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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS

ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
4300 BONIFACE PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

May 19, 2016

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
PUBLIC MEETING 5/19/16



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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:03 p.m.)

BUTCHER: Okay. I'd like to gavel in the meeting of the May 19th, 2016 Governor's Council on the Homeless. Carrie, could you please call the roll.

COLLINS: Great, Dave Kuiper?

KUIPER: Here.

COLLINS: Suzi Pearson?

PEARSON: Here.

COLLINS: Olen Harris?

HARRIS: Here.

COLLINS: Betty Svensson?

SVENSSON: Here.

COLLINS: Commissioner Folger?

FOLGER: Here.

COLLINS: Commissioner Williams?

WILLIAMS: Here.

COLLINS: And Mr. Butcher?

BUTCHER: Here. All right. We have a quorum to conduct business. Welcome everybody. I'd like to point out that it's the first meeting that our new Corrections Commissioner, Dean Williams is able to attend. Welcome, Commissioner.

WILLIAMS: Thank you.

BUTCHER: And it's the final meeting for our Public Safety

Commissioner, Gary Folger, so we appreciate the work you've done.

Since we last met a number of things have occurred. One prominent thing has been the Governor's Housing Summit and we've got Elizabeth Schultz here that later on will comment and give us a briefing of that, but homelessness was one of the focused areas there and many of the people in the room participated in that as well, so with that we will move into -- unless anybody has any questions?

We will move into Public Comments, so if anybody is interested in making a public comment, please come to the microphone one by one and let us know your name and your affiliation for the record, please.

And we're welcomed by Jeff Jessee.

JESSEE: Sorry I'm late.

BUTCHER: Yup, that's fine. Do we have any public comments? Okay. Nobody has signed up, does anybody in the audience like to give any public comment? Okay.

All right. We will move onto our first item on our agenda after that which is Point-in-Time results. Alissa Murphy and Adam Smith will the Institute for Community Alliances.

COLLINS: So Alissa and Adam were going to call in and.....

BUTCHER: Okay.

1 COLLINS:I'm not sure if they're on the phone yet.

2 BUTCHER: Okay. So they probably were looking at the time.

3 Okay. Well, let's come back to that.

4 Let's move to our next item on the agenda

5 Governor's Housing Summit Follow-up, Elizabeth

6 Schultz.

7 (Off record conversation)

8 SCHULTZ: Hello, everyone. So -- well, I was -- there's a

9 letter from the Governor that has been presented to

10 all of you and I have it for anybody else that would

11 like it. It's basically -- I'm not going to read it

12 word for word, but a thank you to everybody --a thank

13 you to everybody that participated in the summit. We

14 had over 300 people statewide that came together to

15 talk about housing and homelessness issues across all

16 economic spectrums and brought in builders, realtors,

17 many different stakeholders and so it was a wonderful

18 success.

19 On the Governor's website there is a tab for

20 priorities and under that is the Governor's Housing

21 Summit and if you want to look at the summation

22 reports from the summit they are up.

23 In addition to that, the Governor has tasked me

24 with pulling together a few follow-up work groups

25 from the summit.

1 This past few weeks I've been looking in detail
2 through every report and can state that we do need to
3 have some work group follow-up for several different
4 -- there were eight groups at the summit, but many
5 pieces of that work are already being done and I
6 think you're going to hear about that throughout the
7 day today.

8 The Re-entry Coalitions under the Department of
9 Corrections are working very hard to address housing
10 and homelessness issues. The Department of Health
11 and Social Services are working very hard.

12 And so I don't have a strategic plan built yet.
13 The Governor hasn't had time to work on that because
14 he's been in Juneau very busy since the housing
15 summit closed, but what he has done has looked at the
16 summation reports and identified several areas that
17 he wants to have some follow-up work groups and I'll
18 be convening those throughout the summer and the
19 fall.

20 And in general, I think, he just wants to thank
21 everybody for raising this issue up a little bit
22 higher and is committed to ending homelessness or
23 working towards ending homelessness in Alaska with
24 some specific views to ending Veterans homelessness
25 and working for the betterment of our most

1 vulnerable.

2 So if anybody has any questions for me, but I can
3 provide reports and I can do follow-up after the
4 meeting.

5 BUTCHER: Do we have any questions for Elizabeth?

6 PEARSON: No, but want I wanted to say thank you very much
7 to the Governor and (indiscernible) that was pulled
8 together very, very quickly and it was an extremely
9 helpful summit, so thank you.

10 SCHULTZ: You are welcome.

11 BUTCHER: Go ahead, Jeff.

12 JESSEE: Well, and just, sort of, some other comments.
13 Again, thanks to you and the Governor for the summit.

14 SCHULTZ: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

15 JESSEE: And I think what this, you know, brings up for all
16 of us on the Council is there's a lot of energy
17 around housing right now.

18 SCHULTZ: Correct.

19 JESSEE: You know, the Governor has got his effort, the
20 Mayor of Anchorage is particularly focused on housing
21 and homelessness. Both the Medicaid Reform Bills and
22 the Criminal Justice Reform measures housing is
23 critical in both of those arenas as well.

24 And I think the challenge for this Council is
25 going to be how do we respond to this interest

1 especially in the current economic and fiscal part of
2 it. You know, it's going to be hard to come up with
3 a lot of additional resources.

4 I know that my trustees are looking at all of the
5 various ways that we currently spend funding.....

6 SCHULTZ: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

7 JESSEE:and conceivably some funding could be
8 reallocated to advance these causes. I know that
9 there is the Federal Housing Trust resource that I'm
10 not sure exactly how that might play into this, but
11 it certainly seems like it could.

12 So, I think, as a Council we just have to, kind
13 of, think through with all of these initiatives and
14 energy how can we best address these issues. And
15 obviously the leadership of the Governor and the
16 Governor's office is a key component of that.

17 So I am sure the rest of the Council does, too,
18 but I'm particularly interested continuing to work
19 with you and the Governor's office around, you know,
20 how can not only the Trust, but this Council, kind
21 of, help fashion an overall vision.....

22 SCHULTZ: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

23 JESSEE:for how all of these different resources and
24 moving parts can work together, so thanks for all of
25 your work.

1 SCHULTZ: Well, absolutely. And this Council will be one of
2 those small group work force task forces that is
3 going to be put to work.

4 The Council is incredibly important because you
5 touch all the pieces that were represented at the
6 summit. So, I think, going forward having smaller
7 groups that look at specific pieces of that work
8 product that day and figuring out what needs to
9 happen now to move this forward to the next level and
10 that is going to be really important. And this
11 Council meets just twice a year, but there's work
12 constantly ongoing.

13 I think one of the things the summit highlighted
14 was that there is so -- there is a great need for
15 collaboration and a great need for great
16 relationships among the different groups that are
17 working on housing and there already was that. Now
18 it's even better hopefully and continuing to go
19 forward.

20 Just having an office that's looking in and saying
21 let's continue to make sure everybody is at the table
22 that needs to be. Who wasn't at the summit that
23 should have been there. Who else do we need to bring
24 in now and let's make sure we do that, that is the
25 state that we're at right now and we're really

1 optimistic, so.....

2 JESSEE: Well, and, you know, I appreciate that. And the
3 fact that this Council only meets twice a year,.....

4 SCHULTZ: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

5 JESSEE:I don't think is necessarily indicative of
6 the level of effort the Council and the Council
7 members have really (ph).....

8 SCHULTZ: Exactly, that's what I meant.

9 JESSEE:put into this. And I for one would welcome a
10 charge to this Council to roll up our sleeves and
11 actually do something, you know, around these issues.
12 So I welcome that charge and look forward to working
13 with my fellow Council members on how we can step-up
14 and be a big part of it.

15 BUTCHER: Yeah, and to follow-up on that, Jeff. I think
16 that you can see in the Governor's letter that he's
17 looking at this Council. He's looking at expanding
18 it and, you know, what things we can do.

19 And, I think, when you go through the Housing
20 Summit report, not just for the homeless, but all of
21 them, they all overlap tremendously. And issues in
22 senior housing affects homelessness and lack of
23 housing stock in rural and urban Alaska affects this
24 and they all really work together, but there's a few
25 things that, kind of, jump out at me, you know, every

1 time I look through it.

2 One is how much other areas rely on others. And
3 one is how much we really need to work together
4 because what we really saw at the summit for those of
5 you that were there, were there were people in the
6 room talking that you would have assumed would end up
7 in meetings just, kind of, end up in meetings, I
8 guess, that hadn't before. And that the interaction
9 that was going on was really helping something
10 positive occur that might not have and that's why,
11 you know, we've been in conversations with Elizabeth.

12 We're going to meet next month to work through in
13 all these areas how we keep the momentum going
14 because what we didn't want to have happen was to put
15 it together, end up with a report that collects dust
16 some place and have people say well, there was one
17 day and one time in which people seems really focused
18 on housing, but then this happened and it went away.

19 But the other area to touch a little bit on what
20 you just brought up, Jeff, is, you know, we look for
21 revenue neutral solutions and I think there's already
22 some things going on at the summit that are being
23 worked on to that end, but some things do take
24 (indiscernible). I think they just do.

25 And until on a big picture the State's fiscal

1 situation is figured out and we have something that's
2 a little bit more sustainable on an annual basis, a
3 lot of these areas are going to be very difficult to
4 tackle just because.

5 And for any of you that have been working on any
6 legislation or proposed legislation in Juneau know,
7 the budget situation sucks all of the oxygen out of
8 the room. And you have -- it could be the greatest
9 idea in the world, but if it's going to cost some
10 amount of money, not a whole lot of interest in
11 talking about it.

12 And so, you know, we really appreciate the work
13 the Governor is doing towards that end because until
14 that big issue is dealt with, a whole bunch of other
15 things that many of us spend all day on every day,
16 make it much more difficult happen, so.....

17 JESSEE: Well, since we have some time I think this
18 dialogue is good. One thing that did happen this
19 session besides the Medicaid Reform Bill which was
20 huge, is Senate Bill 91 passed, the Justice Re-
21 investment Act. And, I believe, the Legislature has
22 genuinely accepted the concept of having to reinvest,
23 you know, into those programs that make re-entry
24 work.

25 And I think testimony to that is on the Senate

1 side was Senator MacKinnon's leadership. They even
2 tapped yet unrealized marijuana tax funds because the
3 actual criminal justice savings won't be, you know,
4 realized for a while, you know. I know Dean's
5 working on that like crazy, but these things take a
6 while.

7 And so I think that's one opportunity right there
8 where the Legislature has recognized the need to
9 reinvest if we're going to be successful in when
10 people come out of Corrections making sure they have
11 housing, employment so they have a legitimate form of
12 income and support for recovery from mental health or
13 substance abuse issues, so housing is absolutely
14 critical.

15 The Legislature has recognized the need to
16 reinvest in those efforts. They haven't, I think,
17 specifically called out housing yet, but I think
18 that's part of the continuing dialogue.

19 And I don't know, Dean, whether you want to talk a
20 little bit about that 'cause I think that's a huge
21 area that can help galvanize and focus some of our
22 efforts as we start looking at well, how many people
23 are you, you know, releasing back into the community
24 and how can we help them be successful.

25 WILLIAMS: Yeah. No. And thanks, Jeff. And thanks for the

1 -- this is my first meeting with all of you, so great
2 to be here.

3 So one of the things that Senate Bill 91, and the
4 reason why even the Justice Reform effort, I think,
5 really touches very deeply what's going on with
6 homelessness, and from my prior life I worked on some
7 of this issue as well and there are some strategies I
8 think we really have to come together on and say this
9 is one we're going to go after and I'll give you one
10 example, job training.

11 And in my other capacity, one of my other jobs
12 (indiscernible) and I just stopped off down at the
13 soup kitchen yesterday, by the way, because they have
14 just started, kind of, the concept that we've seen in
15 other cities, the Feed Me Hope (ph) Program is the
16 genesis that's, kind of, generated back when I was at
17 that agency and the job training that you put someone
18 coming out of prison in for three months -- you know,
19 I've just -- I'm examining a little harder our
20 halfway house (indiscernible) capacity.

21 In fact, I've just taken some action recently
22 which is not public yet, but I'm looking really hard
23 about where we're spending money as an agency because
24 a lot of our recidivism troubles, of course, comes
25 because people are leaving prison, don't have an

1 occupation, don't have a job, don't have a place to
2 live and they're a good portion of what we're seeing
3 in the homelessness.

4 So the fact that -- you know, that my efforts and
5 Justice Reform very much touches what -- this area
6 and so back to the (indiscernible). There's some
7 initiatives here that are very cost neutral if we
8 realign some resources and one of them is job
9 training when people get out. How do we make sure
10 that someone goes from the prison door to a halfway
11 house.

12 I've already started talking to (indiscernible)
13 about this, about how we keep people there, how they
14 stay there at night. They come to the job training
15 program. There's a culinary arts training program.
16 You put them in for three months and guess what, the
17 end of three or four months they have the skills.
18 They can be a private cook. These are like real (ph)
19 paying jobs, \$15, \$20 an hour jobs.

20 Those are the strategies that, I think, if we
21 identify one or two of them because like most of us
22 meetings are great, but unless they lead us somewhere
23 collectively, we're just, kind of, fooling around and
24 I want to something to happen.

25 First of all we all have short windows in the time

1 when we're in certain positions and so I want some of
2 these things to happen under my tenure about how our
3 Department if spending money because recidivism rates
4 are directly related to what happens where people are
5 living, our homeless. And they can't have a job that
6 they can go back to, if they don't have a place to
7 live when they go back they're going to make a
8 living.

9 And if you've, kind of, did okay drug dealing a
10 little bit and if you, kind of, pay for, you know,
11 the kids food, that's what you do and so that's the
12 reason why our recidivism rates are high. That's why
13 we -- our strategies in terms of dealing with
14 homelessness, I think, needs to advance a little bit
15 and let's learn what -- especially what other cities
16 have done to coordinate strategies.

17 So I'm looking for revenue options, too or at
18 least what we can leverage under business
19 corporations to say yeah, this is a promising
20 strategy, this will reduce homelessness in downtown
21 Anchorage and those are the things (indiscernible)
22 people coming along.

23 And so if we identify one or two of those things
24 that we're going to say hey, next year -- granted
25 it's my first meeting you guys so -- but if we have

1 all those things and my Department can be part of
2 that, as I said soon I'll announce -- I'm realigning
3 some money, some -- where I'm spinning out some
4 things right now and I'm going to continue to do that
5 over the course of the next year, but this -- a
6 little bit of money on some of these areas can make a
7 difference.

8 And so I'm all for what we can identify as one or
9 two things so if we all sit here the next year that
10 hey, we did that one thing, two thing and that was
11 taking us the right way, so I'm with you.

12 SCHULTZ: And if I could speak to that, Dean. I agree with
13 you, Bryan, there's -- revenue is a huge piece of
14 this if we're going to be asking for the funds, but
15 without the funds from the State, pulling in the
16 community in a way that coalitions have done is going
17 to be crucial.

18 I had a chance -- I haven't had a chance to see
19 you since this, but I had a chance to go to the
20 Mat-Su Re-entry Coalition meeting and it was an
21 incredible group of fired up people there ready and
22 willing to form a re-entry coalition. We've got
23 foundational support. You have non-profit support.

24 I think pulling those people together and
25 continuing to explain to the communities what that

1 would mean to returning citizens (ph) and how clear
2 it's going -- clearly it's going to solve some of
3 these issues that we all continue to talk about.

4 And one of these work -- work groups that I dream
5 about and I would be tasking Dave over here on this
6 Council to help me with that, is to put a multi-faith
7 group together, training together so that pastors,
8 congregations, missions, communities, all those
9 people that are touching various places in the
10 community would have a chance to hear from the Re-
11 entry Coalitions and say this is how we need you,
12 this is where we need you and this is how it's going
13 to make a difference.

14 And we continue to just bring more and more and
15 more people to the table that is going to bring
16 funding to the table that's not going to be there
17 from the State.

18 And so I think we're all on the right track. We
19 just need to keep meeting and I'm committed to doing
20 that for -- to help in any way I can for you, for the
21 Governor, for everyone, so.....

22 BUTCHER: Okay. Thanks, Elizabeth. Do we have any other
23 questions? All right. Thank you very much,
24 Elizabeth.

25 SCHULTZ: Thanks.

1 COLLINS: So Alissa Murphy with ICA is now on the phone.

2 BUTCHER: Okay. Let's jump back up to Point-in-Time
3 Results, Alissa Murphy and Adam Smith with the
4 Institute for Community Alliances. Welcome.

5 MURPHY: Thank you. Good afternoon. We're kind of,
6 dividing and concurring right now, so Adam isn't
7 here, but he wanted me to tackle that today anyways
8 because I was involved more with the Point-in-Time on
9 the ground than he was, so.....

10 I have not (indiscernible) looking at is not
11 there. I think there's a map and then there was some
12 graphs, correct?

13 BUTCHER: Yeah we have -- the slides we have in front of us
14 are of Alaska January, 2016 Point-in-Time Count and
15 then Balance of State and then, I think, 2015, so we
16 have three in front of us. We'll shuffle around to
17 whichever one you'd like to speak to first.

18 COLLINS: And, Alissa, I have.....

19 MURPHY: Okay, sure.

20 COLLINS:access to the maps on the screen for them
21 when you're ready for those.

22 MURPHY: Okay. So, I think, that I just wanted to discuss
23 really briefly ICA. We came on as the HMIS lead in
24 June of last year and so this was our first Point-in-
25 Time count that we were involved in with Alaska this

1 year.

2 And so the methodology that we used is, kind of,
3 you know, obviously we utilize AK HMIS data first and
4 foremost, so if an agency was using that system we
5 went to them, made sure that their data was entered
6 into the system and correct (indiscernible) of the
7 count which was January 26th.

8 And then Alaska -- some communities in Alaska did
9 the Project Homeless Connect Event, so that, kind of,
10 either supplement or (indiscernible) outreach count
11 or their unsheltered count and then there were the
12 agency records who are not (indiscernible) agencies,
13 so, for instance, Domestic Violence agencies, other
14 agencies who may be providing (indiscernible) housing
15 or (indiscernible) emergency shelters, but are not on
16 the AK plan system.

17 So there were paper forms that were completed for
18 agencies that are not utilizing this system and then
19 there was the Project Homeless Connect data. And so
20 all of that data -- the Project Homeless Connect data
21 was entered into the system and then some
22 (indiscernible) agencies who enter information into
23 AK HMIS that could be reduplicated from that Project
24 Homeless Connect data.

25 When the agencies fit in there as their client

1 level data, but they may have had, for instance, so
2 if they had a client that was in a shelter so maybe
3 (indiscernible) in Kenai, if they had one of them
4 (indiscernible) Anchorage, they don't enter client
5 level data, but I was able to from their paper forms
6 reduplicate any clients who were also entered into
7 the Project Homeless Connect data, so that they're
8 not counted in the State count twice.

9 There are limitations to that so, for instance, if
10 there was domestic violence clients who were also
11 seen at Project Homeless Connect because I didn't get
12 client level data, I didn't get names (ph), I didn't
13 get enough information to deal with (indiscernible),
14 -- they may have been counted twice, so there were
15 limitations to that, but we do duplicate as much as
16 possible both the (indiscernible) and the
17 (indiscernible) count.

18 There's (indiscernible) this year with the Point-
19 in-Time on the chronic homelessness definition, so
20 the definition for chronic homelessness included,
21 kind of, a new part of it which was -- so either a
22 client has to have a stay in homelessness for a year
23 or longer continuously or they (indiscernible)
24 homelessness four times in the last three years and
25 those four times have to have added up to a year for

1 it to be consider (ph) a year or at least 12 months
2 during those four different times.

3 A client must have a disability to be considered
4 chronically homeless as well and that's always been
5 part of that (indiscernible) definition, so that
6 didn't change, but the new add-in of the must have
7 added (ph) up to a year on the (indiscernible)
8 homelessness, not the continual homelessness was new
9 to the definition and so that, kind of, changed how
10 chronic homelessness was counted (indiscernible) this
11 year. And that changes how (ph) chronic homelessness
12 is counted going forward, so that was a major change.

13 I think that was the only real major, major change
14 to that population data this year. I'm trying to
15 think.

16 We're also looking at building capacity in the
17 system itself so that the Point-in-Time can be
18 (indiscernible) from -- just from the system itself.

19 Anchorage is about 70/30, so 70 percent of
20 providers are on the system, 30 percent are not. The
21 balance is pretty much split so 70 percent are not,
22 30 percent are. And that's because there's a lot of
23 domestic violence providers in the balance of state
24 and domestic violence providers are actually
25 prohibited from being on (ph) HMIS, but serve as (ph)

1 other homelessness providers.

2 The 2015 data we had nothing to do with either. I
3 just took the numbers directly from HDS and put them
4 into a graph that's very similar to the (ph) 2016
5 data, but I would caution any kind of direct
6 comparisons being made with those numbers from 2015
7 to 2016. I can't verify any kind of validity in the
8 2015 numbers 'cause we weren't part of that process.

9 BUTCHER: Okay. Alissa, this is Bryan. It's difficult to
10 compare Point-in-Time a year -- to make year to year
11 comparisons for a number of reasons. One is a lot of
12 times if you see a warm day that happened to occur,
13 you see fewer people in shelters than you would if it
14 were a very cold day. We don't have control over
15 that obviously,.....

16 MURPHY: Yes.

17 BUTCHER:but another one as we've seen periodically
18 where there may be communities that participated one
19 year and then not another or had other ones come on.
20 Do you know if we had any communities in 2016 that we
21 did not -- that were not in Point-in-Time in 2015 and
22 also if there were some that were in 2015 that were
23 not in 2016?

24 MURPHY: I don't have that specific data. I don't know if
25 Carrie or Carmen or Scott might, but I do not. I

1 mean,.....

2 BUTCHER: Do we have.....

3 MURPHY:I can tell you which communities were part of
4 Project Homeless Connect and which communities they
5 got data from, but I -- I don't know about comparing
6 it to last year.

7 BUTCHER: Okay. Jeff.

8 JESSEE: Well, Bryan, I appreciate your comments because
9 that raises some issues for me. I mean, every year
10 we seem to go through this exercise where we look at
11 the Point-in-Time count and are admonished not to
12 draw any conclusions about any trend because of all
13 these different factors. You know, do we need to,
14 you know, look at our data strategy here?

15 I mean, we do the Point-in-Time count because the
16 Feds tell us to do a Point-in-Time count. And I'm
17 sure that makes the Feds very happy that we do that,
18 but if it's not useful for our purposes maybe we have
19 to do something different or more or whatever
20 because, frankly, bad data is worse than no data, you
21 know, 'cause you start to make decisions on stuff
22 that I keep trying to -- you know, 'cause I've been
23 flipping back and forth going well, it looks like a
24 significant reduction in transitional housing.
25 What's that about. And I'm sure somebody is going to

1 tell me no, you can't really, you know, conclude
2 that.

3 So -- I mean, I'd rather not see it at all than to
4 keep getting it and being told you can't really
5 conclude anything from it.

6 BUTCHER: Right. So regardless of whether we chose to take
7 anything from it or not, it still has to occur, but
8 what you're saying is, is there -- should we try to
9 come up with a plan or try to come up with some funds
10 to actually -- because, you know, the reason I, kind
11 of, prefaced bringing the Point-in-Time up in the
12 first place is even if everything was kept exactly
13 even year into year, it still would be very limited
14 just by the mere fact that we're talking about one
15 day in the year. And so many variables that occur in
16 that day can skew trying to make any kind of a
17 comparison.

18 CIAMBOR: Carrie, Scott Ciambor.....

19 KUIPER: I appreciate both of your concerns here.....

20 CIAMBOR:on the line (telephone - cutting out) chime
21 in on some of that.

22 BUTCHER: Okay, could you give us your name again?

23 CIAMBOR: Sure. So this is Scott Ciambor. I'm the Chair of
24 the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

25 BUTCHER: Okay. Go ahead, Scott.

1 CIAMBOR: And I think the concerns that were both addressed
2 here by Bryan and Jeff are the exact reasons that we
3 made the switch to our HMIS administrator last year
4 to work with ICA.

5 There was a recognition that there was some major
6 flaws in the way it was administered in our State in
7 terms of training, work plan, numbers of users,
8 participation throughout the State. And so the State
9 Coalition and the Anchorage Coalition and ICA have
10 been making plans to make sure that this Point-in-
11 Time count data is useful from year to year.

12 This just happens to be the first go round with
13 this new arrangement. I think you will be able to
14 rely on this information moving forward from this
15 year and just really encourage the Council to
16 continue to invest in this process. And then, you
17 know, helping us make sure that communities
18 participate and that is the big thing we're going to
19 try and continue to bolster.

20 BUTCHER: Yeah, okay, Scott. Because if there are things
21 we, as the Council, can do on the front end to
22 encourage more participation by communities, we would
23 absolutely be engaged in doing that.

24 CIAMBOR: Yeah. One of the things we'll talk about in our
25 update, too, is, you know, the State Coalition now

1 has staff and one of the key things will be to, you
2 know, encourage that community-wide participation.

3 One of the reasons that we haven't had, you know,
4 consistent participation in the Balance of State
5 community, and which is an actual highlight in your
6 package today, is the fact that the data previously
7 until this year was only be able to broken out into
8 Anchorage and then Balance of State when together.

9 And so we feel that now that you can see the
10 numbers down to the community level, you're going to
11 get buy in (ph) on all of those agencies that may
12 participate one year and may not participate the next
13 year and we can only make the data quality better
14 moving forward.

15 And so I would encourage the Council to invest in
16 this process before thinking of going to providing
17 any more (ph) resources to collect more data. This
18 is the -- the data base system that we have and the
19 process that is used across the country and we just
20 need to make it better.

21 BUTCHER: Okay, I appreciate that, Scott. Dave.

22 KUIPER: Scott, this is Dave Kuiper, you stole my thunder,
23 but that's okay. It sounds better --.....

24 CIAMBOR: Sorry.

25 KUIPER:it sounds better coming from you.

1 The other thing that I think that we have to look
2 forward to is I know and specifically related to
3 Anchorage, is that we're working on a very
4 comprehensive, coordinated entry process, so that
5 coupled with a more comprehensive engagement in HMIS
6 should give us the kind of data that we can really
7 rely on and then use in our work together.

8 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Dave. Any other questions or
9 comments? Jeff.

10 JESSEE: Well, a couple of things. One is that, for
11 example, if we change the definition from one year to
12 the next it would be helpful to me if it's possible,
13 and I realize it may not be, to have in the current
14 chart what the old definition number would have been
15 and then what the new definition number is. Then I
16 can see two things.

17 I can see apples to apples with the old definition
18 and I can see what the impact of changing the
19 definition was, both of which I think are important.

20 And if we're going to -- and I'm all for adding
21 more communities, but the same thing applies there,
22 if we add a bunch of communities from one year to the
23 next, while that's going to increase the number. So
24 it would still be helpful to see while what are the
25 numbers for the people that participated last year to

1 this year. So, again, you can see an apples to
2 apples with people that participated before and get
3 some sense of the trend and then that's great.

4 As we add more people, than going forward we'll
5 have that as a baseline, but it's just -- I'm all for
6 being patient and I'm not trying to say we shouldn't
7 do this, I'm -- you know, none of that really
8 addresses your point, Bryan, which I think is well
9 taken at least on a local level, the weather, you
10 know, all kinds of things can affect a Point-in-Time.

11 Maybe the lesson is a single point in time once a
12 year is not a sufficient measure of homelessness upon
13 which to base policy decisions. I'm not alleging
14 that. I'm just putting that out there as a
15 hypothesis. Maybe it's a matter of well, maybe we
16 need two, you know, and average them or a summer -- I
17 don't know. I'm just trying to figure out how to
18 make the best out of it.

19 COLLINS: Bryan?

20 MURPHY: Yeah (ph). So this is Alissa again. And they can
21 get -- so they do a Point-in-Time, but they also do
22 an AHAR (ph), which the AHAR count, it's a year long
23 count. So it's, you know, 365 days how many clients
24 were served and that -- that seems to be a little bit
25 more accurate overall because you're not relying on

1 one day data. You're relying on a year's worth of
2 data.

3 And after the community breakdown, we can going
4 forward, you know, (indiscernible) which communities
5 were part of the count this year versus last year
6 versus, you know, going forward, but I can't do that
7 for 2015 to 2016 data. I can go for 2016 data going
8 forward.

9 BUTCHER: Right. Yeah. And I think to Jeff's point, if we
10 can be -- and to what Scott had said, if we can be
11 establishing a baseline from this, that -- I mean,
12 you know, the definition -- I believe the definition
13 is going to changed federally.....

14 COLLINS: Yes.

15 BUTCHER:and so it's almost -- it's.....

16 MURPHY: Yes (simultaneous speech).....

17 BUTCHER: Yeah, I mean, it's almost like the -- this needs
18 to be where the baseline starts. And a year from now
19 we need to be able to say okay, we're in year two,
20 hopefully not, well, here's our new Federal
21 definition and here are the other things we're going
22 to do and so -- you know, Scott, I appreciate, you
23 know, what you're talking about in terms of
24 establishing a baseline and as great as it would be
25 to have had that baseline established three years

1 ago, that's just not where we are.

2 I'd like to ask Nancy Burke from the Municipality
3 of Anchorage to comment on this as well. Nancy.

4 BURKE: Thank you. So this conversation ties in to one
5 that we had yesterday with the Assembly's Committee
6 on Homelessness. And realizing that from a community
7 perspective working with one community that the
8 Federal numbers are what they are.

9 And it's frustrating because the definition
10 changes and now you're data -- it looks like we're
11 doing really, really well with people who are
12 chronically homeless in Anchorage when the case is
13 we're still dealing with the same people. They've
14 just been defined differently on paper now.

15 And that coordinated entry is the community's
16 homeless list by name, so that information as
17 communities roll into that coordinated approach will
18 provide you what's happening in the community plus
19 the numbers that HUD needs, but I -- I -- the reason
20 I couldn't sit still was the value that the
21 department that each of the representatives here
22 bring to that data is another layer that could be
23 very helpful.

24 For instance, Corrections in our meeting
25 yesterday, the Assembly Committee is starting to

1 think about SB-91 and what will that mean in terms of
2 people maybe even coming out of Corrections early,
3 but not going into that system now are homeless or
4 already homeless.

5 And where those pressure points may be in the
6 system could be things that the Council brings
7 another data point to. And something that would be
8 useful for policy because if we do see more people in
9 the Corrections arena, we might be able to divert
10 resources to impact that area, so there's internal
11 data that Health and Social Services might have,
12 Corrections might have, AHFC where you're seeing
13 homeless increases or data changes that could help us
14 -- it could help augment the picture.

15 BUTCHER: Um-hum, okay. Thanks, Nancy. Anybody -- any
16 additional questions or comments? Okay. All right.
17 Well, thank you very much Alissa and Scott as well.
18 I know actually you're the next person on the agenda,
19 but thank you, Alissa, very much for your time.

20 MURPHY: Thank you.

21 BUTCHER: We'd like to move on to the Alaska Coalition on
22 Housing and Homeless, Scott Ciambor and Brian Wilson.

23 CIAMBOR: Hi, good afternoon. Is Brian in the room?

24 WILSON: I'm right here.

25 BUTCHER: He is. He's just getting seated.

1 CIAMBOR: Cool. So hi, for the record, my name is Scott
2 Ciambor. I'm the Chair of the Alaska Coalition on
3 Housing and Homelessness. And I work for the City
4 and Borough of Juneau as their chief housing officer.

5 I'm really excited today. About two years ago the
6 Anchorage Coalition Executive Committee, the
7 stakeholders in Executive Committee and our funders,
8 AHFC, (indiscernible) Authority staff met and talked
9 about there's a real need to ramp up the
10 effectiveness and the ability to educate and provide
11 advocacy by the State Coalition on Housing and
12 Homelessness.

13 Up until, you know, May 1st the Coalition had been
14 an all volunteer effort for a long time and so we put
15 funding together in order to hire an Executive
16 Director. And we are super, super excited to have
17 been able to woo Brian Wilson to be our first
18 Executive Director and excited to introduce him to
19 the Council today. And since Brian is right in front
20 of you I'll let him introduce himself a little bit
21 more.

22 WILSON: Thanks, Scott. So, hey, everybody I'm Brian
23 Wilson. I am the new Executive Director for the
24 State Coalition. I'm very, very excited about this
25 opportunity. I feel like the work plan that's in

1 front of us right now is at a great place and there's
2 a lot of momentum as we were just talking about from
3 the Housing Summit.

4 A little background about me. I actually come
5 from the City of Olympia, Washington. I'm relatively
6 new to Alaska. I moved up in October.

7 I actually worked for the city down there for over
8 five years managing the Downtown Strategic Plan for
9 the City which really involved a lot of collaboration
10 with different stakeholder groups that aren't used to
11 working with each other and leveraging resources to
12 make a bigger impact.

13 So I feel like I'm going to be able to utilize the
14 skill set into this position because we are trying to
15 reach out and come up with more partners in the fight
16 to end homelessness.

17 So Scott's going to talk a little bit about the
18 Summit recommendations. I'm going to talk a little
19 bit about the balance of state continuum of care.

20 CIAMBOR: Cool. And so, yeah, for this meeting, you know,
21 Brian and I are going to, kind of, tag team the
22 event, but moving forward I think the Council is
23 going to hear a lot from Brian and we're super
24 excited to have him on board.

25 And so, as Brian mentioned, we have two things to

1 talk about for the Council and one is just a recap of
2 the session, (ph) Alaskans Experiencing Homelessness
3 that took place during the Governor's Housing Summit.

4 We just wanted to make sure that we reiterated the
5 strategies and the advice that came out of that
6 session for the Council in case you weren't in our
7 session or had not, kind of, gotten the chance to
8 read through the report.

9 It was a session that had about 30 people
10 involved. DHSS Commissioner Valerie Davidson was in
11 the room, TAC Representative Kevin Martune (ph) who
12 put together the Strategic Supportive Housing Plan
13 that's in your packet was in the room as well. And
14 the priority issues that came out of that day were --
15 there were seven of them.

16 And so the first one was encouraging high level
17 coordination of housing and homeless services to
18 create policy alignment across state agencies and in
19 partnership with agencies and advocates on the local
20 level to end homelessness in Alaska.

21 And so, I think, it was mentioned earlier that the
22 Governor's Council on the Homeless meets twice a year
23 and, kind of, serves that role. The folks in the
24 room felt like there was enough work to be done that
25 an actual position or a person could be doing that,

1 sort of, work all year around and encouraged the
2 creation of that type of a position.

3 The second recommendation was, again, coordinated
4 funding programs for housing and social services
5 throughout the State. It was recognized that DHSS
6 has a program, the Mental Health Trust has a program,
7 DCEED has a program, DOC, how can we coordinate those
8 a little bit better.

9 And those are programs like the Community
10 Development Block Grant, National Housing Trust Fund
11 monies, DOC dollars, SNHG dollars, BHAP, how can they
12 be coordinated a little bit better especially on the
13 heels of the recommendation of the TAC report for the
14 Strategic Supportive Housing Plan.

15 The third recommendation was -- took more
16 involvement in housing and homeless issues on both
17 the local level and then the Alaska State Legislature
18 and there was two components of recommendations
19 there.

20 One was to create an Alaska State Legislature
21 Committee on Housing and Homelessness. Immediately
22 after the Summit we heard some interest from
23 Representatives in the State Legislature, but nothing
24 concrete came during the session obviously 'cause
25 they had a lot of other things to work on.

1 The other piece of recommendation there was
2 encouraging municipalities to get more involved by
3 adding legislation that added the housing and
4 homeless element to Comprehensive Plans.

5 For those of you that don't know there's not a
6 requirement to have housing or homelessness addressed
7 in the Comprehensive Plans and so around the State
8 some municipalities do, some don't and whatever is in
9 that element is usually different from community to
10 community.

11 The fourth recommendation was to improve the
12 housing and homeless data. We've already talked
13 about the strategies and improvements for the HMIS
14 that are going. The folks in that room also felt
15 like just general housing data down to the local
16 level was needed as well, some effort in that regard
17 so that there can be some comparisons about, you
18 know, what housing stock is available in communities
19 around the State.

20 The fifth recommendation is that access to Social
21 Security Income and Social Security Disability
22 Insurance has been a well recognized difficulty for
23 service providers working with their clients. We
24 think it's, kind of, a high level issue because we've
25 done a lot of SOAR (ph) training, got a lot of case

1 workers trying to speed up the process on their end,
2 but still we rank pretty poorly in terms of getting
3 these resources to our people.

4 The sixth recommendation was support the Medicaid
5 Expansion and the work of DHSS as they move forward,
6 especially making sure that all aspects of housing
7 resources that would be available through that
8 expansion are utilized.

9 And then the last thing is make the shift to the
10 Permanent Supportive Housing. As you can see by
11 branching out the housing inventory chart in the
12 balance of state, we're really operating an emergency
13 shelter system for most of our State where it's been
14 heavily recognize that supportive housing is the way
15 to end homelessness.

16 So the TAC report is in your packet and gives a
17 lot of guidance on how to do so and so encouraging
18 the Council to pick up where that report leaves off
19 and start implementing some of the suggestions that
20 are there.

21 And with that, unless there are any questions,
22 I'll go ahead and pass it off to Brian.

23 BUTCHER: Okay. Let's pause for a second. Do we have any
24 questions or comments having to do with the -- what
25 came out of the summit from the Homelessness group?

1 Okay. Go ahead, Brian. Thanks.....

2 WILSON: Easy enough (ph). Yeah, so I, kind of -- you
3 mentioned earlier that Scott stole your thunder. He,
4 kind of, stole mine, too, earlier on when that
5 conversation happened (ph), so yeah, but these
6 changes in the HMIS system are really exciting right
7 now.

8 Just -- as we mentioned before we weren't able to
9 break down on the balance of state where the numbers
10 were coming from and so being able to do that, as
11 simple as that change sounds, it was actually a lot
12 of work for ICA to get the system (ph) to report
13 those numbers.

14 And I anticipate that communities having that
15 information is going to increase awareness of their
16 own homelessness population and probably increase
17 inquiries. You know, so, okay, we have this
18 information now what.

19 And so it's going to be a big push for the
20 Coalition moving forward to reach out to these
21 communities and build relationships with them and get
22 them involved in the fight to end homelessness
23 because as Scott said, a lot of the communities just
24 aren't really accounting for that in their
25 comprehensive planning process.

1 And right now if you look to the balance of state
2 communities we only have 15 communities that actually
3 participate in the Point-in-Time count statewide,
4 that's Anchorage included. So that's definitely a
5 big charge for us moving forward to drive those
6 numbers up.

7 And with the way that the data is presented you
8 will see, you know, as we get more involved in this
9 the numbers will go up, but we'll be able to actually
10 compare agency to agency, town to town have a better
11 idea instead of just looking at the overall number of
12 increasing (ph), so.....

13 And as Scott said, you know, it's -- we really
14 want to keep reiterating that in the balance of state
15 we really are running a very limited Continuum of
16 Care right now. Many of the communities that
17 participate have as little as just a single DV
18 shelter in their communities and nothing else.

19 I don't know if you remember the map that's were
20 created at the Housing Summit that shows the per
21 capita beds. It's pretty clear that there's a large
22 shortage of permanent supportive housing and rapid
23 rehousing (ph) models across the balance of state.

24 So we're just going to continue to ask that these
25 conversations move forward and looking forward to

1 more conversation at our upcoming October conference,
2 as well and hopefully some before than, so thank you.

3 BUTCHER: Okay. Any questions or comments for Brian?

4 COLLINS: Thank you, sir (ph).

5 BUTCHER: I would like to mention before you leave that --
6 and this is for the benefit of Commissioner Williams,
7 too, who's in his first meeting, when this Council
8 was first put together by Administrative Order by
9 Governor Murkowski, the focus on it was very much
10 having agencies, state agencies working together on
11 issues of homelessness. And, you know, that may
12 sound like a given, but it really wasn't and the
13 agencies worked a lot with each other, but not
14 specifically with homelessness.

15 A good example is AHFC and Department of
16 Corrections, very little to do with each other at
17 that point. Now we work together on a voucher
18 program for re-entry which has been highly
19 successful. So a lot of benefits have come from the
20 establishment of the Council, but as the years have
21 gone by it's looked at being broadened a little bit.

22 Governor Palin had an Administrative Order that
23 broadened it a little bit. And in the Governor's
24 letter and Elizabeth had alluded to Governor Walker
25 looking at potentially looking at it doing something

1 a little different then in which case your position
2 actually is being talked about as being positioned on
3 the Council.

4 So we'll see where that goes, but I just wanted to
5 give you a heads up that you might be sitting on a
6 different side of the microphone the next time we
7 have this meeting.

8 WILSON: Sure. Thank you very much.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Congratulations, welcome aboard.

10 WILSON: Thank you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Welcome, Brian.

12 BUTCHER: All right. Next the Anchorage Coalition to End
13 Homelessness. Carmen.

14 WENGER: Good afternoon, Counselors and thank you for
15 taking the time to listen to us once again. I just
16 wanted to follow-up with one of the points that was
17 brought up in the Point-in-Time.

18 As I spoke with the assembly yesterday, I also
19 reiterated the fact -- the same thing that Alissa
20 said of use of the Point-in-Time in conjunction with
21 the Annual Homeless Assessment Report can be a really
22 valuable tool 'cause it gives you that one day in a
23 very comprehensive census. It also gives you the
24 year long data. And when I try to look at numbers
25 for Anchorage specifically what I do is I use two

1 reports in conjunction.

2 I understand that the balance of state AHAR (ph)
3 information looks a little different because the
4 reporting capability is of DV shelters. However, for
5 Anchorage we do feel that it's a much better
6 representation, so it just stated that we did
7 awesome (ph).

8 I wanted to give the Council an update on our
9 Community Plan. The last time I spoke with you we
10 were in the process of adopting the Anchorage
11 Community Plan to Prevent or End Homelessness. It's
12 been adopted and we've moved into the implementation
13 phase.

14 I'm pleased to say that we're still working
15 jointly with the Municipality, so our -- the
16 Coalition efforts towards the plan are in conjunction
17 with the Housing and Neighborhood Development
18 Commission's oversight (indiscernible) Prevent
19 Homelessness or the (indiscernible) Committee and we
20 are moving forward together to ensure implementation
21 of that.

22 We're also working (indiscernible) with the
23 Mayor's office on many of their initiatives, so we
24 are trying to work together as much as possible. And
25 we did -- I'm in the final (indiscernible) of the

1 plan leave it in alignment with this Council's plan
2 so that we could tee it up to your work, as well as
3 role it up further (ph) to the Federal
4 (indiscernible) Plan.

5 We have been making some changes in our Continuum
6 of Care process. We as to the close of the previous
7 competition have made it our process in Anchorage
8 year around, so we are meeting on a monthly or more
9 frequency basis to make sure that we are looking at
10 this as a whole and making sure that we're able to
11 better coordinate with other funding available to the
12 City, especially the ESG funds and other funding
13 sources that were called to by Federal regulations
14 with joint planning (indiscernible).

15 We are also -- starting with our last competition
16 took some critical (ph) looks at -- on how we're
17 allocating funding. The first year that we took
18 advantage of the reallocation process and we are
19 moving towards supporting more permanent supportive
20 housing throughout our continuum, as well as looking
21 at where we can save money and use more of our funds
22 to go to (ph) direct clients assistance (ph), so
23 things like we consolidated for (indiscernible)
24 Shelter Plus Care Programs to be one, (indiscernible)
25 to lower administrative costs and lower the barriers

1 for program entry.

2 Dave got to steal my thunder (indiscernible) but
3 he's absolutely right, we're moving forward fairly
4 aggressively with that. We've had the opportunity to
5 work particularly with (ph) stakeholders since
6 October on a design phase and we're very excited to
7 be launching that for our single individuals July
8 1st.

9 We have three main focuses -- or three main flows
10 (ph) to the system. There is going to be one for
11 single individuals, one for youths and one for
12 families. The decision was made to break up with
13 those (ph) and other sub-populations because of the
14 significant difference in the types of service that
15 those groups access, as well as what funding and
16 support is actually available for those.

17 There's, of course, additional flow (ph) to
18 accommodate other sub-populations such as Domestic
19 Violence, Veterans and those are woven into all three
20 of those categories.

21 We also greatly benefitted from the work of the
22 coordination by the Mayor's office. And as they have
23 been doing a coordination team that's been meeting
24 weekly since January, we've been able to learn a lot
25 from that process and we're adopting many of the

1 specific (indiscernible) which is really jump
2 starting our ability to start in July.

3 We are trying to pursue fairly aggressively both
4 the increase data quality, but also data visibility
5 in having things accessible and -- accessible both in
6 the fact that people can find it and that they can
7 understand it from the day that it's coming out of
8 our Coalition, so are -- we have a very active Data
9 Committee.

10 And they are working on finalizing the data dash
11 (ph) board that will be available with the goal of,
12 again, providing information on a regular basis that
13 while moving forward be able to be comparable, so
14 we've come up with -- we're starting with three
15 metrics and having three demographics drill downs for
16 two of them. One of them has too small of a sample
17 size and it come become identifiable for the specific
18 people for intervention (ph).

19 So we will optimistically in the next two months
20 be reporting either monthly or quarterly on the
21 number of shelters at night that were accessed during
22 the quarter, the number of entries to permanent
23 supportive housing and the number of exits (ph) to a
24 permanent destination for everybody participating in
25 our HMIS system.

1 And for the sheltered bed night and the exits to a
2 permanent destination we'll have a drill down for
3 age, gender and race.

4 And the work that, kind of, bolsters that -- our
5 ability to do that comes from our collaboration both
6 with the State Coalition and with ICA. We've didn't
7 -- anecdotally (ph) very pleased with the work of
8 ICA. We are engaged in a third party review of the
9 system both in users input and review of our use of
10 all available capacity of that system through some
11 HUD technical assistance (ph) made available to us.

12 We're looking forward to the results of that in --
13 hopefully in July so we can continue making
14 improvements with our system, but we're pleased to be
15 moving forward with the second year of our contract
16 with ICA as a lot of the communities and
17 organizations that use the system greatly benefitted
18 from the training and support.

19 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you very much, Carmen. Do we have
20 any questions? Any questions for Carmen?

21 KUIPER: I'm sorry to steal your thunder.

22 WENGER: You can have my thunder whenever you need it,
23 Dave.

24 BUTCHER: All right. Thank you very much for the update,
25 Carmen.

1 WENGER: Thank you, Counselor.

2 BUTCHER: All right. I'd like to ask Colleen Bickford to
3 give us a Federal Program Update. Welcome, Colleen.

4 BICKFORD: Good afternoon. For the record again, Colleen
5 Bickford. I am the HUD State Director for the U.S.
6 Department of Housing and Urban Development. A
7 couple of your I haven't met. I -- we have one
8 office here in Anchorage. We serve the State.

9 I want to recognize John Pendrey in the room.
10 He's with the Alaska VA Health Care System.

11 So I -- there's great things on the agenda, so I'm
12 trying to be mindful of HUD updates that are going to
13 be covered under other presentations, but I wanted to
14 mention to you -- I want to talk for a second about
15 really a HUD policy shift that relates to the
16 Continuum of Care Program.

17 And this year the competition was, kind of, rough,
18 so I'm not going to go through all those details, but
19 I just -- as the Council, I want to make sure that
20 you understand it's a national competition. This was
21 the FY-15 competition that's just been concluded.

22 It was different this year. It was scored based
23 on information entered into what we call the Notice
24 of Funding Availability, the rules, if you will. And
25 what it included this year was an expectation --

1 looking at how Continuums of Care strategically
2 allocate resources, the extent to which they were
3 making progress towards Opening Doors, that's the
4 Federal Plan to end homeless -- prevent and end
5 homelessness, the extent to which projects within the
6 Continuum of Care used Housing First principles and
7 there might have been one more, but -- so -- oh, and
8 finally the extent to which the Continuum of Care has
9 created a systemic -- a systematic response to
10 homelessness.

11 So HUD awarded 1.9 billion nationally. In Alaska
12 we saw 3.7 million, a little more. Roughly 25
13 percent of that went to the balance of state,
14 everything outside of Anchorage, 75 percent to
15 Anchorage.

16 There were three renewals that were not funded.
17 Unfortunately they were all three projects that
18 served victims of domestic violence.

19 So this is the first time -- a couple points.
20 This was the first time the Anchorage Continuum of
21 Care applied for and was awarded funding for that
22 coordinated entry program that you've heard a couple
23 of the previous speakers talk about. The State did
24 not apply for that.

25 HUD is encouraging all providers and all funders,

1 especially those with a homeless preference to pursue
2 how those units be made available through this
3 coordinated entry system as it evolves, so now is the
4 time to engage. I think this is a really big step
5 forward for our State.

6 And the last thing about -- just for the Continuum
7 of Care, is the (indiscernible) policy goals which is
8 intended to increase the number of people being
9 served with the same amount of funding. This is a
10 trend everywhere. It's also consistent with our
11 Congressional directive to make the competition more
12 competitive.

13 And it's important to note that HUD and Congress
14 that these projects funding under the Continuum of
15 Care Program are those that are based on evidence
16 based practices that are cost effective and fill the
17 gaps in the Continuum of Care.

18 So, I just -- I think, it was just important to
19 address this where we're working as a community to
20 help address the projects that haven't been funded.
21 I think we work really well collaboratively and we're
22 good partners in our state, but I just wanted to put
23 that out there and share that with you.

24 And a couple of other quick things, I had the
25 great pleasure of -- I met Brian Wilson earlier this

1 week. I was in Juneau for the Housing First ground
2 breaking, that was very exciting.

3 And I just -- I mentioned that because it was --
4 it's another great example of what we can do with
5 community collaboration. And that -- that community,
6 that's been a priority. That's what -- I've been to
7 many meetings with lots of folks from the community
8 in the room and they're making it happen.

9 This will bring 32 units of Housing First units
10 with this first phase and hopefully they'll realize
11 their full goal in the near future.

12 Another thing that I want to mention is we have a
13 really important HUD official planning to visit
14 Alaska here in June. Know why they don't ever come
15 in November. But -- so our key partners -- this is
16 HUD's principle Deputy Assistant Secretary Lourdes
17 Castro Ramirez. She is the head of Public and Indian
18 Housing Programs for Alaska.

19 And why is that important? Well, that part of the
20 funding from our agency is significant. It's roughly
21 \$150 million annually that comes into Alaska through
22 those programs and that doesn't include disaster
23 funding, mortgage insurance, you know, other things
24 like that.

25 So it's a significant amount of investment and a

1 great opportunity to help educate her on how we work
2 in this State, what our challenges are, what we've
3 done well, what we need help with. I've reached out
4 to Bryan and Carol Gore and other key public and
5 Indian Housing partners.

6 This is the week of June 20th, but I just wanted
7 to let you all know this is also part of our work to
8 make sure those policymakers and the folks that get
9 to sit at the big table in D.C. have a really good
10 understanding of what goes on, on the ground up here,
11 so really looking forward to that.

12 And then a bit of a update from my friend over
13 here at the VA, so let me just say from the HUD side
14 of VASH, VA -- Veterans housing with supportive
15 services, HUD has offered AHFC another 24 regular
16 VASH vouchers to serve homeless Veterans in the State
17 which, I don't know, maybe that's probably in Cathy's
18 update later on, but that would push our allocation
19 up from 247 to 271, if my math is right.

20 From a VA perspective though, let me just -- the
21 program is being utilized to provide housing at a
22 rate of 95 to 98 percent with vouchers being issued
23 for Veterans. All of the HUD VASH programs are built
24 around an evidence based practice of Housing First.

25 The VA has an addiction therapist and a Voc rehab

1 specialists, have been added to their inter-
2 disciplinary team to assist Veterans with stabilizing
3 in housing and building an income to maintain their
4 housing.

5 You may know, we talked about this at the last
6 meeting, we haven't had a lot of progress on this,
7 but there was three -- there's a VASH Tribal Pilot
8 Program that's being rolled out here slowly, but in
9 Alaska we have three Regional Housing Authorities who
10 have accepted the offer to take on some more VASH
11 vouchers and run those programs in their
12 jurisdictions.

13 And that would be Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing
14 Authority, Cook Inlet Housing Authority and the AVCP
15 Regional Housing Authority out in the Bethel area
16 which is, kind of, exciting because we want to test
17 being able to deliver the housing resources where
18 people live and not having them just -- you know,
19 bringing -- make them move to get services.

20 So we're looking forward to launching that program
21 hopefully later this fall. And that's, of course,
22 being coordinated with our partners who have been
23 running the program for many years in five
24 communities around the State, so.....

25 And given all the discussion on the Point-in-Time

1 Counts, I'm going to not include the last comment
2 here and since you need to learn from the discussions
3 today, but any questions for me?

4 BUTCHER: Do we have any questions for Colleen? Okay.
5 Thank you very much, Colleen.

6 Just to add briefly to what she talked about in
7 terms of our visit by the Deputy Secretary. Our
8 Congressional delegation has been very good over the
9 years at -- I can speak specifically for housing
10 related issues, trying to encourage the folks in D.C.
11 to come up here and see what Alaska -- what
12 challenges we have that are unique.

13 And Senator Begich brought HUD Secretary Castro up
14 last fall and I know that Senator Murkowski was the
15 one that really had talked to the Assistant Deputy
16 Secretary and said please come up here.

17 To HUD's benefit she agreed and regardless of when
18 she comes up here, we're going to get her here.
19 We're going to, you know, show her the different
20 areas and some of the challenges we have and that can
21 be nothing but a positive for our State. Thanks.

22 All right. Let's move to Alaska Housing Finance
23 Corporation Program Updates and let's start with
24 Daniel Delfino.

25 DELFINO: Hello everyone, good afternoon. My name is Daniel

1 Delfino. I work in the Planning Department for AHFC.
2 Mark Romick was originally scheduled to do this, but
3 he has since ascended to the Deputy Executive
4 Director position effective June 1st for the
5 Corporation, so he started delegating some of the
6 tasks away already.

7 BUTCHER: Well, and Daniel actually will be moving in as the
8 Planning Director -- acting Planning Director, so as
9 of June 1st.

10 DELFINO: Thank you. So what I'm here to talk about is an
11 update on the Special Needs Housing Grant Program,
12 the Basic Homeless Assistance Program and then I'm
13 going to kick it over to Carrie for an update on the
14 811 Program.

15 And Jeff Jessee had asked at the last Council
16 meeting for a little bit more depth to the Special
17 Needs Housing Grant Program update, so I've tried for
18 (ph) couple more numbers and get into a little more
19 deeper layer of, sort of, what our portfolio is for
20 your benefit 'cause I know we have some new Council
21 members since the last time we did this and if you
22 want to ask a bunch of follow-up questions we'll do
23 our best with the little cheat sheets we have
24 available.

25 So the printout that we put together for you just

1 gives you some summary information about our
2 portfolio. And the Special Needs Housing Grant
3 Program it's pretty much been ramped up since 2009.

4 We've made awards to support 277 households across
5 the State and this represents actually seven
6 communities. We have Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau,
7 Seward, Soldotna, Homer, Wasilla and Palmer. So we
8 have a pretty good geographic representation from
9 where we see the data driving the needs.

10 The grants that we make to these properties and
11 facilities average just a little under \$800 a month
12 when you look at per person assistance.

13 And to get a feel for, you know, what size
14 properties that we have, of the properties that we
15 funded, 13 of them are smaller developments. So
16 these will be -- when we say small (indiscernible)
17 we're talking about properties with 10 units or less,
18 a lot of them have anywhere between six and eight
19 units per property.

20 So there are some more visible properties that we
21 have in our annual report, like, Karluk Manor or the
22 Housing First facility in Fairbanks and the most
23 recent one in Juneau, but the bulk of the projects we
24 funded are the smaller communities and the smaller
25 facilities in the State.

1 Out of the 277 households that we assist, a little
2 over 100 of them are already assisted through Project
3 Based Rental Assistance. They're a sponsored based
4 assistance that our Public Housing Division that
5 Cathy can speak to contributes to the Karluk Manor
6 facility.

7 We have facilities that's been funded through the
8 811 Program before it switched over to just rental
9 assistance. And the 202 Program across the State.
10 We have a couple of Legacy 811 projects from the
11 portfolio as well.

12 So roughly about 40 (ph) percent of the facilities
13 that we fund right now do have Project Based Rental
14 Assistance either through Public Housing or through
15 our HUD partners.

16 Okay. As far as the facilities themselves,
17 (indiscernible) we ask for occupancy, so we try and
18 get data in real time, Jeff (ph), to see how these
19 properties are performing.

20 The most recent reports that we had at the end of
21 March refer to occupancy rate across the portfolio of
22 about 93 percent. And of the people who have been
23 living in those facilities I think it's about 72
24 percent on the nose (ph) were there for over seven
25 months. And that's one of the key data points that

1 we look for in some of our homeless programs to see
2 whether or not they're stably housed.

3 So across the portfolio of properties we funded
4 mainly from 2009 to 2012, they've historically been
5 performing really well, better than the general
6 rental market in terms of occupancy and stably
7 retaining the folks in housing.

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

9 DELFINO: So some of the new projects that we've been doing,
10 the bulk of our activity occurred from 2009 to 2012.
11 We did this because we were making three year
12 offerings in support service awards commitments at
13 the same time, so leveled off the capital awards and
14 we went into maintenance mode. We ended up saving a
15 bit (ph) of money on some of our properties and we
16 were able to fund a special round last year.

17 And Colleen Bickford spoke of one of those
18 projects that we funded that just broke ground in
19 Juneau, the 32 unit Housing First Project. We
20 combined Special Needs Housing Grants funds with HOME
21 Investment Partnership funds to make that one work,
22 but we have a couple of other facilities.

23 There's a four unit assisted living facility down
24 in Seward that we're funding for rehab that's
25 underway right now. Their project is going to be

1 done this summer.

2 And there's another facility here in Anchorage,
3 Susitna View on 4th Street (sic) right by the Red Dot
4 (ph) Café. It's a four story building that's being
5 renovated. They just put the walls back together.
6 And that one is going to be open and operational at
7 the end of September. That was also funded through
8 the Special Needs Housing Grant Program and the
9 project sponsors also utilized the Low Income Housing
10 Tax Credit Program to make that work.

11 So there's been a lot of, I guess, emphasis on
12 using the Tax Credit Program to try and help
13 facilitate supportive housing. And the reason why I
14 bought that one up and just wanted to emphasize that
15 it's an example of people doing exactly what folks
16 have been recommending and pushing for in the
17 community.

18 BUTCHER: Okay.

19 DELFINO: So that's the update on what we funded in the past
20 and where the construction projects are at right now.
21 Does anyone have any questions on those before I get
22 to the other stuff?

23 BUTCHER: Any questions for Daniel? Okay.

24 DELFINO: Okay.

25 KUIPER: I just have,.....

1 BUTCHER: Dave.

2 KUIPER:I guess, maybe one. So is the project that's
3 going up downtown on -- behind 4th Avenue there,.....

4 DELFINO: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

5 KUIPER:is that a Housing First project?

6 DELFINO: It's not ostensibly a Housing First. It's a
7 supportive housing project. It's not specifically
8 targeted for chronic inebriates or folks who are
9 using, substance abuse.

10 I think it's generally operated -- or it was
11 presented to us as a supportive housing facility, so
12 folks that need some type of case management, to be
13 in a support group, to be in stable housing, not
14 necessarily a Housing First concept. There may be
15 folks that come over from that cohort (ph) into that
16 facility, but I don't think it was proposed as a
17 specific Housing First facility.

18 KUIPER: Okay. My next question might be too sensitive,
19 but when the Housing First efforts first began there
20 was a fair amount of community push back, is that
21 easing as you start to -- as you started that
22 downtown development?

23 DELFINO: That's a great question. I was managing the SNHG
24 Program, the Special Needs Housing Grant Program when
25 the Karluk Manor facility was proposed and there was

1 a pretty healthy level of civic engagement during
2 that proposal. People were definitely making their
3 voices heard.

4 (Off record comments)

5 DELFINO: No, we haven't -- no one has called asking for
6 copies of the applications. I have not received
7 angry e-mails from anonymous people that I do on some
8 of the supportive housing developments or where
9 there's particular community up in arms over a
10 proposed housing development, so to my knowledge
11 nothing has come forward publicly. No one has made
12 inquiries to the Corporation, to me or to anyone else
13 to criticize the property or to even ask about it.

14 KUIPER: Thank you.

15 BUTCHER: Okay.

16 DELFINO: So the Special Needs Housing Program, those
17 operating (ph) awards, they total about \$7.8 million
18 when you add them all up, so that's over three years.
19 So you take that and divide it by three and that's
20 our annual obligation for a year.

21 It's stable. We can honor all these renewals on a
22 non-competitive basis through 2027 and we try to
23 manage these very carefully because these are
24 specific rental properties that can go under if
25 (indiscernible) assistance from where they're

1 offering support (ph).

2 The other program that really does represent the
3 lion's share of the homeless funding is the basic
4 Homeless Assistance Program that Carrie manages.
5 Folks have submitted the renewal applications and we
6 anticipated being able to present Bryan with the
7 funding recommendations towards the end of month if
8 we have certainty on the funding.

9 So I regret that we don't have that yet, so that
10 may be pushed a little bit, but we're in a position
11 to maintain our schedule as soon as we know what our
12 fiscal picture is going to be.

13 Okay. And with that I'll turn it over to Carrie
14 for the 811.

15 Collins: Sure, great, thanks, Daniel. So we just wanted to
16 give a quick update on 811. It's something we've
17 been talking about for a couple of years, but
18 sometimes it doesn't seem to be moving as quickly as
19 we would like it to, so just to give a little bit of
20 a background.

21 So in May of 2014 AHFC in conjunction with the
22 Department of Health and Social Services applied for
23 811 funding for the State to provide project based
24 rental assistance for 200 units over a five year
25 period with additional funding available based on

1 Federal appropriation.

2 So about a year later we received notification
3 that we received -- that we were going to -- we were
4 successful and we were going to receive the award.
5 And then a year following that we got our signed copy
6 of the agreement from HUD, so that was February of
7 this year. So that has really helped us to better
8 work with a timeline to move forward.

9 So now that we have that cooperative (ph)
10 agreement we're working with HUD to work through
11 getting everything set up and worked to move forward
12 with that. In their system it takes a little bit of
13 time on everyone's side to do that. But where AHFC
14 is right now is working through, I want to say, kind
15 of, the administrative side of things looking at how
16 we can best market the program.

17 There are -- I hate to use barriers or obstacles
18 as the words, but it's the reality based on some of
19 the Federal requirements in that program as we're
20 marketing the program to property owners, so there is
21 some HUD system requirements that we have to follow
22 through with.

23 And so AHFC right now is in discussions with an
24 organization to take over some of the management of
25 those HUD systems to alleviate some of that burden on

1 the property owners.

2 So we're hoping to hear some responses back on our
3 official proposal on that within the next couple
4 weeks so that we can start moving forward to really
5 make the program a lot more marketable (ph), so we
6 can move forward.

7 So that's where we're and I know that Kelda and
8 Susan, I think, are giving an update on how things
9 are going on the DHSS side for that.

10 And I'm happy to answer any questions or provide
11 additional details about the program.

12 BUTCHER: Okay. Any questions for Carrier? Okay. Anyone?
13 Is somebody going to touch on the National Housing
14 Trust Fund? I see it on there. I think Jeff brought
15 it up and we definitely need to talk about it because
16 it's something that we're looking at, that we weren't
17 looking at six months ago.

18 DELFINO: Sure, I'd be happy to. The National Housing Trust
19 Fund, the allocation to the State is approximately \$3
20 mill- -- well, I think, on the nose, \$3 million.

21 We are proposing our rating and award criteria
22 from the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program which
23 also allocates the Senior Citizens Housing
24 Development funds and the Home Investment Partnership
25 funds throughout the State with the exception of

1 Anchorage.

2 And what we've proposed to the Board in the -- or
3 what we're proposing to our Board of Directors in the
4 May 25th meeting is to allocated the National Housing
5 Trust funds through that GOAL framework, so we can
6 leverage the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
7 which we believe was one of HUD's, I guess,
8 preferences with the allocation plan to try and
9 maximize this thing for the (indiscernible) leverage,
10 if you will, but we've also been approached by the
11 Municipality of Anchorage to give them a sub-award of
12 National Housing Trust Funds.

13 So we're -- I don't think we've ironed out
14 anything for sure yet, but we've responded to public
15 comments our, I guess, willingness to give them the
16 same formula allocation that they would receive under
17 the HOME Investment Partnership Program which was --
18 also gives us \$3 million for the State.

19 So that would be approximately 500,30- -- or 534,
20 I believe. It's a little over \$500 that we're
21 proposing to sub-grant to the Municipality of
22 Anchorage if they accept all the terms and
23 conditions.

24 So the Municipality of Anchorage would allocate
25 the National Housing Trust funds within its

1 boundaries. And then we would allocate the rest of
2 the funds, some \$2.4 million throughout rest of the
3 State.

4 BUTCHER: And so these -- the focus of these funds are
5 Alaska's making 30 percent of median income or under,
6 so we really are talking about the population that
7 we're dealing with here at the Council, just very low
8 income Alaskans.

9 DELFINO: Yeah.

10 BUTCHER: Does anybody have any questions?

11 JESSEE: Yeah. Daniel, can you give me some examples of
12 the types of projects that could conceivably be
13 facilitated with that funding?

14 DELFINO: Through the National Housing Trust?

15 JESSEE: Yeah.

16 DELFINO: Yes. So the National Housing Trust does 30
17 percent, so generally when we see rental development
18 proposals which -- the overwhelming majority of the
19 National Housing Trust funds have to go towards
20 rental development in some form -- or shape or form.

21 When we're putting that many extremely low income
22 units with folks making hardly anything a year,
23 usually they're balanced out in the larger project
24 that has higher income (indiscernible). It's either
25 mixed income or people making, say, 60 percent of

1 median income or less.

2 So I would imagine that folks would be chasing
3 points in our rating criteria to go after the 30
4 percent households and also requesting the National
5 Housing Trust Funds, but that they would be doing so
6 as part of a larger project.

7 So I wouldn't anticipate that anyone would propose
8 a facility that would be, say, 40 units of nothing
9 but people making 30 percent of area median or below,
10 but it would be, say a 40 unit project with maybe 10
11 units set aside for that (indiscernible).

12 So if I were to guess, please don't hold me to
13 this, I would say probably between 15 and 20 percent
14 of the units in a project that are funded with the
15 National Housing Trust would be focused (ph) around
16 30 percent or below.

17 JESSEE: Great, that's really helpful, thanks.

18 DELFINO: No worries.

19 BUTCHER: Any other questions for Daniel? Okay. Thank you
20 very much.

21 DELFINO: Thank you.

22 BUTCHER: I'd like to ask the Corporation's Public Housing
23 Director Cathy Stone to come up and give a Public
24 Housing update.

25 STONE: Thank you. Good afternoon. Thanks for the chance

1 to provide a status update of our Public Housing
2 Division. As most of you are aware we administer
3 over 4,300 vouchers statewide in 12 locations and we
4 only manage a little over 1,600 Public Housing units
5 in 29 locations in 13 communities throughout the
6 state.

7 In regards to some of the programs that we
8 administer I want to specifically talk about some of
9 our special needs populations including the homeless.
10 We continue to serve very low -- very low income
11 people, that's 75 percent of our portfolio. Each
12 night we house about 10,000 people and 75 percent are
13 at or below 50 percent of area median income. And
14 also about half of those are children, people under
15 18 years old. So it's an interesting demographic and
16 just some information to share with you.

17 Our statewide waitlist continues to have over
18 5,000 people, so the need is still very high. And
19 that's list -- waiting list closed throughout the
20 State particularly in Anchorage. And over 50 percent
21 of our people are on waiting list, as well as the
22 people we're housing are -- a lot of them are single
23 people, too. So between the children and single
24 people that's our demographic.

25 Good news of note from HUD and Colleen did not

1 steal my thunder on this one, we received -- we're a
2 Moving to Work Agency. Moving to Work is a
3 designation from HUD in which you get waivers from
4 the Code of Federal Regulations, as well as the 1930
5 HUD Housing Act that was set to expire in 2018 and
6 it's been extended another 10 years, so that's great
7 news.

8 And it is only through Moving to Work that we
9 administer some of the special programs for different
10 populations throughout the State, so we're thrilled
11 with that. We'll be here till 2028 as a Moving to
12 Work Agency.

13 I also wanted to share with our Moving Home
14 Program, I'd say that's been a real success since
15 last year. When we reported to you last year at this
16 time we had 11 people out shopping. They had a
17 voucher, but they'd not leased up and now those
18 numbers are significantly better.

19 In the Moving Home Program we have 87 leased up
20 and 39 out shopping. We have 150 vouchers allocated
21 to that program, so it's incrementally doing very
22 well.

23 And that's a special program for persons with
24 disabilities that are receiving services through DHSS
25 that are referred to AHFC and we just provide them

1 the funding stream with a the voucher that they can
2 find the housing and also continue to receive
3 supportive services in that program.

4 Our Parolee and Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
5 Program, we have 100 vouchers allocated to that
6 program with the use of HOME funds. That's a good
7 news, bad news situation. The good news is that's
8 100 percent leased up.

9 The bad news is if we had more funding in that
10 area we could really continue to lease up those.
11 It's a really positive program.

12 Recidivism rates have dropped considerably for
13 those coming out of prison who are getting this
14 housing support, continuing to meet with their parole
15 officers and find success getting jobs, reuniting
16 with their families and staying in housing (ph), so
17 that's a really great program. We like to see those
18 kind of numbers coming out of there (ph).

19 Some other news of note this past year, we opened
20 our Sustina Square and Ridgeline Terrace properties
21 in collaboration with Cook Inlet Housing Authority.
22 That's 88 new units in Anchorage. And of those 88
23 units, 71 have a dedicated project based voucher with
24 that. Sustina Square is 100 percent (ph) leased up.

25 And then the 70 units at Ridgeline Terrace that

1 opened a little later, it was a different (ph)
2 project took longer. It's at about 60 percent leased
3 up and I think they have an enormous number of
4 applications that they're going through for that
5 development and, I think, they'll be leased up within
6 the next two to three months 100 percent.

7 Colleen was correct, she did steal my thunder
8 regarding the VASH Program. We've been allocated
9 another 24 new VASH Vouchers, that's great news.
10 That will get us to 271. That's another good
11 news/bad news thing.

12 We get to 100 percent on our VASH allocation and
13 then we get more VASH vouchers from HUD, so it
14 dropped it down. It looks like our utilization is
15 100 percent, but we just keep getting more from the
16 VA. Our collaboration with the VA and Alaska Housing
17 has been recognized, I think. They came out and told
18 us we were number three in the nation for utilizing
19 these vouchers, so it's been a great partnership and
20 whenever HUD asks us to apply for more, we do and
21 they give it to us, so.....

22 Those are the highlights from the Public Housing
23 Division. I'm happy to take any questions.

24 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any questions for Cathy? Thank
25 you, Cathy.

1 STONE: Thanks.

2 BUTCHER: And I'd also like to thank Public Housing and the
3 VA for the work on those VASH vouchers because the
4 fact that we keep them leased up allows us to get
5 more and that's, kind of, the way the system works is
6 those that are actually doing the work and taking
7 advantage of it, get the benefits and a lot of states
8 haven't done nearly the job we have and the benefit
9 it to Alaskans ultimately, so.....

10 STONE: Right.

11 BUTCHER:thanks for that.

12 STONE: Right. Thanks, Bryan.

13 BUTCHER: Okay. I'd like to.....

14 JESSEE: Well, before we leave AHFC, can we officially
15 congratulate Mark? He's been a tremendous asset to
16 the Trust and we really value his support and we look
17 forward to even more influence at AHFC now that he's
18 advancing up the ladder (ph).

19 BUTCHER: Yes, as some of you may know, some of you may not
20 know, Mike Buller, our long time, 20 plus year Deputy
21 Executive Director is retiring at the end of this
22 month, so Mark has agreed to step up in an acting
23 role initially. And, you know, Mark's been here,
24 done a lot of great work for a lot of years, so we're
25 excited. We're sad to see Mike go, but we're excited

1 that, you know, we have Mark as part of our team.

2 All right. Department of Health and Social
3 Services, Kelda Barstad and Susan Musante. Welcome.

4 MUSANTE: Thank you.

5 BARSTAD: Good afternoon.

6 MUSANTE: We're well prepared.

7 BARSTAD: Good afternoon. I am Kelda Barstad. I'm with
8 Senior and Disabilities Services.

9 MUSANTE: And I'm Susan Musante. I am with the Integrated
10 Housing and Services Unit in the Division of
11 Behavioral Health with the Department of Health and
12 Social Services.

13 So we heard from the AHFC side on the 811 Project
14 and, I think, Kelda, did you want to do an update
15 from the services side and talk about support -- the
16 supporting services?

17 BARSTAD: Sure. Well, I have some great news on Medicaid
18 Expansion that I'd love to share with the Council.
19 Since September we've enrolled 16,770 people and
20 that's as of April. There are rumors of mid-May (ph)
21 of that number being over 18,000. So that's a
22 fantastic effort including folks that are working in
23 housing and working on homeless issues to get that --
24 those enrollment numbers up, so we're excited to
25 report that process.

1 And as an update for our Supportive Housing
2 Services side, the 1915 (i) and 1915 (k) Waiver
3 Development for Home and Community Based Services is
4 well under way.

5 We are looking at a different way of delivering
6 our home and community based services, so as part of
7 Senate Bill 74 in an effort to approve the waiver
8 services we have to offer to the community, we are
9 taking a look at new methods of paying for the waiver
10 as far as looking at different service arrays.

11 And as you'll see in your packet you have the
12 Alaska Supportive Housing Plan that was developed
13 with TAC and one of the recommendations that they
14 have is to expand service delivery in home and
15 community based services to promote housing
16 stability.

17 We can provide a variety of different services
18 through Medicaid Programs, but anyone who has
19 delivered services directly to people know housing
20 stability is the key. It's key to maintaining
21 health. It's key to maintaining well being. And
22 it's really important especially for seniors and
23 people with disabilities so that they can make the
24 progress and attain the goals identified for
25 themselves. So these new waiver programs and

1 explorations are really important.

2 Senate Bill 74 has given us the authorization to
3 look at different types of programs to find out if we
4 can do what we're doing better or in a different way
5 so that we can help support peoples' health and well
6 being in progress and these different waiver types
7 will help us do that. The 1915 (i) and (k), as well
8 as an 1115 Demonstration Waiver are different
9 mechanisms to make that happen.

10 Last summer CMS issued an Informational Bulletin
11 re-emphasizing that while Medicaid does not pay for
12 housing, Medicaid can pay for services to support
13 stable housing. So as these different projects are
14 underway, I am helping my Director and Deputy
15 Director remember to talk about housing support and
16 take a look at it so that we can be sure to support
17 people in stable housing and fulfill the mission of
18 the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan and well as meet
19 our goals for folks who have Medicaid (ph).

20 MUSANTE: Just a quick -- a little addition for the 811
21 update that we heard earlier is that DHSS is
22 providing the services part of this through our
23 (indiscernible) organizations. That particular
24 project is to help people move into a more community
25 integrated environment from less integrated

1 environments such as assisted living homes.

2 And towards that end we are about to embark on a
3 Housing Preference Survey so that people -- we can
4 identify people who would like to be in a more
5 integrated setting. And also an assessment that
6 we've been getting folks trained on that will help
7 determine what their needs would be because
8 (indiscernible) supportive housing environment of
9 course housing, housing, housing, but also support,
10 support, support so that people can maintain and
11 sustain that housing permanently.

12 So Cathy spoke to the Moving Home Voucher Program.
13 We're very excited that we've got much higher
14 utilization. When I -- when you met the last time, I
15 was very new into this position and we were -- had a
16 slow ramp-up on that, but it's really moving forward.
17 It's pretty exciting that people are accessing those
18 subsidies.

19 Again, we're involved on the support side of that
20 since folks are required to have a provider
21 organization be available to support them, so they
22 have, like, a sponsoring provider organization for
23 the that subsidy.

24 The new twist (indiscernible) when you last met
25 just barely started was the ACT team which was housed

1 at (indiscernible) which again is a wrap around
2 service for homeless people who have primarily -- a
3 primarily serious mental illness. And also an ICM
4 Program, the Road Home, which is housed at RurAL CAP
5 which is a heavily (ph) wrap around for people who
6 have a primary challenge with substance abuse who are
7 homeless.

8 And they ramped up in the way that they're
9 supposed to according to their models, so this last
10 quarterly report (ph) had 31 enrolled in ACT and ICM
11 had 24. I understand they've almost doubled that in
12 the last quarter, but I don't have those numbers in
13 yet.

14 And finally one of the changes, when you all last
15 met it's our -- our unit is the Integrated Housing
16 and Services and we work very closely with some of
17 peer support services in the DVH (ph) Plan, but also
18 employment. And our close cousin to helping people
19 become economically advanced and be able to sustain
20 themselves in an integrated setting (ph) is
21 employment (ph), supportive employment like
22 supportive housing includes rapid placement into
23 employment with supports (ph).

24 And so I'm glad, I just want to give a wave to our
25 new -- not our new, but she wasn't with us last time

1 when you met, supportive employment specialists, so
2 that's a statewide position, so we promote supportive
3 employment.

4 And finally you do have in your packet the Alaska
5 Supportive Housing Plan which was developed in
6 conjunction with many stakeholders. And I'm not
7 going to read through the whole plan.

8 (Indiscernible) I'm just going to do a couple of
9 highlights and large goals.

10 And understand, it's organized and it explains the
11 process that TAC used to gather the data and give
12 some background. It actually describes the housing
13 resources and the support type resources that we have
14 for permanent supportive housing in this State. It
15 identified the gaps (ph) and I'll just read through
16 the goals real quickly.

17 Develop a policy framework to guide implementation
18 of permanent supportive housing as an essential
19 component of DBH's service system.

20 Establish a coordinated and consistent approach to
21 housing and housing related services across all
22 divisions. And I think that's, kind of, we're
23 hearing a theme to and that's a coordinated approach
24 to this as explained in your packet.

25 To establish a pipeline to create between 465 and

1 615 permanent supportive housing opportunities over
2 the next five years, that's pretty big.

3 Establish a Clearinghouse to coordinate timely
4 referral of eligible households for permanent
5 supportive housing.

6 Establish a funding source for services delivered
7 in supportive housing settings, that', kind of, what
8 Kelda (indiscernible) Medicaid Reform. That's our
9 big hope. We're hopeful and excited and hope that
10 we'll be able to continue to provide services as they
11 are available by expanding definitions and working
12 with special -- the neediest populations really.

13 And Kelda talked to this one, expand the service
14 delivery in home and community based settings.

15 And I know something very near and dear to the
16 Trust part, strengthen community provider workforce
17 capacity to deliver homes and community based housing
18 services that promote wellness, recovery and
19 community integration.

20 So that's, kind of, the quick, brief overview of
21 the hundreds of pages (indiscernible). So that's all
22 I have. Did you have anything else, any questions
23 (indiscernible)....

24 BUTCHER: Yup. Do we have any questions for Kelda or Susan?

25 JESSEE: Just some quick comments and they (ph) briefly

1 mentioned it. You know, Senate Bill 74 is, at least
2 in the view of my trustees, one of the -- perhaps,
3 the most important piece of Legislation and system
4 transformative event that will happen -- has happened
5 certainly in the life of the Trust for our
6 beneficiaries. Trustees have committed almost \$10
7 million to support the Department over three years
8 and implementation.

9 I know Randall (ph) is not here. Assuming part of
10 that is because part of what we're doing is -- we've
11 contracted with Charlie Currie (ph) who is the former
12 director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
13 Services Administration. He is a very expensive
14 contractor. A lifestyle that I hope to aspire to at
15 some point in my life, but he's up here with his
16 associates this week as they're doing planning for
17 some of 16 different distinct initiatives in Senate
18 Bill 74, 14 of which touch behavioral health.

19 And we are very hopefully that part of the
20 waivers, the 1115 Waiver, the 1959 case (ph) will
21 include tenancy support because as you all know the
22 capital is doable. It's the ongoing funding for the
23 support services that is critical.

24 So you know, we appreciate the work the Department
25 and the two Divisions are doing and getting those

1 tenancy supports into a Reformed Medicaid system
2 could be really, really huge.

3 MUSANTE: So I apologize, I forgot to say that Randall isn't
4 here because he is working on the Medicaid issue with
5 the contractors to help figure that all out, so
6 that's my faux pas, I'm sorry about that.

7 And I do want to say that we -- we do have the
8 ability to provide some support through, you know,
9 current waivers and fee for service rehab options,
10 but it's really -- the language was different so that
11 there's always, kind of, a translation going on.

12 We have a service called Community --
13 Comprehensive Community Support Services that can be
14 built out (ph), but it can be for service. It has to
15 be translated into tenancy support. It's possible to
16 do that, but to have that language in -- written into
17 the Medicaid Service package at least for the -- for
18 folks who really require comprehensive services and
19 support, would really make it a whole lot easier and
20 ensure growth on the service side for permanent
21 supportive housing.

22 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any other questions, comment?
23 Okay, thank you very much.

24 MUSANTE: Thank you.

25 BUTCHER: Okay. Moving on, we're getting near to the end of

1 agenda, our Plan to End Long Term Homelessness, Dave.

2 KUIPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would
3 like to thank and give credit where credit is really
4 due for any benefit that what we're going to report
5 on has to our combined efforts, Carrie and Suzi and
6 Kathi Trawver (ph) are rock stars, really helping put
7 together the survey that we circulated and then
8 putting together the report that we have today.

9 I may need to refer to them to define questions,
10 but the framework for our report stems from the
11 Vision Statement to the plan that we adopted during
12 our last meeting. And I'd like to -- well, maybe as
13 a little bit of a -- well, no, it went away, so come
14 back here. Reminder for myself and maybe some
15 others, the vision that we established for this plan,
16 I'd like to read just a couple of paragraphs from
17 that portion of the plan.

18 Our vision states that every Alaskan will have
19 access to safe, affordable and accommodating housing
20 and no man, woman or child should be forced to sleep
21 on the streets, in the woods or in a shelter. Ending
22 homelessness is a statewide priority.

23 As stated in Opening Doors, Federal strategic plan
24 to prevent and end homelessness; ending homelessness
25 is an ambitious goal. However, quote, we believe

1 it's important to set goals even if aspirational for
2 true progress to be made, end quote.

3 It's critical that as a State we work together to
4 provide the most vulnerable members of our society
5 with access to the housing services and income
6 supports they need.

7 And just to stop a moment, so much of that going
8 on. I want to thank you, all of you who have already
9 spoken today for your work that you've been doing and
10 that you continue to do toward these goals.

11 Addressing homelessness must come the local
12 community. Each community is unique in how
13 homelessness impacts them, the types of resources
14 they have access to and their ability to engage
15 partners and the public to address homelessness.

16 This plan is a framework for communities to build
17 upon through collaboration with local constituent
18 groups, shelters, housing providers, service
19 providers, state and local agencies, foundations,
20 education entities, businesses, faith based
21 organizations and private citizens.

22 Communities know what they need in terms of
23 resources, housing units and services in order to
24 successfully intervene in the lives of those who are
25 homeless. And with this information they can work

1 with other local, state and federal governments
2 agencies, as well as private and non-profit sources
3 to address the needs of their community. These local
4 efforts are instrumental to the success of this plan.

5 So with that in mind, our Plan work group over the
6 last several months sent out on a venture to try to
7 get some feedback from local communities, both
8 municipalities and housing authorities because we
9 through they -- we don't always get to hear from them
10 directly. And we often hear from service providers,
11 but not necessarily so directly from the municipal or
12 regional leadership.

13 So the survey results that you have in your packet
14 here today, the survey was distributed by the Alaska
15 Municipal League and the Association of Alaska
16 Housing Authorities to each of the municipalities and
17 regional authorities throughout the State.

18 Colleen Duskin, Administrator for the Association
19 of Alaska Housing Authorities sent the survey to the
20 regional housing authorities. And Betty Svensson,
21 here at the table, Council memb- -- excuse me, sent
22 the survey to the Alaska Municipal League, sent them
23 to the municipalities.

24 And so it should be noted that Council members
25 Betty Svensson and Olen Harris also provided feedback

1 during the development of the survey, so we're very
2 grateful for that help in putting this together.

3 Now, all 14 regional housing authorities and 164
4 municipalities were included in the distribution, but
5 we received responses from only 22. We know that a
6 number of communities did not respond to the survey
7 because they reported no homeless in their community,
8 so they didn't respond because they said they didn't
9 have any homeless people in their community.

10 The total number that chose not to participate for
11 this reason is really unknown.

12 Based on the 12 percent response rate, it's a
13 little hard to draw many conclusions about the data
14 received. However, the work group is treating the
15 survey and the responses as a pilot round and may
16 follow-up with another survey round as appropriate.

17 So on the data, the data specific, if you refer to
18 the Point-in-Time data that was reported on earlier,
19 it averages the following areas in Table 2 and 3 in a
20 little different way, the averages are different, but
21 the Tables 2 and 3, I give you the responses of those
22 who did respond to our survey, so there's something
23 of a comparison.

24 You might look at those a minute to see that the
25 responses for the communities that did respond they

1 reported homeless populations there that we for
2 adults, they averaged some 30 per- -- they thought 30
3 percent of their homeless folks were adults, about 16
4 percent for families, transitional age youth 11
5 percent and then unaccompanied youth at about eight
6 and a half percent.

7 And then there was an Other category and that
8 includes those who didn't respond at all to that
9 section. But also they gave responses that indicated
10 that they felt that about 12 percent of their
11 homeless population were Veterans. And then almost
12 20 percent were victims of Domestic Violence.

13 And the reasons for the homeless -- for
14 homelessness that they found in their own communities
15 are listed in Table 4 of the survey that you have.
16 And you can see what they gave us in those responses.

17 Now, the responders (ph) was also given an
18 opportunity to just give comment, whatever comments
19 they would like to provide our survey group with and
20 those comments included things like, we don't really
21 have a homeless problem in our community. That was
22 expressed in six of the responders -- by six of the
23 responders. When someone is in need the community,
24 family and friends step in and assist where needed.

25 Another response was, we had two chronic homeless

1 residents who took their own lives within the past
2 six months through suicide as surviving had become
3 too difficult.

4 One city commented that they would jump at the
5 opportunity to provide affordable housing if they
6 could.

7 Another community noted that homeless resources
8 are available in a nearby community so they did not
9 generally provide homeless resources directly.

10 Still another community comment on the gap in
11 services for preventing homelessness and transitional
12 housing.

13 And the last comment that I have here is that one
14 community commented that issues of homelessness are
15 not really recognized by their community.

16 So 22 responses is about 12 percent of the survey
17 opportunity provided. We hope that we can follow-up
18 and seek more information, but we also have all of
19 the responses available for folks who would like to
20 see the complete text of all the responses. If would
21 like them, we could make those available to you.

22 Do you have any questions, comments?

23 BUTCHER: Any questions or comments for Dave?

24 PEARSON: I was a part of this, but I do have to say that
25 Kathi Trawver was --.....

1 KUIPER: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

2 PEARSON:who is not here. She's on the Board of the
3 Anchorage Coalition and Homelessness and she's a
4 statistician and truly, you know, really helped us to
5 understand the effectiveness of the numbers, so that
6 was very helpful.

7 And then Carrie helped me to make sure that we all
8 worked together to get this done.

9 I know that the Board, especially the
10 Commissioners that we did come together and talk
11 about roles, responsibilities, leadership as part of
12 what was identified in the Plan. However, Session,
13 kind of, took over all of our lives and the best of
14 intentions, of course, did not happen in that regard.

15 So this coming summer we're going to be working on
16 that piece of the plan to make sure that we all
17 identify who exactly is going to be working on what
18 in order to make sure that we are affectively
19 collaborating.

20 And now with all these new resources through both
21 of the Alaska Coalition having a new ED now and Nancy
22 Burke through the Municipality coming on board, those
23 are all great collaborators that we can pull
24 together. As Elizabeth stated, that this is
25 something that all of us need to come together to

1 make it work.

2 And I do have to thank Dave for reporting on the
3 numbers. A copy of the survey is in your packet and
4 we did provide a lot of information.

5 And I do want to say that the reason that we
6 choose to ask these two groups these questions is
7 because they are very, very rarely represented in
8 this room. And who we hear from, our service
9 providers, we know homelessness, we know how it's
10 impacting our communities from a very specific level
11 and how we're working with it.

12 We don't always know the municipal perception or
13 the regional housing and those folks are working with
14 folks who are homeless, so it's important that we try
15 to gather information from them and we do want to
16 follow-up with those resources.

17 So I want to say thanks to Dave and Carrie and
18 Kathi for all the work that they helped to gather
19 this data and moving forward and, of course,
20 continuing the work that we started or tried to start
21 together and bring in more partners.

22 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Suzi. Yeah, thank you very much
23 for all of your hard work on that very much
24 appreciate it.

25 All right. We're to 2017 Legislative Update which

1 looked different yesterday than it does today. Much
2 of what I was going to say vanished into thin air at
3 midnight last night.

4 What I was going to talk about was what the budget
5 was looking like. And as I'm sure everybody in the
6 room knows the Legislature adjourned last night. A
7 budget was not passed, so they'll be going back into
8 a Special Session on Monday.

9 And there seemed to be a much better understanding
10 through this Legislative Session about some of the
11 challenges of housing than we saw last year. And we
12 all remember the real struggle we had in a lot of the
13 programs, housing programs, in particular the
14 Homeless Assistance Program and trying to get
15 funding.

16 I thought at the time and we talked about it that
17 as painful as that was, the education process we went
18 through was going to benefit us when hopefully we
19 would not have to go through that same process this
20 year and up to this point anyway that does appear to
21 be the case.

22 The Special Needs Housing Program was left intact
23 at 1.5 million.

24 The Homeless Assistance Program was also left
25 intact at a little under eight million.

1 Most of Alaska Housing's other housing programs
2 through our capital budget were left intact and that
3 also included Senior Housing which as we talked about
4 before all of the housing that in all areas is has
5 worked on, it benefits all areas and that had gone
6 away last year and the Rasmuson Foundation stepped in
7 with 1.75 million of match and we had 1.75 million in
8 it as well.

9 So as of last night the budget ready to pass, was
10 taking care of a lot of the needs and a lot of the
11 issues we talked about and were very appreciative of.

12 It is reasonable to think that a lot of these
13 numbers will probably stay very similar, that is
14 reasonable, but that being said, we don't know.

15 Since they're going to have to restart the process
16 all over again, anything is possible and we'll go
17 through it, but there really seemed to be much more
18 of an understanding as we went through the process
19 that some of these housing challenges were certainly
20 much appreciated by us as we went through the
21 process.

22 I'd also like to ask anybody else -- I know we had
23 SB 91. I know we had Medicaid Reform. Talking
24 beyond just some of the issues AHFC is focused on. I
25 know we've brought them up periodically over the

1 afternoon, but I guess, if anybody else had anything
2 else they wanted to add in this area I'd certainly be
3 interested in hearing about it.

4 WILLIAMS: Well, this is Dean. I think Senate Bill 91 is --
5 has many facets to it and hopefully this Bill is not
6 only going to do justice, you know, reform on a
7 number of fronts, but this is really an important
8 piece of legislation. This is the biggest piece of
9 probably justice legislation and the impact, I think,
10 of -- on the whole homeless issue is going to be very
11 interesting.

12 The whole issue of -- for people who are not
13 familiar with one of the things that's being added to
14 -- or as a result of this legislation is per-trial
15 services. And here's why this is really important in
16 terms of the homeless front.

17 Other States and research has been done on this,
18 realizes that if you're charged with a crime, how
19 long you spend in jail, the initial time and --
20 before you actually get to your court date, et
21 cetera, matters a great deal in terms of whether or
22 not you get a chance to turn your life back around or
23 whether or not you have -- many things happen within
24 the first few days of you being in jail.

25 Things like losing your job, potentially losing

1 other social network support. All the things that
2 start to make your recidivism factor for returning to
3 jail, but also a real prime candidate now to be
4 homeless (indiscernible) what stability you have in
5 the community. So pretrial services unit that comes
6 with this legislation is a huge deal.

7 I was in Nashville a few weeks ago looking at what
8 other states were doing and there's a big, huge (ph)
9 effort on the national front to make sure that we
10 really understand what we should be doing with
11 pre-trial and the impact that it has on recidivism
12 rates and ancillary issues regard -- like
13 homelessness.

14 And so this is really important work and one that
15 our Department has to stand up with about 30
16 positions one year. There's a whole bunch of
17 positions year two. I don't think that's going to
18 happen. I think we can do it for a lot less than
19 that.

20 The benefit is, is that if you do this right you
21 have low risk people that you keep out of jail who
22 can't make bail.

23 Right now some people, if you're on the fringe and
24 you have a bond that you have to pay \$500 or \$1,000,
25 many of us couldn't afford that, right, but if

1 you're, kind of, on the fringe or lower economic
2 scale you can't pay \$500 or \$1,000 for a bond. You
3 end up sitting in jail. You end up losing your job.
4 Guess what, now your truck -- chance of being in
5 trouble again. Chance of being homeless. All those
6 things increase.

7 So other states have made great progress.
8 Kentucky of all the states has actually been at this
9 for quite a while and it's reduced their prison
10 population, started to impact recidivism. Guess
11 what, it brings crime down.

12 And I haven't looked at ancillary issues in
13 regards to homelessness, but I'm sure that it's going
14 to impact some of those things, too, because it puts
15 you at less risk.

16 You're in trouble and you're back -- on Friday
17 night and you're back to your job on Monday knowing
18 you've blown it and we can still keep you in your
19 job, it just makes sense that your stability is going
20 to maintain versus losing your job, social networks,
21 everything starts to goes wrong once your job's lost.
22 Some -- you know, many -- many of us, sometimes jobs
23 the best thing going for you right, when other areas
24 of your life are going, kind of, rough.

25 And so it's a huge piece, I think, in terms of

1 justice reform, but I think -- I'm really interested
2 to see what happens on the homeless front and I think
3 we're going the right way on the (ph) policy issues.

4 These policies are really, really important. How
5 we handle justice issues. How we handle homeless
6 things. And so a lot of us are concerned about
7 resources, of course for it, but the policy pieces in
8 this Bill are hugely important for justice issues,
9 but I think also ancillary in terms of homeless
10 issues.

11 BUTCHER: All right. Thank you, Commissioner. Does anybody
12 else have any questions for me or any additional
13 comments?

14 All right. Nancy.

15 (Audience - away from microphone)

16 BUTCHER: Sure. Are we expecting the Mayor?

17 BURKE: He's on his way now.

18 BUTCHER: Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

20 BUTCHER: Okay. Okay. Well, why don't we jump down to
21 Council Member Reports and I guess we'll just, kind
22 of, go around the table and see if anybody has
23 anything additional to say and after that if the
24 Mayor isn't here we'll just take a break.

25 I guess we're start with you, Veedie (ph).

1 BOWEN: Well, I'll start. The last time I was here I
2 promised to bring the Alaska Needs and Veterans Needs
3 Assessment Report. (Indiscernible) The great thing
4 about this report was is that sometimes we do things
5 and we don't know what the future is going to look
6 like.

7 When I sent you this report it was just so that I
8 could figure out what was going with the Vets 'cause
9 I didn't realize we were going to be in a physical --
10 or fiscal crises and this here is really going to
11 help craft our plans for the next 10 years, but as a
12 -- as a (indiscernible) for homeless, the homeless
13 issue didn't really come up until after the Veteran
14 (ph) hit eight years old.

15 And so it started from 18 to 49, it was -- the
16 three top items was jobs, medical care and benefits.
17 From 50 to 70 it was medical care, jobs and benefits
18 and then when you hit 70, between 70 and 80 it was
19 mostly medical and then benefits. And then after 80
20 it was homelessness, but it was a great tool. We
21 were able to send out about 2,900 surveys. And like
22 normal I think we got six or 700 back, but it was a
23 pretty nice product.

24 I was really pleased that ISIR did the study
25 because they had nothing to sell to me, so I didn't

1 have to worry about it coming back and telling me I
2 needed a new hospital or a new something. It really
3 got right now into what the Veterans really needed.

4 And it -- and it liked to come in at a key time
5 because as we're looking around at reduced budgets, I
6 wouldn't have had the budget to put into this study
7 and so it should help anybody that needs a copy (ph).
8 I brought 10 with me and if someone in the -- out
9 there needs a copy just let me know and I'll get one
10 to you.

11 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Commissioner, do you have
12 anything else to add?

13 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

14 BUTCHER: No. Olen?

15 HARRIS: No, I don't have anything.

16 BUTCHER: Okay. Jeff?

17 JESSEE: No.

18 BUTCHER: No. Betty.

19 SVENSSON: I guess I should probably mentioned that revenue
20 sharing was cut. Some of the smaller communities got
21 a little bit more revenue sharing, but the larger
22 communities got less revenue sharing, so they're
23 going to be cutting in areas as well, so.....

24 And then the other thing is we have a large
25 meeting in November where we have about 400 local

1 Alaska State (ph) officials around the State of
2 Alaska, so if we need that audience, I think I can go
3 out on a limb and say that we can provide some sort
4 of workshop session.

5 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you.

6 (Indiscernible conversation)

7 KUIPER: I think one of the things that is helpful to keep
8 in mind is that there are supports where we don't
9 always hear reporting. One of the things that I get
10 to do is coordinate emergency cold weather sheltering
11 here in Anchorage when the other shelters are full
12 for families.

13 And that coordinated effort is between seven
14 churches that all step up and say we'll take families
15 one night a week. One church takes 'em two nights a
16 week during the winter months.

17 And we're really grateful for the Municipality of
18 Anchorage and the cooperative effort that we have
19 with them to support ordinances that allow us to do
20 this.

21 I just added up the data. This year we -- over
22 this winter season, 2015 and '16 we provided nearly
23 1,300 sheltered bed nights for families in Anchorage.
24 So that's a mixture of 791 adult bed nights and then
25 some 480 children bed nights. So I'm grateful for

1 the faith communities that steps up and for the
2 cooperating effort that the Municipality offers us
3 along the way.

4 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Dave. Suzi.

5 PEARSON: No.

6 BUTCHER: Okay. Why don't we just take a brief break and
7 stay close. When the Mayor comes we'll
8 (indiscernible).

9 (Off record - 3:07 p.m.)

10 (On record - 3:15 p.m.)

11 BUTCHER: All right, let's get back to it. We are fortunate
12 enough to have our Mayor, the Mayor of Anchorage,
13 here, Ethan Berkowitz, as well as Nancy Burke.
14 Please join us. Welcome, Mayor.

15 MAYOR: Thank you, friend. On my way over here today I
16 stopped to talk to some people on the street which I
17 find myself doing frequently. In fact, they usually
18 stop me.

19 And it just reminded me that the most important
20 metric that we have and will -- I mean, the issue of
21 homelessness is -- how many people did we find
22 housing for. Everything else tends to be something
23 bureaucratic, something ancillary to the focus of
24 what we're trying to achieve.

25 And so I'm reminded when I talk to people who are

1 escaping something or hiding from something or
2 seeking refuge or in a desperate way that we need to
3 do a better job of getting people connected with
4 housing.

5 And so that's why the thrust of what we've been
6 trying to do at the Municipality and working in
7 conjunction with a lot of great people, a lot of
8 great agencies, the State, non-profit sector is
9 trying to connect people to the services that they
10 should have and make sure that they get connected to
11 the housing that's important.

12 And, I think, that to the extent that we can
13 enhance the cooperation that exists inter-agency and
14 inter-governmental, that's our prime (indiscernible).
15 Everything else is just a question of -- it's a side
16 show. So we need to do what we can to fill the gaps
17 and provide the important links.

18 I wanted to give a quick overview of some of the
19 steps that we've been taking recently and I'm sure if
20 I miss something Nancy will correct me. It's
21 happened before. I heard (indiscernible) snickering
22 back there, but we have real urgency. And we have
23 urgency because right now there's a little bit of --
24 we have political creditability on this front (ph).

25 The public wants us to achieve something about

1 homelessness. They want to see fewer people on the
2 streets. And there's a little bit of license for us
3 to act, but if we wait too long before we show
4 results, I think that, that tide can turn against us
5 and so the time is now.

6 So to that end we helped make sure, in conjunction
7 with partners, that Sitka Place (ph) got the funding
8 that it needed. It is not fully occupied yet.
9 Frankly people have explained to me why. I think
10 that -- I'm not really interested in the explanations
11 of why it isn't fully funded, why it's not fully
12 loaded is we need to make sure that when we have
13 empty rooms we put people in those rooms.

14 We are looking forward to opening the John Thomas
15 facility and seeing more people achieve housing
16 there, but we've got to do far more than that.

17 Our objective was to find housing for 100 people
18 within the first year of my administration.
19 Recognizing that we have 300 to 400 people who are on
20 street and hopefully we can make inroads against
21 them.

22 We did the Point-in-Time count earlier this year
23 and we're still shifting through results, but we've
24 also helped implement a by name protocol where we
25 every couple of weeks gather service providers

1 together. I'm sure many people who are in this room
2 who are doing that, and that's a very successful
3 method.

4 And it's successful because what we're doing is
5 we're de- -- we're humanizing the problem. And when
6 you attach a name to a program, then all of a sudden
7 it's more meaningful. And so we're looking forward
8 to achieving good results (indiscernible).

9 We've 123 people on the by name list right now
10 that we've taken from the streets and (indiscernible)
11 outreach and we're having ongoing (indiscernible). I
12 would frankly -- I would love to see more outreach
13 from service providers to people on the street.

14 I'm sure I'll get in trouble for saying this, but
15 I have never seen service providers encountering
16 people on the street or in the camps and we need to
17 go to where the people are who need help and they
18 need services. We can't wait for them to show up.

19 To that end one of the things we're doing this
20 summer is we've -- the Municipality is helping to
21 bridge some of the gap (ph) funds in partnership with
22 Providence and with Catholic Social Services. Some
23 of the gaps (ph) at the Beans, Brother Frances
24 complex to make sure that there's a more seamless
25 operation there so that services are available.

1 So it is a -- there's going to be full -- it's
2 going to be open and operable all day and so people
3 who are needing services aren't wondering around the
4 Municipality in a situation that becomes dangerous
5 for them because it's -- often times the public
6 confuses the people that they see on the street who
7 (indiscernible) look homeless and they're not all
8 homeless.

9 There's the predator/prey on what's going on out
10 on the street. We want to make sure that people who
11 are vulnerable get protection and get services and
12 escape the cycle that they're in.

13 We also want to make sure that we distinguish
14 between the populations who are in need of assistance
15 and those who are choosing to engage in a dangerous
16 and, I think, often times criminal life style of
17 drinking and partying on the streets, using the
18 streets for their own ends. That's not acceptable
19 social behavior. That's behavior by choice and
20 there's nothing that we can and should be doing about
21 that and it will make everybody safe (ph).

22 So there's a real imperative -- and I cannot
23 underscore this enough, there's a real imperative for
24 coordination now. These various programs -- people
25 know what works. We know it takes a certain amount

1 of resources. We know it takes connecting to
2 facilities. There are facilities here.

3 I've talked to Dean about some of his facilities.
4 Corrections have beds right now that are not being
5 used. I don't know what it would take to get the
6 authorization to make some of those halfway house
7 beds that are empty right now available to people who
8 are homeless, but doing nothing is not the right
9 option.

10 We need to do something that's innovative and
11 aggressive because we have credibility now and we
12 have public trust now and there are people who are on
13 the street who need assistance now. And if we linger
14 too long and the way the things were done (ph) were
15 -- where in the past, we're going to lose this
16 opportunity. And those folks who are vulnerable are
17 going to remain vulnerable and they're going to become
18 further victimized, that's not an acceptable outcome.

19 And you all know all of the numbers and you know
20 the statistics, but I'm here to tell you as an
21 elected official that we have a bandaid to do
22 something now and we squander that not at our peril
23 because we all get to go home to warm beds, we
24 squander at the peril of people who are on the street
25 and in the camps.

1 So that's (indiscernible) unless there's any
2 questions.

3 BUTCHER: All right. First of all, Mayor, I'd like to say
4 we really appreciate the work you're doing and the
5 focus you're bringing on homelessness because it's
6 been a multi-year -- battle might be too strong of a
7 term, but there's really been a lack of
8 understanding, I feel like, in what homelessness is.
9 Who homeless people are.

10 And it's been all too easy, I think, over the
11 years to describe it as well. They just don't want
12 to work. If they want what I want they need to do
13 what I do. We've a lack of understanding.

14 And to me, anyway, it seems like there's really
15 becoming a see (ph) change over this last year or two
16 where people are really starting to understand the
17 responsibility we have. And this isn't some kind of
18 a situation where by choice all of these people just
19 choose not to have that as part of their life.

20 So I wanted to start out (ph) before anybody had a
21 question or comment to say how much we appreciate the
22 work you're doing.

23 MAYOR: Thank you.

24 BUTCHER: Does anybody have a question or comment for the
25 Mayor? Jeff?

1 JESSEE: Well, I want to explain how resentful I am of the
2 Mayor for taking my senior program officer.

3 MAYOR: Then don't.

4 JESSEE: So I won't. No, I just want to echo what Bryan
5 said, you know, your leadership and inspiration on
6 this topic is really important. And I can see the
7 impact it has on the community as people start to see
8 this as not only a manageable problem, but one that
9 needs to be addressed. So I -- we just all look
10 forward to continuing to work with you and
11 (simultaneous speech).....

12 MAYOR: Well, thank you (simultaneous speech). Yeah, I
13 don't really look at it as leadership. I'm just
14 doing the thing that's in front of me. It, kind of,
15 reminds me there's a great quote by John Kennedy.
16 They asked him once why he became a war hero after
17 they sank PT 109. He said I didn't have a choice,
18 they sank my boat.

19 I don't have a choice about confronting this
20 issue. It's the issue that's in front of us and I
21 think that one of the responsibilities you have as a
22 community leader is to provide moral leadership and I
23 frame the discussion about homelessness in moral
24 terms and in ethical terms, but I also learned that
25 there's some audiences, many audiences where that

1 doesn't work.

2 And I discuss it in economic terms. I talk about
3 the cost, the social costs, the extra dollars (ph)
4 that are associated with homelessness. Now, it's not
5 universally effective, but I think it has carved out
6 a space where people are willing to try new methods
7 to address the issue.

8 I also think that -- one of the things that I
9 would like to renew an effort on is to ask the people
10 who are homeless to be part of the solution in a lot
11 of ways. We've done something that they -- or are
12 going to do something that they attempted in
13 Albuquerque to some extent that is pay people to help
14 provide social services, to pay -- to provide
15 services, not a lot of money, but there's a sense of
16 worth that comes from being a contributor. There's a
17 sense of worth that comes from being asked to help
18 solve the problems and we're going to make that part
19 of the program as we move forward this summer.

20 BUTCHER: All right. Thank you, Mayor. Also, to echo what
21 Jeff said, we really appreciate being able to work
22 with Nancy. We've known her for many years and it's
23 nice to have somebody that knows -- that we know,
24 knows and understands the issues and somebody that we
25 can communicate with.

1 Is there anything that you'd like to add?

2 BURKE: Just to let you know, we've provided you with a
3 summary of the activities that we've completed. And,
4 you know, that the discussion today really - our work
5 echoes what the discussion was describing that, you
6 know, the financing of our services really works well
7 for certain parts of it and particularly what we
8 talked about and what the Department talked about
9 with Medicaid services.

10 What's been really interesting was to get out and
11 to see where the gaps in the services are and the
12 Mayor does come in the office and say why aren't
13 there service providers on the street. And we talk
14 about how sometimes our funding sources tie them to
15 office spaces or clinic spaces and so using the funds
16 that the Assembly -- the Assembly approved additional
17 funds to add to the Mayor's budget for homelessness.
18 We are using those resources for that outreach
19 component.

20 There's two pinch points in the entire financing
21 of the services and that one is outreach. When
22 you're trying to get to know somebody that takes a
23 long time. You have to be a consistent presence.
24 You need to know their name. You need to know their
25 background, what's happening with them. And then

1 there's the support once they're in. And those are
2 both really great -- that's grant funded activities.

3 Medicaid does not work well with anything that is
4 open-ended. It's best when -- Medicaid works best
5 when it's tied to a service, a specific problem and a
6 specific intervention. And so that -- you know,
7 that's the long reason that I give the Mayor every
8 time he asks me and he says yeah, but why aren't
9 people on the street.

10 This is so -- you know, trying to put additional
11 resources in those areas to see if it can't make our
12 Medicaid services more effective is what we're doing
13 with the additional resources that has come in and so
14 that's what our summer agenda is about.

15 BUTCHER: Okay, very good. Anybody else? Thank you very
16 much for your time we really appreciate it.

17 I'd like to let everybody know our next Council
18 Meeting is scheduled for October 11th. This will be
19 the third year we'll be doing it in conjunction with
20 the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness'
21 Annual Conference which we saw as an opportunity to
22 allow more members of the Coalition to sit in on our
23 meeting, as well as allow us to spend more time
24 sitting in the Coalition's meetings and helping it
25 overlap because we're all working on the same issues,

1 so that will be at the Marriott Hotel in October and
2 here in Anchorage.

3 With that, does anybody else have anything else to
4 come before the Council. Okay. If not, thank you
5 very much. We're adjourned.

6 (Adjourned - 3:30 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

8 THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING of the
9 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE**
10 **HOMELESS**, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 19th day of May,
11 2016, commencing at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the at the
12 offices of AHFC, 4300 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, Alaska,
13 pursuant to Notice;

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

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

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

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
22 affixed my seal this 1st day of August, 2016.

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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
PUBLIC MEETING 5/19/16

