

ALASKA HOUSING
FINANCE CORPORATION

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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
4300 BONIFACE PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

May 11, 2017



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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:00 p.m.)

BUTCHER: Okay, all right. I'd like to call to order the Alaska Council on the Homeless meeting. It is May 11th, 2017 in the Daniel R. Fauske building at 4300 Boniface Parkway. Could you, please, call the roll, Carrie.

COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Burns?

BURNS: Yes.

COLLINS: Ms. Efird, are you on the phone?

EFIRD: Yes, I'm here.

COLLINS: Commissioner Monegan, are you able to join us on the phone? Mr. Butcher?

BUTCHER: Here.

COLLINS: Mr. Harris?

HARRIS: Here.

COLLINS: Mr. Williams, Steve Williams?

WILLIAMS: Here.

COLLINS: Mr. Kuiper?

KUIPER: Here.

COLLINS: Ms. Pearson?

PEARSON: Present.

COLLINS: Ms. Svensson?

SVENSSON: Here.

COLLINS: Ms. Wilks?

1 WILKS: Here.

2 COLLINS: And is Deputy Commissioner Cann (ph) here or on
3 the phone? Great, I think, that's everyone who's
4 here.

5 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Carrie. A few things before we
6 begin. First of all, this Council has been around
7 for, I think, 13 years, something like that. And I
8 worked at AHFC when it began and every meeting of
9 every year has either had Dan Fauske of Alaska
10 Housing here or Jeff Jessee of the Mental Health
11 Trust here and in most years both of them were here.
12 And, I think, this is the first one we've had that
13 neither one are here.

14 So I wanted to point out that we're really going
15 to miss Jeff. He's moved on to the University. In
16 fact, I think he's on our agenda, so we'll be seeing
17 him.

18 And most of you I'm sure know that Dan Fauske
19 passed away last month four days before the Governor
20 signed a Bill that passed the Legislature that named
21 this building after Dan. So it was a very
22 appropriate honor for him. I was with him when the
23 Senate voted on it. He was very humbled and very
24 honored by the honor.

25 So I just, kind of, wanted to point out how much

1 we miss the two of them and all the work they've done
2 over the years. This Council wouldn't have
3 accomplished -- the work between agencies wouldn't
4 have been to nearly the level that it has been as a
5 result of the work of the two of them, so thank you
6 to both of them for that.

7 We will be -- for the benefit of the group, we
8 will be live tweeting in which you are, of course,
9 welcome to join, and the hash tag is AKhomeless, so
10 Stacy Schubert from our office will be doing that.
11 If there's any misquotes Stacy is the one that
12 (indiscernible).

13 A few other changes, updates to go through before
14 we get into our agenda. First is I wanted to give a
15 little bit of an update on what's going on in Juneau.
16 As I'm sure most of you know we run the housing
17 assistance -- excuse me, the Homeless Assistance
18 Program.

19 That funding is contained in the Mental Health
20 Capital budget. In the current fiscal year it's at
21 7.7 million. The request this year is 7.8 million.
22 And the Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing is in
23 at 1.5 million for this current year, but the request
24 is a 1.7 million.

25 Those two programs get negotiated out in the

1 Operating Budget down in Juneau and so they haven't
2 gotten to that point yet. It's something we're --
3 still being worked on. So it would have been nice to
4 have had an update on that for this meeting, but
5 unfortunately we don't have it. Certainly we'll let
6 you know when we find out what funding levels we are
7 receiving to those two meetings -- or excuse me,
8 through those two programs.

9 But also, let's focus on something that we're all
10 going to be having to deal with and that is the
11 stresses on the budget on the homeless programs. And
12 we've had times where Federal funds have been at a
13 good level for us, but State funds were tough to come
14 by. And then when Federal funds got tighter, we had
15 State funds. And now we're in a situation where
16 we're really having to fight for State funds and for
17 Federal funds.

18 President Trump's budget requests actually talked
19 about eliminating the U.S. Interagency Council on the
20 Homeless, as well as reducing a lot of other Federal
21 funding that we use for a lot of our programs at
22 Alaska Housing and a lot of you, too, (ph), that
23 benefit all Alaskans, not just dealing with the issue
24 of homelessness.

25 And Congress certainly isn't, you know, accepting

1 this budget with open arms, but it is going to be a
2 real challenge in the upcoming years on both levels
3 to try to make sure we can get all the funding we can
4 to continue to run the programs that are so important
5 for all Alaskans.

6 With that, the only change I see going forward
7 with the agenda is we're going to have -- some of our
8 State agencies will be presenting at the table all at
9 the same time.

10 The reason is we have these meetings every six
11 months and the purpose for this meeting, we don't get
12 a tremendous amount of work done in terms of
13 collaboration between agencies, that's the six months
14 before these meetings. These meetings give us all a
15 snapshot of where we are, what we're doing well, what
16 we could be doing better, what areas we could focus
17 more on.

18 And so previously in other meetings we have had
19 just one agency come up at a time when almost all of
20 these programs had more than one agency working
21 together and I don't think it was as obvious the
22 collaboration really wasn't correct. So we're
23 changing the way we do it a little bit. Hopefully
24 the interaction back and forth will be a little
25 improved as a result, but if not, you know, we'll

1 look at adjusting that again.

2 With that, I'd like to see if there are any Public
3 Comments. Carrie, do we have anybody signed up for
4 Public Comments?

5 COLLINS: Yes, we do. Sue Steinacher, do you want to start
6 us off?

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

8 COLLINS: You can clear it right to the mic there and just
9 please, speak into the mic. That one's a little bit
10 quieter.

11 STEINACHER: I usually don't need a mic, but okay.

12 BUTCHER: Welcome, Sue, could you put your name and who you
13 are affiliated with on the record, please?

14 STEINACHER: Yes. My name is Sue Steinacher. I'm am a part
15 time housing coordinator with the Nome Emergency
16 Shelter Team or NEST. I'm also a Board Member of the
17 Alaska Coalition of Housing and Homelessness.

18 I am initiating a Bering Straits Regional Housing
19 Coalition. I have pride (ph) in the Nome Coalition,
20 but we really need to embrace the whole region.

21 And I've been a resident of Alaska for over 37
22 years and not all of that time, but most of that time
23 has been in northwest Alaska.

24 So I happen to be in Anchorage. I didn't come
25 just for this, but I was so grateful to have this

1 opportunity because I want to tell you about a very
2 recent trip to the Village of Savoonga.

3 Brian Wilson came to Nome, spent several days in
4 Nome and then we did a overnight trip out to Saint
5 Lawrence Island where they are about 40 miles from
6 the Russian coast. It's a village of about 900
7 people and we spent a day and a night there.

8 I have been advocating quite a while now for
9 Nome's housing crisis. And have been reminded in
10 Nome, it's like, well, it's not just Nome, what about
11 this problem in Stebbins and this problem in
12 Savoogna, so I said okay, let's go. I wasn't sure
13 what kind of welcome we would get, but I spoke with
14 the vice president, the president and the Mayor and
15 they were like please, please, come. We want you to
16 see our situation.

17 I was hoping and hoping (ph) that we could get
18 into to -- at least two families would be willing to
19 allow us into their homes to see what conditions they
20 were living in. They put out the word the day before
21 we came and 55 families signed up inviting us into
22 their homes to see how they were having to live.

23 And I want to stress that this problem is not
24 specific to Savoogna. That we just happened to
25 choose Savoogna, but I put something out on a

1 regional Facebook page and I heard from people in the
2 villages all over our area, come to Shishmaref, come
3 to Stebbins, come to Gambell, so it isn't specific to
4 Savoogna.

5 So while we were there we visited nine homes
6 because we spent time with each of them. And what we
7 found, first of all, these are small homes. You
8 know, a three bedroom house might be 32 by 40, one
9 floor of course (ph). And in every home we visited
10 there were 16 to 20 people living there, in every
11 home.

12 What we were finding is that an entire family gets
13 a bedroom. It may be 10 foot by 10 foot, no closet.
14 Every -- you know, just mats on the floor and then
15 everybody stacks all their stuff against wall.

16 So you're in a three bedroom home and now we have
17 a seven member family in this room, a four member
18 family in this room, a five member family in this
19 room and the house belongs to grandma who sleeps on
20 the couch and, again, every home we were in.

21 Now, some of these homes date back to the '70s.
22 And back then the theory was let's just build as many
23 houses with the money that we have that we can which
24 meant that they built very inappropriate houses for
25 this climate.

1 And we were in homes that the floor -- terrible
2 sagging floors, cracked, broken windows with plastic
3 over the window, blue tarps over the roof where the
4 roof is collapsing in, black mold is rampant. So not
5 all of the houses are this old (ph), but there are
6 people that are still living in these houses.

7 Now, you might say why aren't they fixing them up.
8 Well, I checked, a four by eight sheet of plywood at
9 Home Depot here is \$25. That same sheet of plywood
10 in Savoogna is \$125. Most people don't have even
11 part time jobs. Even the ivory carvers because of
12 the climate change are no longer getting the walrus
13 and the ivory that they needed to support themselves.
14 These are families who rely on that PFDs to pay.
15 That's how they keep these miserable homes heated is
16 with their PFDs.

17 Don't even ask me how I feel about the State not
18 having an income tax when you see how families are
19 living.

20 There was a time that they were supplied by BIA
21 ship, that's long gone, the North Star (ph). There
22 was a time when bypass mail was fully functional,
23 that they got a Nac (ph) jet in -- or Naknek (ph)
24 flight in once a week from Anchorage, that's gone.
25 We think our cost of living is ridiculously high in

1 Nome and it's only magnitude more in Savoogna.

2 Thirty-five years ago it was such a treat to show
3 up in a village with fruit. It hasn't changed and
4 I'm sort of shocked that, that's in fact if anything
5 it's become worse.

6 So you might also ask well, isn't this the
7 responsible of the Regional Housing Authorities. So
8 we met with the president of the Bering Straits
9 Regional Housing Authority who is terrific, very
10 educated, a very well spoken man.

11 He explained that they have been flat funded now
12 for over 20 years. That they still get six to seven
13 million for the Bering Straits region to do housing
14 for 17 villages, as well as pay their salaries and
15 run a little bit of low income rentals in Nome.

16 The problem is that to build a house in Savoogna
17 is going to run between 650,000 to 750,000. So they
18 have currently figured they have 110 super
19 overcrowded homes in Savoogna.

20 Savoonga hasn't had new housing in 10 years, but
21 their number finally make it to the top of the 17
22 villages. This year they will get four, single
23 family homes and a duplex. And it will be at least
24 10 years before they come back to do any kind of work
25 in Savoogna again. That's how cash strapped this

1 Regional Housing Authority is.

2 And I'd like -- so another question in my head is
3 well, then why don't some of these people move to
4 Nome and they tried. We spent time with the voc
5 rehab person and she says I'm pulling my hair out. I
6 get these people. They want some training or we
7 lined them up with a job at the hospital. They want
8 to make things better for themselves and their
9 families.

10 They come to Nome, maybe they work for a month,
11 but they can't find affordable housing. We are very
12 limited on low income housing. And to come from a
13 village to Nome and discover that a two bedroom
14 apartment is \$1,800 a month plus utilities when you
15 are lucky to be making 12 to \$16 an hour is not
16 sustainable and that's if you can find anything.

17 The local tribe which supports about 40 percent of
18 Nome's population started a rental assistance
19 program. They have five fully qualified families
20 ready to go. The problem is they can't find
21 anything. It just isn't there.

22 And, you know, additionally Nome is not eligible
23 for any of the AHFC vouchers. The hubs are in a way
24 the most mixed up because this -- AHFC doesn't fully
25 reach out to the hubs and yet they're not covered by

1 the Regional Housing Authority because the local
2 tribe that only represents 40 percent of the
3 population gets the Nome housing fund.

4 So -- but in addition -- so what we're seeing is
5 that people are just literally squeezed out of their
6 villages. As we were leaving one home without even
7 us prompting this question, the fellow said, yeah,
8 you know, there's like four or five guys here. They
9 get by here okay in the summer, but they figured out
10 in the winter, they could just go to Nome and live in
11 the shelter. And we have seen our shelter numbers in
12 the last three years double.

13 We used to never hit 20 and now we're running over
14 30 a night and it's just a seasonal shelter which has
15 just shut down for the next six months. So, you
16 know, what I -- I guess I want to say is that -- and
17 that shelter has -- you know, they've gotten 11
18 people back to their village.

19 There was one fellow, I was getting him actually
20 to Savoogna at Christmas time and he was excited to
21 go home, but then he looked at me and he says, but
22 you know, they make me sleep in a cold place there.
23 And I ran into him and his family and they all
24 concurred oh, yeah, he sleeps in that unheated shack.

25 So I think one of my points that I want to make is

1 that the homeless population in Anchorage is not an
2 Anchorage problem. It is a systemic statewide
3 problem that reaches all the way back to the
4 villages.

5 And I don't -- I know we don't have any easy
6 fixes, but I would just like people to take that
7 view, that just simply sending people back to the
8 village does not address the problem at all because
9 the problems are beginning in the villages spreading
10 to the hubs and now they're moving on into Anchorage.

11 So, some of the things that I think we need to do
12 is form a tighter relationship between the villages,
13 the Regional Housing Authorities, the Alaska
14 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. We should all
15 be speaking with one very powerful voice. It's
16 obvious we need a Legislative Committee that
17 addresses housing and homelessness.

18 I -- we also brought up the idea that we need to
19 approach HUD. Part of the problem with the Point In
20 Time which Anchorage, the bigger areas rely on
21 heavily to document your homeless is an absolutely
22 meaningless process in our villages because people
23 are not letting -- they're obviously not letting
24 people sleep outside.

25 One little house puller the microwave into the

1 living room and so four people could sleep on the
2 floor of the kitchen.

3 So we want to make a proposal to HUD that,
4 perhaps, the Point will -- the way the Point In Time
5 is counted could be modified for communities of
6 10,000 or less which would also, I think, appeal to
7 some of the western states that have rural
8 communities that maybe are getting under served or on
9 reservations. So that we can begin to fully account
10 for these -- this is not just -- this bears no
11 resemblance to couch surfing which we see plenty of.
12 This is homelessness of a different sort and it needs
13 to be acknowledged that way.

14 And in closing, and I offer this very genuinely,
15 meaningfully, deeply from the Village of Savoogna or
16 any other village, please, come see for yourself. I
17 hadn't been out there in a long time. I thought I
18 knew what village life was like and I was blown away.

19 And I would be more than happy to accommodate,
20 guide, set you up, whatever you need. And I'd like
21 you to just take this quite seriously and just -- I
22 think that seeing things for yourself and meeting
23 people would -- could be a very valuable experience.

24 BUTCHER: Thank you, Sue. Do we have any questions for Sue?
25 Okay, thank you very much.

1 STEINACHER: Okay, thank you.

2 COLLINS: Okay. And then Dave Rose is the last one on the
3 list.

4 BUTCHER: Hi, Dave, can you put yourself on the record,
5 please.

6 ROSE: Will do. Thank you for allowing me to speak. My
7 name is Dave Rose. I'm the coordinator for the
8 Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. I've
9 been in that position for approximately six years
10 now.

11 In the Mat-Su we're lucky to have quite a high
12 community involvement and awareness. We have over 30
13 agencies that have signed on with Memorandums of
14 Agreement to be a part of our coalition. We have 12
15 leaders in our community from some of those
16 organizations, the non-profits who have volunteered
17 their time to be on our operating board.

18 We have had Project Homeless Connect, I believe,
19 this was our sixth year. We had over 55 agencies and
20 organizations participating, close to 200 volunteers
21 and 200 plus homeless folks, but also we've seen a
22 trend the last couple of years, we have a very high
23 number of not necessarily homeless, but very low
24 income folks coming looking to be connected to
25 resources.

1 Over the years we've copied you guys. Okay. I
2 will just out and out tell you. We've enjoyed your
3 Plan to End Homelessness and we looked at it and we
4 loved the structure of it, so we took that and copied
5 it and then made it our own. We modified it to meet
6 the needs of the Mat-Su Valley.

7 Honestly though, that plan has become cumbersome.
8 The more we add to it, it doesn't seem anything falls
9 off. It just grows and gets bigger and bigger.

10 So recently our Board came up with the idea,
11 actually John Rozzi through our -- operating board
12 (ph), he's our Chair now. Said he'd seen a model
13 where it identifies challenges, whatever issue it is.
14 In our case housing and homelessness. Proposes
15 solutions.

16 And then the next step is probably the best one,
17 it comes up with action steps to attack those
18 solutions or to support those solutions. It's a
19 little bit more manageable.

20 I have to tell you, the last community meeting we
21 had 35 additional actions suggested. And the
22 beautiful thing was at the community meeting when you
23 turn around and say okay, raise your hand if you
24 think this is a good idea. Raise your other hand if
25 you're willing to help work on it with us.

1 And that's my job then is to connect those
2 leaders, those community members with a path that
3 will lead to that one action step being completed.
4 That one action step being completed leads to
5 solutions being -- becoming fruitful, so we've been
6 excited about that.

7 One of the things that is on our action plan is to
8 apply for HAP (ph) funding, apply for ESG funding,
9 apply for CLC funding. And that was the other thing
10 I wanted to say, thank you to you because without
11 your participation, without your hard work we
12 wouldn't have those funds and I fully recognize that.

13 That's -- you know, working with Carrie, working
14 with others at AHFC has been a wonderful experience.
15 We made some mistakes. We've had to learn all the
16 ins and outs and which forms and how to fill it out
17 and all of that, but it's been wonderful.

18 As a result, over the last -- since July of 2012
19 we've helped over 8,000 households in the Mat-Su.
20 We've provided over 10,000 services. Those services
21 averaged only \$400. And you might sit back and think
22 well, that's not much money. How do you work with
23 almost this (ph) -- with just \$400? Much of that is
24 that homeless prevention.

25 What we found is if we could help with the Enstar

1 bill or the MEA bill or if we could help with half of
2 the rent for the month, than those folks are
3 sustainable. They've got a plan. They're able to
4 work ahead and they're able to stay in housing.

5 And that's about 25 percent of what it would cost
6 if they became homeless, went to a shelter or, I love
7 it, you guys are so right, or they came to Anchorage
8 'cause we don't have a shelter. And then they had to
9 move back out and then they had to find a new job and
10 then they had to get a landlord. And then the
11 landlord looks over some of their past discrepancies
12 in their housing, so to speak, but then the landlord
13 because of those insists that they put a hefty
14 security down (ph). You're up to two, \$3,000 to
15 rehouse a family.

16 So thank you again. You guys have helped us keep
17 folks in their housing and through ESG and the
18 Continuum of Care energy folks at the New (ph) House,
19 so that's been wonderful.

20 One of the things that we do in the Mat-Su is
21 we're always on the lookout for possible new housing,
22 possible ways to get landlords. We just -- today's
23 Thursday. Yesterday we just had a landlord
24 appreciation dinner. Thanks to Alaska Mental Health
25 Trust Authority and to Alaska Housing Coalition on

1 Housing and Homelessness.

2 I was able to go to a couple of the National
3 Alliance on Ending Homelessness Conventions over the
4 years. Our Board Chair also went. And I said to him
5 let's go to this landlord appreciation idea, what's
6 this all about. Sure enough, what it was all about
7 was thanking landlords, encouraging landlords to
8 continue to consider renting to high risk, low income
9 families, individuals, households.

10 We did that. And this is our second luncheon and
11 it's a great way to spread the word and it's a great
12 way to get additional housing units considered to be
13 opened up for low income folks.

14 Well, another thing we're doing is we have
15 identified a local hotel/motel that due to expansion
16 of the highway system, which we're all for, is
17 condemned. And is being slated to be torn down. My
18 Board Chair, John Rozzi again, was adamant, why tear
19 down a building that's in perfectly good shape that
20 could house 40 families. Why would you tear it down.
21 Well, we didn't know what else to do with it.

22 Well, we tried to get them to reroute the highway,
23 they can't do that. So the latest idea is to try and
24 find if we can possibly move it to another location
25 and then rehab it so it can continue to serve as

1 housing. And I've gotten some great ideas from the
2 previous meeting and some contacts, so we're going to
3 move ahead with that next. That's on our action plan
4 (indiscernible) just a little one (indiscernible).

5 The last thing I just want to say again is, thank
6 you. Keep doing what you're doing. Let us know what
7 you need to support you in what you're doing so that
8 we can all keep moving ahead and end homelessness
9 hopefully in the next 10 years. Thank you.

10 BUTCHER: Well, thanks, Dave. Do we have any questions for
11 Dave?

12 BURNS: Yeah, Dave, do you work with the Mat-Su Health
13 Foundation as well?

14 ROSE: We do. And that was just suggested to me, have we
15 approached them yet. And we -- the Mat-Su Health
16 Foundation funds a number of our projects. They're
17 just awesome, but before we run this by them I want
18 to have it all laid out so we can answer their
19 questions, but we will.

20 BURNS: Okay, thank you.

21 PEARSON: I don't have a question necessarily, but I do want
22 to say Dave, when I was on the Alaska Coalition Board
23 you -- when you first started brought great passion.
24 You continue to bring that and I have always been
25 impressed with the growth in the Valley. You've done

1 an amazing job there. So thank you so much for your
2 work and to the community, just fabulous work.

3 ROSE: Thank you, Suzi.

4 PEARSON: Um-hum. (Affirmative) And then.....

5 ROSE: I wish my boss was here.

6 PEARSON: Well, it's on record.

7 And actually, I'm sorry, Bryan, I did want to go
8 back and say something to Sue because the last
9 meeting we did have somebody who did public comment
10 and it was in regards to the same issue. And it is a
11 very difficult subject because how are we going to
12 solve this. We need to solve this. And we need to
13 keep having voices coming forward and reminding yes,
14 this is a problem, so let's keep talking about it to
15 find solutions.

16 People should be able to live where they're from,
17 in their homes and it's only fair that they have safe
18 homes. And it's a commitment that we need to make as
19 Alaskans to do that, so I did want to come back and
20 say to Sue, thank you for bringing that back to us.

21 STEINACHER: Thank you. If I could say -- you know, I'd like
22 to add and I have no idea how this would happen, but
23 getting subsidized shipping (indiscernible away from
24 microphone) would give rural Alaska a fighting
25 chance. I'd say otherwise (indiscernible) very

1 little hope.

2 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Next we'd like to move to the
3 State Agency Update. And is everybody going to come
4 up or it is going to be two different -- okay. So
5 it's going to be Amanda Lofgren with the Alaska
6 Mental Health Trust Authority, Carrie Collins from
7 AHFC, Susan Musante from Health and Social Services
8 Division of Behavioral Health, Kelda Barstad from
9 Health and Social Services Division of Senior and
10 Disability Services.

11 Karen, you can -- you can go up there or you can
12 stay here, however you want to do it.

13 CANN: I'll go up with them.

14 BUTCHER: Okay. And Cathy Stone our Public Housing Director
15 from Alaska Housing.

16 LOFGREN: Okay, all right. Well, I can't guarantee I have
17 anything tweetable to say, but I'll do my best.

18 BUTCHER: Okay. Amanda, maybe when each one of you speaks
19 you can give your name and get it on the record for
20 Suzie so she knows in the back who is speaking and
21 who isn't for the minutes.

22 LOFGREN: Sounds good. My name is Amanda Lofgren. I'm a
23 program officer with the Alaska Mental Health Trust
24 Authority.

25 And, first, I just want to say thank you for

1 changing the way that we co-present because I think
2 it really does reflect all of the collaboration. At
3 the Trust we truly believe we're not effective in
4 what we do without the collaboration and the
5 partnership with all of you and all of our partners,
6 so it's been a tremendous effort the last several
7 years. I feel like we've been working together and
8 so I appreciate that.

9 At the Trust we last year undertook a significant
10 change in how we historically do our budget planning
11 process. Typically we would look at each of our
12 focus areas, which housing is in the focus area, and
13 work with our stakeholders to come up with our
14 budget.

15 Last year with all of the efforts around Medicaid
16 Reform and Criminal Justice reform (ph), we really
17 felt that we needed to change how we do things
18 because individuals that touched multiple systems is
19 not just housing. It's the services, employment, it
20 all goes together. And so we brought all of our
21 stakeholders together to really go through our theory
22 of change process to look more holistically at how we
23 do our budgeting and it's a two year cycle.

24 So you'll see in your packet is the document that
25 we have, but through that effort we looked entirely

1 at all of our projects and evaluated them for
2 efficiencies and effectiveness. And one of the
3 things that we found was there was duplication around
4 housing. We provide grants. AHFC provides grants to
5 the same entities. Everybody is repetitive (ph) for
6 reports. The data is not being collected the same.

7 So this last year and specifically the last six
8 months we've really been trying to flesh that out and
9 work that through. So we're excited about
10 streamlining things for everyone and being able to
11 look more systematically at the data as -- at a
12 fuller picture.

13 With that, we also increased the BHAP and SNHG
14 funding from the Trust our entire commitment. And
15 then we're also invested in the communities more.

16 As you know -- or you will meet this afternoon
17 Mike Sanders from Fairbanks. And then, you know,
18 Nancy. You all know Nancy and all the work that
19 she's doing here in Anchorage has been a tremendous
20 effort. And so one of the things that -- and also
21 Aaron O'Guinn (ph) is here with our Land Office.
22 This has been a big asset for us at the Trust. He's
23 over with our Land Office working on our program
24 related investments and some of you have met him.

25 I don't know, Aaron, if you're in the back if you

1 want to wave, but that's been a great opportunity for
2 us at the Trust.

3 And then the last thing I just want to say is
4 around re-entry. Housing is such an important
5 component. We have historically had the Discharge
6 Incentive Grant Program which DOC oversees in
7 collaboration with the Division of Behavioral Health
8 and that's to help individuals returning into the
9 community to ensure that they have housing that's
10 appropriate based on their needs.

11 And so that is another project that we are
12 partnering with AHFC to tie into being able to look
13 more comprehensively at all of the different housing
14 programs that are touching re-entrants to be able to
15 collect and monitor better and be more efficient, so,
16 thank you.

17 BUTCHER: Why don't we go one at a time in terms of Q and A
18 just so we can -- first of all I should have -- I'm
19 glad you brought up the funding because I should have
20 mentioned when I said in this upcoming fiscal year
21 we're asking for a bump, a small increase in those
22 two programs, but it's because of the Mental Health
23 Trust having more funds available has allowed that --
24 that request to be a little bit higher and we really
25 appreciate that.

1 And does anybody have any questions for Amanda?
2 Okay, thank you.

3 COLLINS: Great, so I'm going to take it from -- next. So
4 I'm Carrie Collins with Alaska Housing Finance
5 Corporation for Suzie for the record.

6 And I just really want to follow-up again on
7 Amanda's piece there with some of the additional
8 funding that's coming over through the HAP budget is
9 allowing us to explore meeting some rental assistance
10 needs in rural communities that aren't currently
11 assisted through Public Housing.

12 It's absolutely a need that we know of and we hear
13 and we appreciate everyone who has been coming and
14 continues to knock on our door and share that with
15 us. So we're very excited about the opportunity to
16 explore that and hoping to come out within the next
17 few months with some more information on that, so
18 we're looking forward to that.

19 Then I am going to switch over then to our SNHG
20 and BHAP update. There is a handout in your packet
21 for everyone. As you may or may not know or remember
22 AHFC has raised again the (ph) sum of money under the
23 Homeless Assistance Program in the Capital Budget and
24 it supports a couple different programs here at AHFC.
25 And that's the Special Needs Housing Grant Program

1 and the Basic Homeless Assistance Program.

2 So with the Special Needs Housing Grant Program
3 that funding funds capital, operating and supportive
4 services for permanent supportive housing
5 opportunities. Right now we are into an agree- --
6 sort of renewal (ph), I think I would say, of
7 supporting projects in eight communities with about
8 7.9 million that's renewed on a three year basis and
9 that assists (ph) 277 households.

10 You may remember from our last update, Dan Delfino
11 talked about a couple of programs that had been
12 funded through that -- through a recent round. One
13 of those is the Juneau Housing First project which is
14 going to have 32 units to serve chronically homeless
15 individuals.

16 And the other is (indiscernible) Community
17 Services which is four units of rehab for
18 developmentally (ph) disabled individuals and those
19 are coming online very soon so we're happy to see
20 that construction finishing up.

21 And you'll (ph) hear definitely more about the
22 Juneau Housing First as we move through the agenda.

23 In reference to the Basic Homeless Assistance
24 Program, that program assists homeless and near
25 homeless Alaskans through operating support for

1 emergency shelter, transitional housing programs. It
2 also provides rapid re-housing or placement
3 assistance and prevention assistance. That is
4 awarded on an annual basis. And for FY-17 we awarded
5 \$6.1 million to 37 organizations in 20 communities
6 statewide.

7 I can't really -- I cannot articulate it as well
8 as Dave Rose did about that program and the people
9 that we serve and the different types of activities
10 and services that are provided through that program.

11 We, kind of, looked at it to some extent as, kind
12 of, I would say a safety net program. It's probably
13 not the most appropriate word, but that's what's
14 coming to mind right now.

15 It provides assistance through other -- a
16 different funding source than we might see with other
17 Federal Programs focusing on Permanent Supportive
18 Housing and a lot of efforts going to chronically
19 homeless, so this program provides assistance to
20 serve all (indiscernible) that are coming through in
21 Alaska.

22 And while it doesn't provide support for operating
23 for emergency shelters and transitional housing,
24 there's a substantial amount that goes to prevention,
25 so looking at efforts to keep people stably housed

1 without them entering the homeless system. And then
2 also repaid re-housing efforts, so those are my two
3 different rural assistant time period to get people
4 into assisting in rural (ph) housing situations.

5 So we have about 30 (ph) percent of our budget
6 that goes to those prevention and rapid re-housing
7 assistance, so -- and then through that program we
8 serve about 13,000 Alaskans throughout the State, so
9 we touch a lot of people.

10 As you know a lot of that, you know, comes through
11 prevention and as Dave mentioned we do average around
12 \$400 per household through that prevention
13 assistance.

14 For SFY-18 we have just finished our application
15 process for this next funding cycle. We'll be
16 reviewing (ph) applications now and hoping to make an
17 announcement by the end of this month. And if, you
18 know, barring no major changes to the budget, we're
19 hoping that we'll be able to move forward with that.

20 For SFY-18 we took a look at a different approach
21 to our application process for the BHAP Program that
22 included (indiscernible) coordinated application
23 component to the application and that was a
24 requirement that came down from AHFC to help
25 communities who are receiving BHAP assistance have

1 the agencies coming together and working with their
2 community partners to work together to, kind of, set
3 some goals for gaps that they're seeing in their
4 community and come together and talk about BHAP
5 funding that they're receiving.

6 We definitely recognize that communities are doing
7 as much as they can and working really well together,
8 but this is another opportunity for them to come
9 together and, kind of, really dig into the budgeting
10 and how the funding is being served and used (ph) in
11 their community.

12 It goes really well hand and hand with the
13 coordinated entry efforts that are happening in
14 communities and we'll be continuing to happen as we
15 move forward.

16 I know that our Coalition partners will be
17 speaking next and they can definitely go into the
18 detail about those efforts, but one component of that
19 is really understanding the resources that are coming
20 to your community and how to direct them, so we're
21 looking forward to continuing and learning from this
22 first round and tweaking and improving as we move
23 forward with that.

24 In addition, we always give an update on, kind of,
25 the budget of the BHAP and the SNHG Program and the

1 existing current funding levels. We expect to be
2 able to assist existing grants through 2026 and so
3 that really plays into the part (ph) when we talk
4 about those three year renewals for the Special Needs
5 Housing Grant which is supporting physical
6 structures. So it gives a little bit more security
7 and we really, really are watching how we manage all
8 these funds in order to keep programs sustainable
9 moving forward.

10 So in addition to those two big programs, the
11 funding that comes through the HAP Program also
12 supports some of our other partnerships. It supports
13 United Ways 2-1-1 Program. It also supports the
14 Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness through
15 their annual conference and their staffing (ph).

16 And I think I'm going to hold it for just a minute
17 and start our partnership discussion on the Section
18 811 Project Based Rental Assistance Program. So this
19 is the partnership with AHFC and the Department of
20 Health and Social Services.

21 And we received award, I want to say two years
22 ago, from HUD, \$7.7 (ph) million to provide permanent
23 supportive housing for 200 units throughout Alaska
24 for individuals who are receiving assistance through
25 assisted living homes so they can live independently

1 with services.

2 And so we're really excited that we're getting
3 very close to getting our first people in units in
4 the next couple months. It has been a long road.
5 It's a brand new program for our Federal funder (ph)
6 and then also for the State, so we're really trying
7 to work through another one of those building it on
8 the fly (ph), kind of things (ph) for us and our
9 rural partners, so we're very excited. We're going
10 to have hopefully (indiscernible) people here in the
11 next couple months.

12 And then with that I will -- oh, actually there's
13 one other housing piece to that before I turn it over
14 to our partners. AHFC, sorry this is -- okay.
15 Working on an RFP that will partner four (ph) percent
16 tax credits, 811 Rental Assistance and Housing Trust
17 Fund dollars that will go out in order to help
18 generate units (ph) for this program and so that will
19 be released hopefully very soon, so we're working on
20 that to help identify more units for that program.

21 And I'll turn it over to Susan and Kelda.

22 BURNS: Can.....

23 BUTCHER: Let's talk a pause for a minute, have any
24 questions?

25 BURNS: Yeah.

1 BUTCHER: Go ahead.

2 BURNS: Carrie, can you tell me what's the vehicle or the
3 -- you mentioned the -- for the community coordinated
4 applications and what vehicle is used for those?

5 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

6 BURNS: Yeah.

7 COLLINS: Yeah, so.....

8 BURNS: Is it like this -- you know, group -- informal
9 group or is it a formal group in the community.....

10 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

11 BURNS:that participates or how does that work?

12 COLLINS: Yeah, so this is the first one and it looks
13 different in different communities. The requirement
14 through the program is that the organizations that
15 are currently funded have been funded historically
16 through the BHAP Program and that would be applying
17 for BHAP funding would come together and develop --
18 work together and develop that group and bring in
19 extra partners.

20 In some communities that have maybe more
21 established coalitions or other kind of groups that
22 they already coordinate through, they really spoke
23 through and came through that way.

24 Specially for Anchorage with their existing
25 Continuum of Care application process that goes

1 through the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
2 it made sense for them. They have a number of
3 grantees who have been through that process before
4 and it's a very similar process. They worked with
5 the State -- or excuse me, the Anchorage Coalition to
6 End Homelessness to help coordinate those efforts for
7 them to respond to that.

8 BURNS: So there was no specific requirement though for
9 whatever that organization was going to look like?

10 COLLINS: No, there wasn't.

11 BURNS: Okay. And then one more, I'm sorry.

12 BUTCHER: Oh, please.

13 BURNS: Can you just explain again the tax credit, what's
14 that -- how -- I, sort of, missed that?

15 COLLINS: I -- Mr. Randall, I knew somebody was going to ask
16 about this.....

17 BURNS: So sorry.

18 COLLINS:and I'm going to -- I'm totally going to walk
19 over here to Daniel Delfino. So tax credit world is
20 not the world that I live in with developments (ph)
21 and we're calling in our partners in the Department
22 who do that. What I know is that it is four percent,
23 non-competitive tax credits.

24 So Daniel or any of you, would you like to speak
25 to that?

1 BUTCHER: Yeah, Daniel why don't you come up and give us a
2 little bit more detail. And, please, place yourself
3 on the record.

4 DELFINO: Okay. Hi, everyone. My name is Daniel Delfino
5 with the Planning Department at Alaska Housing
6 Finance Corporation.

7 So the tax credits, in about 20 seconds or less.
8 I guess the easiest way to explain it is the way that
9 the tax credits work is it's based on what you can
10 depreciate on your returns. So if you say you spend
11 \$100 to build something and you can depreciate \$90 of
12 that on your tax returns once it's constructed, you
13 would be able to generate \$90 in tax credits or \$90
14 that could be used to generate tax credits for your
15 returns.

16 You can sell those tax credits to an investor who
17 will be able to use them. It gets into a fairly
18 complicated thing. We use the term nine percent tax
19 credits and four percent tax credits, it's the same
20 thing.

21 One just means you can generate more tax credits
22 under a competitive application structure that we
23 host here at Alaska Housing every year.

24 The other is a noncompetitive. It gets you about,
25 like you're building and those members (ph) some of

1 you generate \$90 in depreciable basis, you'd be able
2 to generate up to probably 35 to \$40 in tax credits
3 if you were using a four percent development.

4 So it's something that gives you a little bit of
5 construction equity if you want to rehabilitate a
6 facility and it gets you access to tax exempt
7 financing.

8 There's a lot of billable hours and accounting
9 (indiscernible) that gets into how that all works
10 together, but the short answer is it generates about
11 maybe 30 to 40 percent of the development costs of a
12 project that you might be considering in potential
13 proceeds to help you make that deal happen.

14 BURNS: And can I ask how we're selling this (ph)?

15 DELFINO: Yes, absolutely. So when we were looking at what
16 we could accomplish with the 811 housing, we don't
17 have enough to generate a lot of new construction
18 activity because the housing costs in Alaska, as Sue
19 was talking given a place like Savoogna, it's --
20 we've seen applications from Savoogna. I think one
21 that was around \$650,000 a unit.

22 So we don't have enough money to support a lot of
23 new construction development. So when we were trying
24 to figure out what people would actually be able to
25 use these resources in coming up with models on what

1 type of development would make sense for this, a lot
2 of the deals that we were looking at were older
3 facilities that were probably built in the early '90s
4 under the Tax Credit Program that could be renovated
5 and upgraded.

6 So these would be facilities that can be converted
7 or upgraded for people with disabilities and re-
8 purposed and potentially bring up the amount of rent
9 that they'd be able to generate through the upgrades
10 and through the 811 assistance. We think that the
11 four percent tax credits would work for those types
12 of transaction more so than a new construction
13 development.

14 BURNS: Thank you very much.

15 DELFINO: No problem.

16 BUTCHER: Thanks, Daniel. Any other questions? Okay, let's
17 continue.

18 MUSANTE: Hi, my name is Susan Musante. I've with the
19 Department of Health and Social Services, the
20 Division of Behavioral Health and I'll speak a bit
21 about the 811.

22 The Department of Health and Social Services
23 through DBH and SVS (ph) are providing some leverage
24 funding for that, as for some of the rental
25 assistance, but primarily on the DBH side we are

1 really looking at supporting the services that will
2 help people stayed housed.

3 Some of you were in the room this morning talking
4 about how we need to have service alignment as well
5 as the bricks and mortar housing, so that's the piece
6 that we've been working on.

7 The Division of Behavioral Health has worked with
8 its stakeholder, partners, providers and are funding
9 a residential team to help people make the transition
10 into housing and also to help them sustain the
11 housing once they get there.

12 I also wanted to speak just a tad about the
13 collaboration and the partnerships that we've been
14 talking about here today. Some of us had the
15 opportunity to go to a Federal meeting on the 811.
16 And it became clear to me that not all of the states
17 are enjoying the same partnership that we are with
18 our different funding partners, our service provider
19 partners and so I just wanted to acknowledge that.
20 It was really quite a difference from some of the
21 other states.

22 And finally I'll just say that we had conducted
23 prior to this, in preparation for the 811 kicking off
24 and we are very excited. We think we'll probably
25 have about 10 people in the first cohort (ph), but in

1 preparation for that we did do a preference survey
2 and a functional assessment to see who might be
3 interested and what their needs might be. And with
4 that I'm going to let Kelda talk (ph) from the SVS
5 side.

6 BARSTAD: For the record my name is Kelda Barstad. I work
7 for the Department of Health and Social Services,
8 Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.

9 And I'm very proud to be part of the fantastic
10 partnership between AHFC, the Division of Behavioral
11 Health and the Trust. I think that the 811 project
12 as been planning and working very hard to finally
13 come to fruition this summer. And we're so excited
14 to be able to serve and house people and see this
15 project begin and begin to benefit the people that we
16 serve on the general relief program.

17 And general relief is a safety net benefit to help
18 us pay for assisted living home services. And that
19 does not have specific diagnostic criteria, so it
20 serves a lot of different people who have a lot of
21 different service needs.

22 For Senior and Disability Services, as of this
23 last month, we had 483 people that we were serving.
24 And throughout the course of this fiscal year we were
25 very concerned that we might need to put a waitlist

1 in place.

2 We've recently found that we will not need to put
3 a waitlist in place for this fiscal year, so we're
4 very pleased to be able to update the Council on that
5 information. And it's a great relief to the
6 Department as a whole because the safety net service
7 is so needed for this group.

8 For selecting the pilot, both the Division of
9 Behavioral Health and Senior and Disability Services
10 will select a small number of residents who are
11 interested in moving into supportive housing.

12 And we will be able to test that process this
13 summer, tweak any policies or procedures or processes
14 that need adjustment as we get actual people through
15 the process. We think we've come up with a pretty
16 good draft, but once you start doing the work there's
17 always some improvement that can be made.

18 So we're very much looking forward to that,
19 getting those services in place and making sure that
20 we can support people in a more independent
21 environment of their choosing.

22 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any questions for Susan or
23 Kelda?

24 BURNS: Can I -- Kelda, could you just -- I think people
25 need to understand since we're moving individuals out

1 of assisted living homes into housing, could you just
2 described, sort of, the tool that was used to help
3 make that assessment? I think it's important for
4 people to know about the tool that's being used for
5 this purpose.

6 BARSTAD: Of course, I'm happy to. The Daily Living
7 Assessment 20 is an assessment tool that is used
8 across the nation. There are a variety of states
9 that use it to assess a person's daily functioning.

10 So a variety, 20, that's part of the name, 20
11 different functioning skills across the board which
12 include managing a person's own medical care,
13 relationships, being able to manage their own
14 housing. There is a list of a variety of things.
15 And that person receives a score based on their
16 responses to an interview.

17 And that score will identify how high that person
18 is functioning or how low that person is functioning,
19 just really where are they at, at this point in time
20 and that is compared to everyone. It's not just a
21 scale for people who, perhaps, have a certain
22 diagnosis or may be ill. It's compared against the
23 general population. So you or I could take a DLA 20
24 assessment and receive a score and be on that
25 computer run.

1 So we are talking a look at folks who have scored
2 on the higher range who, at least per those
3 assessment results, appear to have a greater success
4 in being able to live in a supportive living
5 environment.

6 Also paired with a preference survey where someone
7 who'd indicated that they have this as their goal and
8 they want to move out of assisted living into a more
9 independent setting with those support services to
10 help them be successful.

11 BURNS: Thank you very much.

12 MUSANTE: Can I just add to that? The use of the DLA 20
13 will also help us work with our provider
14 organizations to identify the specific services that
15 will help the person stay housed and a transition
16 plan can be made. So it's not just a screening out
17 tool (ph), if you will. It's a screening in tool,
18 how can we help you prepare and be able to make the
19 move. Thanks.

20 WILKS: And I have a question on that tool. Is it
21 utilized over the course of the time that an
22 individual has entered into the housing and then the
23 follow-up so that you can really look at progress
24 being made in those very -- various types of scale
25 areas (ph) so you can see progress and measure that

1 as well?

2 MUSANTE: So we did not necessarily have a plan to implement
3 it over the course of the project. However, a goodly
4 number of the folks have providers who are using it
5 on a regular basis who, in fact, are using it as a
6 treatment planning tool, if you will.....

7 WILKS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8 MUSANTE:and so -- and measuring of progress tool.

9 So a subset of the folks will be using it and we
10 are in conversation about whether or not we would be
11 able to continue to use it. And you may want to add
12 to that.

13 BARSTAD: Yes, it's -- a continued use of the assessment
14 over time is something that we have talked about, but
15 we haven't made a decision yet primarily because of
16 funding.....

17 WILKS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

18 BARSTAD:for residents that are not associated with an
19 agency that use it as a consistent treatment planning
20 tool. We don't have a way to fund that training or
21 ongoing assessment.

22 WILKS: Okay. Well, I think it would be a very useful
23 tool if you were able to do that to really maybe even
24 in a small cohort of individuals or a small cohort of
25 agencies it would be nice to be seeing that type of

1 progress because that's often something that is
2 (indiscernible - telephone ringing). Anyway, that's
3 my two cents.

4 BARSTAD: Thank you for the recommendation.

5 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we want to move on to Karen.

6 CANN: Hi, I'm Karen Cann. I'm Deputy Commissioner with
7 the Department of Corrections. And most -- like
8 other people at this table I want to take a minute
9 just to talk about our collaboration. And we work
10 very closely with the transitional programs here on
11 the this (indiscernible) and that's a big piece of
12 our re-entry program.

13 That we have a number of offenders that can return
14 to where they were, but we also have a huge number
15 that need either short term or longer, a year plus
16 housing to get them back on their feet and to work
17 with other Coalition members.

18 And it sounds like we can have other Coalition
19 members coming up here, so I won't do more than just
20 touch upon that.

21 And what we've been doing with the Department of
22 Corrections is more on the side of support that we're
23 starting to look at our data management systems to be
24 able to start tracking the data.

25 First to look at what everybody is collecting so

1 we're trying not to duplicate efforts, perhaps, but
2 be more focused and how we get that and how we can
3 supply that data. And have more of our programs
4 based on that data and on those outcomes of reducing
5 recidivism and increasing public safety.

6 And then the biggest piece, I think, for the
7 Coalition is that for every institution to have
8 focused on a single point of contact, so it's not,
9 like, who do I need to reach out to for this inmate
10 and what institution, but you can now say oh, this
11 person is in Goose Creek, this is the person I
12 reached out to and they can either help me or ensure
13 that I'm redirected or that person connects with me
14 and then we begin to share the whole offender
15 management plan.

16 So within the 90 days -- 30 to 90 days we have an
17 offender management plan that is totally up to date.
18 We're having people come in for in-reach (ph) to look
19 at that plan, what needs to happen when they come out
20 in the community and to also ensure that all the
21 release of information are fine (ph) and in place.

22 So our hope is as we look at this, again, it's one
23 of our first steps of hoping to make the process
24 smoother, but we know we'll be tweaking that along
25 the way, but that's the way our focus moving into

1 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

2 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have questions? I have a quick
3 question. The re-entry housing program that AHFC and
4 Corrections work on together has just been expanded
5 into Anchorage, how -- either one of your can answer,
6 how has that been going?

7 STONE: For the record, Cathy Stone. I'm with the Public
8 Housing Division at Alaska Housing. And so to your
9 question, Mr. Butcher, about the expansion, we needed
10 to commit, I believe it was, just Public Housing
11 dollars for that because HOME funds can't be used in
12 Anchorage. The Municipality has control of those.

13 And we started out small with 25, I believe --
14 yeah, 25 referrals for Department of Corrections in
15 Anchorage and it's 100 percent utilized. And I've
16 heard that they could use a lot more, that there's a
17 high demand and it's very successful.

18 And, I believe, the piece that's successful is the
19 connection between Department of Corrections and then
20 us just providing the housing piece works very well.
21 It keeps them in housing and stabilized and that's a
22 two year time limited program.

23 BUTCHER: Okay, great. 'Cause I know one of the real
24 challenges initially has been you need to find
25 landlords, you know, and being able to work that and

1 develop that so landlords realize that these are
2 responsible people in their units. And it's good to
3 hear that it's fully filled at this point. Okay.

4 STONE: Shall I continue?

5 BUTCHER: Yes.

6 STONE: Okay, thank you. Okay. So as most of you are
7 aware we have several programs throughout the State,
8 Set Aside Programs, directly related to issues of
9 homelessness. Our Empowering Choice Housing Program,
10 I'm looking at Ms. Pearson, this has been a great
11 collaboration with the Domestic Violence shelters in
12 the network, as well as the Council on Domestic
13 Violence and Sexual Assault.

14 And we have 185 units allocated to that. It's not
15 100 percent utilized, but that's simply because
16 people going on and off and the referrals coming
17 through, but that continues to be a strong program
18 collaboration with the network.

19 Our Moving Home Program with DHSS, 150 units
20 allocated to that statewide and that is another
21 referral program from DHSS to whatever housing office
22 the person lives near. If it's in Fairbanks, they
23 get a referral from DHSS to the Fairbanks office.
24 They're provided the voucher assistance and they also
25 have to maintain some sort of service from DHSS.

1 In the Returning Home Program with DOC we have
2 just over 100 statewide on that using HOME funds and
3 then the 25 in Anchorage. It's just been expanded.

4 And we also have a Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
5 Program that's going well and that's got about 25
6 utilized statewide as well. And they collaborate
7 with the Department of Office of Children Services
8 and they have to work with an independent living
9 specialist from that group to make sure that they
10 stay stable and that they're, you know, meeting
11 certain requirements. And that's for youths 18 to
12 24.

13 And also our VASH Program is really going well.
14 I'm not sure if VOA is going to come up and speak to
15 that, but we have 271 VASH units now statewide and
16 the -- we're almost at 100 percent allocation. We
17 were only at 86 percent utilized, but we're -- we've
18 got several out shopping.

19 And in a conversation with Mr. Pendrey this
20 morning he said they've got their last case manager
21 hired and he's starting to get more people in the
22 system and utilizing the vouchers.

23 Something exciting going on with Public Housing.
24 We have hired Sherrie Hinshaw away from Public
25 Housing to now work for the Alaska Corporation for

1 Affordable Housing.

2 This is our subsidiary corporation within the
3 Alaska Housing umbrella for the purpose toward
4 finding new affordable housing, either renovating or
5 rehabilitating existing housing. And she just
6 started a couple months ago and we're excited to get
7 her on the ground and identifying the new housing or
8 existing housing that we can create affordable
9 housing with.

10 So excited to have that position filled and
11 Sherrie is a go getter and she's going to keep us on
12 our feet and I'm sure you'll be hearing more in the
13 coming months on the success of that effort (ph).

14 Other than that, our main housing -- our main
15 Moving to Work Programs in Public Housing and the
16 Voucher Program are fully utilized.

17 Congress has approved a new continuing resolution
18 until September, 2017 which pretty much flatlines our
19 funding which is fine. And so we'll find out in
20 September if Congress passes a new budget or we
21 continue with the continuing resolution which is
22 okay, too. So that's, kind of, a quick update on the
23 status of Public Housing and I'm happy to take any
24 questions.

25 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any questions for the table

1 (ph) ?

2 KUIPER: (Indiscernible) from my memory, which of the
3 vouchers that you talked about have time limits on
4 them for the folks that are utilizing them?

5 STONE: Sure. So in respect to the Set Aside Programs,
6 the Empowering Choice Housing Program has a three
7 year time limit. That's where victims of domestic
8 violence/sexual assault.

9 The Returning Home Program, that's with the
10 Department of Corrections, those have a two year time
11 limit. And so do the -- there's a two year time
12 limit on the Youth Aging out of Foster Care as well.

13 VASH does not have a time limit. Moving Home does
14 not have a time limit.

15 In respect to our main Voucher Program, our 5,000
16 vouchers that we have statewide about 45 percent of
17 those are time limited through a program we call Step
18 and that's for persons that are not elderly, not
19 disabled, but are work able.

20 And they essentially come in, they're income
21 eligible and the first year it's based on their
22 income. And then the next five years you step up and
23 you start paying more, a higher percentage of the
24 actual rent each year until the fifth year when your
25 time limited off.

1 You can reapply for the program and start over
2 again, but the intention is to move you through the
3 steps. We provide extensive case management services
4 through Jumpstart to try and increase a family's
5 self-sufficiency as they move through that program.

6 KUIPER: And has that particular program seen the success
7 that you hoped it would have on helping people move
8 toward self-sustainability?

9 STONE: Yes. In the -- was it the April Board Meeting, I
10 believe, we present a Step evaluation and the first
11 couple years were -- we're just starting into the
12 third year.

13 The first two years results were significant and
14 very positive. Incomes have risen significantly, as
15 well as people just making progress within the
16 program. And they weren't paying nearly as high of a
17 percentage of the rent as we would have expected.
18 Most were in the 30 range or below for -- that were
19 in the Step Program at the point they were at in the
20 Step.

21 So the intention is to keep them moving along that
22 progression and paying, you know, a lower percentage
23 of the income in rents until their fifth year.

24 KUIPER: Good. Thank you.

25 BURNS: Can I ask a question about (simultaneous

1 speech).....

2 BUTCHER: (Indiscernible).....

3 BURNS:so the youth aging out, does OCS then provide
4 grant funding to support that program?

5 STONE: Not direct grant funding. It's Public Housing
6 Division voucher funding. Our block grant through
7 our Moving to Work Program is how the housing
8 assistance is funded.

9 OCS does provide the independent living
10 specialists and the case management, but they are not
11 providing the funding at this time.

12 BURNS: Thank you.

13 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any other questions? All right.
14 Thank you very much everyone.

15 Before we go to our next agenda item, I wanted to
16 let the Council know that what's listed from 3:30 to
17 3:45, the Housing and Homelessness Networking update
18 from Elizabeth Schultz, that's going to be covered in
19 our next couple of agenda items, so that won't be
20 occurring and so even though we're running a little
21 late, I feel like we've got some room that we'll end
22 up fitting it in pretty well, so.....

23 (Off record comments from audience - away from microphone)

24 BUTCHER: All right. Brian and Dave.

25 WILSON: All right. Thank you everybody. This is Brian

1 Wilson, Executive Director of the Alaska Coalition on
2 Housing and Homelessness.

3 Just a quick housekeeping note, Carrie, I sent you
4 a link earlier, not on it yet, but (indiscernible -
5 away from microphone).....

6 COLLINS: It's ready, yeah.

7 WILSON: Okay, cool. So I know that we're behind schedule
8 and we don't have a whole lot of time to present
9 anyway, so I will do my best to be brief and just,
10 kind of, preface this by saying that we do have a
11 general membership meeting coming up on Tuesday, May
12 30th at 10 a.m. so we're going to talk about all
13 these different items at further length, so I do
14 encourage you to sign on for that.

15 Today I'm just going to talk about three things,
16 our Point In Time count, our update on our
17 Coordinated Entry planning and implementation, as
18 well as our brand new data dashboard which is a
19 really cool tool.

20 So really briefly on Point In Time count, those
21 numbers for the 2017 count is -- they're available on
22 the ICA website, IC Alliances.org/Alaska. You can
23 find numbers for both Anchorage and the balance of
24 state there, but, kind of, a snapshot, we identified
25 717 individuals this year that were either

1 unsheltered, utilizing shelter or in transitional
2 housing.

3 Actually this is a drop from the previous year.
4 The previous year we had 835 known individuals.
5 Although some of the drop is a component of a couple
6 of different agencies for one reason or another not
7 participating in the counts this year, but also where
8 local coalitions have done a great job
9 organizationing over the past year in housing
10 individuals as well, but we did see a drop in both
11 Juneau and Fairbanks which, kind of, accounts for the
12 majority of it.

13 So, of course you know, the count is -- it's a
14 requirement of us to complete every year. There are
15 some -- it's an important process as it does factor
16 into our overall continuum of care scoring, but I
17 always do want to, kind of, qualify it with saying
18 that, you know, this is not an accurate measure.
19 It's to gauge the need in rural Alaska.

20 I think Sue did an amazing job describing our trip
21 that we had just recently and discussing the impacts
22 of overcrowding and how homelessness may look
23 different in different places. Just because there's
24 a house over their head does not mean that, that
25 necessarily is a structure meant for human habitation

1 and the current state of it. In fact, we saw quite
2 the opposite many times.

3 So it's really important for us in our committee
4 work, our small communities committee work which is
5 really getting ramped up, to find ways to, A, find a
6 better way to effectively monitor those issues that
7 are outside of our, kind of, traditional Point In
8 Time count or even overcrowding statistics which
9 don't always tell a full story.

10 But also, you know, we had a great meeting with
11 the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority up
12 there and really are looking for ways to better
13 connect with the Association of Alaska Housing
14 Authorities going forward, you know, attending their
15 meeting and finding ways that we could
16 (indiscernible) together so that's, kind of, the
17 Point In Time.

18 Coordinated Entry, this is the bulk of our work
19 going forward. As you probably know HUD released a
20 self-assessment tool in January which requires all
21 COC's across the nation to implement, coordinated
22 entry by January 23rd of next year which is my
23 birthday. So that would be a great present to say
24 that we hit that mark, but this is a huge
25 undertaking.

1 You know, we have -- we've -- thanks to AHFC and
2 their efforts to secure a technical assistance grant
3 with us with an organization called ICF, who really
4 was instrumental in Anchorage, they are helping us
5 work through this process.

6 We have formed a planning team that's been on this
7 for several months now and it's really important for
8 us to not have this be a top down process, but to
9 really involve the local coalitions in these changes
10 because they are significant for a lot of different
11 agencies, so our planning team is actually made up of
12 local coalition leadership from across the state.

13 And they have a tall task in front of them to
14 create these policies recommendations around access,
15 assessments, prioritization. And really it's
16 difficult because, you know, you think about HUD,
17 they're creating these programs that are meant to be
18 umbrella programs that are to be applicable to as
19 many areas as possible, but in the balance of state
20 in Alaska there are definitely challenges that we all
21 know that are unique such as, you know, the
22 geographic challenges.

23 Large portions of the state have little to no
24 resources in their communities. And one of the
25 requirements that we have is to provide fair and

1 equal access to a coordinated entry system statewide,
2 so how do you handle somebody who is presenting in
3 Gambell to have fair and equal access to this
4 coordinated entry system. That's an incredible
5 challenge that's going to take a lot of outside the
6 box thinking to complete, but I'm forever an optimist
7 on this and we are looking for a way to put all these
8 individuals to, sort of, have a one to two day bang
9 it out workshop here coming up in the coming months,
10 so it's going to take a lot more than that
11 (indiscernible - voice lowers).....

12 But the one -- the great thing about this is
13 traditionally these communities haven't really worked
14 together to focus on implementing statewide systems,
15 so this is a great mechanism for that to happen.

16 And, I think, we're all learning more about each
17 other through this process, so I've been extremely
18 excited about that, but you'll see in your program I
19 included this regional systems map -- or this Balance
20 of State Systems Map. I'm not going to dive through
21 it all today, but it's just for your reference.

22 This is based off of HMIS data from October, 2015
23 to September of 2016. This is right when ICA came on
24 board to help manage the HMIS system, so we improved
25 the -- we expect that these numbers, kind of, going

1 forward will be a little more reliable, but it's
2 basically showing where people are coming from when
3 they enter our homeless network, what type of
4 services they utilizing and then where they leaving
5 (ph), what are their exits (ph).

6 And as you'll see, as I mentioned the last time I
7 was in front of this group, we run a very out dated
8 shelter system in the balance of state. Many of
9 those shelter beds are domestic violence beds only,
10 so we're, kind of, upside down on where we need to be
11 which is the more effective program, Housing First
12 Programs that you'll see numbers are actually
13 (indiscernible), but they're very limited. Seventeen
14 rapid re-housing in the (ph) entire balance of state,
15 (indiscernible), so definitely challenges.

16 So where does this bring us, you know, coordinated
17 entry is just going to really highlight this lack of
18 permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing
19 even more. And it is real important that we do in
20 some way address those government summit
21 recommendations. We really need that high level
22 policy coordination and it was calling for either a
23 position (ph) or maybe empowering this Council.

24 And so I really do encourage this Council to
25 really think what role you guys can play

1 (indiscernible) all the agencies (indiscernible -
2 away from microphone) and coordinate funding. You
3 know, how does that look going forward, so I really
4 hope that we can do that.

5 And also our conference is coming up on October
6 23rd and 24th which is your next meeting and we
7 really want to work with you guys as well to open
8 that time up and create a great two day workshop, you
9 know, to really hash through those if we can, but
10 there's definite needs that need to happen
11 beforehand.

12 So moving on to the data dashboard, Carrie, she's
13 going to fire it up. So both COCs have really been
14 working with ICA to -- now that we really feel
15 confident about our HMIS data to make it available to
16 the public more so.

17 And so right now this is -- and this is a live
18 link, but it's not really advertised yet 'cause
19 there's a couple more changes that we're working on,
20 but this is an update quarterly data dashboard that's
21 pulling information from our HMIS system that's
22 showing a variety of different measures about the
23 performance of our existing units, but also details
24 of the clients that are being served, as well as
25 shelter utilization, total number of clients.

1 So a lot of this is following the HUD's new System
2 Performance Measures. It can be broken out into
3 Anchorage or balance of state or statewide at this
4 time, but in the future we are looking to dive down
5 into some of our larger hub communities as well, so
6 that's available. The link will be available there.
7 (Indiscernible).

8 MAYO-KIELY: So thank you. I'm Dave Mayo-Kiely and I'm the
9 president of the Anchorage Coalition of Homelessness
10 and also I'm the homeless liaison for the Anchorage
11 School District.

12 I just wanted to cover, kind of, four things
13 today, one just to piggyback on Brian's data
14 dashboard piece and then go into our efforts on
15 coordinated entry in Anchorage, our Youth
16 (indiscernible) demonstration project we were
17 successful in receiving and then briefly talk about
18 our Point In Time count as well.

19 So the data dashboard as Brian just mentioned, you
20 know, we are working really closely with the state
21 and also ICA to bring that to the forefront. I think
22 it's something that people have asked for, for a very
23 long time. We want to always know how we're doing.
24 Are we actually ending homelessness. Where are the
25 numbers. You can see these types of things, but that

1 the Point In Time counts as everybody knows that's
2 one -- a one point during the year.

3 So as we work to develop this it will be going
4 live. You know, Anchorage has some other measures we
5 want to put on there as well. And specifically on a
6 monthly basis how many families or households are we
7 moving from homelessness to housed
8 (indiscernible).....

9 So coordinated entry, as Brian stated, the State
10 has been -- Anchorage started a little before
11 (indiscernible). We started about -- it's close to
12 two years ago now that we started our planning
13 process for coordinated entry. And we went through
14 it in a very deliberate and methodical way.

15 One of the things we really wanted to make sure
16 that happened was (indiscernible) buy in (ph) from
17 all the community providers out there. One of the
18 things we heard in our technical assistance was that
19 you need to make sure everybody is on board if you're
20 going to be successful.

21 And so it was a very, sort of, slow process to get
22 us to the point where on January 1 of this year we
23 officially launched this, kind of three (ph) track
24 for coordinated entry. One for youth, one for single
25 adults, one for families.

1 So now as anyone presents that's homeless
2 throughout Anchorage whether it be youth, family or
3 adult, they're enter into our coordinated entry
4 system (ph). They all receive an assessment which is
5 the device (ph) that activists (ph) use across the
6 country.

7 And so now we have a method for actually scoring
8 all of these individuals and families that enter the
9 homelessness system. And we can then write them on a
10 scale to say what type of intervention is the most
11 appropriate for this household. Are they in need of
12 permanent supportive housing. Are there in need of a
13 repaid re-housing program. Are they in need of a
14 very small intervention that maybe includes a version
15 of findings that (indiscernible - voice lowers).....

16 And it's been -- you know, we've had our bumps
17 moving forward. We've had some problems that we've
18 had to work out, but in general I think we're doing a
19 pretty good job at this point in time.

20 For single adults we have assessed 332 people
21 since going live January 1. The average score has
22 been about a step (ph). And what those kind of
23 scores relate to, if you receive a zero to three that
24 means you need very little intervention to actually
25 get back into housing.

1 If you have a four to eight (indiscernible) that
2 is shallow, might be the Rapid Re-housing Program.
3 It could even be a housing voucher type situation.

4 When you get above nine -- or nine or above that's
5 when they're needing permanent supportive housing
6 programs that are out there.

7 And so of those 332 we've assessed, we had about
8 43 that were zero to three, so very little
9 intervention needed. 195 were in the middle. And
10 then we had 94 that were the top end of the spectrum,
11 kind of, a nice bell curve.

12 One of the problems that we're seeing and which we
13 knew would happen with our coordinated entry system
14 is explaining to those 195 individuals that need some
15 assistance moving forward to get -- to get the
16 permanent housing, but we had very little options at
17 this point in time. We have no rapid re-housing
18 dollars right now that are, kind of, specific for
19 single adults in Anchorage, so it's something that
20 we're looking at moving forward.

21 For our families -- oh, and I will also say that
22 of those 332 we assessed, we move 29 of those into
23 permanent housing whether through the Coordinated
24 Entry System or they would be (ph) identified and
25 they moved into housing of their own.

1 For families, we've assessed 155 families and
2 their average score ended up (ph) 6.7. Sixteen of
3 those fell zero to three, 100 in the four to eight
4 and 39 in the nine plus. Both the smaller bell curve
5 -- smaller bell curve contained (ph) the single
6 adults, but one of the things we're finding which is,
7 kind of, the opposite of the single adults, is that
8 we don't really have those permanent supportive
9 housing options for families.

10 We have some dedicated permanent supportive
11 housing options, but many of those are to (ph)
12 individuals that are chronically homeless. Most of
13 our families are not qualified as chronically
14 homeless. We don't have a place to put them (ph).

15 We have repaid re-housing dollars through ESG (ph)
16 and also through some (ph) Providence funding, but
17 families who are scoring above eight are not
18 appropriate for repaid re-housing. If they were
19 placed in those units, they would likely blow (ph)
20 out in a short period of time. That's one of the
21 things that we're seeing is a hole in our system in
22 Anchorage.

23 And of those 155 families we've assessed, 73 have
24 actually moved into housing since they've been
25 assessed. That's almost 50 percent of those families

1 that we moved forward with and.....

2 BURNS: Can I ask a question before he zooms on.....

3 BUTCHER: Yes.

4 BURNS: 'cause then I'll forget?

5 MAYO-KIELY: Go ahead.

6 BURNS: So can you explain again your statement about the
7 families blowing out of rapid re-housing, can you
8 explain that to me?

9 MAYO-KIELY: So a family that would be, kind of, a nine plus --
10 and there's other people in the room that could speak
11 to this better than I could, but it's a family with a
12 lot of needs. They're vulnerability is much higher
13 than someone who is a four to eight. They may have a
14 bad rental history, a substance abuse issue, mental
15 health issues.

16 Rapid re-housing as a program is typically, kind
17 of, a six month subsidy program. It starts off --
18 it's, kind of, a very accelerated step program that
19 Alaska Housing does. The first month you get a
20 larger subsidy. The second month it goes down, down,
21 down. After six months there's typically little or
22 no subsidy left.

23 The is case management involved, but the subsidy
24 portion is gone. The family is required to pay all
25 of that. And most of the families that are scoring

1 high would not be able to do that.

2 BURNS: Yeah, okay. So that's the change, okay, thank
3 you.

4 MAYO-KIELY: So we housed 73 of those 150 families that were
5 just -- that were assessed which was really
6 incredible.

7 And one of the things that's really helped with
8 both the adults and the family system is that there
9 are weekly or bi-weekly meetings happening in
10 Anchorage now where they actually go down and not
11 just talk theoretically about families or households,
12 but individual people or individual families who say
13 here's a family that needs the Clair House. They're
14 number whatever on this list, how can you move them
15 most quickly into housing.

16 The same thing happens with single adults, family
17 -- a person at Brother Francis shelter. How do we
18 move them to the top of the list into housing.

19 Youth, we've got about 45 that have been assessed
20 and, kind of, the similar 6.9 average, five zero to
21 three, 29 that are four to eights and 11 that are
22 nine plus.

23 Again, we have a similar system with the families
24 in that we don't really have permanent supportive
25 housing that's dedicated to youths 18 to 24

1 population. Again, very few of our youth that are 18
2 to 24 are going to qualify as chronically homeless
3 and be part of that condition.

4 Moving on quickly with the HUD Youth Demonstration
5 Project, as many of you are aware, Anchorage was
6 successful in being awarded as one of the 10
7 communities in the country to get a HUD Youth
8 Demonstration (indiscernible) -- Demonstration
9 Project to end homeless. It'll be \$1.5 million over
10 the course of two years.

11 We're in the planning phase right now. We have to
12 have our first draft into HUD by July 13th of our
13 interview (ph) plan. And then a final plan in
14 January of next year, but it's not going to be (ph)
15 (indiscernible - away from microphone).

16 And it's a really great process for us 'cause it's
17 1.5 million over two years and those funds will then
18 be rolled into the Continuum of Care for Anchorage
19 moving forward. So last year Anchorage had about 2.9
20 million in COC funds. Moving forward that should go
21 up about by about \$700,000 (indiscernible).

22 Quickly as to (ph) Point In Time, our numbers this
23 year in Anchorage were very similar to the previous
24 years numbers. We had a small increase going from
25 1,105 to 1,128, but the big change we saw this year

1 was a much fewer number of people that were
2 unsheltered. We had 240 unsheltered in April of 2016
3 and it was down to 155 this year.

4 So our overall numbers were about the same, but we
5 had people moving from camps into the sheltering
6 system (ph) which was great for all of us if we had
7 (ph) more access to services (ph). And that's all
8 that I have.

9 BUTCHER: All right. Do we have any more questions for Dave
10 or Brian?

11 BURNS: I do have one about, again, the issue of rapid re-
12 housing. What are the -- is AHFC primarily funding
13 those or other agencies funding any of that? What
14 kind of housing are you looking for, for that group?

15 UNIDENTIFIED: Do you want to talk about.....

16 MAYO-KIELY: Sure. So right now in Anchorage the rapid re-
17 housing is really funded in two ways. One is through
18 some ESG funds that come through the Municipality of
19 Anchorage and the other way are (ph) Providence
20 Foundation had dedicated, you know, funds to
21 Anchorage and we have used that to provide rapid re-
22 housing for families.

23 BURNS: So these are just homes that you've purchased,
24 rented space?

25 MAYO-KIELY: No, it's really just a --.....

1 BURNS: Hotels.....

2 MAYO-KIELEY:it's, kind of, a voucher type program. It
3 wouldn't be hotels. It would be, you know, a family
4 working with a case manager to secure a unit, private
5 landlord and then, you know,.....

6 BURNS: I see.

7 MAYO-KIELEY:there's a payment that takes place, so it's
8 not dedicated units. It's just going out into the
9 open market and finding a unit (simultaneous
10 speech).....

11 BURNS: So how rapid is rapid re-housing really?
12 (Off record conversation)

13 WILSON: We actually monitor on a quarter -- we're
14 monitoring on a quarterly basis and right now if I
15 can do it here -- so in this June to March, 2017 it
16 was 65 days before being accepted into the program to
17 moving in that day. And it's, kind of, sad about
18 (ph) -- (indiscernible) it's decreased from 86 days
19 for this time period last year down to 65, so.....

20 MAYO-KIELEY: And I don't have specific numbers in front of me
21 for Anchorage. It's something that we could get
22 through ICA, you know. I will say that as we've
23 started in January, it was, kind of, a slow process
24 moving people in as we figured out the system, but I
25 do think now it's going much more quickly.

1 BUTCHER: (Indiscernible) question? Dave.

2 KUIPER: Yeah. And maybe I could just add one piece to

3 that. At least on the family side of things there

4 have been at least 17 families that have been rapidly

5 re-housed since January when we started, so that's a

6 number that fits, I think, this conversation.

7 BUTCHER: Okay. All right, thank you very much.

8 MAYO-KIELY: Thank you.

9 BUTCHER: Our next update will be on Housing and Homeless

10 Leadership Update, Scott and Nancy and Mike.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Scott start first or (indiscernible - away from

12 microphone).....

13 BUTCHER: Yeah, why don't we start with Scott. Are you on

14 line, Scott?

15 CIAMBOR: (Indiscernible) - this is Scott.

16 BUTCHER: Okay. Why don't you introduce yourself for the

17 record and go ahead.

18 CIAMBOR: My name is Scott Ciambor. I'm the chief housing

19 officer with the City and Borough of Juneau. Thanks

20 to the Council for giving the Municipality the

21 opportunity to speak today.

22 I forward a slide presentation for you to take a

23 look at and it's in your packet. It's, kind of, a

24 lot of information about what's happening on -- here

25 in Juneau, but it, kind of, helps clarify, kind of,

1 my roll.

2 Started in this position as chief housing officer
3 about a year ago really under the auspices of
4 addressing, you know, housing in general here in our
5 community. More of a type of community development
6 type of role and some of those activities are
7 included on the first five slides that you have in
8 front of you.

9 Slide 1 -- slide 2, kind of, talks about, you
10 know, housing development in the community the last
11 five years giving, you know, some projections on how
12 we've done.

13 Of interest to the Council might be on slide 3
14 some of the low income housing that's been developed
15 three years, as well as, you know, three projects
16 that are due to come on line, but, of course, this
17 talks about other recent CBJ Housing activities.

18 The housing action plans was put into place in
19 November. One of the key ideas was that, you know,
20 the City needed to provide resources for housing and
21 this is, kind of, an example list of those options.

22 Started two different housing programs here at CBJ
23 the last two (ph) years which are really
24 (indiscernible) ideas to get people housed and have
25 (ph) more units. And there's slides 5 and 6 on our

1 Accessory Apartment Incentive Grant Program, as well
2 as the Mobile Home Loan Down Payment Assistance
3 Program, so that's (indiscernible) on that one.

4 But the main focus, our presentation to you today
5 again is, you know, something that you've seen me
6 talk about on a state level previously and that is
7 homelessness.

8 I think I really need to stress to the Council
9 that the City and Borough of Juneau is really having
10 a bit of a crisis and really having difficulties
11 getting a grasp on intervention and resources to what
12 has become a much more visible and much
13 (indiscernible) problem than we've been accustomed to
14 here in the City.

15 On slide 7 you see some photographs from Tuesday
16 on my way to work right here in downtown Juneau. We
17 have a whole lot of (indiscernible) folks visibly
18 camping and sleeping out. A lot of those (ph) in our
19 library stairwells, in the downtown core (ph). And
20 again, it's 100 feet from the new cruise ship dock
21 which was a \$30 million investment for the City, so,
22 kind of, a very visual issue at this point that (ph)
23 hasn't been in the past.

24 Slide 8, kind of, gets into our Point In Time
25 count numbers. (Indiscernible) kind of, get an

1 understanding a little bit of why exactly we're
2 seeing this, kind of, more visual encampment in town.

3 If you take a look at the 2017 numbers we have 59
4 unsheltered (indiscernible) in January, so that's a
5 huge number for a community this size. And with the
6 way our community is situated (indiscernible) it's
7 very, very visible in our downtown corridor.

8 On slide 9 is a quick analysis that we.....

9 WILLIAMS: Hey, Scott? Scott?

10 CIAMBOR: Yeah (ph).

11 WILLIAMS: Hey, this is Steve Williams with the Trust. Can I
12 ask you a real quick question on slide 8 before you
13 switch over to slide 9?

14 CIAMBOR: Sure.

15 WILLIAMS: I was just looking down at the Sub-populations in
16 the Point In Time Count and comparing 2016 to 2017.
17 And when you look at adults with serious mental
18 illness and substance use disorders and it's an
19 incredible jump between 2016 and 2017. Is that a
20 typo or is that accurate?

21 CIAMBOR: And so -- so the competence on these two numbers
22 here is -- 2016 was the first year that HMIS was
23 administered by ICA. And so realistically I believe
24 that 2017 sub-populations numbers were probably
25 pretty similar in 2016, but our message board doing

1 this Point In Time count was a little wompy (ph) at
2 our projects and (ph) (indiscernible) and we didn't
3 really capture that information as well, but I think
4 it would probably be pretty similar to the year -- to
5 2017.

6 WILLIAMS: Okay, thanks.

7 BUTCHER: Okay, go ahead.

8 CIAMBOR: But that leads to a point, you know, as well, like
9 (ph) from Juneau's perspective, we're really excited
10 to have ICA on board helping us (indiscernible) basic
11 data, so that, you know, just to really serve as our
12 baseline going forward.

13 So slide 9 talks about the Quick Analysis that we
14 see from this Point In Time numbers, 35 chronically
15 homeless, you know, super complex needs, highly
16 traumatized group. Of those 215 (indiscernible)
17 self-identified with serious mental health issues,
18 substance abuse, domestic violence as (indiscernible)
19 noted.

20 And then if you take those Public Tableau, you
21 know, one of the things we always had -- we talked
22 about locally when we were getting support for the
23 Housing First project is that our homeless situation
24 was comparable to other big cities and that -- that
25 data is now available in time count (ph).

1 Slide 10, as many of you know, for the past five
2 years the community has been really pushing forward
3 and acknowledging (ph) permanent supportive (ph)
4 housing project with the health and mental health
5 care clinic associated with the property. We're
6 almost there. The scheduled opening for this project
7 is in July.

8 And for those of you who don't know about the
9 project here is the original rendering, 32 units of
10 housing, 24/7 staffing, supportive services and case
11 management on site, as well as the clinic. The
12 clinic operator is going to be JAMHI and then we're
13 going to have mental health, physical health, as well
14 as a potential option (ph) for dental in the future,
15 so super excited about that.

16 Slide 11, you see some more photos. The -- you
17 know, everybody loves duct work, so there's the
18 inside of the place (ph). So there's some newer
19 photos of the project.

20 There's still a lot of work to do in order to get
21 this project up and operating. April 20th through
22 May 15th all of these agencies have been doing the
23 Vulnerability Index Survey really trying to gauge who
24 would be the best candidates for entry right away.

25 As you all know we've been very conscious of folks

1 who are the most vulnerable and those who use the
2 most emergency services needs in the community and
3 we're trying to wheedle that down -- that information
4 down.

5 So a few (indiscernible), 90 plus potential
6 candidates have been already interviewed, so we know
7 that this project will be filled and we're going to
8 have to find (indiscernible) community solutions to
9 deal with the other folks as well. There's a review
10 meeting at the end of the month.

11 And then also right now we're working on the
12 Housing First evaluation trying to put an evaluation
13 in place in order to gauge the success not only for
14 the residents, but the community and this project.
15 And again, that opens in July.

16 Slide 12 is just another photo. That's from
17 March. It actually a lot more complete then (ph) and
18 we're super excited about that.

19 One of the unique things about going through the
20 development process in terms of the balance of state
21 trying to do permanent supportive housing, this
22 experience have given, kind of, a unique perspective
23 on how easy it is to access funds or put permanent
24 supportive housing projects together. And I think
25 that sort of information is pretty valuable to the

1 Council to get the balance of state perspective on
2 what that looks like.

3 So on slide 13, you know, the Council has
4 discussed about Funder's Collaborative, leveraging
5 resources and providing a guidance to communities,
6 kind of, in the abstract (ph), but on slide 14 I went
7 ahead and just did an exercise of listing all of the
8 targeted resources we did for this project with some
9 notes about the difficulties or the benefits of going
10 through that process in acquiring these funds.

11 Throughout this process of developing, we get a
12 lot of phone calls and inquiries from Kodiak,
13 Ketchikan, even Barrow of how we put supportive
14 housing together, what's the path. You know, this
15 slide show, kind of, represents our path. And based
16 on some of the notes in here for some of these
17 funding sources, I'm not sure, you know, if it's
18 really replicable by other communities because of the
19 status of these funding sources.

20 And so just to quickly go through that, obviously
21 there's an out of state Housing Trust Fund in the
22 state. Probably the easiest and most successful
23 grants for us since it was a supportive housing grant
24 that had capital and operating was the AHFC Special
25 Needs Housing Grant.

1 The HUD Continuum of Care Program was not a target
2 obviously (ph) potentially for -- to go for (ph)
3 permanent supportive housing in the future, but for
4 balance of state, you know, there's only slight
5 increments we can expect from that program.

6 BHAP obviously targets temporary housing and
7 homeless services and so that wasn't a
8 (indiscernible) for this project.

9 U.S. Indian Community Development Block Grant, we
10 partnered with special council (ph) to provide
11 \$600,000. We were able to receive those funds
12 primarily because we have these clinics attached and
13 they were a great partner.

14 We did try to partner with another tribal entity,
15 but those negotiations never -- never came forward.

16 One of the big things to, kind of, bring up is the
17 State's Community Development Block Grant. The City
18 of Juneau -- the City and Borough of Juneau sought
19 (ph) the funding for this project through that
20 program twice and it was denied. And one of the
21 major reasons for that is because this program really
22 is operated not to prioritize housing.

23 If you look at the three main goals for, you know,
24 HUD and CDBG (indiscernible) in that first column,
25 you know, our CDBG Program in the balance of state

1 really pointed toward expand the economic opportunity
2 (ph) only. It's really, really difficult (ph) to get
3 those funds. And if, you know, (indiscernible)
4 whether or not permanent supportive housing or
5 funding directly for homeless programs would put
6 (indiscernible) that program, I would say this
7 probably be really hard to access.

8 Some of the other things there, the Rasmuson grant
9 and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority,
10 actually the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority was
11 huge in getting us up and knowledgeable from the very
12 beginning, but both of those programs do, when you
13 get into the development stage, it's a case by case
14 basis. So for development purposes it was, kind of,
15 difficult in terms of understanding, you know, what
16 is the exact amount we can -- we could expect from
17 those sources.

18 County Government, obviously we don't have those
19 funds to resource for housing in the state. And
20 fortunately for us the local government, CBJ, ended
21 up paying \$2.7 million for the project covering for
22 the gap created by the CDBG target and then we had a
23 community foundation.

24 Thinking in the future and getting more supportive
25 housing in the balance of state, you know, a lot of

1 local community (indiscernible), you know, don't have
2 cash to provide it for, again, (indiscernible)
3 understanding permanent supportive housing.

4 So again, on slide 15, I think, you know, of these
5 really look into the Community Development Block
6 Grant and see how to open it up for housing and
7 permanent supportive housing.

8 In comparison Anchorage is able to target exactly
9 where the CDBG funds go and in 2017 went to homeless
10 programs, rental housing, non-profit public (ph)
11 facilities, so completely opposite of what are
12 options are in the balance of state.

13 On slide 17 I talk about how the issue of homeless
14 really been just (indiscernible) in Juneau and
15 realistically the divisive nature and conversation
16 about what to do with our chronic homeless has
17 started in August and really hasn't let up.

18 One of the things that happened in December is
19 there's a changing dynamic, the younger, kind of,
20 folks who are homeless and on the streets, a lot of
21 opioid, methamphetamine, heroin and a lot of
22 aggressive behavior that -- and crime and stuff that
23 has been associated with it, has surfaced to the
24 point where there was some community -- the Mayor
25 held a series of community meetings in December (ph).

1 He was looking for a whole range of solutions in
2 order to address the situation.

3 And the one issue that was -- that came -- one
4 idea that came out the easiest was -- easiest to push
5 forward was the idea of a downtown camping ordinance.
6 Basically this was forwarded really by the downtown
7 businesses who were tired of dealing with the refuse
8 and the sleeping bags and the folks camping in their
9 doorways every morning. And so I talk about, you
10 know, it's been a difficult conversation locally.

11 The ordinance did pass five/four back in February,
12 but it's really added the, kind of, divisive nature.
13 Advocates and social service advisors greatly opposed
14 it. The business owners were for getting the
15 problems out of the doorway.

16 JPD is looking for solutions and one is to reduce
17 criminality and encourage the use of services through
18 this method (ph) because it defines (indiscernible),
19 but yet it reveals -- reveals some real concerns
20 about the impact on HUD funding for criminalization.

21 And then, again, you know, my big thing is it
22 distracted us from, you know, best practice and all
23 the good will that the community has put together for
24 the Housing First project, so it's going to take a
25 lot of time and resources to, kind of, come out

1 (indiscernible) scenario (ph).

2 Finally, slide 18, two more slides maintain (ph)
3 Street Outreach Team. Our social service providers
4 have recognized that in order to deal with the
5 contacts (ph) with the folks on the streets, the
6 outreach is severely needed. They're, kind of,
7 funding this effort themselves, AWARE, Glory Hole,
8 St. Vincent DePaul and Zach Gordon and they've made a
9 couple of observations.

10 One, the complex nature of the folks on the street
11 (indiscernible) really promptly requires, you know,
12 the level of an asserted community treatment team.
13 And also, you know, since these positions are funded
14 by the local agencies, it's drawing from, you know,
15 important services that they are providing and we
16 need to probably find long term funding sources for
17 helping (ph) the team as well.

18 On slide 19 it talks about the changing
19 demographics. And that's again, one of the concerns
20 about opening Housing First here five years after we
21 identified a community problem. We're -- we had a
22 conversation with the Board (ph) you know,
23 (indiscernible) we should have gotten this facility
24 up and running three years ago. (Indiscernible)
25 known problem off the street and been better situated

1 to deal with these changing demographic.

2 And, you know, an alternative dialogue that we
3 need to have based on the young people, the drug
4 abuse and the aggressive behavior. It's really more
5 of a treatment recovery center. How these prisoner
6 re-entry conversations that the City is going to have
7 to (indiscernible) here going forward.

8 And finally, the last slide, you know, we do
9 understand that -- you know, (indiscernible) was
10 supposed to be primarily housing and housing
11 development and I think it's been about 70, 75
12 percent homelessness and so there is concern that we
13 need to get a better handle on coordinating this at
14 the municipal level closer to what they're doing in
15 Fairbanks and Anchorage. (Indiscernible) coordinated
16 entry.

17 And really, you know, cleaning up the downtown
18 areas the best that we can because, you know, this
19 is, kind of, the doorstep for our economic engine.
20 And we -- as my -- my office is next to the clerk
21 (ph), so I get feedback on many, many, many, many
22 things about the situation that we currently have.

23 So that's, kind of, where we are in Juneau and
24 I'll turn it over to (indiscernible).

25 SANDERS: I'm Mike Sanders. I'm the Housing and Homeless

1 coordinator for Fairbanks. My brief will be a little
2 shorter. I was told two to three minutes, so I don't
3 have a slide show or anything like that, but just
4 tell you a little bit about what's going on in
5 Fairbanks.

6 First, I'm brand new to the position. I've been
7 up there for -- well, I moved to Alaska in January.
8 Before that I was in Texas, but I got to -- started
9 the job on March 1st, so I've only been doing it a
10 little over two months now.

11 What I can tell you about Fairbanks though so far
12 is a lot of people have brought up about the Point In
13 Time counts and how that may or may not be accurate
14 for the balance of state, I tend to agree with that.

15 I looked at the previous Point In Time counts. I
16 looked at this Point In Time count. And then I
17 started doing a little bit of, you know, just a
18 comparison between the two and looking up, you know,
19 just odd, weird things about it.

20 And one of the things a lot of people told me was
21 it was really cold in January in Fairbanks. The day
22 of the Point In Time count it was negative 38.

23 Now, the problem with the Point In Time count is
24 if people are couch surfing or if they're
25 overcrowding into a hotel, obviously they're not

1 counted. They don't get counted on that.

2 Or when it's negative 30 out, 38 out, you know,
3 people are opening their home or, you know, the
4 homeless folks are getting together, pooling their --
5 you know, pooling their change and getting a hotel
6 room or they're -- you know, they're finding
7 someplace to stay so they're not out there in the
8 negative 38.

9 Now, there were 28 folks that did stay out, stayed
10 out in the cold that night, so that's -- you know,
11 it's really a testament to how bad it really can be
12 in the wintertime up there for them.

13 I had the privilege of going out with the Rescue
14 Mission. The Rescue Mission goes out every Thursday
15 and checks on the folks in the camps. And the first
16 time that I went out there it was in the daytime. It
17 was negative 26 and, you know, these people, you
18 know, some of 'em had tents, some of them found old
19 shacks that, you know, didn't have any insulation,
20 just single plywood walls and they were literally
21 taking trash and pulling (ph) it up off the ground so
22 that they had, you know, some way of staying warm.

23 It's definitely a dire situation especially when
24 you start talking about, you know, temperatures that
25 -- since I've been here, in the short time that I've

1 been here, it did get down to negative 50 one night.
2 To have folks, you know, living with no real heat
3 source, you know, living in shacks is, you know,
4 definitely a pretty dire situation.

5 Without a doubt the biggest cause of homelessness
6 in Fairbanks is the opioid addiction which is, as
7 Nancy had mentioned in the previous meeting, is
8 really quite masking underlying mental health issues.

9 You know, most people are not going to want to
10 stay out in the cold when it's that bad, you know.
11 And the folks that are staying out there, you know, a
12 lot of them are -- they're high and they don't want
13 to lose that high. They don't want to come to the
14 shelters.

15 And as the folks in the Rescue Mission, you know,
16 did the best -- you know, they're going out there
17 with -- you know, basically begging these people,
18 hey, come in so that -- you know, so they don't pass
19 out and freeze to death. And there's a lot of folks
20 that just -- it's just not going to happen to them.

21 But since I've been in Fairbanks I've noticed a
22 lot of things. I mentioned previously today that
23 Fairbanks is seriously independent which is both a
24 blessing and a curse. And what I mean by that is the
25 agencies in Fairbanks and we have a couple of the

1 directors here today (indiscernible). They're not
2 waiting around for people to hand them on a silver
3 plate, like, hey, this is -- you know, here's your
4 funds, go do something. They're sticking (ph)
5 together and they're going out there and they're
6 making stuff happen.

7 Just today the Rescue Mission is announcing that
8 they're opening 10 more permanent supportive housing
9 units (indiscernible). And that their business plan
10 is to keep opening 10 (ph) every year until they
11 can't do it any more. So those -- you know, they're
12 really getting together and they're making things
13 happen.

14 In Fairbanks we don't have the funding. You know,
15 we have 13 percent of the population and we're
16 getting about six (ph) percent of the funding, but
17 that's not going to hold 'em -- that's not going to
18 hold back the agencies. The agencies are getting out
19 there and they're going to make it happen and it's
20 going to be through community collaborations
21 (indiscernible) which isn't a bad thing.

22 So when -- you know, if Federal funding starts
23 shutting off and state funding start shutting off, I
24 think Fairbanks will be in a better position than
25 those that are more relying on the Federal

1 (indiscernible).

2 On the downside of that, is when it comes to, you
3 know, like coordinated re-entry which I personally
4 think is a great system and should be implemented in
5 Fairbanks, there's not really a -- you know, I don't
6 have a motivator that I can -- I can go to these
7 agencies and be like hey, look, you know, we're going
8 to lose your \$40,000 and they're like okay, you know.
9 There's not -- I don't have that incentive to
10 (indiscernible) to get them to the table for that
11 coordinated entry.

12 However, you know, they're starting to come around
13 and I think Fairbanks will get caught up with
14 coordinated entry and we'll have it implemented in
15 time, but it's -- there is a little bit of resistance
16 and I felt that I should, you know, at least let you
17 know that there is some resistance and it's not all
18 peaches and cream with everybody being enthusiastic
19 about it.

20 BURNS: Can I ask why?

21 SANDERS: Yes. There are a lot -- a lot of people are
22 concerned -- a lot of agencies are concerned that
23 they'll lost some control over their -- over their
24 programs. And with the help of Brian (ph) and the
25 folks at ICF and ICA, there's always so many

1 acronyms, I've -- you know, I've been trying to, you
2 know, reach out and, you know, reassure them that
3 hey, that's -- you know, this is being used
4 throughout the country and that's not really
5 happening.

6 Coordinated entry just identified that the most
7 vulnerable and not necessary the (indiscernible) --
8 if you get a referral you are allowed to reject that
9 referral. (Indiscernible) It's not -- that's one of
10 the big things. And a lot of this is -- you know,
11 just resistance to change.

12 I think that in the past they've had -- you know,
13 they're been introduced to the coordinated entry, but
14 there wasn't somebody there, you know, full time like
15 I am now. So, you know, like once a week or, you
16 know, actually more like every -- you know, every
17 couple hours being like hey, let's -- you know, let's
18 do this coordinated entry stuff. You know, let's
19 start planning. Let's start (indiscernible).

20 So I think all that -- I think all the resistance
21 is going to change. Just in the short time that I've
22 been there there's been a tremendous change, you
23 know, some of the first meetings that I went to, you
24 know, people were just like there's no way we're
25 doing coordinated entry. And now it's like, okay,

1 we're probably going to do it, but you know, we don't
2 like it. So I think it's going to (indiscernible).

3 Now, let's see, what else do we have going on in
4 Fairbanks. We're going to have -- on December 6th
5 we're going to hold a Housing and Homeless Summit for
6 the community and that's going to build upon the work
7 that the State Coalition is doing in October, but
8 it's going to be more, you know, Fairbanks specific
9 where we're going to get together and brainstorm
10 solutions for fair housing and for work -- for
11 employment services and for disability -- you know,
12 for (indiscernible).

13 And then the last thing that we were looking to do
14 is, just like most places in the state, we need to
15 get more permanent supportive housing going. Like I
16 said, the agencies are already leaning toward, you
17 know, the -- we've got no limits with their project
18 going. They having a big open house next week. We
19 have at CCC with Housing First on. Brenda's got a
20 couple different -- she's got Our House and the Birch
21 House, you know, all permanent supportive housing and
22 now the Rescue Mission opening there's, so we're on
23 the right track with this (indiscernible) step it up.

24 BUTCHER: Okay. All right. Good, (indiscernible). All
25 right. Welcome. Thank you.

1 SANDERS: Thank you.

2 BUTCHER: Coming to Alaska in January, that's impressive.

3 SANDERS: (Indiscernible) it was like 70 some degrees and I
4 went to negative 26.

5 BUTCHER: All right. Nancy.

6 BURKE: (Indiscernible) I will be quick because I feel the
7 Council has heard quite a bit from Anchorage. The
8 Mayor sends his greetings. He actually wanted to
9 participate today, but he's in Fairbanks for the
10 Council on the Arctic and wants to pass along his
11 thanks to the Council and also his little thing that
12 he says to me everyday, how many people are getting
13 housed today. He wants me to ask that question of
14 you, so there you have it.

15 So recent developments within the Municipality,
16 there was the hiring -- a partnership with the
17 Rasmuson Foundation to hire a chief housing officer
18 and we have (indiscernible) that exists in the
19 Municipality in the form of wonderful Robin Ward who
20 has been the real estate person for the Municipality
21 for years and years and years.

22 She is now pulled over into the Mayor's office so
23 that we have a (indiscernible) and we don't have to
24 try to split our time like Scott because Robin will
25 be focusing on various housing across all

1 populations, specifically development of multi-family
2 housing for the housing crunch that's in Anchorage,
3 so that's a wonderful thing.

4 She will also bring capacity for some of the
5 development projects that are going forward. We are
6 looking to partner with the State on looking at
7 treatment needs for the (indiscernible) services so
8 that Clitherow (ph) Center resides on municipal
9 property out at Point Woronzof and we will be looking
10 to rebuild those treatment services because the
11 building is far beyond it's useful life and needs to
12 be knocked down and rebuilt.

13 So there's a grant that's remaining in the State
14 budget for treatment services and we'll be able to
15 access that to promote that development.

16 We're looking for ways that we can really examine
17 Municipal allocations of resources and pull them into
18 our work with homelessness and it tends to be
19 primarily in the outreach and public safety areas of
20 the Municipality's operations. That makes the most
21 sense for us to really support coordinated entry in
22 that way in finding people and using the resources
23 that are already addressing homeless needs in the
24 form of the Police Department, Fire Department and
25 the connection to our non-profit sector, so

1 coordinated entry provides that wonderful vehicle for
2 us to do that.

3 We thought last year that the CAP team, Community
4 Action Policing Team, is going out and helping us
5 with the notifications for camps so that we don't
6 have a big build up of people camping over long
7 periods within the community because of that
8 (indiscernible) that Scott talked about neighbors and
9 businesses feeling that this isn't the community that
10 they remember. This isn't their Anchorage. And so
11 we want to really serve all residents of Anchorage.

12 The CAP team felt they didn't have the resources
13 to do the level of engagement that we were looking
14 for, so we hired a social services coordination
15 position to be located within the CAP team. And it
16 turns out we're learning a lot of really interesting
17 things about not only homeless service needs, but
18 clinical needs under mental health for people in
19 Anchorage and how that system is working, so we're
20 very excited to continue with that project.

21 We, sort of, get two for one. We have an outreach
22 coordinator whose loaned to the CAP team per (ph)
23 Anchorage Community Mental Health, plus a supervisor
24 who is very knowledgeable in outreach and is helping
25 us to look some of these other issues so that's

1 great.

2 And this -- I know everybody knows that homeless
3 outreach is a challenging thing, but the report this
4 morning was that (indiscernible) was chased by a mama
5 bear and two cubs, so there's a whole other layer of
6 challenge to homeless services outreach. She's
7 (indiscernible), so she's good.

8 In outreach we are pleased that our assistant who
9 has been working with Police, the camp notification
10 and then addressing the needs at shelter which we're
11 taking a good look at our shelter system. We think
12 our shelter is outdated in it's approach and how
13 we're handling people and preparing them to be in
14 housing, so there is a shelter transition team that's
15 beginning to operate, but all of this work has
16 resulted in an unsheltered count that we're pretty
17 excited about from our outreach work.

18 In 2016 we found 118 people were attempting to
19 sleep outdoors, 17 of which were between the ages of
20 18 and 24. And in 2017 that number went down to 79
21 with 11 of those between 18 and 24, so a concerted
22 effort on the youth. Even though that's not a
23 dramatic reduction, it is dramatic for that
24 population. Every youth that we can pull out of that
25 system is very important.

1 The last thing, we are committing all of our
2 funding commitments coming in including our CDBG, our
3 HOME funds and National Housing Trust funds to our
4 plans to build out a permanent supportive housing
5 unit so that we can better match the needs that are
6 being identified with coordinated entry. We can
7 start planning for a pipeline of units that are at
8 the level and the type that are needed for that
9 population.

10 Leveraging these resources is something we're very
11 interested in. We're actually tying in non-profits
12 that don't traditionally plan in the homeless arena
13 asking them to accompany Tayna on outreach or to be
14 with us in coordinated entry and trying to broaden
15 our bench (ph), if you will, of entities that can
16 respond to homelessness.

17 And the last one is (indiscernible) invitation to
18 the Council and, perhaps, to Randall around looking
19 at the housing programs and some of the changes that
20 are happening in the operations funding. We've been
21 working on the intensive case management project at
22 RurALCap.

23 We've had lots of conversations about it, but in
24 terms of how when a service program moves out of a
25 permanent supportive housing program it can cause

1 some gaps and we've identified about \$100,000 gap in
2 that project which really threatens about 45 people
3 who stabilized over the period of the intensive case
4 management project and including two that we reviewed
5 last week, so they're just getting settled in their
6 homes.

7 And so changes of services and changes of plans
8 really impact these projects in ways that maybe not
9 all of us are thinking about and so next week our
10 Assembly Committee on homelessness will be discussing
11 that project in the Committee Meeting on May 17th, so
12 we'd like to invite you and staff or any Council
13 Members to come and talk with us as a learning
14 opportunity about how when projects are spread across
15 a number of different service agencies, they need to
16 see when one change happens it really impacts other
17 things, so we're hoping to use this as a learning
18 opportunity and to (indiscernible) next week.
19 (Indiscernible).

20 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Nancy. Do you have any
21 questions? All right, thank you very much.

22 We have a 10 minutes break scheduled. Maybe we
23 could try to reduce it to five minutes. And we're
24 running about a half hour late, so how does the
25 Council feel about going till 4:30, going a little

1 late. That works for my schedule. These next two
2 presentations, I think, are going to be good and I'd
3 prefer to go a little long since we don't meet that
4 other rather than try to get them to reduce
5 (indiscernible), so (side conversation).

6 Okay. All right. Well, let's take a brief five
7 minute break.

8 (Off record - 3:10 p.m.)

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

10 BUTCHER: All right. We would like to welcome Jeff Jessee
11 and David Driscoll, Gary Ferguson, Victor Joseph to
12 discuss Alaska Housing First.

13 JESSEE: Thank you.

14 BUTCHER: Well, let's wait, let's give folks a minute to get
15 settled.

16 JESSEE: Okay.

17 BUTCHER: Okay. All right. Let's gavel back in the
18 meeting. First of all, Jeff, I knew you weren't
19 here, but when we started the meeting, I commented
20 that this is the first meeting of this Council in the
21 entire life of it that hasn't had either you or Dan
22 Fauske sitting up here and most of those years it was
23 both of you sitting up here.

24 And I talked about the tremendous impact you both
25 had on this Council and some of the things that have

1 happened, but coordination between agencies that
2 never would have happened without your guidance.

3 There are other states that established councils
4 similar to this when we did and they don't operate
5 any more because it took people focused on keeping it
6 going and making a difference. And we really
7 appreciate the work the two of you did, so I just
8 wanted to pass that along to you while you're
9 actually here.

10 JESSEE: Well, thank you, Bryan, Members of the Council.
11 It was a great honor and a privilege to be on the
12 Council and I think the Council has accomplished a
13 lot a great things over the years. And the plan is
14 an awesome document that people use and I wish you
15 all the best.

16 The ones of you that don't know, I've taken a new
17 position at the University. I am the Dean of the
18 College of Health and vice provost of health programs
19 for the University, so that's turning out to be quite
20 an interesting job. I'm halfway through my eighth
21 day. And I am succeeding Bill Hogan (ph) who is the
22 current Dean of the college and he stayed there for
23 one week before he went on vacation, so anyway I'm
24 really pleased.

25 One of the interesting, sort of, continuation

1 continuity pieces here is the Institute for
2 Circumpolar Health is a part of the College of
3 Health.

4 And, as you know, the Trust and the Council and
5 many others have worked for many years on Housing
6 First. The first project, Karluk Manor was certainly
7 a huge struggle and without a steadfast partner in
8 RurALCAP and Nancy Burke who worked her tail off to
9 work through the community issues and programmatic
10 issues and funding issues, we wouldn't have gotten
11 that first project off the ground. And as you know
12 that's now expanded into Fairbanks and we're looking
13 to move even further.

14 A part of all of that is to evaluate the
15 effectiveness of Housing First. And in that regard
16 the Institute for Circumpolar Health, David Driscoll
17 is here. Has been working very hard on pulling the
18 data together and being able to give us some feedback
19 on what's working in Housing First. And so I want to
20 turn it over to David.....

21 DRISCOLL: Okay.

22 JESSEE:and let him give you the results of the
23 study.

24 DRISCOLL: Hello, everyone. My name is David Driscoll and
25 I'm the Director of the Institute for Circumpolar

1 Health Studies at UAA.

2 I'd like to start by thanking you very much for
3 the opportunity to speak to you and the opportunity
4 to do this work. I feel that this kind of a project
5 is in keeping with the role of a public university in
6 Alaska. It gives us an opportunity to leverage the
7 capacity and the capabilities of a university to
8 support programs and agencies within our state and in
9 so doing to promote the well being in the state
10 amongst our residents. And I'm not just saying that
11 because I'm sitting beside my boss.

12 So I can't see my slides, so I'm just going to
13 assume that we're rolling through them. Okay, yes.
14 So let me just say first of all, that I'm just one
15 member of a very large research team. You can see
16 all the members here. (Slide 2).

17 One person I'd very much like to mention, Dr. Rick
18 Brown who is the original PI for the study
19 unfortunately passed away in the course of the
20 evaluation, but was a fierce champion for Housing
21 First and for the conduct of rigorous (ph) science
22 and we wouldn't be here right now if it hadn't been
23 for his work.

24 Next slide, please. So we loved to talk about our
25 methods in science and so I have several slides all

1 about what we did, but in the interest of time I'll
2 just, sort of, (indiscernible) through this fairly
3 quickly. (Slide 3)

4 Let me just say that we collected information both
5 in qualitative and quantitative data regarding both
6 the experiences of tenants in the Housing First
7 facilities here in Anchorage and in Fairbanks.

8 And also we collected secondary data in the form
9 of service use in health care, as well as in a number
10 of other emergency services in those two cities.

11 And so over the course of the next few minutes I'm
12 going to talk first about the qualitative data,
13 that's what we learned from interviews and surveys
14 conducted with tenants and the staff at those
15 facilities. And then I'll transition to talk a
16 little bit about what we learned from the secondary
17 data.

18 Next slide, please. (Slide 4) I will mention,
19 however, that for the secondary data we actually
20 collected emergency services data from a number of
21 different sources. So as you can see we have stuff
22 from shelter, from Police services, from fire, safety
23 centers, as well as DOC. And then we collected a lot
24 of information from health care facilities including
25 local hospitals, health clinics and mental health

1 services.

2 Next slide, please. (Slide 5) Not a lot on this
3 slide. That's okay, I'll try and walk through it for
4 you. In effect what we tried to do was in conducting
5 our baseline interviews we asked people about their
6 experiences prior to moving into the facilities. And
7 we collect a lot of information regarding things like
8 how long people have been homeless.

9 And as you may know the residents, the tenants of
10 these first two facilities were selected as a
11 consequence of something called a vulnerability
12 index. We really sought those individuals who were
13 the most vulnerable members of the homeless
14 populations in those cities. And so in many cases
15 we're talking about people who have been homeless for
16 decades and you had a number of chronic health
17 problems which had gone untreated for that entire
18 period of time.

19 We also had a lot of people who were coming from
20 lifestyles that included a mix of camping, staying
21 with family and friends, staying in shelters. There
22 was just a lot of, sort of, dipping in and out of the
23 homeless community as I'm sure you're all aware.

24 And as a consequence they had a number of
25 different strategies by which they tried to meet

1 their daily needs. And in some cases some of that
2 had to do with the fact that they were trying to, to
3 the extent that they could, also take advantage of
4 opportunities for employment which included day
5 labor, SSI, some carving, Medicaid checks and
6 Dividends and so there were a number of different
7 strategies that people apply in this life style.

8 And so over the course of the next few slides as
9 we walk through this I'll, kind of, return to this
10 history, this long and complex history of untreated
11 health care problems.

12 Next slide, please. (Slide 6) Yes, that's the
13 one. So the issue regarding health provider visits
14 is something I'd like to talk about at some length
15 simply because, as I mentioned earlier, these are
16 populations of individuals who really haven't had an
17 opportunity to received a lot of services.

18 And I'll talk about this future in a later slide,
19 but I'll just point out that the most significant
20 change that we saw at baseline and then 12, 16 months
21 following moving into a Housing First facility was a
22 reduction in ER use.

23 So if you see that little apostrophe (sic) that
24 means that those statistically significant to a .05
25 level which means it's a 95 percent chance this isn't

1 an accident. That these individuals saw a reduction
2 in their ER use.

3 And everything else that you see there that also
4 has an apostrophe next to it, is associated with ER
5 use. So if people go into an ER visit they're going
6 to get a physical exam and then they get these other
7 things and so we did see a dramatic reduction. And
8 this is based on what we heard from the tenants
9 themselves. This is information they provided us
10 about issues that they've dealt with over the course
11 of the previous year (ph).

12 BUTCHER: Yeah, even though it might be statistically
13 insignificant, it does make sense that -- obviously
14 the ER reduction makes sense, but it also makes sense
15 that they're be a little tick up in some of the
16 services that somebody is far more likely to get when
17 they're living in an environment like Housing First
18 as opposed to being out on the street.

19 DRISCOLL: Absolutely. In fact, in statistics there's some
20 -- there's things that could be substantial, but
21 insignificant, if you know what I mean.

22 BUTCHER: Yeah.

23 DRISCOLL: They're very important, but they may not reach
24 that level quite yet because we simply don't have
25 enough people, we didn't have enough residents in the

1 study population for us to reach that significance
2 level.

3 Next slide, please. (Slide 7) Thank you. So
4 this is an important question and one that we really
5 tried to deal with from the beginning in terms of the
6 evaluation design in what's the effect of tenancy in
7 a Housing First facility on alcohol consumption.

8 And we asked information prior to and at the time
9 that people moved into a Housing First facility and
10 then, of course, 12 to 16 months later as to both the
11 quantify and the frequency with which alcohol was
12 consumed. And we saw statistically significant
13 declines in both the quantity and frequency of
14 alcohol consumption in follow-up.

15 For example, tenants who consumed alcohol at the
16 same frequency were often consuming less alcohol at
17 that time or vice versa. And this was a
18 statistically significant level at the .0001 level of
19 significance, so better than 99 percent chance this
20 is not a coincidence.

21 Next slide, please. (Slide 8) Another change
22 that we looked for was how much people used shelters
23 after having had an opportunity to move into Housing
24 First. And, I think, that you can see here that
25 those had significant decline. Once again,

1 statistically significant decline. I'll provide you
2 with some numbers here.

3 So in the year before moving into Karluk Manor
4 tenants average a little over five shelter nights per
5 month or about 65 shelter nights per year. And as a
6 consequence of the fact that we were able to collect
7 based on secondary data, we actually have -- were
8 able to get cost data.

9 So we know that 65 shelter -- this is per year,
10 averages about \$1,337- -- or \$1,337 per person per
11 year. In fact, only three tenants did not stay in a
12 shelter at all in the year before moving into Karluk.
13 After moving in tenants averaged just one night per
14 year.

15 So in the first year after moving in nine of the
16 23 tenants have no shelter nights and the other 14
17 range from one to four. And in the second year after
18 moving in there were only two people who had more
19 than seven nights in a shelter, so 17 out of 23 had
20 no shelter nights at all and the other four had only
21 one or two. So a significant decline in the use of
22 this service.

23 Tenants in Fairbanks averaged 23 shelter nights in
24 the year before moving into South Cushman. Fairbanks
25 tenants had no shelter nights after moving in.

1 So shelter nights in Anchorage were estimated at
2 about \$20 per night and shelter nights in Fairbanks
3 at 12. And so you can see that we -- a substantial
4 savings as a consequence of this change in behavior.

5 Next slide.

6 BURNS: Could -- could --.....

7 DRISCOLL: Yes, I'm sorry, I'd be happy to.....

8 BURNS: could you go back.....

9 DRISCOLL: answer you question.

10 BURNS: to the follow-up alcohol consumption one.....

11 DRISCOLL: Of course.

12 BURNS: just a minute? I don't understand the
13 frequency chart, so it is -- is -- what's the time
14 frame there?

15 DRISCOLL: So this is at follow-up. This is 12 to.....

16 BURNS: Oh, follow-up.

17 DRISCOLL: 16 months later.

18 BURNS: Okay, I've got it, sorry, I missed the
19 (indiscernible), got it.

20 DRISCOLL: So the slide entitled -- yes, Annual Costs for
21 Emergency Services. (Slide 9) So prior to moving
22 in, the 12 months before tenants moved into a Housing
23 First facility. We're talking here about 54 tenants
24 for whom we were able to collect information across
25 three years, the year before moving in, the first

1 year after moving in and then a year later.

2 So in the 12 months prior to moving in about
3 \$225,000 was spent by Housing First Tenants on
4 emergency services. And you saw that list of what is
5 included in the emergency services.

6 So in the first year after moving in it's dropped
7 to a total of \$94,000, so from 225,000 to 94,000.
8 And then it reduced again to 81,000 in the second
9 year after moving into Housing First. So once again
10 as a consequence of moving into these facilities, we
11 saw a dramatic reduction in the use of a variety of
12 emergency services all of which had real costs.

13 I will say that shelter and safety centers use
14 dropped off most dramatically. Fire and Police use
15 also dropped off, but that's where some of the
16 services still remained.

17 And in Anchorage ER costs were very high during
18 the year before moving in. We've seen that already.
19 And there was still some ER use in the year following
20 moving into Housing First. We didn't see this in
21 Fairbanks. And we feel like it may have been a
22 consequence of the fact that those tenants in
23 Anchorage may have been using the ER when they really
24 didn't have to any more.

25 And so I think it's a great idea in Juneau that

1 we're actually providing some health care services in
2 the facility itself which might reduce that kind of
3 behavior.

4 Next slide, please. (Slide 10) So now this is
5 some data that no one has seen before. We've just
6 completed this analysis and I'll take advantage of
7 this opportunity to mention something I was supposed
8 to say at the beginning.

9 The final report from this project is now
10 available on the Trust website and so anybody who has
11 any further questions about any of this material can
12 go to that website and pull down a very extensive and
13 detailed final report on all of this data (ph).

14 So in the 12 months before tenants moved into
15 Housing First facilities in Anchorage and Fairbanks a
16 total of 1,427,000 health care costs were incurred
17 for 55 tenants. That worked out to approximately
18 628,000 amongst the 23 tenants in Anchorage and about
19 789,000 amongst the 31 tenants in Fairbanks. On
20 average tenants incurred about \$26,000 in health care
21 costs in the year before moving into Housing First.

22 Now, as I mentioned earlier, this is a population
23 which had a number of chronic health problems. These
24 were the most vulnerable of the most vulnerable. And
25 in some cases had been living decades on the streets

1 without receiving care for very serious problems like
2 diabetes.

3 And so in Anchorage those per tenant annual health
4 care costs increased by 3.5 percent following moving
5 into Housing First and then increased once more in
6 the second year. This is primarily a consequence of
7 now they're finally getting care for many of these
8 chronic health problems which had gone untreated.
9 And so as you might imagine initially as you're
10 trying to get control of problems such as diabetes,
11 it's going to be a rather significant costs.

12 We would love to have the opportunity to go back
13 and see what's happened to these numbers in the third
14 through the fifth years following moving into these.
15 Our hypothesis would be that these costs would begin
16 to fall once more.

17 Something else to keep in mind because we're
18 talking about 54 individuals here, we have a problem
19 with extreme outliers. So both in Anchorage and
20 Fairbanks the median cost for inpatient care over all
21 three years was exactly zero. However, the maximum
22 inpatient cost for a single tenant was almost
23 \$180,000 in year one and over \$180,000 in year three,
24 so these outliers drive these numbers to a great
25 extent.

1 Once again, that's why I feel that had we had an
2 opportunity to continue this research into the fifth
3 year, we would have seen these numbers begin to fall
4 (indiscernible - voice lowers).....

5 Next slide, please. (Slide 11) Now, we saw
6 slightly different numbers in Fairbanks. Now, per
7 tenant annual adjusted total health care costs fell
8 44 percent in Fairbanks in the year after moving into
9 Housing First.

10 And once again, we're not exactly sure that
11 happened here, but we anticipate in Anchorage it's
12 because these patient costs were associated with a
13 relatively small number of patients. As a
14 consequence just very dif- -- very significant
15 differences in the health care provided for one or
16 two individuals who were in these facilities who have
17 a large impact on the costs in these two different
18 facilities.

19 BURNS: So you didn't have the outliers costs in Fairbanks
20 that you did in Anchorage?

21 DRISCOLL: We didn't see the same number -- the same length
22 of time in the facilities in Anchorage. In fact, we
23 had one tenant who was in inpatient care for 25 days
24 in years one and three in Anchorage, whereas in
25 Fairbanks the longest time that any patient was in

1 inpatient care was three days.

2 BURNS: Okay.

3 DRISCOLL: Next slide, please. (Slide 12) So in conclusion
4 there were a few primary key findings that I'd like
5 to touch base. The first one is that most of these
6 tenants being the most vulnerable of those most
7 vulnerable populations in Anchorage entered these
8 facilities with very serious health conditions.
9 We're likely to see something similar in other cities
10 across the State.

11 Self-reported and follow-up data suggested that
12 they were fewer ER visits, increased access to
13 primary health care and reduced consumption of
14 alcohol as a consequence of moving into these
15 facilities.

16 The secondary data also showed a reduced use of
17 emergency services and increased use of health care
18 services in Anchorage, but not so much in Fairbanks.

19 So once again I would just say that, this only
20 goes through the third year following moving into a
21 Housing First facility and this is the first study of
22 its kind done anywhere in the country.

23 The only -- the other evaluations done at Housing
24 First facilities across the country had only gone
25 through the first six months, so this represents a

1 significant contribution to the literature. And I'll
2 just thank you very much for the opportunity to
3 discuss it.

4 BUTCHER: Okay. And I note we have Corrine here and not
5 Gary Ferguson, so welcome.

6 Victor, are you on the phone? Okay. Well, do we
7 have any questions from any of the Council?

8 LEE: This is Shirley Lee. I'm with Tanana Chiefs
9 Conference Housing First.

10 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Shirley. Do we have any
11 questions?

12 JESSEE: Now, what we thought we'd do is let Corrine and
13 Shirley talk.....

14 BUTCHER: Sure.

15 JESSEE:very briefly about the current status of
16 their programs so that you get a feel from the
17 providers standpoint how we're doing.

18 BUTCHER: That would be great.

19 JESSEE: Okay. Corrine, want to start?

20 O'NEIL: Sure. I'm Corrine O'Neil, Supportive Housing
21 Division director standing in for Dr. Gary Ferguson
22 today.

23 So I first want to thank Circumpolar Health
24 because, you know, Karluk Manor is in five and a half
25 years of operation now, so this has been a long time

1 coming for us. And, I think, we really enjoyed the
2 program management of Karluk Manor that's here today,
3 working with his team, particularly the patience that
4 they spent, the quotations (ph) in the study, really
5 understanding the program and understanding the needs
6 of the tenants.

7 It was interesting, too, for us to read it and
8 think about where we are in year one and two versus
9 where we are in year five and a half today and what
10 we see the -- what -- the changes views (ph) on the
11 property.

12 I think, first of all, you know, Karluk was new to
13 us then and since then we've replicated it and so
14 looking at this oh, my -- you know, I recognize a lot
15 of these things, but oh, my goodness, have we -- have
16 we, sort of, grown.

17 And I think we were surprised by the health care
18 costs. Our Staff concentrate a lot on getting into
19 primary care, getting people connected. You know,
20 there's the amount of prescriptions and medication
21 observation went up which is -- we're not surprised
22 on because these are things that we work on every
23 day.

24 I don't think we were surprised by drinking
25 reduction, you know. We have people that are totally

1 abstinent in our project. And we have people that
2 are all the way on various continuums, but I do think
3 as we went into year three, four and five actually we
4 see more significant drinking reduction than we did
5 in year one and two.

6 I mean, recovery is just a very, very long process
7 and we see a lot of change in people coming -- we're
8 really here -- when somebody hits year three usually
9 in our housing, we think oh, we're really making
10 progress on recovery and it really takes us almost to
11 year three. And so although this is a long study,
12 like, in our eyes it wasn't a long study.

13 And I think our challenge today is really is that
14 we have people that are aging in place on our
15 property now five years with very complex conditions,
16 some with behavioral health conditions that can't go
17 into skilled nursing.

18 And so we are providing support for them,
19 sometimes almost too long, but we are saving the
20 system in a different way now because we're providing
21 almost like a senior care service for many people
22 that are, you know, almost to end of life.
23 Unfortunately there is quite a few people at Karluk
24 Manor that pass away with us each year due to complex
25 medical conditions.

1 So that was just my thoughts as I was reading it
2 and, you know, I appreciate all the work on it.

3 JESSEE: All right. Then, Shirley, do you want to give a
4 brief update on where Tanana Chiefs is with your
5 project?

6 LEE: Sure. Victor asked me to call in, so I just
7 called in just a few minutes ago. I apologize for
8 missing the presentation. I don't believe I've seen
9 the evaluation report.

10 For Housing First in Fairbanks I would agree with
11 Corrine, we're seeing a lot of our tenants move into
12 independent (ph) health care. And currently we have
13 eight tenants who have been sober for three plus
14 years and they remain on site serving as mentors to
15 others.

16 We do have -- we have -- actually May 7th was our
17 fifth year in operation. And we have 14 tenants pass
18 and, of course, we're bringing in the most fragile
19 into the program and so we anticipated
20 (indiscernible) it's so hard on the staff.

21 And many of them did not want to leave their units
22 to go into assisted care. They -- some of them went
23 out and looked at supportive help (indiscernible).
24 And so that's one thing that was (indiscernible) to
25 address because this has become their home and they

1 don't want to leave their home, but we still have a
2 waitlist of almost 400. And out of those
3 (indiscernible) 99 did not qualify (indiscernible)
4 either due to severe violent (indiscernible) or
5 they're sex offenders.

6 So what Tanana Chiefs is doing is we're planning
7 an extension of the program in the next four years
8 that can cost benefit (ph) and the health benefit
9 (indiscernible) is enormous and so that's what we're
10 working on right now.

11 BUTCHER: Okay, thanks Shirley. Corrine, this might not be
12 a question you can even answer, but do you have a
13 sense of the couple years after this study if the
14 increased health care services might still be up
15 there or do you think it -- you know, was it, kind
16 of, an aberration or do you have any insight into
17 that as all?

18 O'NEIL: Well, I think, one thing that happened right --
19 one thing that happened was there was an expansion,
20 so those costs are now being differently funded in
21 the -- as the years go. For example, when expansion
22 came we were, like, able, for example, to get more
23 people hearing aids, great. So, I mean, we jumped on
24 that -- on that opportunity, right.

25 So there's things that have changed in the funding

1 climate, right, that have also impacted the health
2 care teams (ph), but I think yeah, that we have some
3 people that have obviously grown more ill, but we
4 have more people that, again, I think, are accessing
5 less and less emergency care. We can't -- we can't
6 bring that down to zero because there are people with
7 serious conditions, but (indiscernible) being stable
8 on medication.

9 I think one thing obviously did increase is we
10 have provided more behavioral health care on site.
11 And so that's going to be an increased cost just due
12 to the increase and access.

13 So some of it maybe -- it's hard to tell what is
14 driven by, like, change in the community and the
15 climate and the way we're doing services versus the
16 way we were doing services in the beginning, but I
17 would say where we are seeing significant cost
18 savings is that we hold on to people that, you know,
19 would otherwise go into assisted living totally (ph)
20 or skilled nursing for a longer -- you know, we have
21 hospice that comes in, right, that's a cost savings
22 versus putting somebody in a long term care facility.

23 So I would say yeah, but -- but some people's
24 primary care does, sort of, level out. They see
25 their doctor. And the drinking reduction helps, too

1 because they're not falling. They're not hitting
2 their head. You're not doing (ph) some of those
3 things that you were doing when some of those --
4 you're not having some behaviors that -- that caused
5 you to have medical -- some increased medical
6 (indiscernible - voice lowers).....

7 So I don't -- I guess what I'm saying is, it's a
8 very hard question to answer.

9 BUTCHER: Yeah. Steve?

10 WILLIAMS: Yeah, this is Steve Williams with the Trust. I
11 just wanted to make a brief comment. Having read the
12 report -- the full report. And I think, Corrine, you
13 were, kind of, talking and we're getting to it (ph)
14 and Dr. Driscoll you did as well, was what I found
15 really -- an aspect of the report that was compelling
16 was this element of social interaction. And the
17 element of being able to feel safe which, I think, we
18 all, kind of, expected would be probably there.

19 But then also connected to both of those things
20 was the ability of increased self-autonomy, to be in
21 a situation and say, you know what, I don't have to
22 choose to hang out in the room or out in a camp and
23 drink with these peers.

24 I can go back to my home and go into my apartment
25 and make that decision because I don't need to worry

1 about surviving tonight. And so, I think, that's a
2 pretty powerful piece of what's in this report.

3 I do -- I encourage folks to read it because the
4 increase in feeling safe and peer and staff
5 interaction has liberal effects in terms of just
6 positive outcomes.

7 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions? All right, thank you
8 very much. Good to see you again, Jeff, of course.

9 All right. Before we get to Carol, I'd like to
10 jump down to Council Members Reports real quick.
11 Randall is going to have to leave. He had an update
12 he wanted to give us, so if that's okay with the rest
13 of the Council.....

14 BURNS: Excuse me, I apologize I do have another
15 commitment I tried to get out of, but it did not
16 work.

17 So, I wanted to talk about the Alaska Crosswalk.
18 At the last Council meeting we talked about trying to
19 merge these documents and we made efforts to get --
20 take the Alaska Council's long term Homelessness Plan
21 and we took our Department of Health and Social
22 Services Strategic Supportive Housing Plan and also
23 the Governor's Summit, the work reports from 2016.
24 And we merged those into a single document and I
25 guess it's up there on the screen.

1 And we used as, sort of, the Alaska Housing long
2 term Homeless Plan as, sort of, the grid. If you can
3 go to the next page.

4 You can see across the top there the priorities
5 that were identified in the Alaska Council's Plan and
6 housing development was priority 1 and priority 2 was
7 supportive services. Priority 3 was education,
8 engagement and policy, 4 was prevention and 5 was
9 data. And it has there underneath those the
10 individual objectives within those priorities.

11 We then took the Department's Health -- Alaska
12 Strategic Supportive Housing Plan that's been worked
13 on with a lot of partners here in the room including
14 AHFC and the Trust and other Divisions within our
15 Department.

16 And we took those goals and placed them -- and I'm
17 not going to go through all these, obviously it goes,
18 but we then parceled out the various goals within our
19 Strategic Supportive Plan under those five
20 categories. And that goes from page 2 through page,
21 I think, 5 or 6 -- 6.

22 And then we took the Governor's Housing Summit and
23 again, placed those in those same categories, the
24 same priorities so that you can look at the work of
25 the Governor's Summit and how those fit into those

1 same priorities.

2 And so by doing that we've, sort of, merged and
3 you can look at the efforts of those three entities
4 into essentially showing that certainly there was
5 real commonality lying amongst the plans, different
6 goals and objectives to some extent, but the
7 priorities were all the same. So we have that
8 document now and can go forward with that, I think.

9 BUTCHER: Man, that's great.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

11 BUTCHER: Yeah, absolutely.

12 KUIPER: I want to thank you. I think at the last meeting
13 we asked for this and you said oh, I'll do it.

14 BURNS: Of course, I did not do it.....

15 KUIPER: I'm sure -- I'm sure you had help, but I want to
16 thank you for taking the lead on it and making sure
17 that it happened. It's very much appreciated.

18 BURNS: Yeah. And I appreciated the work of Susan Musante
19 and many others in pulling this together and the
20 Trust was very active, too -- and she's reading her
21 phone and ignoring me, but Amanda worked on it, too.

22 (Off record conversation)

23 BUTCHER: All right. Thank you very much, Randall.

24 BURNS: Yes.

25 BUTCHER: Okay. Carol, Housing as Health Care. I was

1 fortunate enough to see this presentation at an
2 update for the Governor's Housing Summit at the
3 Alaska Health Summit in January. And so we really
4 thought that it would be of value to the Council
5 Members to be able to talk a little bit about this
6 'cause, I think, a lot of times people tend to stay
7 in their own silos and don't think enough about the
8 impact housing has on many areas with health being a
9 huge partner.

10 GORE: Thank you, Bryan. I want to start by first
11 thanking Glen Wilson who I just met in person for the
12 first time today for bringing up an invitation for
13 the Association of the Alaska Housing Authorities and
14 Homeless Providers to have more intentional
15 engagement on housing people.

16 I think we're all in the same business, but we
17 tend to work in silos and that's really the intention
18 of this presentation is to hopefully catalyze a
19 different conversation between all of us.

20 For those of you who don't know what the
21 Association is, there are 14 Regional Housing
22 Authorities that provide housing in some of the
23 hardest to build and hardest to reach communities all
24 across the State. We've been in that business for
25 more than 40 years, so I think we know what we're

1 doing, but we could certainly learn how to maybe
2 collaborate a little bit better.

3 Finally, I just want to acknowledge Olen Harris
4 (ph), who is my peer on that Association and I'm very
5 pleased that he's a long standing member of this
6 group.

7 So let's -- I'm going to try to drive the car here
8 and you'll see me relying more heavily on my notes
9 because health is really not my best topic, but I
10 think it's important.

11 What I do know is our work has given me a deep
12 appreciation of the impact of stable housing on
13 people, neighborhoods and communities. And while I'm
14 certainly not an expert on health issues, in the next
15 few minutes I want to share with you the results of
16 some early research that we've been conducting that
17 connects housing and health.

18 Bryan has already mentioned that some of you
19 already heard this presentation. I apologize if
20 you're hearing it for a second time, but I do hope in
21 this group that it starts a conversation because the
22 outcome for us at that presentation was a new
23 conversation with several homeless providers and
24 including Suzi and also Lisa Aquino who was here
25 earlier.

1 There is -- I don't know what happens, but
2 sometimes you think you're having all the same
3 conversations, but suddenly the lights click for all
4 of us and I'm grateful that they were willing to
5 engage in a conversation with us.

6 At Cook Inlet housing we've done our work long
7 enough to understand that measuring housing outcomes
8 in terms of units built and total construction costs
9 is very short sighted. It just doesn't tell the
10 story of why housing matters. And by that I mean it
11 doesn't express overwhelming relief a mother feels
12 when she's relocating her child into a house that's
13 no longer mold or mildewed into a home that has clean
14 air to breath.

15 It also, from our perspective having a 50/50
16 portfolio between families and seniors, it doesn't
17 explain the new found enthusiasm of an elder who has
18 moved from an isolated home with steep stairs to one
19 that is designed to their physical limitations and
20 offers deeper social engagement. All of those things
21 really matter to them.

22 We've also learned that our best outcomes are less
23 about getting a Certificate of Occupancy, which is
24 how we measure, you know, with all of our financiers.
25 We -- we (indiscernible), we have our CO enter (ph)

1 new building, but it's more about a child improving
2 their grades because their family has found some safe
3 and stable housing.

4 We wanted to be better able to articulate the
5 connection between housing and health so we engaged
6 Agnew Beck to do some initial research just looking
7 up literature and not really doing any data
8 compilation at the local level, although there's some
9 light reference to that in this presentation. So
10 these next few slides will give you some idea of what
11 that research had told us so far.

12 So let's be clear about what we mean when we're
13 talking about housing in this context. We're talking
14 about the physical condition of the dwelling. We're
15 also talking about how much it strains the family's
16 resources to live in their housing. And we're
17 talking about whether families are stable in their
18 housing or whether they're experiencing overcrowding,
19 transiency (ph) or homelessness.

20 We're also talking about how a family's housing
21 fits into this neighborhood context. Is it located
22 near transit, services, schools or is it adjacent to
23 a harmful industrial use. All of those things really
24 (indiscernible) when you're talking about stabilizing
25 housing.

1 So the purpose of this presentation is to discuss
2 how the access to quality, affordable housing can
3 improve the outcomes that are maybe not typically
4 considered housing outcomes, but I think they should
5 be.

6 So let's talk first about the physical condition
7 of the homes that we live in. As an example, if we
8 think about respiratory illnesses and I really had no
9 idea that asthma was such a huge issue both at the
10 national level and the local level until we got this
11 research, but they're all too pervasive especially
12 amongst our children.

13 I think the data on this screen suggests the
14 wellness and the related financial implications are
15 truly staggering.

16 Childhood respiratory illness is of very high
17 concern here in Alaska particularly in our rural
18 communities where it's responsible for two-thirds of
19 all child hospitalization. I had no idea.

20 In an Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Study
21 of home ventilation improvements in 68 homes in eight
22 villages in Southwest Alaska showed improved air
23 quality, as well as reduced clinic visits,
24 hospitalization and missed days of work and school.

25 I believe they've also passed out hard copies of

1 this, so you can actually see the data much, much
2 better from your hard copy.

3 The physical quality of our homes has broader
4 health implications then simply improving respiratory
5 health in children and adults. Improving physical
6 housing conditions can reduce stress, infectious
7 disease, cancer, depression, arthritis and much more.
8 This chart shows how specific energy efficiency
9 improvements to our housing lead to those better
10 health outcomes at an individual level.

11 I think in deploying AHFC's Weatherization grants
12 that was all about energy savings, but I think all of
13 us that were in that delivery system realized that
14 the health implications and if we had not conducted
15 those energy efficiencies, there could have been some
16 very different, very negative health outcomes. So I
17 want to thank AHFC for that Weatherization grant and
18 suggest that maybe we draw some better correlations
19 between that grant and some bigger outcomes.

20 So, instability and how does that affect our
21 health and what is it. So in its most apparent form,
22 it's homelessness which all of you care deeply about,
23 but it also manifests in other ways as well;
24 overcrowding, transiency and a high cost burden many
25 family bear due to housing expenses are all forms of

1 housing and stability.

2 So the research shows that housing instability
3 have health consequences including reduced access to
4 care.

5 I feel like I'm repeating a lot of stuff that
6 you've heard already today, but isn't that a good
7 thing. Reduce access to care, mental distress,
8 difficulty sleeping, depression.

9 In children housing instability puts them at
10 higher risk for developmental delays, low weight,
11 poor health overall and a link to a lifetime risk of
12 depression. I think all of you are familiar with how
13 that works.

14 The research around housing and stability in its
15 various forms is linked to a wide range of negative
16 educational and behavioral health problems especially
17 for young people. Behavioral and emotional problems,
18 increased teenage pregnancy, increased drug use,
19 increased rates of depression, increased probability
20 of using emergency rooms for routine care.

21 I was especially shocked to learn that the child
22 who has had to move more than three times in their
23 lives is two and a half times more likely to commit a
24 property crime (ph), just think about that. I think
25 we have the evidence.

1 In our experience at Cook Inlet Housing we know
2 that in less than 10 years our investment in housing
3 in the Mountain View neighborhood corresponded with a
4 reduction in student transfers at both elementary
5 schools, a 35 percent increase in participation in
6 parent/teacher conferences and a 20 percent
7 improvement in reading, writing and math. I think
8 those are significant in a 10 year period.

9 The availability of affordable housing has been
10 shown to mitigate the negative impacts of housing
11 instability protecting children from harmful health
12 outcomes.

13 Children who live in affordable housing when
14 compared to children who families are of comparable
15 means, but do not have access to affordable housing
16 are 35 percent more likely to be classified as a well
17 child, have a 28 percent lower risk of being
18 seriously underweight and are 19 percent less likely
19 to be food insecure.

20 The most obvious form of housing instability,
21 homelessness, has long term impacts on the health of
22 our children even if there is children experience
23 homelessness before they were born. A child whose
24 mother is homeless during pregnancy has a 20 percent
25 greater chance of being hospitalized than her peers.

1 If that child also experiences homelessness as an
2 infant or toddler she will be 41 percent more likely
3 to be hospitalized in her youth.

4 Let's also consider how homelessness affects
5 health care service utilization. This is a topic
6 I've also heard come up several times today. A
7 California study documented that one-third to one-
8 half of emergency room high utilizers are homeless.
9 I think you all know that already. 80 percent have
10 three or chronic health conditions and the majority
11 have behavioral health needs.

12 Formally (ph) homeless people who moved to
13 permanent housing experience a 34 percent decrease in
14 emergency room visits and a 32 percent drop in
15 charges compared to a 12 percent decrease in visits,
16 a two percent decrease in charges for those who
17 remained homeless or in shelters, but still had
18 access to services such as mental health case
19 management and medication management.

20 So what would our policy makers say, does
21 investing in quality, affordable housing actually
22 reduce health care costs and I think we know the
23 answer is yes.

24 The State and the Federal Government spend a lot
25 of money on health care here in alaska. Our Medicaid

1 expenditures per enrollee average \$10,000 per year
2 which is twice the national average. Half of those
3 costs are paid out of the State's General Fund which
4 as you well know is cause for concern in Juneau.

5 You also know that the State share of Medicaid
6 expenditures is far from the only State funded health
7 care costs.

8 So does affordable housing help reduce health care
9 costs, a 2016 national study tracked Medicaid covered
10 residents health for one year after they moved into
11 one of dozens of affordable housing developments.
12 Here's what we learned; the researchers found a 12
13 percent decrease in Medicaid expenditures across all
14 housing types. And you can see there's some slides
15 between permanent supportive, senior and family
16 housing.

17 Second, primary care providers increased 20
18 percent, while emergency room visits went down 18
19 percent.

20 Third, residents reported better access to and
21 better quality of health care after moving to
22 affordable housing.

23 Alaska's rapidly growing senior population
24 provides other examples of how strategic housing
25 investments can reduce health care expenditures. For

1 example, consider the impacts of falls alone, each
2 year one in three seniors experiences a fall which
3 makes that senior three times more likely to have a
4 long term stay in nursing home care.

5 Here's the problem, I think we all know this, too,
6 nursing home care in Alaska is absurdly expensive,
7 \$300,000 a year, absurdly expensive. Those costs
8 simply are not affordable to the majority of the
9 population and unfortunately the State often ends up
10 footing much of that bill.

11 We can mitigate these costs by ensuring that our
12 elders live in homes that have safety and
13 accessibility features. Those simple features
14 decrease the chance to fall by 20 to 50 percent. And
15 help to reduce costs associated with extensive
16 nursing home stays.

17 I think this is really incredible, a \$1 investment
18 in home modification is associated with 93 cent
19 reduction in medical costs in that home (ph).

20 KUIPER: Say again, Carol?

21 GORE: A \$1 investment in home modification is associated
22 with 93 cent reduction in medical costs a month (ph).
23 I think that's a good story.

24 Housing can (ph) and should play an even broader
25 and more strategic role in how we provide quality

1 care while reducing health care costs for Alaska's
2 growing senior population.

3 Seniors are frequent fliers in our health care
4 system. This is particularly critical to note in
5 Alaska where our senior population is growing at a
6 very high rate. It will be substantially more cost
7 effective for Alaska to support the seniors long term
8 care needs in their own homes, than it would be to do
9 so in nursing home facilities.

10 It costs about \$237,000 less per person per year
11 to care for seniors in their homes with a full time
12 home health and to a chore service than through
13 nursing home care. I think that's pretty compelling.
14 And guess what our seniors would prefer.

15 This is my last slide. So what does all of this
16 mean. It tells us that while some may think that our
17 work should be accomplished in silence, health care
18 over here, housing over here, homelessness over
19 there, the mutual influence our (indiscernible) have
20 on the (indiscernible) you cannot (indiscernible -
21 voice lowers).

22 We have distinct (ph) regulations, we have
23 different funding streams, but I think our outcomes
24 are not exclusive related one to the other. Unless
25 we're working together, those impacts really don't

1 happen. I know that, those of you that are in the
2 housing business know that.

3 I firmly believe that opportunities are our
4 solution when we're all working together, so when we
5 have a problem and we're working together we -- we
6 have a better opportunity to come to the right
7 solution.

8 I want to just say for Cook Inlet Housing, we take
9 an action by creating a position internally. Our vp
10 is (indiscernible) she's been working in the homeless
11 world for over a year and has just spent the last
12 three months working as part of Covenant House on
13 loan on a half fund basis. We speak a different
14 language. And I think we have to recognize that we
15 all want the same things, but we have our own book of
16 acronyms.

17 I just want to recognize Marcie Sherrer who is in
18 the audience today and she's spent a lot of time
19 trying to navigate what to her is a very different
20 language than I would. I appreciate those of you
21 that have embraced her and given her the opportunity
22 to learn from all of you so that we can be a better
23 housing provider for all of you.

24 I think finally I just want to say that from Cook
25 Inlet's perspective, our housing is inclusive. That

1 means we provide housing opportunities that are for
2 the homeless, for disabled, for elderly, for
3 families. We build in locations that offer access to
4 work and to services.

5 The funding that we get that comes through AHFC
6 really honors those principles and we respect those
7 principles and think that's been the best way for us
8 to deliver housing, so we're already serving the
9 homeless. We know first hand when they're successful
10 and when they're not. We usually know where they're
11 not successful.

12 And, I think, that's a really important
13 conversation for all of us to have between housing
14 and homeless and how do we set them up for success in
15 a very robust way so that they're not boomeranging
16 back to the shelters.

17 Thank you for listening and I hope this catalyzes
18 us to deeper conversations.

19 BUTCHER: Thank you very much for the presentation, Carol.
20 Do we have any questions for Carol?

21 PEARSON: No questions, but I do want to say thank you.
22 When I saw your presentation in January it just
23 sparked so much and was something I wanted to make
24 sure the more people that hear this message, it's
25 critical. And we just said it was all -- today, this

1 -- it echoed, it really did, this message about how
2 much we really need to work together, but for me this
3 physical health. It's always been about mental
4 health and substance abuse, mental health and
5 substance abuse, but this really brought home to me,
6 so we need to bring in another partner.

7 GORE: Thank you.

8 KUIPER: And we want to thank you for Marcie.

9 PEARSON: We're very excited about it on the Coalition.

10 GORE: You're welcome.

11 PEARSON: Yeah.

12 GORE: Yeah. This is -- for those of you that don't know
13 this is -- she was our CFO for a long, long time.
14 And she came to me and said I'm going to retire, but
15 I'll give you 10 more years if you'll let me do what
16 I really want to do.

17 And I think most of you know that Marcie has a
18 person story about homelessness and I'm very proud of
19 her and very proud of what she's accomplished
20 already. And the story's she's brought back have
21 been incredibly insightful to us and it helps
22 (indiscernible - voice lowers), so thank you for
23 that.

24 KUIPER: Thank you.

25 BUTCHER: Yup, thanks, Carol. All right. Our next agenda

1 item, an update on the Council Presentation to AML,
2 Suzi and Dave.

3 PEARSON: Don't look to me. I told him he had to take the
4 lead.

5 KUIPER: So I'm Dave Kuiper. And I was really privileged
6 and very thankful to participate in the opportunity
7 to present -- not just make a presentation to, but to
8 be present for two days of the 66th annual local
9 government conference put on by the Alaska Municipal
10 League.

11 I had never participated in that conference
12 before. I did not know exactly what to expect.
13 However, we were really graciously invited and
14 received by Betty Sevensson and her team.

15 They accommodated a wonderful place in the
16 corridor of the Capital Cook Hotel for Carrie and
17 Suzi and I and actually a couple other members of the
18 AHFC staff as well to, kind of, facilitate a booth
19 for people who were attending the conference from all
20 over the State of Alaska. And to share our story
21 from AHFC and from the Governor's Council with them.
22 And then also to provide opportunity for them to
23 share their experience with housing and homelessness
24 in their communities.

25 So I'm going to be quite brief.

1 PEARSON: How many members are there in the Alaska
2 Municipal?

3 SVENSSON: There is about 16- -- well, there's 164
4 communities or municipalities and probably all but
5 five are members and so.....

6 PEARSON: About five?

7 SVENSSON: All but five or six.

8 PEARSON: And how many attendees were at the conference
9 though?

10 SVENSSON: We get right around 400, 450 just for our
11 conference and then another about 150, 200 for our
12 newly elected officials training, so quite a few.
13 And then a lot of the other mayors, managers and
14 (indiscernible) so there's about 1,000 people that
15 come through that league.

16 PEARSON: Yeah.

17 KUIPER: So it was great exposure for us to be there. And
18 we hope it was great exposure for the participants,
19 those attendees to both the work of the Council and
20 the work of AHFC.

21 So I'm going to -- we did make a specific
22 presentation which Carrie really put together for us
23 and made presentation to -- in a breakout session to
24 a number of folks who attended. And we had quite
25 good attendance at that meeting. We had -- I

1 (indiscernible) I suspect we had about 70 -- 70
2 people in our breakout session, something like that.

3 And they were from all different towns across
4 Alaska. Many of them were -- some were service
5 providers in their own towns, but they were largely,
6 as you would imagine, there were Municipal workers in
7 their own towns and trying to find out how they could
8 facilitate things in their towns. And how -- and
9 what was being offered by the Governor's Council.

10 We presented the plan that we put together a
11 couple of years ago and then we fielded questions and
12 then stories from the people in the room.

13 Suzi insisted that I be the speaker about this
14 section, but I'm using her notes, so -- but I guess
15 I'm just going to backup to the corridor experiences
16 that we had.

17 We started at the booth and we had a little bit of
18 swag, not a whole lot of sway to offer, but the
19 people that stopped by -- when you're right by the
20 main -- one of the main entrances to the main
21 ballroom and so people had to walk by us and as they
22 did we would introduce ourselves. They would often
23 come and introduce and they -- we had to sign their
24 passports, that's the way we got them to come, right,
25 so we signed their passports.

1 But when we -- when we came, we would introduce
2 ourselves and we would say so, do you have homeless
3 people in your community. And there would be a
4 thoughtful pause and then quite often -- but Suzi can
5 fill in or correct me, but quite often what would
6 happen is they would think and say well, we don't
7 have very many people that are sleeping outside, but
8 boy are we doubled up.

9 We've got families sleeping with families and
10 families on top of families and the housing that
11 they're sleeping in are really run down. I mean,
12 that's an over summarization, but it echoes several
13 of the things that have already been said here today.

14 The housing in rural Alaska is aged. It's very
15 aged. And people are sleeping in substandard
16 conditions. And they are sleeping in very dense
17 situations where there are families sleeping with
18 other families, multiple families in the same
19 household. So -- and the interesting thing, they --
20 it was, kind of, a matter-of-fact thing, that's the
21 way it works out here.

22 And why in Anchorage as a more urban dweller might
23 not consider acceptable at all was matter-of-fact,
24 that's the way it is. They didn't especially like
25 it, but they, kind of, had come to become accustom to

1 it.

2 But some of the things that were noted both in the
3 corridor and in the session and, kind of, areas of
4 concern -- and I'm just going to read the list as --
5 as Suzi noted them for me. Dillingham has homeless
6 folks, however, funds coming in to help went to
7 overcrowding, (indiscernible) funds.

8 Kodiak has issues with place -- with placement
9 (ph) homelessness for homeless people during the day.
10 I think that's probably a typical situation in other
11 places. Ketchikan mentioned the same issue.

12 More and more youth are experiencing homelessness
13 in their communities. Drugs and heroin. One of the
14 saddest -- I don't know, they're all sad, some of
15 these are sad stories, but this is, there's more sex
16 trafficking than they've ever noticed before.
17 There's an increasing problem that they're noticing.

18 Lack of resources for people with mental health
19 issues or those with sentences where counseling is
20 required. So folks coming out of prison coming back
21 to their communities, they're required to have
22 certain counseling, but the services aren't there, so
23 they can't go home. They just can't go home.

24 Veterans are in communities, but they're either
25 too humble or too proud to ask for help, so they're

1 just, kind of, gutting it out.

2 The list of acronyms, people are swimming in
3 acronyms. They don't know how to interpret all the
4 acronyms. Struggles with resources in general. They
5 hope to see a change in perceptions of mental health
6 in education.

7 And I think that some of the opportunities that
8 were expressed is that there's a general
9 understanding that attitude and demonstration of
10 kindness to homeless individuals just goes along
11 ways. This all -- this, kind of, that -- that person
12 to person basic humanity level that they wanted to
13 reinforce and encourage.

14 They wanted to see more dialogue. There's some
15 opportunities for more dialogue among agencies, non-
16 profit and government. Increased opportunities for
17 peer counseling.

18 And then one comment that is (indiscernible) as
19 she's written it, is don't forget these are people.
20 And so it's the -- I think for me personally it was
21 the experience of people from rural communities that
22 I have not known before and a realization that
23 they're problem solvers, but they really want to --
24 they really want to have engaged conversations with
25 others to seek solutions together for the things that

1 are going on in their communities which, I think, is,
2 kind of, (indiscernible).

3 And then the -- they suggested that they would
4 love to have Council Members come to their town, so
5 put that on the budget, boss.

6 PEARSON: And we were able to -- they had a lot of questions
7 and we were able to provide a lot of follow-up. We
8 were able to get the entire list of attendees and
9 make sure that they got the information that they
10 needed and do a lot of connections with the resources
11 that we know, but also provided connections through
12 Carrie. She really did it, thank you so much. She
13 e-mailed them, answered individual questions. A lot
14 of people followed up, so it was an excellent
15 opportunity for contact and we will definitely be
16 there next year -- or this year.

17 BUTCHER: Well, thank you very much on behalf of the Council
18 for doing that, for representing the Council. It
19 sounds like it was a great meeting.

20 And to follow-up on what you just said, Dave, we
21 have invited the new HUD Commissioner Ben Carson up
22 here. And in the previous one Secretary Castro came
23 up. He only had time to go to Anchorage and he might
24 have been to Juneau, but I think he just went to
25 Anchorage.

1 And we emphasized that if you want to understand
2 the housing problems, the homeless problems in Alaska
3 you can't just go to Anchorage or Juneau or.....

4 PEARSON: Right, right.

5 BUTCHER: Fairbanks. You know, you've got to get out
6 in rural Alaska. And to his credit he had his
7 principle deputy assistant secretary come up here for
8 about a week long visit.

9 I know Carol Gore and Colleen Bickford, a number
10 of us in the room helped host and they took two
11 separate trips out into the villages. And I don't
12 mean the hubs. I mean, out of Bethel for a day. So
13 they just did a wonderful job.

14 So we're hopeful that when and if he does make it
15 here that he'll have the time to include getting out
16 into the villages where you really see truly, you
17 know -- you won't understand when you hear the name
18 of the state, Alaska unless you've seen the
19 challenges out there, so really appreciate that.

20 PEARSON: Thank you, Betty, for everything.

21 KUIPER: Yeah, thanks again, Betty. It was a real
22 privilege to be there.

23 BUTCHER: Okay. The next agenda item, and we're just about
24 through here, has to do with an update on Housing and
25 Homelessness Networking meeting we had this morning.

1 Many of the people in the room were in attendance.
2 Elizabeth Schultz from the Governor's Office put it
3 on and it was, kind of, a brainstorming session and
4 so we're looking at having an update from group for
5 the Counsel for those of you that weren't there.

6 So I'd like to ask Elizabeth and Brian Wilson and
7 Nancy Burke to come up and brief us.

8 SCHULTZ: So I know we're busy, so I'll start real quick and
9 I guess I didn't mean to be distracting, but I pulled
10 Susan out of the room and ran after Randall really
11 quick, so I wanted to just make a couple comments on
12 this huge document that was in your packet.

13 This is a document from about a year ago that was
14 put together by a bunch of people trying to look at
15 all these different plans and see if how they
16 overlapped, but I just wanted to make sure that I
17 clarified with them before I said it here that this
18 was never intended to be a plan because it's not.

19 It's a large, large crosswalk of all the ways (ph)
20 and, in fact, it includes all the housing summits not
21 just on homelessness, but that's a good segue into
22 why we gathered this morning.

23 When we do these things sometimes they -- they are
24 done and it takes a long time to do them and then
25 they sit and you don't always get back to it because

1 it's so cumbersome, 17 pages. So you need to have
2 the focus of a few people that are willing to dive in
3 and say if one of our goals is this, how are we going
4 to do that, so that's why we met this morning
5 (indiscernible) having a couple conversations about
6 coordinated entry and permanent supportive housing
7 and decided that because we have some new
8 infrastructure people in the state.

9 We've got Michael Sanders in Fairbanks and we have
10 a housing officer here in Anchorage and we've got a
11 couple of other Coalition Directors that it was time
12 to gather together 'cause some people were going to
13 be in town anyway for this meeting today.

14 And really got into two topics which was
15 coordinated entry and permanent supportive housing,
16 so I will let Nancy and Brian, but I just really did
17 want to clarify, 'cause even running out the door
18 Randall said well, I think, that we'll just look at
19 this as the permanent supportive housing plan and I
20 wanted to make sure everybody knew this is not the
21 plan. Okay.

22 BUTCHER: Can you put your name and your title on the record
23 for us, too, please.

24 SCHULTZ: Oh, I'm sorry, Elizabeth Schultz with the
25 Governor's office working on issues of housing and

1 homelessness, I apologize.

2 BUTCHER: Thank you.

3 SCHULTZ: Okay.

4 BURKE: Nancy Burke, the Mayor's office. Thank you. So
5 one of the -- the process that we used this morning
6 was to bring together people that are working at
7 municipal level, local level and ask them for input
8 on how we might move forward together.

9 And we sent out this phrase that really stuck with
10 me in the e-mail that we really need to move from
11 plan to outcomes. And it's probably because every
12 time I see the Mayor he asks me, how many people did
13 you house today, but it's that rigorous, diligent,
14 persistent focus on outcomes that we think could
15 bring some life to the plans.

16 We've had plans now for many years, more than a
17 decade and it's been always a challenge to keep it
18 from just being a document that's on the shelf.

19 However, there's some framework now that's
20 happening in the communities that brings life into
21 the work and I think we could follow through with
22 that.

23 So the coordinated entry is really something that
24 has organized all of the service providers and it
25 seems like a right (ph) time for us to look at

1 coordinated funding. And I spoke with some of the
2 challenges in my update that are happening in
3 Anchorage that there is -- these is coordinated entry
4 that's happening with the HUD dollars. If you think
5 about like a dart board, the bull's-eye is the HUD
6 dollars, but there's all kinds of money that are
7 going into the community that could be leveraged and
8 leveraging those HUD dollars.

9 For instance, in Anchorage there's the Providence
10 fund and there's so many other resources particular
11 to each community. It's using this as an opportunity
12 to coordinate those funds.

13 Some of the things that came up in the meeting
14 this morning include Regional Housing Authorities
15 resources that come through HUD, HOME funds, CDBG and
16 the new National Housing Trust Funds, the Tax Credit
17 funding, the Section 8 Choice Vouchers for rental
18 subsidies, Health for -- the Health Care for the
19 Homeless grants or a health perspective, like, Carol
20 just spoke very eloquently about and then public
21 housing units themselves.

22 So those are all opportunities and it probably
23 wouldn't work for us to say everything is going into
24 the bucket right now, but on a project by project
25 basis if we chose a few test project to see if we

1 -- how many of those different sources we can
2 leverage in, that could be a really great way to go
3 forward.

4 And then there's coordinated funding for the
5 social services making sure that we -- that we're
6 matching up the service, the housing and the vouchers
7 for the community. So that was one suggestion
8 coordinated entry, coordinated funding alignment.

9 The second one was we -- the group is interested
10 in a way to implement the Alaska permanent supportive
11 housing plan. It's been on our books. It's been on
12 everyone's mind. It's the right idea. It's the
13 right way to do it. National Technical Assistance
14 helped us develop that.

15 And we're interested in how that leap (ph) from
16 plan to implementation can happen. And would, in
17 fact, like the different officers or the different
18 agency representatives, some of whom are already gone
19 -- but as budget documents are developed over the
20 summer.

21 I know the Trust is about to start their budget
22 process. AHFC's here we go again with the -- the
23 process. How can we look at implementing these plans
24 and building it into our budgets so that we don't
25 have to start from scratch every year and try and

1 think of ways that we can keep these in the budget.

2 Now, a natural thing would be to add in new
3 resources to the SNHG grant which was the -- the
4 project that we looked at today, the RurALCAP project
5 and the Tanana Chiefs project are both SNHG grant
6 projects. They're whole projects. They're healthy
7 projects. They're having incredible outcomes. We
8 have the vehicle to go forward with and really that
9 is something that we just need new resources.

10 We understand there's a budget crises, but as the
11 State picks themselves up and looks at a sustainable
12 plan why not help communities have sustainable plans
13 for homelessness. Why not build that into the budget
14 right now. We're at a low point, but let's go up
15 together with these resources.

16 And I think the last one is Brian.

17 WILSON: Brian Wilson, Alaska Coalition of Housing and
18 Homelessness -- on Housing and Homelessness,
19 depending on who you talked to.

20 So also in addition to those conversation topics,
21 you know, we had a follow-up meeting over lunch to,
22 kind of, discuss this further and, you know, there
23 really is a need for this entity and for everyone to
24 be identifying those joint financing opportunities
25 across multiple, different avenues.

1 So, you know, mental health, substance abuse,
2 medical and housing, we discussed that a little bit
3 earlier because the way it's set up right now, you
4 know, communities are really left in the dark about
5 how to assess the available resources, the very
6 limited available resources out there.

7 And that really seemed to come true when Dave and
8 Suzi's A&O report by the comment there's so many
9 acronyms out there. And so we did discuss this idea,
10 you know, through this process of creating a tool kit
11 or a SWAT team, so to speak, that specializes in
12 permanent supportive housing that could help get that
13 information out to the communities 'cause just, sort
14 of, being really familiar with the Juneau Housing
15 First project right now, you know, a lot of the
16 people that have been working on that aren't even
17 aware of the entire scope of how it's been funded
18 'cause there's so many different elements of it and
19 luckily they have Scott Ciambor in place who's a real
20 big -- you know, a great mind in this, but -- and
21 Mariya Lovishchuk who's great at that, but, you know,
22 a lot of communities are starting from square one
23 right now.

24 And so I, kind of, mentioned this in my report
25 earlier is, you know, we're going back to the summit,

1 the housing summit, going back to our conversations
2 this morning, you know, we're really in need of some
3 higher level coordination and some entity to push
4 this forward.

5 And as I mentioned, you know, all the right
6 players are at the table and then there's some more
7 that can be added in, but, you know, we are looking
8 for a top down direction potentially from the
9 Governor's Office on that, but this is really our
10 bottom up push saying, you know, to really ask that
11 question or have you guys discussed what is the role
12 of the Council in, you know, bringing these plans and
13 these projects together because as it stands right
14 now there's is a, you know, siloing that is happening
15 amongst some of the entities and it's -- there's a
16 great opportunity and we have a plan that addresses
17 this in terms of coordinating this housing pipeline,
18 permanent supportive housing pipeline which has you
19 analyze each of your funding sources and make sure
20 that they're working together in unison using these
21 folks that are trying to get these projects on board.

22 So, you know, it's a big ask, but it's, you know,
23 really clarification, what is the role of the Council
24 in driving this or in driving the plan (indiscernible
25 - voice lowers).....

1 BUTCHER: Okay. Any questions or comments from the Board
2 Members? Okay.

3 BURKE: So this group was having a conversation about
4 continuing the meeting and I think it would be great
5 if we could have that conversation with the Council
6 and maybe have some meetings over the summer.
7 (Indiscernible) to the October meeting. All the
8 records will be done. They're be submitted. And so,
9 you know, maybe there can be some dialogue with
10 Elizabeth and Bryan about another meeting.....

11 BUTCHER: Sure.

12 BURKE:and having that conversation.

13 BUTCHER: Yeah, Steve.

14 WILLIAMS: Just real quick, Steve Williams with the Trust.
15 So who was at that lunch meeting with the
16 brainstorming meeting at lunch to -- so the
17 Governor's Office, you Bryan, Nancy, is there -- were
18 there others?

19 (Audience - no microphone)

20 WILLIAMS: Carma, Brenda (ph), okay.

21 (Audience - no microphone)

22 WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 SCHULTZ: (Indiscernible - away from microphone) anybody can
24 come, absolutely (ph).

25 WILLIAMS: Thank you.

1 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions? Dave?

2 KUIPER: Well, it's more a question on process of how we
3 respond to the ask and -- 'cause I think we need --
4 it's a real significant ask. And I think it's come
5 up at different points along the way here as the --
6 I've been on the Council for a few years now, there
7 -- how much work gets done either by Council Members
8 together or in work groups outside of these meetings
9 and how do we -- how do we do that responsibly?

10 'Cause I think -- I sat -- I was in the meeting
11 this morning and this is a strong ask for -- for the
12 Council to take a lead in some way on this and so I
13 think we have to figure out how we respond to that.
14 It's a -- I mean, it's an ask that comes -- that
15 doesn't provide as much opportunity to think about
16 how to respond, but yet at the same time I think it's
17 a question that really deserves a response. How do
18 we -- how do we respond to them?

19 BUTCHER: Yeah. I mean, I think, you know, we are working
20 on this issue every day, so you know, when I think
21 about having dialogue and I think about sitting down,
22 I think more from an AHFC perspective then I think
23 about from a Council perspective which isn't to say
24 we can't do more as a Council, we certainly can, but
25 it's why I spend time with a lot of people in this

1 room, but I don't spend time as a Council Member with
2 a lot of people in this room. I spend it as AHFC, so
3 that's certainly something that we can talk about on
4 what role or how -- how we want -- would the Council
5 Members want more involvement?

6 I mean, how much involvement because if everybody
7 is engaged and we can have more dialogue, we can have
8 work sessions, actually great, but if people aren't
9 engaged it ends up being more of a waste of time and
10 that's -- that's something I can't answer because
11 it's what we do every day. And so, you know, we will
12 always be sitting in the room, but that doesn't
13 mean.....

14 KUIPER: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

15 BUTCHER:(simultaneous speech). And it's not
16 something we probably should decide right now, but
17 it's certainly something that Carrie and I will
18 follow-up on.....

19 KUIPER: Okay. Thank you.

20 BUTCHER:and try to figure out 'cause it absolutely
21 makes sense to sit down and work through things, you
22 know, like (indiscernible). Like I mentioned at the
23 beginning of this meeting the point -- or the purpose
24 of this isn't to sit down and start churning things
25 out. It's to discuss what the previous six months

1 have done and so that's the time that work should be
2 -- should be being done.

3 And if there are more meetings and more getting
4 the (indiscernible) that needs to take place, than it
5 needs to take place, but funding -- that being said,
6 funding is difficult.

7 And as we all remember two years ago the HAP
8 Program was at zero and so that -- not just in that
9 program, but in all the programs that we had to do
10 with, it makes planning a challenge because you hate
11 to do things -- it's more responsible to do things on
12 a multi-year basis, but given our fiscal situation
13 you can plan it, but you have to the entire time
14 realize we have to be prepared for it to go from here
15 to here to here and like some of our programs have,
16 it's just the nature of the beast. There's nothing
17 you can do about it.

18 All right. Do we have any other questions or
19 comments.

20 KUIPER: Okay.

21 BUTCHER: Thank you very much.

22 All right. Then do we have any additional
23 comments from any Council Members or anything you'd
24 like to share that hasn't already been shared?

25 Okay. Other Matters to Come Before the Board.

1 Our next Council meeting is scheduled for the end of
2 October, October 23rd in Fairbanks. It's the one we
3 do in conjunction with the Alaska Coalition on
4 Housing and Homelessness. Their annual meeting.

5 And I know in talking to Elizabeth Schultz and
6 Brian a little bit there's been discussions about
7 having potentially some broader housing meetings than
8 just homeless meetings as part of those meetings in
9 October, so we have certainly our half a day that
10 we're focused on, but there may be many other things
11 going on in meetings that we may want to participate
12 in as well, so we'll certainly keep the Council in
13 the loop on all of that and as we get a little bit
14 closer.

15 So with that I'd like to ask for a motion to
16 adjourn.

17 PEARSON: Adjourn.

18 BUTCHER: All right. We are adjourned.

19 (Adjourned - 4:45 p.m.)
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25

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 MEETING of the
9 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE**
10 **HOMELESS**, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 11th day of May,
11 2017, commencing at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the at the
12 offices of Alaska Housing Finance 4300 Boniface Parkway,
13 Anchorage, Alaska, pursuant to Notice;

14 THAT this Transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a
15 true and correct transcription of said Public Meeting, thereafter
16 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 13th day of June, 2017.

23
24
25
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 08/13/19

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
05/11/17

Alaska
Housing
FINANCE CORPORATION