

5 JESSEE: Okay. All right, thanks.

6 EMMAL: Thank you.

7 BUTCHER: Yeah, Jeff, you actually brought up what I was going
8 to ask which is, you know, one of the big challenges we
9 deal with just as a homeless population as a whole, as
10 you know, is the difficulty in trying to determine not
11 just what the counts are in areas that we're getting
12 counts, like, Point In Time and others, but just in
13 areas -- and Scott, kind of, touched on it, of
14 communities that aren't as engaged, that aren't as
15 sophisticated and so you end up with a zero when we all
16 know the number is not zero.

17 And how to best in a fiscally limited way try to
18 gather as much information as you -- as we can because
19 we're not getting the information we need and it's much
20 harder to try to do something about the problem if
21 you're not able to quantify what it really is.

22 JESSEE: Well, it's -- I don't know what it is, but it's
23 noteworthy that -- and I know Ron stepped out for a
24 minute, that the Department of Corrections is all over
25 this now.

1 EMMAL: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

2 JESSEE: I mean, they totally get that if you're looking at
3 success for prisoners re-entering the community, that
4 housing is critical that's why Commissioner Taylor has
5 been really helping to lead the charge on looking at
6 that.

7 It baffles me that when schools routinely complain
8 that factors that impact student achievement and
9 outcomes are often beyond their control and I agree
10 with that. You know, they can't solve all the other
11 social, socioeconomic problems, that they aren't even
12 willing to develop the information that other people
13 might use to help deal with the problem.

14 It seems like this ought to be on the Board of
15 Education's agenda at some point if they're really
16 concerned about educational outcomes.

17 You know, I'm hoping that -- well, for example, do
18 you -- have you had an opportunity to present this data
19 to the State Board?

20 EMMAL: I have not.

21 JESSEE: Well, I'm, sort of, thinking that we should suggest
22 maybe through Sarah that this information get presented
23 to the State Board. I don't want to put her in an
24 awkward, difficult position, but I don't know, maybe
25 some of us need to go talk to the State Board.

1 BUTCHER: Yeah. That's exactly what I was going to say as
2 well. I mean, that's the reason for the creation of
3 this Council originally is we have a lot of different
4 agencies working and they're not working together as
5 much as they should be.

6 And you're absolutely right, if a couple of us
7 sitting at the Board of Education to discuss it, not
8 just from a student perspective, but from a homeless
9 person perspective, than we need to look to doing that
10 because maybe that's the initiative that helps because
11 there's almost nothing more heartbreaking than hearing
12 stories about the child that was in four different
13 schools in fifth grade and six different schools in
14 sixth grade and then nobody has any information on him
15 in seventh grade, they're out there someplace.

16 And so I absolutely pledge to -- maybe we need to
17 talk to Commissioner Hanley and see what we can.....

18 JESSEE: Yeah, and I'd happy to go with you. I mean, looking
19 at some of these graphs, when you're looking at 300 and
20 some kids that are unsheltered.....

21 EMMAL: Yes.

22 JESSEE: I mean, we're not talking about doubled up,
23 that's.....

24 EMMAL: No.

25 JESSEE:one thing,.....

1 EMMAL: They're unsheltered.

2 JESSEE: but flat out unsheltered, I mean, that's a big
3 deal and -- while anyway, I'm totally -- I'm glad the
4 Commissioner.....

5 EMMAL: I appreciate any support.

6 JESSEE: Taylor wasn't here to hear me compliment him.
7 That's -- I don't like to.....

8 TAYLOR: You did?

9 JESSEE: I did, I did.

10 BUTCHER: Do you want him to repeat it?

11 TAYLOR: Sure (h).

12 BUTCHER: Okay, thanks, Sarah. Any other questions. Thank
13 you. And we will follow-up with the Commissioner.

14 2-1-1, United Way, Sue Brogan. Welcome.

15 BROGAN: Thank you. It's always a pleasure to be here and
16 thank you for your continued support. I'm Sue Brogan.
17 I'm vice president of Income and Health at United Way
18 of Anchorage. And United Way operates Alaska 2-1-1.

19 A couple of things I wanted to share in my five
20 minutes with you today. When we initially launched
21 Alaska 2-1-1 in 2007 we had a goal of providing
22 information, making sure that we could bring
23 information to callers in their time of chaos and, you
24 know, now five years, six years later, seven, eight
25 years later we have found ourselves in a really

1 exciting position in that we are looking daily at our
2 trends and at our data.

3 And you've talked a lot about data today. And Scott
4 talked about data because what we have discovered is
5 that in there -- in those areas where there aren't any
6 resources, Alaska 2-1-1 has the ability to influence --
7 or, you know, influence a change positive or negatively
8 and I'll give you an example.

9 So where there's never any rent and utility
10 assistance available and so what we talk to callers
11 about is, you know, what part of your budget -- is
12 there flexibility and it's usually in the food budget,
13 in the food area. So we -- the unintentional
14 consequence what we have done is, we have driven up the
15 use of food pantries because there isn't any rent and
16 utility assistance.

17 And so in our -- like I said, in our beginning
18 efforts when we thought just getting information to
19 callers was enough, now we're really seeing the other
20 side of the coin where we need to start working with
21 our providers because we're actually changing their
22 situations because of the referrals that we're making,
23 so that's opened up more relationships with our
24 providers, so that's pretty exciting.

25 The other thing that we're seeing that I wanted to

1 talk to you about today was that -- and it has to do
2 with really being a part of a sustainable system for
3 the State of Alaska because I have funders sitting
4 around the table, Department of Health and Social
5 Services, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Alaska Housing
6 Finance, all support Alaska 2-1-1. And so what we're
7 doing now is we're really wanting to better understand
8 how people -- how individuals navigate through systems.

9 So, you know, when we launched we had a much more,
10 you know, we are going to give you information and now
11 you're going to go out and find, you know, the help
12 that you need.

13 Now we've started the last two years where we
14 actually are piloting two different -- well, actually
15 three different projects within our operation so we can
16 understand how people are navigating the system through
17 access to health care so health care navigation.

18 We're involved with Recover Alaska where we're
19 actually going to be putting an information referral
20 specialists inside of our operation to see how people
21 are, you know, navigating, looking for resources and
22 looking for treatment.

23 We're working with another organization, another
24 State organization that's deal with -- or helping
25 parents to find supports for special needs children.

1 And then, of course, here in Anchorage with the
2 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter system with AWAIC and
3 Catholic Social Services, so we've really expanded our
4 view now of how we want to positively impact peoples
5 lives and giving them information by starting to look
6 at systems, so it's a really exciting time for Alaska
7 2-1-1.

8 You're looking at our annual report from 2014. Here
9 pretty quick we'll be putting together the numbers for
10 2015. 26,000 calls came to the call center last year.
11 We made 39,000 referrals all over the State of Alaska.
12 We get calls from all over the State, so the system is
13 working.

14 And I'll just give a shameless plug for -- we have
15 an article in the Alaska Business Monthly, October
16 edition, thank you, Mark Romick. He's quoted as a
17 supporter of Alaska 2-1-1, as well as Anchorage
18 Neighborhood Health Clinic, so it's a good article. It
19 talks about the role that a 2-1-1 complaint in time of
20 disaster.

21 So lot's going on around, again like I said, really
22 trying to hone in understanding now how somebody
23 navigates through Health and Social Services and that
24 system and, of course, includes housing and housing
25 availability and all of those supports that, you know,

1 families need to surrounding themselves with, so thank
2 you.

3 BUTCHER: Thanks, Sue. Do we have any questions?

4 PEARSON: Are you going to be involved in the conversation
5 around coordinated entry with the Anchorage Coalition?

6 BROGAN: Yes, we are.

7 PEARSON: Okay.

8 BROGAN: I'm on the design team.

9 PEARSON: Excellent.

10 BROGAN: And I was, you know, mentioning earlier that, you
11 know, we're not 24/7 right now. We're five days a
12 week, 8:00 to 5:00. And the model, again, was built
13 around when those -- our providers are available to
14 make the referrals, but this coordinated entry
15 conversation could move us in the direction of 24/7 and
16 that would be -- and, again, through these pilot
17 projects like with health care navigation, Recover
18 Alaska, that's what we've been trying to do is hone our
19 model and see what that would take. What kind of
20 capacity that would take.

21 BUTCHER: Jeff.

22 JESSEE: Do we have any data on the success of the referrals?
23 In other words, how many people actually got where you
24 sent 'em and that met their need or.....

25 BROGAN: I can get that for you. I didn't bring it today,

1 but we have it. Our standard -- we have to do call
2 backs, so many call backs on our call volume.....

3 JESSEE: Oh, okay.

4 BROGAN:and then we have standard questions that we ask
5 people. And it has to do with the spot on about the
6 referral, but then it also has to do with the spot on
7 about the provider and what the provider, you know,
8 experience was as well, so it's that fuller
9 conversation.

10 And I'll tell you though, as you all know, that the
11 call backs are very challenging because of the folks
12 that we're helping,.....

13 JESSEE: Yeah.

14 BROGAN:you know, so.....

15 JESSEE: I bet that's true, okay.

16 BROGAN:but I can get you some of that information.
17 I'd be happy to do that. Thank you for that question.

18 KUIPER: Sue, what's -- as you look ahead at the development
19 -- further development of 2-1-1, what would you say is
20 your biggest challenge and might there be any ways that
21 we could support you in your effort?

22 BROGAN: I would -- I think that the biggest challenge right
23 now is -- and it might be around coordinated entry and
24 just getting the best understanding of who we're
25 helping and how we're helping them because I think in

1 this budgetary environment we have to look at, you
2 know, duplication of services and we have to hone in on
3 how we're going to get these folks help, so whatever
4 way we're going to do this, so we can figure out that
5 population that we're working with.

6 I don't think we have our thumb on that population
7 quite yet. And so I think a lot of people are doing a
8 lot of things and I think it's helping, but I think we
9 could be doing more. So just helping to be, you know,
10 in that conversation.

11 And also just holding up that there's a lot of great
12 providers out there doing a lot of great work and I
13 think, you know, the staff turnover and, you know,
14 people get burned out. I mean, this is hard work.

15 Our staff at Alaska 2-1-1 they can talk -- they can
16 answer 200 calls a day saying the same thing. No,
17 there's no rental and utility assistance. Go to a food
18 pantry. No there's -- no. No, there's and so, you
19 know, that just -- I mean, this is hard work.

20 So, I think, shoring up the providers, understanding
21 how to streamline, being involved in a larger
22 conversation about access and access that makes sense.
23 And then looking at the data. Who's got the data. We
24 need to be looking at this constantly. And we have
25 lots of it, so we look at ours all the time.

1 KUIPER: Thank you.

2 BROGAN: You're welcome.

3 BUTCHER: Any other questions for Sue? Thank you.

4 BROGAN: Thank you very much.

5 BUTCHER: Next we have on the agenda the Federal Program
6 Update, Carma -- or Colleen.

7 BICKFORD: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

8 BUTCHER: Okay. Welcome to the Council.

9 BICKFORD: Good afternoon. Thank you. Again, I'm Colleen
10 Bickford. I'm the Alaska Field Office Director of
11 U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

12 I want to just mention for the Board here that we
13 are joined today by Bill Block (ph) who is HUD Region
14 10, Regional Administrator. If you were here at the
15 lunch time session he was a plenary speaker.

16 Anyway, I just have a few updates picking up from
17 our last meeting in May. One item, for those of you
18 that are new to the Board let me just mentioned, we
19 expected -- in May we had -- in May we conven- --
20 sorry.

21 In February we held a couple of listening session
22 around what's called the HUD/VA Supportive Housing
23 pilot for Native American communities. We reached out
24 to the Council. We reached out to the Alaska Coalition
25 to get -- as well as to tribes and tribal organization

1 around the state to get input on how to best design a
2 pilot program that was going to bring -- would be a
3 \$400 million nationally pilot.

4 We had expected that the funding would -- that the
5 program would be announced and funding would be out
6 well before now, but let me just say -- so this was a
7 part of the consolidated and further continuing
8 Appropriations Act of 2015. It is -- funding under the
9 program is required to be awarded based on need, based
10 on administrative capacity and other criteria
11 established by HUD based on input from all of the
12 partners.

13 Many of us here in the room have a lot of experience
14 working with the VASH Program as we know it today, so
15 I really commend the Coalition and the Council members
16 who provided some feedback on what would make the VASH
17 Program be even more effective here in Alaska going
18 forward under a pilot for Native American communities.

19 So the law directed HUD to reach out to Indian
20 tribes, tribally designated housing entities and other
21 organizations. We got a lot of feedback. We got
22 feedback from the Veterans Administration as well how
23 to do this.

24 So we're in the process now, we're working with OMB,
25 Office of Management and Budget to finalize the notice

1 and we really expect that we'll be out within the next
2 two weeks.

3 So I can't say much more, but I think what will
4 happen is we have two or three communities around the
5 State that will be able to participate in the Tribal
6 Program, so we're looking forward to that.

7 A couple of other updates, funding opportunities,
8 funding awards. We -- under the Indian Community
9 Development Block Grant Program we recently announced
10 for the first time something call Mold Remediation
11 Grants. We awarded \$1.6 million around the State to
12 CITC. Craig and Yakutat were the recipients.

13 And I just think that, that's really important
14 'cause that -- that's a new step towards helping to
15 support healthy housing -- healthy communities, healthy
16 housing, so looking forward to seeing those funds get
17 into the community.

18 We've recently announced the Notice of Funding for
19 the Indian Community Development Block Grant which is
20 frequently used for housing purposes. That's \$7.2
21 million competition just for Alaska. And that closes
22 the end of September -- I'm sorry, the end of October.

23 And then many of you know this better than even we
24 do at HUD, there's a Continuum of Care NOFA that is on
25 the street right now and that closes November 20th.

1 The other announcement for those of you that might
2 have sat in on the Fair Housing session earlier this
3 morning, which was excellent, but I wanted to mentioned
4 we -- HUD awarded a second grant to the Alaska Legal
5 Services Corporation and this is under our Fair Housing
6 Initiatives Program.

7 It's not a very large sum of money, \$325,000, but it
8 does give us and our State an opportunity to have an
9 organization working on education, outreach and
10 testing.

11 The statistics that Jeremy mentioned in the session
12 this morning, you know, low discrimination, low numbers
13 of housing discrimination really is probably largely
14 due to a lack of understanding or a very tight housing
15 market, so people aren't really willing to move
16 forward. So it will be interesting to see what they're
17 able to learn as they implement that grant.

18 Just a couple of other comments, under the Mayor's
19 Challenge I think there's been a lot of great
20 discussion about that and I'm sure everyone knows that
21 HUD, the Veterans Administration and the United States
22 Interagency Council on Homelessness are, kind of, the
23 key Federal agencies pushing this.

24 We're really pleased Mayor Berkowitz continued to
25 hold on to the Mayor's Challenge for Anchorage to end

1 Veteran homelessness by 2016. And really pleased to
2 see all the good work and the partners.

3 HUD was able to offer a little more technical
4 assistance through the Vets at Home to the Anchorage
5 Coalition to End Homelessness, so we're looking forward
6 to hearing a declaration of success soon.

7 On the Housing First topic it was really fun to
8 visit Juneau recently and meet with the new Board of
9 the Juneau Housing First Project. And Maria (ph) and
10 all of the folks working on that in Juneau are really
11 moving very quickly to get a 40 unit project built down
12 there, so we're -- we went down just to see what we can
13 do to help support the Community of Juneau and the
14 Housing First folks with their housing efforts.

15 I guess in closing I would just say that we see our
16 role as the Federal agencies to assist and support
17 local, State and tribal efforts to prevent and end
18 homelessness.

19 So appreciate being able to come and meet with you
20 and hope that if there's anything that we can do to
21 help address barriers, help provide technical
22 assistance or training resources or anything else that
23 you think anyone of your Federal partners can do to
24 help support your efforts, please, don't hesitate to
25 let us know.

1 BUTCHER: Thank you, Colleen. Do we have any questions for
2 Colleen? Yeah, Suzi.

3 PEARSON: One of the things in the State plan is addressing
4 relationships with tribal entities especially around
5 housing. And you talked about grants that are
6 available for tribal housing entities. I would like to
7 know if within those applications are there
8 requirements around what kind of community engagement
9 they're dealing with, either with their local coalition
10 or other providers in the community in order to
11 increase connections and collaborations?

12 BICKFORD: So HUD's grants to tribes, Federally recognized
13 tribes, is in Alaska largely through the Indian Housing
14 Block Grants or NAHASDA. There's also the Indian
15 Community Development Block Grant Program which is
16 separate from NAHASDA.

17 I think that the intent in the funding is for the
18 partnerships to happen locally, that there's
19 collaborative decision making and a view at the entire
20 continuum of housing in a community around investing
21 any kind of resources in the community.

22 I think Olen, you know, represents one of the
23 Regional Housing Authorities or also referred to as
24 Indian Housing Authority, so I'm sure Olen would agree
25 with me on that, but I think more and more we're trying

1 to encourage that, kind of, collaboration early in the
2 process so that community priorities are identified and
3 all of the public resources including Federal are used
4 strategically to address those priorities.

5 PEARSON: Okay.

6 BICKFORD: Does that answer your question?

7 PEARSON: Yeah, I -- being one of the points that we want to
8 address. I think that we've experienced in a lot of
9 communities that there has been a bit of isolation
10 around the amount of -- maybe a bit of mystery would be
11 a better word, around the availability and the
12 connections with tribal housing authorities.

13 And so trying to open those doors, increase those
14 collaborations, that communication is a really
15 important part of what we want to see happen in the
16 next year 'cause they have a great deal of that housing
17 especially in rural areas, so.....

18 BICKFORD: I would also mention that since the time that Scott
19 has been the Chair of the Alaska Coalition on Housing
20 and Homelessness, along with the Chair of the
21 Association of Alaska Housing Authorities which
22 includes AHFC, but all of the other regional housing
23 authorities, there's been a more concerted effort to
24 have representation at the different meetings to help
25 folks get to know each other a little better and

1 understand how funding is prioritized and where there
2 might be opportunities to do better.

3 JESSEE: Well, as you're well aware Alaskans sometimes have
4 a love/hate relationship with our Federal agency
5 partners. I know that's shocking,.....

6 BICKFORD: Really, it is shocking.

7 JESSEE:it's true. My personal experience with the VA,
8 Social Security has not been exemplary in many
9 instances. And I just want to thank you for your
10 leadership of the local HUD office. I think -- well,
11 I know the Trust has seen you and your office as a real
12 positive ally in a lot of these areas.

13 You know, we really feel that you and Carma and the
14 rest of your staff are really one of us that has
15 managed to infiltrate this Federal bureaucracy on our
16 behalf and it's much appreciated, you know,
17 particularly around the area of fair housing and
18 discrimination. You know, you've been quick to
19 recognize the impact that, that has on trying to locate
20 projects like Housing First.

21 Your efforts to try as best you can to pull the
22 other Federal agencies together and try to have them
23 actually help us is really appreciated, so I just want
24 to thank you again.

25 And as you know as the national folks have shown up

1 from time to time we've pushed for as much local
2 decision making at the local HUD office as possible
3 because we do feel we have a very positive relationship
4 with your agency, so I just wanted to thank you for
5 your efforts.

6 And I know that I personally have benefitted from
7 your advice and counsel over the years, so thank you.

8 BICKFORD: Thank you, Jeff.

9 BUTCHER: Yeah, and I would echo that. And I'd also point out
10 for the benefit of the Council that Alaska Housing in
11 working with HUD and USDA and the Regional Housing
12 Authorities and a few other partners on putting
13 together a Rural Homeownership Forum the last day of
14 November. Monday, November 30th.

15 And although it's focused on the challenges of
16 creating new housing stock, of homeownership in rural
17 Alaska, of course, everything is tied together, so it's
18 not specific to homelessness, but as Sue was
19 discussing, you know, from Nome earlier where there's
20 no housing stock and there's nothing out there, that's
21 a problem for everybody. And obviously homelessness is
22 one of those, so thank you very much from us, too,
23 Colleen.

24 BICKFORD: Okay, thanks.

25 TAYLOR: I feel like I want to clap for her. I mean, we

1 don't -- we just clapped for the Mayor and somebody
2 else (simultaneous speech).....

3 BUTCHER: Clap for the Federal Government.

4 All right. Next we have Program Update from AHFC.
5 Mark Romick, SNHG and BHAP Update.

6 ROMICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it's good to see you again.
7 For the record my name is Mark Romick. I'm the
8 Director of the Planning and Program Development
9 Department at Alaska Housing.

10 And I'm going to give you just a brief update on
11 what's happening with our Homeless Assistance Program
12 and the Special Needs Housing Grant Program which are
13 the two main funding sources that we have in our
14 capital budget to implement the goals of the Council in
15 the area of addressing homelessness and supportive
16 housing.

17 There's two other programs within our purview that
18 also have an impact, the Continuum of Care match which
19 matches the Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing
20 Grants that are received throughout Alaska and Tenant
21 Based Rental Assistance Program that is funded through
22 the HOME Investment Partnership Act Program which I
23 think as Senator Murkowski mentioned is having a little
24 bit of a difficult time in Congress right now.

25 So just real briefly, right now we're actively

1 supporting about 260 units of supportive housing across
2 the State. The Homeless Assistance Program is
3 providing roughly about \$6 million a year to 38
4 different organizations around the State.

5 And we just recently in the last couple of months
6 awarded our last funding cycle for capital projects to
7 three supportive housing projects. One in Anchorage,
8 one in Juneau and one in Seward.

9 And we're looking forward to robust discussion about
10 the 2017 capital budget this year and hoping that we're
11 able to maintain what we have in the capital budget
12 now.

13 The way that we administer this program, and we've
14 talked at length about this in past Council meetings is
15 using the funding that we get on an annual basis to
16 allocate three year operating grants for the projects
17 that we're supporting so that there is at least three
18 years of funding available to any given project at any
19 given time.

20 And in order to maintain that, we need to maintain
21 the funding at the current level that we have in the
22 capital budget, so looking forward to that discussion
23 this year and all the good work that everybody has been
24 doing. We rely on all of the providers that we work
25 with to give us the information that we roll up into a

1 report to the Legislature each year showing what all
2 the success that we have and why these funding sources
3 are extremely valuable to the social service industry
4 in Alaska.

5 With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll take any questions.

6 BUTCHER: Do we have any questions for Mark?

7 JESSEE: Just a comment, that was a very short report for
8 such an important program, you know. This really, from
9 our beneficiary standpoint, this program is absolutely
10 essential. AHFC has been really created and positive
11 in developing this into something that's really helping
12 a lot of people and really appreciate it.

13 ROMICK: Thank you. I've been directed to be efficient in my
14 conversation since I have a reputation of speaking for
15 quite some time.

16 JESSEE: An affliction we share.

17 BUTCHER: Any more questions for Mark? Thank you, Mark.

18 Public Housing Update from Mike Courtney. Welcome,
19 Mike.

20 COURTNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council.
21 For the record my name is Mike Courtney. I'm the
22 Director of Operations for the AHFC Public Housing
23 Division. Good afternoon. Wanted to give you a quick
24 update on what we're up to around the State in Public
25 Housing.

1 Our waitlists remain very strong. We've got a
2 little over 4,100 people on both our Public Housing
3 waiting list and our Voucher waiting list and that's
4 individuals and families. We've got about 1,700 on our
5 statewide senior housing list, so the demand hasn't
6 changed.

7 The good news is we are getting a lot of utilization
8 out of our vouchers and our public housing. Public
9 housing is virtually full. We're at about 93 percent
10 utilization on our Voucher Program and we have about
11 300 shoppers out there, so it's all in flux, so that's
12 working well.

13 Most of you probably know we have a number of set
14 aside programs for specific populations. Our
15 Empowering Choice Program for victims of domestic
16 violence is doing extremely. Our Youth Aging Out Of
17 Foster Care and our Parolee Program is going extremely
18 well. Thanks to our partners at the Department of
19 Corrections we're in the process of expanding our
20 Parolee Program to Anchorage.

21 The VASH Program, Veterans Affairs Support Housing
22 Program is turning into a poster child for something
23 that works extremely well in Alaska. It had a little
24 bit of a slow ramp-up, but it's been so successful and
25 thanks to Mr. Pendrey and his staff it's actually

1 improved its standing in the nation to, I think, just
2 incredible improvement and it's -- I think it's
3 starting to get national recognition and that's why
4 they continue to send us extra vouchers that we can
5 utilize, so it's been a very successful program.

6 Our Moving Home Program which is about 150 set aside
7 vouchers for persons that are homeless and experience
8 mental illness and disabilities is -- we've got it out
9 on the street. We're working with our partners at
10 DHSS. We've had a little bit of a slow ramp-up on it,
11 but I think we've got all the irons -- or the wrinkles
12 ironed out and we're in the process of working with
13 DHSS as fast and very closely to make sure it's a
14 successful program also.

15 We have a couple of new apartment complexes just
16 coming on line. Susitna Square which is an eighteen
17 units redevelopment of 16 obsolete units in the San
18 Roberto area. Began leasing on September 1st. It's
19 about fully leased now. We have over 100 applications
20 for just the 18 units.

21 And another complex that we're building in the same
22 time frame is a 70 unit called Ridgeline Terrace in the
23 Mountain View area. And it's got 50 family units, 20
24 senior units and we're looking at that coming on line
25 in December. And talking to Patrick from Cook Inlet

1 Housing this morning, they already have 50 applications
2 for that property, so we're excited about that coming
3 on line.

4 It will also have a community center with supportive
5 services available to the community. Have some day
6 care in it, so it's going to be a community asset as
7 well as affordable housing, so we're excited about
8 that.

9 Most of you know that we embarked on a Rent Reform
10 Program for our Public Housing and our Voucher
11 residents about two years ago. We're in about the
12 middle of year two. We're starting to see some
13 positive results.

14 Out of roughly -- we've split our population into
15 two. One is elderly and persons that experience
16 disabilities and that's a do no harm population, just
17 stick pretty much to the traditional HUD guidelines.
18 There's no time limits. No stepped up rents.

19 The other half of our population is what we would
20 consider work able where there's at least one family
21 member over 18 that is not disabled or elderly. And
22 with some robust case management called our Jumpstart
23 Program we've staffed up with case managers across the
24 State to offer support to families that need it the
25 most, particularly those with the lowest income to rent

1 ratios.

2 We're starting to see some preliminary success in
3 that program. Our percentage of families -- work able
4 families working over 40 hour -- over 40 hours per week
5 increased from 27 to 35 percent in the last 12 months.
6 The number of -- or the percentage of families working
7 at least 20 hours a week increased from 38 percent to
8 50 percent in the last year. And we're just -- we're
9 really excited about it. It's looking like it's
10 starting to become a very viable program and we'll have
11 a better report for you next time once we get some firm
12 numbers in for year two.

13 So a lot of exciting things going on. We're pretty
14 excited about the set aside programs. They're really
15 starting to ramp out well and I think we're helping a
16 lot of specialized populations.

17 Be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

18 BUTCHER: Thank you, Mike. Do we have any questions for Mike?

19 Yes, Al?

20 WALL: Not so much of a -- as a question, as just to thank
21 you for your cooperation and efforts in this area. In
22 particular the Moving Home Voucher Program has really
23 been instrumental. And I know that it did get off to
24 a little bit of a slower start, but it is going to make
25 a tremendous amount of impact in the State. A very

1 vulnerable population, so I just -- I want to express
2 my appreciation to AHFC and your office for that
3 program and your efforts around those areas.

4 COURTNEY: Thank you. And the feeling is mutual and we're very
5 excited about getting that ramped up.

6 BUTCHER: Commissioner.

7 TAYLOR: Mr. Chair, I just want to first of all just say
8 thank you to you and AHFC because of the tremendous
9 partnership that we've had. Certainly working with
10 Mark, Dan and Mike, now you coming on with the Tenant
11 Based Rental Assistance Program.

12 I can't tell you how many comments that I get across
13 the country about our relationship. People are really
14 jealous of that relationship and they're jealous that
15 we have been able to do some great things for the
16 homeless population in Alaska.

17 And I have them calling me all the time or at least
18 wanting to get more information on how can we develop
19 that same type of relationship in our state with our
20 local housing authorities.

21 So I wanted people to understand how valuable this
22 is for us and how important it has been for the
23 Department of Corrections working to get those people
24 in our custody out into affordable housing and to get
25 into a safe place, so thank you guys.

1 COURTNEY: Thank you very much.

2 JESSEE: Yeah, and just to follow up on that a little, could
3 you talk about what you perceive as some of the
4 barriers to citizens re-entering from Corrections into
5 the community and, you know, what limitations there are
6 particularly, say, in public housing of people being
7 able to access housing when they do return to the
8 community and how much of that's outside of AHFC's
9 actual control?

10 COURTNEY: Sure. One of the things that's made it incredibly
11 successful is the case management piece, working with
12 the parole officers and so that helps immensely. Of
13 course -- and from what I understand, we have a very
14 good stable of landlords that are really, kind of,
15 excited about the program and are happy to participate.

16 Now, of course, on the other hand there's always
17 that segment of landlords that may not be interested in
18 working with somebody that's freshly re-entering
19 society and so that would be one of the barriers is the
20 number of units available through landlords that really
21 have an understanding of the program and how well it
22 works.

23 As far as internally, I think it's working extremely
24 well and it -- with some of the experience we had with
25 some of the other set asides, I think it ramped out

1 nicely. And the fact that we have such a good
2 relationship with DOC that helps immensely, too.

3 So I think the main barriers would be the tight
4 housing market because I think a lot of people in the
5 room would agree a lot of tenants get creamed in a
6 market like this where they just take the best ones.
7 And so the socially responsible landlords are the ones,
8 that's where the key is.

9 TAYLOR: Mr. Chair, if I can also add to that?

10 BUTCHER: Yeah.

11 TAYLOR: Another real barrier for us for people releasing is
12 the misdemeanoric (ph) population. These opportunities
13 -- housing opportunities are really geared around those
14 persons that are going to be supervised in the
15 community which represents really a fraction of our
16 population, anywhere from about 25 to 30 percent of our
17 population.

18 So that means 75 percent of the population,
19 potentially, if they were homeless, we wouldn't even
20 serve or have the ability to serve in terms of
21 providing housing to that other segment of the
22 population.

23 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions for Mike? Yes, Dave.

24 KUIPER: (Indiscernible) You appropriately gave John and the
25 friends at the Veterans Affairs kudos for their

1 cooperation. I wonder if from your observations of the
2 efforts that have been put in by the Veterans
3 Administration to house homeless Veterans if there are
4 takeaways of that, that we can utilize to improve the
5 efforts that we're making?

6 COURTNEY: Again, since VASH is typically targeting chronically
7 homeless populations, I think the key -- it had a slow
8 ramp-up because of the case management piece. I think
9 John and his staff had trouble getting the right people
10 in the right seat on the bus across the State, but once
11 they got those case management -- the good case
12 management staff established, we saw an amazing
13 improvement in the ramp-up and the ability to lease up.

14 And what I've heard from our Staff is a lot of the
15 VASH case managers could actually do their own voucher
16 briefing. They have been to so many of our voucher
17 classes and they understand our programs so well, so
18 the mutual understanding has been incredibly
19 successful.

20 KUIPER: Thank you.

21 BUTCHER: Al.

22 WALL: So one other comment before Jeff jumps on this band
23 wagon about it. So you mention case management and
24 coor- -- care coordination basically is what we're
25 talking about and the tremendous opportunity we have in

1 this State right now through Medicaid expansion to get
2 some of those specific needs, supported housing, the
3 wrap around services that go with supported housing.
4 All of those individual eachs actually paid for at last
5 is a tremendous opportunity for us to move forward.

6 So I hope that along with other players at the table
7 for the Medicaid redesign piece that the efforts on
8 homelessness and housing are well represented at that
9 table. And if you're not plugged into that process,
10 you know, I would encourage you to be so. I would like
11 to have a conversation with you about it at some
12 point.....

13 COURTNEY: That sounds great.

14 WALL:at the very least. Sure.

15 COURTNEY: Yeah, I think there's a tremendous payback for the
16 initial investment on the case.....

17 WALL: Right, right.

18 COURTNEY:management piece.

19 WALL: Yeah.

20 BUTCHER: Any other questions for Mike? Okay. Thank you very
21 much, Mike.

22 COURTNEY: Thank you.

23 BUTCHER: Can we take, like, a five minute break? Let's take
24 a five minute break to stretch our legs. And Staff,
25 don't get used to the applause you're getting in this

1 room 'cause it ends when you get back to AHFC.

2 (Off record - 3:09 p.m.)

3 (On record - 3:20 p.m.)

4 BUTCHER: Okay. If we could get ready to start up here again.
5 We already have the people here for our update on
6 Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska
7 Mental Health Trust Authority. Amanda and Kelda,
8 welcome. Go ahead.

9 BARSTAD: Good afternoon. Thank you so much for allowing us
10 to give you an update. I'm Kelda Barstad. I work
11 within the Department of Health and Social Services for
12 the Division of Senior and Disability Services.

13 LOFGREN: Thank you. I'm Amanda Lofgren. I'm a program
14 officer with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
15 working on housing and long term services and support
16 and employment statewide.

17 So what we thought we would do in the 10 minutes we
18 have because there's a lot we could talk about, but
19 highlight the General Relief Program which I think is
20 really important for this group, in addition to many of
21 the stakeholders here in the room to track. And then
22 give an update on one of the important home community
23 service reforms the Department is looking at in
24 addition to talking about where we are at with the
25 strategic plan for permanent supportive housing. So

1 I'll kick it off with Kelda.

2 BUTCHER: Sure.

3 BARSTAD: And I would like to say that in addition to the
4 General Relief Program, we have formed a number of
5 partnerships that are very key in moving from an
6 assisted living home based housing and combined service
7 model into taking a look at how we can support people
8 in independent housing better.

9 And we've partnered with the Division of Behavioral
10 Health. We've partnered with Alaska Housing Finance
11 Corporation to obtain the 811 PRA vouchers, so that is
12 one thing that we are working with on our General
13 Relief Program. And I'll step back just a moment to
14 explain what that is in case you're not familiar with
15 that.

16 The General Relief Program that funds assisted
17 living care is a benefit program for a safety net for
18 individuals who are not able to afford assisted living
19 home care on their own and don't qualify for any other
20 payment mechanism that can provide that assisted living
21 home care.

22 Although as a safety net program that was designed
23 many years ago for adult protective services to protect
24 people in the community and provide a safe placement
25 for people who were experiencing abuse, neglect and

1 exploitation, it has grown substantially to fill other
2 needs in the community.

3 The General Relief Program is frequently used as an
4 emergency referral from API so that someone can
5 stabilize and get the assisted living care that they
6 need. It's used by hospitals. It's used by counseling
7 agencies and it's used by case coordinators to make
8 referrals for folks to get the assisted living home
9 care that they need.

10 We did take a look at who we were serving in June,
11 so this is just a quick snapshot of who we happen to be
12 serving on that day. We do have folks that stay on the
13 program for many years and we do have folks that stay
14 on the program for just a short time, so who we serve
15 and how we serve them varies a little bit based on
16 their individual needs.

17 At that time we had 630 people who were being served
18 by the General Relief Assisted Living Care Benefit and
19 that is both with the programs run by Senior and
20 Disability Services, as well as the Division of
21 Behavioral Health.

22 The average age of those individuals was 53. And
23 the average length of stay was just under two and half
24 years, 2.3 years.

25 Over half of that population had a behavioral health

1 diagnosis. And about a third had a physical disability
2 or a medical condition that required assisted living
3 care. And then we had a handful of folks whose primary
4 diagnosis was a traumatic brain injury or Alzheimers
5 disease and related Dementia.

6 So the General Relief Program has the ability to be
7 flexible in serving a variety of different populations
8 for the specific level of care.

9 While it has been doing a very good job in filling
10 that safety net, we have had some difficulty
11 transitioning people from assisted living care to
12 supported housing or to independent housing.

13 Part of the requirement of assisted living care is
14 that people pay board and care and then the insurance
15 or the General Relief Program benefit will pay for the
16 assisted living care service. And that's a pretty
17 standard set-up for assisted living care, but it does
18 put people in a predicament where it's very hard to
19 save up for your own apartment and then move out of
20 assisted living once you no longer need it.

21 So anecdotally we know that there are a number of
22 people in the General Relief Program where we are
23 actually paying a lot of money for board and care.
24 There are a lot of people who are in General Relief who
25 very much need that assisted living care and depend on

1 the program.

2 We want to make sure that we're maximizing the
3 effectiveness of this benefit especially in difficult
4 budgetary times so that we can assist folks with
5 transitioning over to a better fit for housing and
6 services.

7 And through partnership and generosity of the Trust
8 we are going to be conducting an assessment this year
9 both Division of Behavioral Health and Senior and
10 Disability Services clients who are receiving the
11 General Relief benefit to find out what their housing
12 preferences are.

13 And then what are some of their functional abilities
14 as far as strengths to work on and challenges where
15 additional support services are needed.

16 So we're really looking forward to finding out what
17 the results of those assessments and housing preference
18 surveys are. It will inform us for a variety of
19 different things, not just for the General Relief
20 Program, but we're hoping that it will inform us for
21 reform efforts and possible supported housing efforts
22 in the future.

23 Along with that assessment, we are developing a
24 transition program from assisted living to independent
25 living or supported housing. So that's another piece

1 of the puzzle to help ensure that we're getting folks
2 to where they want to be and that they're receiving
3 support in the communities they want to live in with
4 services that they want to engage in.

5 And part of that transition program is developing an
6 consumer fund similar to the Nursing Home Transition
7 Program. Again, people are not able to save a
8 considerable amount of money while they're in an
9 assisted living home, so assisting folks with getting
10 set-up into their own apartment or own living situation
11 and making sure that they're getting off on the right
12 foot in that independent housing.

13 I did mention budgetary concerns, we are working
14 very hard to put these together as quickly as possible.
15 We've had almost a 10 percent budget reduction. We're
16 seeing an increased demand for the program. As housing
17 becomes more scarce, people's needs become greater.
18 And more people are becoming seniors every day.

19 Those put a lot of pressure on the GR Program, so we
20 do have a difficult problem to solve in trying to
21 figure out how can we serve more people in the right
22 place. How can we use our GR dollars most effectively
23 and then how can we absorb this budget cut and not put
24 people in precarious situations.

25 You probably recall earlier this calendar year the

1 Division was considering closing the program and that
2 meant that we were not able to fund people any longer.
3 So anyone that was currently receiving the benefit
4 would no longer have a payment stream for that assisted
5 living care.

6 Thankfully we received funding from a variety of
7 other sources including Behavioral Health to get us
8 through those difficult times, but we are potentially
9 looking at that in the future. We want to make every
10 effort possible not to have people in those precarious
11 situations especially some of our most vulnerable
12 Alaskans who can't be served in any other way.

13 So looking at supported housing is a solution and
14 looking at these assessments and transitions so that we
15 can help people transition to a safe environment and
16 ensure that we're providing good care to people who are
17 currently enrolled in the program is a priority. Thank
18 you.

19 LOFGREN: All right. If it's okay, I'll go ahead and talk a
20 little bit about some of the reform activities that
21 dovetail and then we can take some questions.

22 So many of you have heard about Medicaid redesign
23 and reform activities that are going on and I think
24 it's important to note that there's really two
25 significant activities happening.

1 One is there's the Medicaid Reform and Redesign
2 that's a really larger system of all the Medicaid
3 services and support.

4 And then there's a smaller one that's happening
5 that's getting kicked off October 26th specifically to
6 home and community based services.

7 And so one of the things that's really important
8 around home and community based services is it actually
9 provides the Medicaid reimbursement for those services
10 that support individuals to maintain and sustain their
11 housing through vocational services, case management,
12 wrap around supports, crises intervention, multiple
13 different services.

14 And so the Department has engaged with a contractor
15 to look at multiple target populations. Each target
16 population can have a varied service package meaning
17 that for individuals with serious mental illness it may
18 be supported housing and supported employment or the
19 two services or you can have a broader number of
20 services.

21 One of the things that really important to recognize
22 when we're looking at these various state plan options
23 is for the -- in 2010 the Affordable Care Act amended
24 the 1915 I Section of Social Security Act to include
25 individuals with substance abuse disorder, as well as

1 serious mental illness to obtain these services and so
2 that's a really significant change that happened so
3 those psychosocial services will be available.

4 So the Department is looking at individuals with
5 Alzheimers disease and related Dementia, traumatic
6 brain injury, intellectual and developmental
7 disabilities, as well as serious mental illness as a
8 potential service recipient for the 1915 I home and
9 community based services.

10 And individuals do not have to meet a nursing
11 facility or institutional level of care and that's a
12 critical distinction between some of the other state
13 plan services we have that we know are home and
14 community based waiver services.

15 So I won't belabor that point too much, but you
16 know, you can also have assisted technology, home
17 modifications which are some other lower cost
18 opportunities to support people in their housing.

19 So for that particular contract the Department is
20 looking for a report to be finalized in March, March
21 1st and the implementation will happen in FY-18.

22 So when we're looking at the big Medicaid redesign
23 project, the report is going to be due in January, so
24 there's lots of stuff happening and there's going to be
25 some parallel processes and I think many of you in this

1 room will be engaged in the stakeholder process, but
2 just watch for that, two -- there's two different ones
3 happening.

4 Also, I wanted to update you all, the Trust and the
5 Department of Health and Social Services, as well as
6 many of our other partners, hired a consultant. The
7 Technical Assistance Collaborative, which Patty was
8 here yesterday to talk about permanent supported
9 housing to engage and develop a strategic plan for
10 permanent supported housing.

11 And so the original goal was to have that finalized
12 and presented yesterday, but I do find that I tend to
13 be overly ambitious sometimes and things take a little
14 longer than originally planned, but I think one of
15 things it's always worth waiting when really great
16 discussion and dialogue happens and some harder
17 decisions have to be made about what the purpose and
18 intent and how it will be used 'cause the last thing we
19 want is a plan that just sits on peoples' shelves. We
20 really want a plan that can be implemented in a shared
21 ownership by everybody involved.

22 So where we're at with the plan is in the next two
23 weeks we'll get all of the final comments to Patty. A
24 draft -- a final draft will be presented and then,
25 hopefully, within the next month and a half we'll have

1 a finalized draft -- or a finalized report, but what I
2 thought I would do is just share -- there's seven goals
3 of the plan.

4 The first goal is develop a cross system coordinated
5 and collaborative approach to community inclusion and
6 permanent supported housing. And then there's a
7 various number of goals under that -- or objectives.

8 Goal number two, establish a permanent supported
9 housing pipeline to create between 465 and 615
10 supportive housing opportunities over the next five
11 years.

12 Goal three, establish a permanent supported housing
13 clearing house to coordinate the timely referral of
14 eligible households for permanent supported housing
15 opportunities.

16 Goal four, establish sustainable funding sources for
17 services delivered to individuals in permanent
18 supported housing settings.

19 The fifth goal is, expand service delivery in home
20 and community based settings to promote housing
21 stability, ongoing tenancy and community inclusion.

22 The sixth goal, strengthen community provider work
23 force capacity to deliver home and community base
24 services that promote housing stability, ongoing
25 tenancy and community inclusion.

1 And the last and final goal is redesign the General
2 Relief Program the Kelda mentioned.

3 And so as we move forward with finalizing this draft
4 one of the, I guess, asks I have of you as the
5 Governor's Council is to consider adopting this plan to
6 the larger 10 Year Plan or including it as an addendum
7 so we can all share the effort in implementing this and
8 have shared ownership in doing that, so I don't know if
9 that's a possibility, but I'm new, I'll ask.

10 BUTCHER: Do you have anything to add to that?

11 JESSEE: No.

12 BUTCHER: Okay. Yeah. I mean, it certainly -- and I'm just
13 speaking for myself here, it's something that we'll
14 definitely weigh. I mean, I don't know that it could
15 happen today, but as we go through the discussion on
16 the 10 Year Plan it's something that we're establishing
17 a base that we look to build and fill in on and that's,
18 you know, I think when we'll look at that.

19 I mean, I -- somebody can make a motion, I guess,
20 but that would be my recommendation is we look at it as
21 something that we could add into it after -- since we
22 haven't actually even approved it yet.

23 LOFGREN: And in all fairness it's not final yet either.

24 BUTCHER: Okay, okay. But, yeah, I mean, at first blush it
25 certainly makes sense. Does anybody have any questions

1 for Amanda or for Kelda?

2 KUIPER: I have one, thank you. Kelda, how much money is
3 actually in the General Relief? I may have missed it.
4 You may have said it.

5 BARSTAD: Sure. This Fiscal Year we're funded for \$7.3
6 million and then the Division of Behavioral Health has
7 a budget line item for that as well.

8 WALL: Ours is four. There's some blended funds in there
9 though. It's hard to parse out, but ours is four.

10 KUIPER: Thank you.

11 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any other questions? Okay. Thank
12 you very much.

13 And if I could stray from the agenda for just a
14 couple of minutes if the Council is willing, we have
15 Lloyd Pendleton (ph) in the audience with us. And some
16 of you may have heard him speak this morning, but I
17 know a lot of the people that sit on this don't get an
18 opportunity to spend a few days with the Coalition
19 Conference.

20 And in a 10 year period and as we embark on this 10
21 Year Plan, in the State of Utah they were able to
22 reduce their homelessness by 91 percent. They were
23 able to reduce homeless Veterans to almost zero. And
24 so I asked Lloyd if he'd take a few minutes and give us
25 some words of wisdom if that's okay with the Council.

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2 BUTCHER: Great. Come on up. Thank you for doing this.
3 Thank you very much for joining us, Lloyd.

4 PENDLETON: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to be able
5 to come up here to Alaska and get involved with what
6 you're doing. I came up and fished in 2006 and came up
7 on a cruise and so I've enjoyed all of that, but this
8 really been quite exciting. I've had the opportunity
9 to speak across several states and communities in the
10 last two and a half, three years.

11 As I've mentioned while here, I found about three
12 places where I think have the key ingredients to really
13 make something happen and you're one of the three.
14 Really, you have some -- you have a new Mayor who is
15 interested, a new Governor, I understand, who is
16 interested and then you have two individuals, Nancy and
17 Elizabeth that you've tasked with that, so that's
18 really key in accomplishing what you want to
19 accomplish. Somebody has got that monkey and they're
20 going to be working with it.

21 What we also found is, it's very important that they
22 have political cover and financial cover and you have
23 their back. And so this Committee becomes extremely
24 important that you give them that charge and pretty
25 clear what it is you expect of them. Now realize they

1 don't particularly report into you, but you're really
2 the coordinating body for this whole homeless effort,
3 so I think that's important. And I understand this has
4 been reactivated in the last few months or whatever, so
5 that's very good.

6 A couple things, in addition to your staff reporting
7 which they've been doing or staff people, I would
8 suggest you charge your staff to come with
9 recommendations because they see areas that are not
10 being collaborative that you may not see.

11 And that they are free to come, maybe off record,
12 but at least work it through and then come in and make
13 the recommendation that things are not working as well
14 as they could from our perspective down in the trench
15 and that they bring that to you. And if it's not safe
16 for them to do that, then they'll just sit back there
17 and complain, so it's important you create that safety.

18 And Corrections becomes a key piece because you've
19 released 8,000 people a year out of your prison -- did
20 I misread that somewhere?

21 TAYLOR: 13,000.

22 PENDLETON: Released out of prison?

23 TAYLOR: 13,000 releases a year.

24 PENDLETON: Wow.

25 TAYLOR: So pretty much everyone goes to prison.

1 PENDLETON: Well, you have.....

2 TAYLOR: We don't have the local jails in most of our
3 communities, so.....

4 PENDLETON: So you're doing jails and prisons?

5 TAYLOR: Absolutely, that's.....

6 PENDLETON: Oh, that's why it's so high. (Simultaneous
7 speech).....

8 TAYLOR: why it's 13,000.

9 PENDLETON: That's staggering.

10 TAYLOR: Right. Yeah, absolutely.

11 PENDLETON: Okay. So you really have a huge opportunity 'cause
12 you have a captured audience in order to do some
13 rehabilitation kinds of situation, so there's a whole
14 discussion that can occur there and there's some ideas
15 that I have that, you know, can pass on that we're
16 doing in the way of pilots.

17 So I would encourage you to have your staff bring
18 those issues to you and be open to receiving them, that
19 becomes very important.

20 You know, so -- and also on this Committee I would
21 suggest that -- now that you've restructured one of the
22 challenges I observed you're, kind of, all peers and
23 that's great. You want to collaborate, but from our
24 standpoint having a Lieutenant Governor Chair the
25 Committee because you all report, I think, or most of

1 you up to the Governor or Lieutenant in the Governor's
2 office, having a Lieutenant Governor Chair our
3 Committee gave us that extra leverage because the
4 Governor or Lieutenant Governor can call you together
5 and say here's what I want or tell me what you need and
6 so that's gives you some addition- -- I think another
7 leverage.

8 And it may be -- and I'm just -- these are just my
9 observations very quickly, maybe you stay as the co-
10 chair or the vice chair because he won't make it or she
11 won't take it every time, but there is an advantage to
12 that. At least I have observed that there is that next
13 level up in that kind of commitment, so that's just an
14 observation suggestion that I would have you consider.

15 And, I mean, I'm not going to take a lot of time,
16 but I just read your plan, glanced through it and I
17 would suggest one thing on your vision statement.
18 Every Alaskan should have access to safe, affordable
19 housing. I would change that to will. Should is, kind
20 of, an out. And I have a sign in my office that says,
21 thou shall not shouldest all over thyself.

22 So we have lots of shoulds that we can be doing, but
23 when you move it to a will, it changes the dynamics and
24 somebody is responsible to make it happen, so it
25 becomes a more action, kind of, situation, that's what

1 I would suggest from that standpoint. And I realize it
2 just a framing in starting a process and that's a
3 dialogue and -- but pretty quick it ought to be
4 something that's doing.

5 And the next thing I would suggest as you get these,
6 kind of, framed out, carve out some money for some
7 pilots. Take a pilot and get with Corrections and
8 health -- mental health, you know, the foundation,
9 whatever you call yourself, the fund and you start a
10 pilot or how we deal with the Corrections coming out
11 and bring that together and you're, kind of, rethinking
12 the process and so you take Fairbanks or you take a
13 place and you say all right, in the next six months
14 we're going to have something designed. We're going to
15 put in \$300,000 and we want to get 20 people going
16 through this new process. So have really -- it causes
17 you to rethink when you're doing something like that
18 and pull the people together. So I think there's some
19 -- you have some exciting opportunities.

20 And there's a blessing in the challenge you're going
21 through and the financial struggles that's going to
22 cause you to rethink your whole process, so I suggest
23 you see it as a blessing and an opportunity to open up.

24 And I come up here and hear that all of you get two
25 or \$3,000 a year just, kind of, given to you, could it

1 be you've gotten soft.

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

3 TAYLOR: You're not talking about our checks, are you?

4 PENDLETON: Pardon?

5 TAYLOR: You're not talking about our PFD checks, are you?

6 PENDLETON: Yes, I guess that's what you call 'em. So you pay
7 no sales tax. You pay no tax. The rest of us down in
8 the Lower 48 deal with that issue. I'm just saying you
9 have an opportunity to rethink seriously your whole
10 structure, so it's a great blessing I see for you to
11 come together and ask those hard questions that you've
12 avoided -- my guess is.

13 I'm not -- maybe you throw me out, but I'm just
14 giving you my thoughts and observations, to rethink
15 this process, so see it as a huge opportunity. Going
16 to be tough, sure, but you have some key, key
17 ingredients and I'm so excited for you and I hope we
18 get to come back and work with you in some way because
19 I love what you have -- already have in place. So
20 anyway, those are just some initial thoughts.
21 Questions?

22 BUTCHER: Yeah, thank you very much. Do we have any questions
23 for Mr. Pendleton?

24 PENDLETON: That says I better get off the stage.

25 BUTCHER: Yeah. Thank you very much for the insight. And we

1 may be reaching out to you again if that's would be
2 okay?

3 PENDLETON: Yeah.

4 BUTCHER: Okay. We really appreciate that, thank you.

5 We are finally to the Review and Adoption of
6 Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness. And just
7 for the benefit of the Council, Suzi and Dave have,
8 kind of, led this effort and of re-looking at how we do
9 this.

10 And, I think, initially we wanted to look at putting
11 -- and I'm sorry if I'm contradicting maybe what you're
12 going to say, but just, kind of, putting a framework
13 together, not a tremendous amount of detail. Just
14 trying to set something in that we can then build on.
15 And it can be a living document that we can, kind of,
16 fill in as we work with our partners on what roles we
17 all could play. So I feel like this is, you know, an
18 important, kind of, first step.

19 And I wanted to say I really appreciate the extra
20 time that the Council members put in between our last
21 meeting and this meeting because there were quite a few
22 meetings in getting to where we are today. So with
23 that I will hand it off to Suzi or Dave whichever
24 the.....

25 PEARSON: Go ahead, Dave.

1 KUIPER: I just wanted to say that while you continue to give
2 Suzi and I all that credit, we -- Carrie Collins and --
3 did the lions share of the real weight pulling here on
4 this thing. And we appreciate Shannon Wilks and her
5 participation. And then, of course, Mark Romick as
6 well, so it was a team effort and we're grateful to
7 have served in any way toward the goal of our Council.

8 PEARSON: All right. I'm sorry my age, I have farsighted
9 glasses and nearsighted glasses and how much can I read
10 without them.

11 Okay, all right. So the Alaska's Plan to End Long
12 Term Homelessness, this plan was actually originally
13 drafted in 2009 and last year we provided a report with
14 data from 2009 to 2014. That was supposed to round out
15 -- that was the five year marker of the 10 Year Plan.

16 What we decided to do is leave that as a five year
17 report. And what we did instead -- this is not a 10
18 Year Plan. This is a plan to end long term
19 homelessness for the State of Alaska, so I want you to
20 remember that. And, as you said, it is a living,
21 breathing document. It is intended to pull in data.
22 To pull in ideas and make sure we've got the community,
23 the community collaboration and education and
24 partnerships that need to happen in order to make this
25 successful.

1 Dave, please, pop in whenever you want otherwise I
2 will babble on and I know that we probably are going to
3 go a little bit over. I will try to not because I have
4 to be at the Assembly at 5:00 o'clock.

5 So, all right. Yes, thank you to Dave. Thank you
6 to Shannon, but Carrie has done the lion's work, this
7 is true. And I do want to thank Bryan and Mark for
8 providing her as our expert TA in this process. And
9 her patience and keeping us on track.

10 So with this plan, this was a -- we made a very
11 conscious decision in how we addressed and created this
12 plan. And what we recognized is that this is a plan
13 that comes from the State of Alaska.

14 This is government influenced. It is greatly
15 influenced by the expectations and accountability we
16 want to put on our government departments and agencies.
17 And as a result through that we can then pull up other
18 resources.

19 So this plan when you're looking at it and it says
20 AHFC, it says DHSS, that is because we want that
21 leadership and that expectation to come through them.
22 This is where it needs to start. So then that
23 framework will build the plan that was just talked
24 about. Those are all kinds of things that will
25 supplement and make this better. Right now this is the

1 framework.

2 I would like to point out, that when we are talking
3 about Alaska that we talk so often about how we are
4 unique and one thing that I would say I've lived in
5 Alaska pretty much all -- all my life and I know a lot
6 of Alaskans and sometimes we're crotchety especially
7 about our government.

8 And so as a result we really want local communities
9 to tell us what they need. We want them to access the
10 resources, know the resources and who to ask questions
11 in order to build the housing, build the services that
12 they might need, but we need local input and that is
13 not something we've had.

14 We do not want to dictate to communities that you
15 need six houses and that's it when really you may only
16 need two, but you need two case managers to help
17 facilitate that housing plan. And so we want that
18 dialogue to be very open and free and for local
19 communities to be able to drive that and have that
20 discussion in order to make sure that we are, as a
21 State, supporting you.

22 One thing that Scott had talked about was about
23 transparent and education. Yes, that is what we want
24 and that goes both ways. That means us committing to
25 you, as well as you saying yes, I'm going to tell you

1 what I need and we don't have to guess that. So that
2 collaboration and that communication needs to be a two
3 way street.

4 And in order to make this plan robust and big, it's
5 going to take a little bit of time to put all that
6 information in there. So that's, kind of, where that
7 comes from.

8 I think I already said that. I addressed lots of
9 things on here and I think I've said most of them.

10 So there were several areas that we -- when we were
11 looking at this with both the vision -- originally
12 because of the discussion, we had the opportunity --
13 this has been going on for a year, this creation of
14 this plan.

15 We've had -- discussed it at many levels both at the
16 Council level, as well as several meetings in between.
17 And that was one thing that Dave and I put all the
18 departments on the spot and said you're going to do
19 this. We're creating these lead partners and what that
20 means is that you're going to lead. You're going to
21 actually show us what you can do and how you can make
22 this more effective. You're going to put investment in
23 this.

24 And the one thing that I expect from that meeting
25 and that I feel like you committed to, was a very

1 strong dialogue around collaboration with not just your
2 budgets, but also with advocacy each year.

3 Something that we saw last year was very powerful
4 both at the government and the non-profit level was the
5 collaboration with the Alaska Coalition and the
6 Anchorage Coalition On Housing and Homelessness around
7 BHAP (ph). We were behind you, but you also were
8 engaging others, that's the kind of thing that needs to
9 happen ongoing.

10 So when you do look at your budgets, how are those
11 going to blend together. How are you going to make
12 sure that we're meeting the goals of the plan around
13 housing, around supportive services, education and
14 advocacy in order to bring that all together. And so
15 that was a conversation that we had that I can tell you
16 they all said yes. I'm putting it on the record, they
17 all said yes, so that was a big part of the vision.

18 Dave, if I'm just -- you need to butt in here.

19 KUIPER: (Simultaneous speech) just keep going as quickly as
20 your can (ph).

21 PEARSON: So with the plan we did put some data in here and
22 about -- you know, the history of the Council, how we
23 were structured, what we've accomplished thus far.
24 That report for five years was an accomplishment. This
25 is moving forward. This is looking at tomorrow, what

1 we can do and pull together today to make a different
2 tomorrow and than next year and the next five years and
3 the next 10 years for those who are at risk of
4 homelessness and who are homeless, so that's very
5 important.

6 There's data, of course, in there that's the most
7 recent information related to folks who are homeless or
8 near homeless. And I want to make sure that, that is
9 an awareness piece, that's just a pinpoint. It's a
10 piece in time. A moment in time that we have that we
11 can build from and build resources from and reduce
12 numbers, so that's why that is part of that plan is
13 that data.

14 Let's see, okay. Sorry, I need a drink. So with
15 the Plan to End Homelessness it's really, like, I want
16 you to actually go to page 7 if you have the plan in
17 front of you. And look at -- these are the priorities
18 and strategies of the plan that come from that vision
19 and is part of our discussion. And this was something
20 that we talked about on a regular basis and these were
21 areas that were defined as far as where we came from
22 with public comment, et cetera.

23 So when we're talking about identify and reviewing
24 central lead partners to assist with the strategies
25 outlined in the plan, it's done. We did that.

1 However, we wanted something in there that says look it
2 we did this (ph), but it's definitely -- that's part of
3 what that framework that you see on pages, what is it,
4 8 and 9 -- no -- yeah, 8 and 9. Then -- and that is
5 where we also get the commitment and the accountability
6 from the departments and State agencies.

7 The developing structures to support lead agencies
8 to identify strategies and ensure follow through,
9 that's going to be those discussions that they're
10 having when they're creating their department budgets,
11 what they're putting forward to the Governor that they
12 can show that collaboration and that knowledge of what
13 they have in their lo- -- the local communities, that
14 they've pulled that up and that the Governor can see
15 how we're working together on that.

16 Developing a structure for local coalitions to
17 report homeless efforts to the Council, part of that is
18 going to rely -- we have a great relationship and know
19 a lot about the Anchorage Coalition. It's the biggest
20 city in the State and as a result they have the largest
21 voice, but the Alaska Coalition on Housing and
22 Homelessness represents all of the other small
23 communities that are currently -- every community in
24 Balance of State, as we call it, and we need them to be
25 engaged.

1 All of the Coalitions lead up into that State
2 Coalition. It's important to have that collaboration
3 for them to be able to look to their coalitions, give
4 them guidance about how to connect and coordinate with
5 government agencies, so it's important that we are
6 having that dialogue. And so I would really want to
7 make sure and that's why we've identified both the
8 Anchorage and the Alaska Coalition as supporting
9 partners in several areas here.

10 Requesting that the Governor appoint a
11 representative from the Office of Veterans Affairs and
12 Department of Labor and Workforce, Bryan is actually
13 actively working on that and we're getting some real
14 positive feedback, so we feel that we'll be able to add
15 some extra partners that have real value and have --
16 they should have been a member for a long period of
17 time, so we're going to be making that happen.

18 And then engaging tribal housing authorities and
19 encouraging coordination with local coalitions. It's
20 a little bit why I asked Colleen from HUD about this,
21 but -- I mean, there is conversation. There is some
22 awareness, but there's also a history of, like I said,
23 mystery that there hasn't been a lot of collaboration.
24 We don't know necessarily what's happening in tribal
25 entities or their housing or how that works and I think

1 we're working towards something on that.

2 Olen, did you want to.....

3 HARRIS: Yeah. Well, even at the Association of Housing
4 Authorities we realize that being more closely
5 coordinated with this conference -- we had a session
6 yesterday and, you know, kind of the role of the
7 Regional Housing Authorities and what we do. And we're
8 trying on a statewide level to be more involved with
9 any of the different partners we can find to help us
10 with solutions to any of these problems.

11 PEARSON: Thanks. So as you can see we are actually actively
12 working and having some success on the goals that we've
13 identified in this plan.

14 So on pages 8 and 9 there's a list of housing -- of
15 different priorities. And as Carmen talked about, the
16 Anchorage Plan and opening doors at a Federal level,
17 we're really trying to create that streamlining, making
18 sure we're using the same language, the same
19 information and similar goals.

20 But the one thing I would want to say is that this
21 plan doesn't have to be necessarily the same thing for
22 every local plan, that if they don't have permanent
23 housing problems, they only have supportive housing
24 problems or supportive services, than that's what they
25 need to identify. That's what they need to tell us

1 where their successes are, where they're making great
2 achievements and how we can be of support, so I don't
3 expect other coalitions to necessarily mirror this.

4 And so with our different priorities we identified
5 lead partners and as I said we choose to use government
6 agencies because truly they have the resources. We
7 have a lot of expectations of them. However, we also
8 know that it's important for us to have a dialogue in
9 order to make this successful. Pulling that local
10 information and the State saying here we have the
11 resources, that's a different kind of dialogue than
12 we've had in the past.

13 What we've pretty much consisting (ph) is a dictate
14 down and that's not how we want this to work. We
15 really want this to be a vibrant, robust and moving
16 forward, so every year we will be reporting back on
17 this and pulling information from the local communities
18 so that we can figure out okay, this is where we've
19 been successful or this is where we need a change.
20 Prior to this the plans weren't very flexible and we
21 really need this to be flexible and to meet the needs
22 of the State of Alaska and what we're able to do.

23 And with the current budget we also need to
24 recognize that our departments do have some limitations
25 and that, that is something that we need to listen to

1 their ideas about how to be effective with reducing
2 homelessness in our communities. They can do their
3 part. We need to do our part. It's really, really
4 important that we be a part of this plan and not just
5 expect that the State government is going to do
6 everything.

7 Okay. I think that, that's pretty the main things
8 that I had to say. There are a couple notes under here
9 that I do -- wanted to point out as far as
10 under-utilized resources that I really hope that folks
11 look to in the future such as the engagement of the
12 faith based community with the Emergency Cold Weather
13 Plan in Anchorage.

14 I know from -- as AWAIC is domestic violence
15 shelter. It's an emergency shelter and we actually do
16 get a lot of donations from the faith based community.
17 However, they often say yes, we can give you money, but
18 we want to know how to help and I think so often the
19 faith based community wants to give and want to be a
20 part of that. They want to volunteer and we just need
21 to tell them how they can be partners with us. So I
22 really think that, that's something that we really need
23 to look in our local communities.

24 Okay. I think I will stop. Dave.

25 KUIPER: I think I would just like to reiterate one of the

1 things that I think Suzi is trying to communicate is
2 that over and over this is a working document. And
3 that while we have had conversations and then agreed
4 with the lead partners who will serve in lead partner
5 settings, that some of the supporting partners could be
6 added to. And we may not know who some of those
7 supporting partners are and some of you may be right
8 here in this room.

9 And you may be looking at a box and saying why is my
10 name or the name of the agency, organization there and
11 that might be a great time for you to make a
12 recommendation to us at some point.

13 So it is a -- it does not have a time limit on this
14 and I think some of the challenges for us will be how
15 do we measure what we do. And so some of the
16 reporting, some of those sorts of things will still be
17 challenges for us because we would like to be
18 accountable to the plan, but figuring out exactly how
19 to do that, I don't think we've done that completely.

20 So there's still some work parts in process, but as
21 such we hope that it serves this Council, but we also
22 hope that it can serve the coalitions, both the
23 Anchorage and the Balance of State coalitions, Alaska
24 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

25 And we, kind of, really hope it serves the Governor

1 because when this was laid out originally it was the
2 Governor's Council and still seems to ring with that,
3 so we hope that he will appreciate this format and that
4 he can see that it does serve well. If it doesn't,
5 that we would get that kind of feedback from him as
6 well. So thank you.

7 PEARSON: And one other thing I would like to add is on page
8 9, that some of you might not be familiar with it, but
9 in the Priority 3 section it says AML and that's the
10 Alaska Municipal League. Betty snuck out, so I'm going
11 to put her on the spot. The minute you leave I'm going
12 to (indiscernible), but AML actually is a resource most
13 communities don't realize is there for them.

14 They can do a lot of unique things to help with the
15 landlord engagement and local coalition, that's part of
16 your local Assembly, you know, or Council that is
17 there. And we have a very unique opportunity in the
18 State of Alaska, our Legislators are so accessible.
19 They're part of our community. You see them every day.
20 And in small rural villages they're -- small rural
21 areas they are friends with everybody.

22 You can go up to Donnie Olson and say hey, how you
23 doing. I mean, you see him in the airport every other
24 month, you know, or several times a month, but we have
25 that unique opportunity to use our government contacts

1 and our municipal contacts to make change and to access
2 and influence, not just at this level because they're
3 just -- they're not just, but as department heads they
4 have a lot of power and authority, but it's also
5 important for us to use as many avenues as we can and
6 our elected officials are a very key part of that, so
7 just want to remind you there.

8 So with that being said, do you have any questions
9 of us?

10 BUTCHER: Okay. Does anybody have any questions or any
11 comments as well? Jeff.

12 JESSEE: Well, I think this is an important step and I think
13 there's a lot of really good information and strategies
14 in here. I appreciate the fact that it's described as
15 an evolving plan over time. I really appreciate the
16 work that everybody has put in on putting it together.

17 And, therefore, I would move that the Council
18 approve Resolution 2015-1 which would formally endorse
19 Alaska's plan to end long term homelessness.

20 BUTCHER: Could we get a.....

21 TAYLOR: Second it.

22 BUTCHER:second? Thank you. Second from the
23 Commissioner.

24 PEARSON: Thank you very much. I appreciate all the support
25 and all the extra meetings that you've gone to and

1 e-mails. Thanks, guys. And I really look forward to
2 working with all of you and you need to speak up, too.

3 BUTCHER: Yeah, and then the one comment I have before we take
4 a vote on this is, you know, Suzi, you've made a real
5 stressful point in getting all of the, kind of,
6 affected departments that were going to carry a lot of
7 the water as lead partners together to look at each
8 other and say yes because it's going to take some work.
9 It's not just a matter of looking at it and going yeah,
10 it makes sense. We've got to do work. We've got to
11 assign staff. We have to do this.

12 And by the same -- looking at it the same way, as we
13 think about the supporting partners, you know, we
14 didn't put a lot of detail in below that because,
15 frankly, we didn't think partners, which most of you
16 sitting in this room are, as well as people not in this
17 room, would particularly appreciate us telling you what
18 we thought you needed to do and how you needed to
19 partner with us, that needs to be collaborative, like
20 you said before.

21 And so that, kind of, becomes the next step once we
22 move beyond this is gathering that information. And I
23 -- you know, we stood up and said yes to more work and
24 I look forward to having the opportunity to have those
25 conversation with a lot of people.

1 KUIPER: Friendly amendment?

2 BUTCHER: Absolutely.

3 KUIPER: I happen to like Lloyd's recommendation about one
4 word change, that in the opening statement of the
5 vision instead of reading every Alaskan should, that
6 every Alaskan will have access to safe, affordable and
7 accommodating housing and no man, woman or child should
8 be forced to sleep on the streets, in the woods or in
9 a shelter. Ending homelessness is a statewide
10 priority.

11 So I -- if the -- if Mr. Jessee will accept a
12 friendly amendment to will instead of should, I would
13 like to make that recommendation.

14 JESSEE: I would accept that if my second would accept it as
15 well.

16 TAYLOR: I will for a fee. I accept it.

17 BUTCHER: All right. All those in favor of the amendment say
18 aye?

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20 BUTCHER: All those opposed say no. Okay. The amendment has
21 passed.

22 We are back to the original motion. Do we need to
23 take an individual vote or do you know or -- okay.
24 Okay. So do Council members support accepting this,
25 please say aye?

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 BUTCHER: Any opposed say no? Very good. Thank you very
3 much.

4 TAYLOR: You don't have to hold your breath any more, Suzi.
5 I thought you were holding your breath to make sure we
6 got all votes.

7 HARRIS: If I may ask one favor and I realize you already
8 plan on doing this, but would you please send us a copy
9 of the finalized version with the new verbiage at the
10 come of the meeting? Thank you.

11 BUTCHER: All right. Thanks for the Council for being here a
12 few minutes late. I'd like to go around the table and
13 is there any comments, anything any of the Council
14 Members would like to finish with?

15 WALL: I will make one. I believe Amanda and Kelda did a
16 tremendous job of summary of movement in the Department
17 of Health and Social Services.

18 I do want to just make the closing statement that
19 there is a great deal moving in Health and Social
20 Services right now. The opportunity that Medicaid
21 expansion has afforded us and the Medicaid redesign
22 efforts is substantial. It means more services for
23 more Alaskans in need. And yet between here and there,
24 there's a lot of work to be done.

25 So you can anticipate many things moving in that

1 arena and I believe it will intersect the need of
2 homeless individuals significantly.

3 BUTCHER: Thanks. Commissioner.

4 TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a real quick
5 announcement about the prisoner re-entry -- our re-
6 entry Council. That will be next week actually. We
7 have a Council meeting on the 22nd and Re-entry
8 Coalition training for the 20th and 21st, I believe.

9 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Any other comments?

10 Okay. I have one and that is that, you know, Lloyd
11 was talking about the benefits we have of new folks
12 coming in. Mayor Berkowitz seems very engaged in
13 dealing with this issue and other issues having to do
14 with housing.

15 And Governor Walker does as well. I have probably
16 gotten more phone calls from Governor Walker's office
17 having to do with all issues of housing in the last
18 year than I have any governor for any period of time.
19 And that's not to speak poorly of other Governors
20 because they've been as engaged as well. It's to speak
21 at how committed Governor Walker is to dealing with
22 issues of housing including this.

23 So I know it got mentioned yesterday by Elizabeth,
24 but I'd like to mention again, the Governor is going to
25 have a housing summit on Wednesday, January 6th and

1 it's going to be a day dedicated to many of the areas
2 of challenges of housing in this State, not just
3 homelessness, but homelessness certainly is a big piece
4 of it. And so there will be more information coming as
5 we get closer to the date.

6 And, I think, it's going to be a great opportunity
7 to really have Alaskans be able to see a lot of the
8 challenges we have to deal with because housing is a
9 huge piece of, in particular Arctic living, and coming
10 up with some solutions to do some positive things about
11 it.

12 So with that I believe we are adjourned. Thank you
13 very much.

14 (Adjourned - 4:13 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

6 THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING of the
 7 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE**
HOMELESS, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 13th day of October,
 8 2015, commencing at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Marriott
 Downtown Anchorage Hotel, 820 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska,
 pursuant to Notice;

9 THAT this Transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a true
 10 and correct transcription of said Public Hearing, thereafter
 transcribed by Suzan Olson;

11 THAT the original of the Transcript will be lodged with
 12 the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation;

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

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
 affixed my seal this 15th day of December, 2015.

16
 17 Notary Public in and for Alaska
 18 My Commission Expires: 08/13/19
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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
10/13/15

