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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS  
Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks

ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION  
4300 BONIFACE PARKWAY  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

October 23, 2017

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS  
PUBLIC MEETING 10/23/17



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## P R O C E E D I N G S

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

ROMICK: Thanks everybody for your patience. We're going to go ahead and get started. We're having a little bit of extra effort to get the phone line hooked up and we'll be doing -- that should be coming on here pretty soon, so I'll go ahead and get things started.

Welcome everybody. My name is Mark Romick. I'm with the -- I'm the Deputy Director of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and I'll be sitting in for Bryan Butcher our CEO today. Bryan extends his apologies for not being here. He had a last minute family emergency that he needed to be in Anchorage for. So I will endeavor to do as succinct and efficient job as Bryan always does.

With that, I'd like to welcome everybody here today to the meeting of the Governor's Council -- Alaska Council on the Homeless. Also thank -- take a moment to thank the Alaska Housing Staff that are here and helping with the event.

Also I would like to acknowledge that we have a number of people on the phone who I'm not sure that they're available to chime in right now, but we have several members of the Council, Diane Casto representing Department of Public Safety, Betty

1 Svensson representing the municipal government seat  
2 that will be on -- they're on -- will be on the phone  
3 momentarily.

4 With that I'd like to ask my colleagues at the  
5 table here to introduce themselves starting at my far  
6 right with Mr. Dave Kuiper.

7 KUIPER: Hi, everybody. My name is David Kuiper. I am  
8 from Anchorage.

9 WILLIAMS: Hi, everyone. I'm Dean Williams. I'm the  
10 Commissioner for the Department of Corrections.

11 BURNS: Hello, my name is Randall Burns. I'm the Director  
12 of the Division of Behavior Health. I'm representing  
13 Commissioner Davidson on the Council.

14 HARRIS: Olen Harris with North Pacific Rim Housing  
15 Authority and I'm representing the Association of  
16 Alaska Housing Authorities.

17 EFIRD: Good afternoon, I'm Sana Efird. I'm Deputy  
18 Commissioner for the Department of Education  
19 representing Commissioner Michael Johnson.

20 WILLIAMS: Steve Williams, the acting Chief Executive Officer  
21 for the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

22 PEARSON: Suzi Pearson. I'm from AWAIC and I'm a public  
23 member from Anchorage.

24 COLLINS: Carrie Collins with Alaska Housing Finance  
25 Corporation providing staffing support to the

1 Council.

2 ROMICK: Thanks, Carrie. The next item on our agenda is  
3 Public Comments and I would just like to remind  
4 people to keep your comments to between three to five  
5 minutes if you can. And, Carrie, would you mind  
6 calling the first person.

7 COLLINS: So Evelyn with First City Homeless Services. Can  
8 you please come up to the mic up there, thank you.

9 ERBELE: Hi, I'm Evelyn Erbele from First City Homeless  
10 Services in Ketchikan. And for those of you who  
11 don't know where Ketchikan is it's the first city  
12 coming up the coast from the Lower 48 which means we  
13 see an influx of individuals who otherwise want to go  
14 on an Alaska excursion or move to Alaska to work in  
15 some field some place to realize that they end up on  
16 an island in the Pacific Ocean and have no money to  
17 go someplace else.

18 So one of the impacting factors of homelessness in  
19 Ketchikan is we're an island in the Pacific Ocean  
20 that receives 12 feet of rain a year. We don't have  
21 a lot of space for housing, many reasons lead into  
22 that.

23 However, what you want to know is that we are  
24 receiving from the Lower 48 an influx of individuals  
25 who otherwise wouldn't -- very shortly time not be

1 employable some place else. They'll come to work  
2 having received employment from online for the  
3 cannery or for the cruise agencies or for the tourism  
4 industry.

5 They'll arrive in Ketchikan with all of their  
6 mental, physical, emotional and addictive baggage,  
7 receive unemployment within the first week or two and  
8 then they stay in Ketchikan.

9 We want you to be aware of the fact that the  
10 largest influx of homelessness influx to Ketchikan  
11 not locals, but influx are the young men and women  
12 who are addicted to opiates. They are unpredictable,  
13 uncontrollable and unpleasant people.

14 First City Homeless Services is a wet shelter. We  
15 opened a day shelter in the social hall of the United  
16 Methodist Church in 2009 and they have made that  
17 social hall home. We are opened seven days a week.  
18 We serve breakfast seven days a week. To date we  
19 have received 270 individuals 6,500 times and that's  
20 at the day shelter.

21 Last year we started an overnight warming center  
22 in conjunction with the Salvation Army. It was a  
23 pilot program because the police and the emergency  
24 services were asking us, you know, can you relieve  
25 us, some how you need to help us. So we opened up a

1 warming center this year at the same site as the day  
2 shelter in the social hall of the United Methodist  
3 Church.

4 We opened October 1. We will close on March 31  
5 and to date we have seen 35 individuals at the  
6 overnight warming center over 100 times. So these  
7 are 35 people who have come back and forth.

8 The reason it's an overnight warming center is  
9 because there is no facility in town with a sprinkler  
10 system that we could even fathom to rent.

11 First United Methodist Church is giving us their  
12 place for 18 hours a day for less than market value.  
13 They're making no money on renting us their facility.  
14 It's part of their outreach and ministry to the  
15 community, but there's no sprinkler system. So we  
16 who have ethics and morals and want to keep people  
17 alive and treat them better than your dog sleeping on  
18 a carpet can't offer more than that.

19 The fire code says if you don't have an over- --  
20 if you don't have a sprinkler system, you cannot  
21 accommodate the sleep of anyone. You can't offer  
22 them a pillow, a blanket or even a cardboard to lay  
23 on.

24 So what we have during the day shelter which is  
25 wet and the night shelter which is wet, any time of

1 the day you come in there will be men and women  
2 sleeping on the floor all around the perimeter of  
3 this social hall because we can't offer them  
4 accommodations to sleep.

5 We hope that there's some place in Ketchikan that  
6 eventually we would be able to house people in a  
7 humane fashion. We are a minimalist emergency  
8 shelter that says anyone who does not want to die on  
9 the street, anyone who does not want to live on the  
10 street is welcome at this shelter.

11 One of the things that we've done is we've  
12 coordinated to give evidence of who comes to the  
13 night shelter and the day shelter. We coordinated  
14 color coded. If the police bring you, you get daily  
15 intake of blue or the emergency red or the emergency  
16 room yellow.

17 So that at the end of the season we're able to go  
18 before the Borough and we're able to go before the  
19 City and say this is the amount of money we've saved  
20 you. The police have brought this many people. The  
21 emergency services have brought this many people. So  
22 we expect that we will see well over 100 people at  
23 the overnight warming center in our six months of  
24 being opened and we will see them close to 1,000  
25 times.

1           So we want you to know that there are some issues  
2           based on location in this great state. We are  
3           convenient from the Lower 48. And as you know they  
4           fly people up and put people on the ferry with a one  
5           way ticket. That the largest influx of nonresident  
6           homeless people coming are the young opiate addicted.  
7           We have no facilities to cope in Ketchikan with the  
8           mental health needs or the physical needs or the  
9           addictive needs of this population of people.

10           We have our local community of addicted born and  
11           raised, of chronic inebriates born and raised, that  
12           is the purpose of our shelter is to keep those who  
13           are born and raised and call Ketchikan home safe and  
14           alive, but we're being overwhelmed. And we would  
15           like you to hear from us loud and clear that we are  
16           peddling as fast as we can to keep people alive.

17           In the winter of 2015 four of our local chronic  
18           inebriates fell into the ocean. It's not freezing  
19           like Nome or Fairbanks or Anchorage, but they fall  
20           into the ocean and they die just as fast as they  
21           would if they froze to death.

22           So we are trying to address homelessness in  
23           Ketchikan, but we are only able at this point in time  
24           to do that on an emergency basis. We can talk later  
25           about permanent housing.

1 Do you have any questions? Is this the time I ask  
2 for money?

3 UNIDENTIFIED: After the meeting.

4 ERBELE: After the meeting. Please remember First City  
5 Homeless Services, Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901. Bye.

6 ROMICK: Thank you. Carrie.

7 COLLINS: Thanks. The phone line is working now so can we  
8 take a brief interjection for me to call out?

9 ROMICK: Yes.

10 COLLINS: Thanks.

11 ROMICK: We're taking a moment pause to hook the phone up.  
12 Hello, this is Mark Romick with Alaska Housing  
13 calling for -- hook up the Alaska Council on the  
14 Homeless. Who do we have on the line, please.

15 SCHUBERT: Hi, Mark, this is Stacy Schubert.

16 ROMICK: Hi, Stacy.

17 CASTO: Hi, Mark, this is Diane Casto from CDVSA.

18 ROMICK: Thank you, Diane.

19 PHILLIPS: Hi, Mark, this is Elaine Phillips (ph) with  
20 Habitat for Humanity.

21 ROMICK: Great. Is Betty Svensson on? Okay. Perhaps  
22 she'll join us in a few minutes.

23 Carrie, do you want to continue with the public  
24 comment.

25 COLLINS: Yes. Let's hear from Agnes Moran with WISH.

1 MORAN: I'm Agnes Moran with Women in Safe Homes in  
2 Ketchikan. I guess you guys get the Ketchikan  
3 contingency today. I'm also on the Board of  
4 Directors for First City Homeless Services.

5 One of the things I've noticed in my years of  
6 working with homelessness is there's definitely a  
7 tie-in between women who are caught up in a sexual  
8 assault or individuals caught up in sexual  
9 assault/domestic violence relationships and  
10 homelessness.

11 I run a 32 bed shelter. We're supposed to be an  
12 emergency shelter. We're supposed to be 30 days.  
13 When I left on Friday I was at 30, 16 of those were  
14 children and I'm sure if I called in today I'd be at  
15 32 or higher of capacity. I'm only supposed to hold  
16 these women for 30 days.

17 When an average rent in Ketchikan for a one  
18 bedroom apartment is almost \$1,200 a month there's  
19 not a lot of options for these women once they leave  
20 the shelter.

21 We have no transitional housing. We have no  
22 women's shelter in town. So inevitably when they  
23 leave us, my advocates do a great job of helping  
24 these women put their lives back together, but the  
25 next step is not there for them currently.

1 I have two Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
2 vouchers. They rollover every two years. So  
3 inevitably these women leave and their only option a  
4 lot of times is to go back. And then they'll be back  
5 with me again three months, six months, but they'll  
6 be back.

7 And so when you're looking at long term solutions  
8 for homelessness, we have to consider transitional  
9 housing, re-entry housing, the whole panoply. I know  
10 Housing First is out there, too, but even to get  
11 folks back out and functioning we need to have that  
12 interim step for them 'cause many of these women can  
13 be successful.

14 I had the ability to put four women and six  
15 children into transitional housing with a one time  
16 grant. Every one of those women and kids are still  
17 out there and they're working today. So if we can  
18 put the support some place for them to get them over  
19 the hump, we can have them be successful, but we need  
20 the capacity and we don't have it.

21 So questions?

22 ROMICK: Thank you.

23 MORAN: No. Thank you.

24 ROMICK: Thank you very much. Carrie?

25 COLLINS: Ronda Snyder with Nome Community Center.

1 SNYDER: Hello, I represent an agency that's an umbrella  
2 organization for six different human service  
3 programs, the Children's Home, the Senior Center, the  
4 Food Bank, Family Support Services and Boys and Girls  
5 Club.

6 We're supported primarily with State grants and a  
7 few private foundations and five different  
8 (indiscernible) reimbursement programs, most of them  
9 USDA programs.

10 The lack of housing, poor housing and overcrowded  
11 housing affects all six of our programs in a really  
12 significant way. I just want to give you two  
13 examples of two of our programs and what the effect  
14 they have.

15 Our Boys and Girls Club for a small community of  
16 3,500 people takes care of about 40 kids after school  
17 every day. We're open for six hours.

18 Our kiddos get on the bus in their homes in the  
19 morning. They go to school. Spend the whole day at  
20 school. Get off the bus at our Boys ad Girls Club  
21 and stay there till 8:00 o'clock at night 'cause  
22 they're not really welcomed home because their homes  
23 are overcrowded or noisy.

24 They can't get homework done. And we know that  
25 the amount of sleep a child has, the amount of nutri-

1 -- the proper nutrition definitely affects their  
2 ability to be successful in school.

3 Another thing that we see is in our Family Support  
4 Program we're funded by three OS -- OCS grants, 50  
5 percent of our families that we support have children  
6 living in Nome that have been removed from their  
7 village homes by OCS and the communications between  
8 those families in the villages, the amount of time  
9 they spend on visitations and reunifications is very  
10 much affected by their ability to provide safe  
11 housing for their kiddos.

12 Data shows that we're spending money on the  
13 symptoms of these negative affects from poor housing  
14 and overcrowded housing and I think we need to  
15 consider spending our money differently. Spending it  
16 on prevention and providing housing up front so that  
17 we can eliminate some of these things and spend our  
18 money on preventing it instead of causing trauma to  
19 children and their families and then trying to spend  
20 their money on fixing those problems. Thank you.

21 ROMICK: Thank you.

22 COLLINS: Thank you. Eva Malvich with Bethel Winter House.

23 MALVICH: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to  
24 speak before you. My name is Eva Malvich. I'm a  
25 resident of Bethel, Alaska. I'm a tribal member of

1 the Native Village of Mekoryuk (ph). I've been in  
2 the YK Delta since I've been born there.

3 I'm a founding member of the Bethel Winter House  
4 Lions Club. We're a nonprofit 501C3. We're a  
5 volunteer board of four people.

6 We started the shelter operations in 2013 when 11  
7 of us decided to get together and do something. We  
8 were are pretty darn frustrated with the fact that  
9 nobody is doing a darn thing about people dying on  
10 the streets and in cold homes including my family  
11 members.

12 Last year we served over 1,600 people. We served  
13 1,688 people. I know that because I do the Point In  
14 Time Homeless Survey with everybody that walks into  
15 the shelter. I have an office in my bedroom where I  
16 do my paperwork because none of us are part of social  
17 services.

18 Our Chair is -- he runs the bank, local bank. His  
19 wife, she's a board member. She's a stay at home  
20 wife. Our third person is an artist. Myself, I did  
21 this because too many of our people are dying.

22 The people that we serve are between 18 and over  
23 70. Some are stuck there because they get to Bethel  
24 for medical and don't take that next plane home on  
25 Medicaid and get stuck there.

1           Some are banned from their villages and that's a  
2           big problem. If they ban a person from their  
3           community, they're sending them to us. They're  
4           primarily Alaska Native males.

5           And our census for last year was we had a minimum  
6           of four people one night and a maximum of 27.

7           Our challenge is securing a location.  
8           Organizations and businesses are afraid of personal  
9           liability. We've been told over and over again by  
10          nonprofits, the social service and the health care  
11          organization, they do not have any money and no, they  
12          can't help us.

13          Organizations are hesitant to partner with us.  
14          And unfortunately our grant is dependent on us  
15          securing a location or we will lose funding.

16          I had to write a Special Condition Report to the  
17          State. We have a grant through the Community  
18          Initiative Matching Grant Program that if we don't  
19          have a location secured by October 30 according to my  
20          promise to them, that we probably won't open on  
21          December 1.

22          I found a place where we can purchase liability  
23          insurance for \$5,000. That's a lot of money for our  
24          shelter operations. Our bank account is at 4,500.  
25          2,900 of it is for the two people that we pay.

1           We need to facilitate partnership with other  
2           entities, but unless they have something to receive  
3           in terms of maybe a tax break or incentive through  
4           money, nobody wants to help us out it appears.

5           My motto is everybody loves us, but nobody wants  
6           to get near us. It's very hard. It's very  
7           frustrating, but I'm very thankful I'm here.

8           When I sat down in the beginning of the convention  
9           I was somewhat relieved to find out I'm not in this  
10          boat by myself. Other communities are going through  
11          the same challenges. We don't have the  
12          infrastructure that bigger communities do and that's  
13          a problem.

14          I'm hoping in 20 years by the time I retire I  
15          don't do this after work. Because I spend four  
16          months out of the year dedicated to the shelter  
17          operations from December 1 to March 31st when we stay  
18          open I'm on call for anything that could happen and  
19          that's very stressful.

20          So, again, we have a challenge with the liability  
21          insurance for 501C3 volunteer shelters that need a  
22          place to stay. We can't afford purchasing liability  
23          insurance all the time, but if that's what it takes  
24          we might have to do that.

25          And our only goal is to prevent death by exposure

1 for the people in our region. That's it. It's very  
2 simple and it works.

3 ROMICK: Hold on one second, Eva. Do you have questions?

4 KUIPER: Eva, thank you. May I clarify the number that you  
5 stated. You said 1,688.....

6 MALVICH: Eighty-eight.

7 KUIPER: .....people, are those unique individuals or is  
8 that the.....

9 MALVICH: Yes, that's everybody -- everybody has to fill out  
10 an application. I counted that list three times.

11 KUIPER: Okay. Okay, thank you very much.

12 MALVICH: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

13 BURNS: I just have a question. I have a question about  
14 the -- if you don't have a location, how are you  
15 doing it right now in terms of putting these people  
16 up at night?

17 MALVICH: Well, we don't open under December 1. For two  
18 years we have the Salvation Army at Bethel, but they  
19 closed down their facility when they said Bethel is  
20 too expensive for them and they completely pulled  
21 out. They're selling their building for \$500,000 and  
22 they're also looking for somebody to takeover their  
23 food bank program which we can't do. We're too busy  
24 right now.

25 BURNS: Thank you.

1 PEARSON: I had a question.

2 ROMICK: Suzi.

3 PEARSON: When you're talking about the partners in the  
4 community that aren't willing to work with you, who  
5 are those partners and how can others assist in  
6 building those relationships?

7 MALVICH: Okay. So I'm on personal time off. I came here  
8 on my own time. I work for YKHC, that's the health  
9 care organization. We asked them, they said there's  
10 no money. ABCP Incorporated, the social services  
11 organization for the tribes said they have no money  
12 and they can't help us.

13 We approached the Mayor, I did two weeks ago and  
14 he said according to their administration they're  
15 hesitant because one, they're afraid of liability.  
16 And, two, we don't have much money so we're not a  
17 great incentive program for them.

18 PEARSON: What other shelters do you have in your community?

19 MALVICH: There is a women's shelter for individuals that  
20 are experiencing trauma, but other than that I think  
21 we're the only show in the region really. We --  
22 there is nothing else.

23 PEARSON: And when you were talking about the banishment  
24 issue and people being banned from their villages,  
25 what -- that's a very difficult and complicated issue

1 right now and as a discussion for our communities,  
2 how do you see -- I mean, how can you resolve that or  
3 do you have any suggestions about addressing that?

4 MALVICH: What I say is because myself, I'm a tribal member  
5 of the Native Village of Mekoryuk. Bureau of Indian  
6 Affairs provides money for the tribal member of that  
7 community.

8 I chose to move to Bethel to work, but if an  
9 individual from a certain tribe of a certain village  
10 has no where else to go and their immediate family is  
11 there, if you ban that person you are really cutting  
12 them off from everything, their family, their  
13 subsistence fishing and hunting grounds and really  
14 tribal funds for that particular person's health and  
15 social welfare. They're stuck.

16 PEARSON: Thank you so much.

17 ROMICK: Any other questions? Thank you, Eva.

18 COLLINS: Next is Nancy Burke with the Municipality of  
19 Anchorage.

20 BURKE: Good afternoon. I'm Nancy Burke from Mayor  
21 Berkowitz's office. I'm the Housing and Homeless  
22 Services Coordinator for Anchorage.

23 I partner very closely with Kristi Duff who will  
24 be providing an update on the Anchorage Coalition to  
25 End Homelessness. And there's a third partner in our

1 group that we call a backbone that's working on our  
2 community plans and that's United Way.

3 And the goals for our community plan include  
4 arranging programs and services so that we can most  
5 easily find people who need assistance getting to  
6 safety and housing.

7 We can identify housing units for those  
8 individuals and then make the money work so that we  
9 can do all three things at once. Have finances that  
10 sustain people in housing, enough available units for  
11 persons in our community. And services that find the  
12 person where they are, meet their needs in the right  
13 level and help sustain them in housing.

14 While that's a simple formula, it's a really  
15 complex thing to try to do for a larger community.  
16 And the way that I think about it is the work that  
17 the Mayor's office is doing is really providing some  
18 resources around RCOC.

19 RCOC operates the safety net. They are HUD  
20 grantees and perform the core functions of a homeless  
21 service safety continuum in the community.

22 However, the continuum is not as broad or as deep  
23 as we need and when we're not able to meet peoples'  
24 needs in a safety net, we find them falling into  
25 broader community systems such as the Police

1 Department, the Fire Department, our hospitals and to  
2 some extent our schools.

3 And so the work that the Mayor's office is doing  
4 is helping to convene those municipal entities that  
5 can help shore up the safety net and provide extra  
6 political resource and help to our community  
7 grantees, to RCOC.

8 To do so it involves my work of coordinating those  
9 municipal entities. The Police Department has been  
10 engaged and excited about this work because for a  
11 long time they'd seen the outcomes, some of which  
12 were mentioned in the meeting this morning around  
13 people who are intoxicated and who may become violent  
14 at sleep-off or those who are found out in the  
15 community and are unable to care for themselves in  
16 that moment.

17 The Police are really part of the front line,  
18 along with the Fire Department in making those  
19 determinations about how best to serve this person in  
20 the right program in the community.

21 So we've located a social service coordinator  
22 position with the Community Action Police Team at the  
23 Police Department. And this is a person who is a  
24 resource to the Police so that they can best know  
25 where to refer a person, how to connect them to the

1 right services.

2 I think my first day on the job I had three  
3 different patrol officers calling and saying I came  
4 across a homeless person, how do I get them to the  
5 right place. And that, kind of, interaction the  
6 Police continually trying to find the right place for  
7 people helped us move forward in doing the social  
8 service coordination position.

9 The Police are interested in expanding that work  
10 into mental health, more mental health technical  
11 assistance in the field. And in our community we've  
12 had some changes in how funding comes through.

13 So we're talking with the Police Department and  
14 some of our providers around expanding that resource  
15 which primarily, I think, if you asked the Police and  
16 the Fire Department, the individuals who we find most  
17 in contact with them are individuals with a mental  
18 health issue, individuals with long standing  
19 addictions and individuals who have a history of  
20 traumatic brain injury.

21 Those are the folks that are not easily making it  
22 into our safety net or staying in housing in the  
23 community and those will continue to be the focus of  
24 the Mayor's office and our backbone partners in the  
25 community.

1           The challenges that we have in doing that is that  
2           the -- lots of the money doesn't line up in the right  
3           way to help us coordinate these resources and to move  
4           people in a timely way from where we've encountered  
5           them in a camp into permanent housing.

6           In fact, one of our major programs was reporting  
7           more than 200 days from the time that they engaged  
8           someone to the time that they're able to get housing.  
9           That's not uncommon for some of the programs that  
10          we're working with. We'd like to see that number  
11          down to three days, so we have some work to do in  
12          Anchorage.

13          So if any of you in the audience felt like you --  
14          you know, you weren't making enough progress or where  
15          others are, feel comforted that Anchorage has a lot  
16          to do, also.

17          The challenges remain around the resources for  
18          housing. Anchorage is behind in affordable housing  
19          production generally and Anchorage has very little  
20          access to capital resources and operational resources  
21          for permanent supported housing.

22          I have 100 units of housing sitting ready to go in  
23          Anchorage, but for the ability to operate them with  
24          resources. Access to rental vouchers with case  
25          management remain the challenge for project in our

1 community and communities across the State. We  
2 simply need more resources.

3 Now that we've organized and now that HUD is  
4 asking communities to organize coordinated entry and  
5 the resources, we now will all see the same  
6 bottleneck that Anchorage has.

7 Our bottleneck happens at our shelter where our  
8 shelter has about two times the number of people that  
9 we can accommodate in shelter right now waiting for  
10 some assistance. So access to vouchers, access to  
11 case management to go along with that.

12 And in some measure you still have to do projects  
13 that are single site projects like the very  
14 successful project that just came on line in Juneau  
15 and the three projects that we have in Anchorage and  
16 Fairbanks, South Cushman Housing First Program. So  
17 if we have an ask for the Council it's that you  
18 continue to consider that.

19 I know that the Council would likely say this is  
20 probably not the year to add money to the budget and  
21 this is probably not the year for it, but this will  
22 be my 13th year of us saying this is probably not the  
23 year.

24 So I think if the State is putting themselves back  
25 on track, if we're going to have some way to sustain

1                   ourselves as a State, we should ask to be in the  
2                   formula.

3                   We should ask for a formula for every community as  
4                   we develop housing period, that there should be a set  
5                   aside for permanent supportive housing to help solve  
6                   our homeless crisis. It can be a percentage that we  
7                   pick. We can ask local communities to provide match  
8                   to that.

9                   I know Anchorage has some allocations of the  
10                  Federal resources and the Mayor has asked me to  
11                  commit all of our Federal resources to housing for  
12                  people if we can get the money to flow in the right  
13                  ways. And so.....

14   ROMICK:           Nancy, excuse me,.....

15   BURKE:            .....that's my ask.

16   ROMICK:            .....could you wrap up? We've got a couple of  
17                      other people and there's some people that have to be  
18                      at a workshop at 2:30, so if you could.....

19   BURKE:            Absolutely.

20   ROMICK:            Thanks.

21   BURKE:            There you have it, that's my ask.

22   ROMICK:            Okay, thanks. All right, thank you.

23   BURKE:            So fix that and we'll be good.

24   ROMICK:            Okay, good. Questions?

25   PEARSON:           I have a -- I have a quick question. When you're

1 asking for the State to add more money to the budget,  
2 you've got specific State Departments here, what kind  
3 of requests have been made to those departments  
4 'cause truly the Council doesn't funnel or determine  
5 money. The departments do. So which ones are the  
6 most effective in helping or have been able to  
7 partner with you.

8 BURKE: Well, I'd like to call your attention back to a  
9 time when the Council did do that and in 2008 and  
10 nine we ran an advocacy campaign, the Mental Health  
11 Trust Authority where I was previously, worked with  
12 the Council to advocate for a Housing Trust Program  
13 and that's when the Special Needs Housing Grant  
14 Program was added because each community needs a  
15 specific mix of resources.

16 And what we really need is an independent body to  
17 help us do underwriting for projects so that we can  
18 access each communities resources. It's different in  
19 every community.

20 And I would say that all the departments are  
21 interested in helping and doing really key pieces in  
22 each of their areas, but there's no one sitting in  
23 the middle of it saying let's make this work at the  
24 local level.

25 I just heard that Nome's going to do a tax credit

1 project and that caused me to think about who is  
2 going to help them do that. You know, you need an  
3 entity to sit in the middle to help coordinate and  
4 do, do that.

5 ROMICK: Thank you. Any other questions? Carrie. Thanks,  
6 Nancy.

7 BURKE: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8 COLLINS: Great. Next we have Delbert representing  
9 Savoogna.

10 PUNGOWIYI: Yes, my name is Delbert Pungowiyi (ph) president  
11 for the Native Village of Savoogna.

12 First of all I'd like to thank our Creator for  
13 this opportunity as I was taught by my grandparents.  
14 And I'd like to thank Sue Steinacher for inviting me  
15 to come here and sit on a panel.

16 I just will quickly highlight what I wanted to  
17 comment on. The high cost of living in our  
18 communities. In Savoogna alone we have 75 families  
19 within families. We've had housing crisis for many  
20 years. Two to three families living within one three  
21 bedroom. Twenty-one people living in a three  
22 bedroom.

23 I would like to speak on about my Aunt. A few  
24 years back she got housing from BIA housing. Poor  
25 design, not enough air vents. Her gotten black mold

1 health issues. If health official would have looked  
2 at some of these homes would be unfit for living.  
3 And their six year old child was sick and medivac'ed  
4 to Anchorage for respiratory problems.

5 And many of those families with black mold  
6 problems and they're constantly being -- going to the  
7 health aides and being sent to Nome. The most, the  
8 children, the elderly people with the respiratory  
9 problems, the highest risk ones that we have concern  
10 for.

11 Many of our people have totally given up applying  
12 for housing because the few houses that we get are  
13 going to the most desperate. And some have built  
14 with their own few dollars they get, material that  
15 they gather. Turn their garages, their parent's  
16 garages into homes and still they have families  
17 within families.

18 The last time Bering Straits Housing Authority  
19 built houses in Savoogna was 10 years ago and we're  
20 thankful this summer that they are building almost  
21 completed two, two bedrooms, two four bedrooms, one  
22 duplex.

23 Our biggest -- and that's 75 families within  
24 families is still growing. Population is under 1,000  
25 less since this was a little over 800.

1           So I've seen some of those homes, some of them  
2           date back to the '40s. They have no choice but to  
3           live in them. Those old, very old houses they put  
4           blankets and make small area to be heated to live in  
5           there.

6           The biggest -- one of the biggest problems that we  
7           have concern for is the health issues that our  
8           elderly, who is more susceptible, the children.

9           That's my comment for you today. Thank you very  
10          much and God bless to all.

11   ROMICK:           Thank you. Any questions from the Council for  
12                      Delbert? Thank you.

13   PUNGOWIYI:        Thank you.

14   COLLINS:           All right. Next is Sue Steinacher.

15   STEINACHER:       Well, I -- I will be reporting for the Seward  
16                      Peninsula Housing Coalition, do you want me to start  
17                      in now? I checked yes, but (indiscernible - away  
18                      from microphone).....

19   ROMICK:           Is she the -- is that the last public comment?

20   COLLINS:           There's one more, but she's under the time  
21                      constraint.....

22   ROMICK:           Sue, why don't you come forward. I think -- I  
23                      know that you have a time commitment here in a few  
24                      minutes, so why don't you take care of both of yours  
25                      at the same time, how's that.

1 STEINACHER: Okay. And yeah, to those who are planning to  
2 attend the rural session that starts at 2:30, I'll be  
3 -- I guess I'll be over there after all, but it might  
4 be a little bit slow waiting for others to finish up  
5 (ph) and we'll wait for you.

6 Okay. My name is Sue Steinacher with the Nome  
7 Emergency Shelter Team or NEST and I've spoken to you  
8 all before and elaborated on all of the housing  
9 challenges that we are facing both in Nome and the  
10 region.

11 And have had the opportunity to give you that  
12 written report, so I won't elaborate except on one  
13 point which is I realize that there is a plan, an  
14 Alaska plan to address homelessness. However, it's  
15 built largely on the numbers collected from the Point  
16 in Time which has been a very inaccurate tool for  
17 most of rural Alaska. And most of rural Alaska has  
18 no awareness of it or has participated at all.

19 We are looking at HUD to revise how we can gauge  
20 homelessness for communities, smaller communities  
21 that would -- I think, you know, if we could begin to  
22 count these -- some of these people -- 21 people in a  
23 small three bedroom house, as well as the ones in --  
24 really in houses not fit for human habitation, you  
25 will see -- and as we bring more small communities on

1 line with shelters.

2 You've heard a lot of them today, those numbers  
3 for rural Alaska are going to astound you because it  
4 is that big a problem and I don't think it's quite  
5 been captured in the data that the plan is currently  
6 being built on.

7 Okay. So that say, I wanted to actually offer  
8 something that, I think, would be beneficial to help  
9 small communities better help themselves. I would  
10 love to see -- well, first of all it's a no brainer  
11 we need a Legislative Committee on housing.

12 Housing underpins everything else the State's  
13 trying to accomplish from reducing recidivism to  
14 improving school improvement and everything in  
15 between, but then I would like to see the creation of  
16 let's call it a rural housing resource and  
17 development center somewhat like the Alaska Small  
18 Business Development Center.

19 This would serve multiple roles. Primarily  
20 initially information. Small communities have no  
21 idea how the housing world works. I've come to these  
22 meetings for years and have felt like most of the  
23 time people are speaking a language I don't even  
24 understand and I know it's that way for others.

25 If we had a one stop shop where a small start-up

1 or communities could go and say what's out there, how  
2 can you -- you know, what's available. Here's our  
3 problem what -- is there funding sources out there.  
4 I still don't know how we ever learned about BHAP and  
5 CIMG was off the cuff in a conversation about  
6 something completely different and yet without that  
7 our shelter wouldn't be funded.

8 The communication center could also help connect  
9 other communities who are approaching them with  
10 similar problems for the purpose of sharing  
11 strategies.

12 The NEST shelter has been up and running for 10 --  
13 almost 10 years and just today I find out that  
14 Ketchikan has a wet shelter that's been running for  
15 10 years, had no idea.

16 At the same time most of us here rely on BHAP and  
17 Ketchikan has never heard of BHAP. So, I think,  
18 there's a critical need for an information center  
19 that encompasses all of the potential possibilities  
20 that communities could pursue.

21 It would also be a way for communities to  
22 communicate back in terms of the Point in Time and  
23 help you get more realistic rural numbers.

24 I would like this resource center to include some  
25 consultation where a community could invite a

1 knowledgeable person like Brian Wilson whom if I  
2 could clone 20 times over would fill the bill and  
3 help a community.

4 Nome is struggling desperately right now, help  
5 them look at what their problems are, how can they --  
6 what funding streams are there that they could  
7 overlap, how could they begin to approach this  
8 problem and then help them through it.

9 Our rural communities, we're basically the front  
10 line people. We may have a few folks with the  
11 capacity to do grant management, but when it takes  
12 Juneau, you know, 10 grants to put a Housing First  
13 project together, we just don't have that capacity in  
14 rural Alaska.

15 So I would like, you know, if this center were to,  
16 you know, be able to provide some guidance and help  
17 us get through this process, as well as identify  
18 sources out there and how to leverage them, how to  
19 put them together.

20 Additionally, a funders collaborative. If there  
21 was a way for grant funding agencies to combine their  
22 monies so that a community could come in and simply  
23 say here's our needs. Here's how we want to address  
24 them. And you be able to provide them the funding,  
25 but right now the amount of individual requirements

1 of each and every grant is a tremendous time sink.  
2 And, again, we're back to lacking a lot of that  
3 capacity to do.

4 Let's use the people with the passions where  
5 they're best needed rather than trying to turn them  
6 into grant managers. And if that were not possible  
7 than, perhaps, this center could serve as the  
8 administrative grant management hub for smaller rural  
9 programs that just don't have the personnel.

10 NEST to this day, we have a half time director and  
11 I'm quarter time. We don't even have an office and  
12 we're 10 years into this. And we're trying to do CoC  
13 and we're trying to supportive housing and rapid re-  
14 housing and I -- you know, I think there's got to be  
15 a new model. A more effective way to get these  
16 resources utilized in rural Alaska.

17 And one last thing, and Eva who just spoke and  
18 other people in small communities have struggled with  
19 this as well and that's start-up funds, particularly  
20 where it comes to liability insurance.

21 I got called a number of years ago by somebody in  
22 Hoonah. She needed a day shelter. She had people  
23 that needed it. People that wanted to volunteer, but  
24 nobody would give them space unless they could  
25 provide liability insurance. And when you -- Nome

1 ran on total volunteerism and no money for two years,  
2 but you can't sustain that.

3 And so, perhaps, this resource center, as I  
4 envision it, could have a pot of funds to help a  
5 small community with start-up. Let them -- you know,  
6 so get them started, bring them in and then help them  
7 get to a point where after a few years they are more  
8 self-sufficient.

9 And in case I haven't beaten this horse to death  
10 let me say in final, that while I know there are not  
11 enough AHFC housing vouchers to go around, I still  
12 find it incredibly unfair that small communities  
13 don't get their per capita share and, perhaps, this  
14 resource center could be a way.

15 Surely there is a model where we can meet the HUD  
16 requirements using somebody other than an AHFC  
17 Section 8 office to do it to where one housing  
18 voucher in a community can make a huge difference.

19 I think that's it. Any questions?

20 ROMICK: Any questions?

21 BURNS: Yeah, I have one. Can you -- why don't you think  
22 the -- or why couldn't the Alaska Coalition on  
23 Housing and Homelessness be the entity that you're  
24 talking about?

25 STEINACHER: I -- Brian has been tremendous and I don't think

1 you could see the rural participation at this  
2 conference which I haven't seen before were it not  
3 for him. As it is he's already doing two peoples  
4 jobs. There is so much need for more outreach, more  
5 advocacy.

6 He can't do it alone, any more than that Small  
7 Business Development Center is a single person  
8 operation who's also trying to run a business and do  
9 other things. That is asking just far too much based  
10 on what is needed, so no, I don't see the Alaska  
11 Coalition.

12 They're our advocacy person, but he can't also be  
13 our mentor and guidance and everything else, so -- I  
14 mean, his role was to get us here to share with you  
15 what else we need that is beyond the Coalition's  
16 capacity to deliver.

17 KUIPER: So I'm going to push that question a little  
18 further. If it -- if there was additional funding  
19 for the State Coalition my question is, would the --  
20 would this center be most effective inside or outside  
21 of the Coalition's purview from your perspective?

22 STEINACHER: You know, that's, sort of, like out of my pay  
23 scale. I think you would have to -- I mean, like I  
24 said, Brian has been a tremendous resource, but I  
25 think we would have to look at what is the mission of

1 the Coalition and how much -- I mean, I would be open  
2 to wherever it made more sense to put it and that  
3 might be the most logical place.

4 ROMICK: Perhaps when Brian comes up here in a few minutes  
5 we can ask him that question.

6 STEINACHER: There you go.

7 ROMICK: Thank you, Sue.

8 STEINACHER: All right, thank you all.

9 COLLINS: Back to the public comment?

10 (Off record conversation)

11 ROMICK: Okay. I understand Shawn from Kotzebue also has a  
12 time issue, so if you'd like to come up and do your  
13 Coalition presentation now we'd be willing to swap  
14 you in if you're still here.

15 GILMAN: Thank you. I didn't realize I was put on the list  
16 to speak today, but I'll do my best.

17 Kotzebue faces a lot of the same issues that you  
18 heard about from Nome and you heard about from  
19 Bethel. We face those very same issues.

20 A group of concerned citizens came together last  
21 winter and opened up a night time shelter with very  
22 limited resources, very limited money. Thank  
23 goodness for the Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority  
24 who gave up space in one of their places to do this  
25 to make this work otherwise we have nothing.

1 I mean, we're just starting out, but we have  
2 people who are freezing to death. We have people  
3 living in Connexs (ph). We have people living in  
4 shacks. We have people living in substandard housing  
5 conditions just as everybody else is facing.

6 I think Sue made some great points in being able  
7 to bring resources together. That's the only way we  
8 were able to survive on the shoestring budget we had  
9 last year was the Borough and the Native village and  
10 the Corporations came together and the City.

11 I'm the City manager and thank goodness that my  
12 Council is supportive of that for me to be here today  
13 to speak. You know, that's how we made that work and  
14 that collaborative effort is what made success out of  
15 what little bit we were able to provide, but it's not  
16 enough. And at a State level I hope that we're able  
17 to bring more resources together.

18 We're just starting out. We're just learning. We  
19 don't know what all the steps are. We don't know  
20 where to go find funding. We don't have showers to  
21 offer the people that are coming to the center to  
22 stay, for example. That's a huge challenge for us.

23 We don't have laundry facilities to provide to  
24 clean peoples' clothing. The hospital -- Maniilaq  
25 Hospital has offer to do our laundry for the bedding.

1 I mean -- and it's, you know, a lot of volunteer and  
2 a lot of community funds that are being distributed  
3 into this to try to solve a bigger problem. It's far  
4 bigger than what we're capable of doing on our own.

5 So I implore the State officials to please come up  
6 with a plan for solutions, not studying, we need  
7 solutions. We need collaborative solutions to make  
8 this work. Thank you.

9 ROMICK: Shawn, if you have time,.....

10 GILMAN: Oh, yes.

11 ROMICK: .....does anybody have any questions for Shawn?  
12 All right. Thank you so much.

13 Carrie, do you want to take up the last Public  
14 Comment person,.....

15 COLLINS: Sure. So.....

16 ROMICK: .....jump back in?

17 COLLINS: .....John Rozzi is still here with the Mat-Su  
18 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and Valley  
19 Charities.

20 ROZZI: Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair and Council. My  
21 name is John Rozzi with Valley Charities. I'm up  
22 here representing the case managers of the Valley.

23 First of all, thank you to AHFC for the money that  
24 you've given to us to help people stay in housing.  
25 What the case managers have asked me to do is present

1 to you some challenges that they have with helping  
2 people stay in their housing.

3 Believe it or not we have people that actually  
4 will turn us down because they'll not get their  
5 benefits if they do get help from us.

6 We have folks that we try to get into work. We  
7 help them with that process. It's part of a  
8 contingency so that they can get housing. And if  
9 they get work and they reach a particular income  
10 level well, they'll lose their benefits, so they're  
11 more apt to hold off and not want to get that  
12 assistance so they can continue getting their  
13 benefits and that's a real struggle for us 'cause we  
14 want to see people get into housing and stay in  
15 housing.

16 Just recently been notified that the Energy  
17 Assistance Program asks questions about whether  
18 people had been assisted from other agencies or other  
19 churches in the community -- around the State. And  
20 so we've been contacted -- or our case managers have  
21 to provide that assistance with dates and times and  
22 amounts.

23 And we've come -- come to find out that, that's  
24 acted as a deterrent for them to continue getting  
25 energy assistance, so that's a struggle for case

1 managers as well wanting to help people maintain  
2 stable housing.

3 As you know in the Valley we have a non-existent  
4 transit system and we are facing even more of a  
5 challenge with DOT. Apparently the Valley has lost  
6 out on the funding process this go round because the  
7 Borough did not have an up to date transit plan, so  
8 we've lost out in funding. And we're looking at now  
9 2019 to get transit funded in the Valley and that's a  
10 struggle.

11 And we find that housing and transit are linked  
12 directly together in order to -- for people to get to  
13 work and to get to affordable housing. So I wanted  
14 to make sure that, that was brought to your attention  
15 that, that's affected us in the Valley.

16 The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation adopted a  
17 program in the past, I think it was maybe four or  
18 five years ago, where they stepped people down from  
19 assistance. And I wanted you folks to know that we  
20 adopted that about three years ago with our funding  
21 from HAP and ESG and CoC and have found that to be  
22 extremely successful with being able to keep people  
23 in housing.

24 And also stretch the dollars that we have being  
25 able to use so we can help more people, so I wanted

1 to make you aware of that. That, that program that  
2 you've been using is successful for us. I don't know  
3 whether you planned it that way, but it worked.

4 BURNS: Could you explain that a little bit more?

5 ROZZI: Well, what happens is we will fund 100 percent of  
6 somebody's rent to start out with and then there's a  
7 contingency that we want them to show that they're  
8 going to the Job Center looking for work and  
9 encouraging that and we'll continue to pay a certain  
10 portion of their rent depending on what the case  
11 manager feels that they can afford.

12 And at the same time that they're looking for  
13 work, that they're also saving money so that when the  
14 time comes they can provide rent for their own  
15 housing.

16 We get to a certain point and the case manager  
17 will make a determination that they can be stepped  
18 down from the assistance. So rather than it being  
19 100 percent, we go to 75 percent, 50 percent, 25  
20 percent and then they're funded on their own. It's  
21 that kind of process.

22 BURNS: Thank you very much.

23 ROZZI: You bet, thank you for the question.

24 And lastly just a question that the case managers  
25 brought up. We have a real struggle in the Valley

1 with getting assistance. As you know we do not have  
2 shelters and we're not advocating for shelters, but  
3 we use hotels to help with transitional housing to  
4 help -- and also help get people out of the cold.

5 Well, we can't do that with only one hotel in the  
6 Valley and that's the Valley Hotel in Palmer because  
7 the Salvation Army happens to have a Board Member  
8 that owns that hotel.

9 We're asking -- the case managers were asking if  
10 there's some way that we can have a bonding process,  
11 bonding something -- and a bonding pool. And I bring  
12 that up because the only way that hotels will assist  
13 us is if we offer them a credit card. And we're very  
14 reluctant to do that because obviously of damages  
15 that could be incurred and that's obviously why the  
16 hotel folks want this credit card.

17 If there's some sort of process that we can take  
18 on through, perhaps, the funding we get through AHFC  
19 developing a pool of funds that we would call a  
20 bonding fund that we could then offer the credit card  
21 and it would be up to a certain level that we would  
22 provide for any damages that maybe occurred. That  
23 would help our being able to utilize hotels for the  
24 assistance, transitional housing assistance. Right  
25 now it's just scattered site transitional housing.

1                   So with that, I think that's the end of my list.  
2                   Any questions or do you want me to jet out of here?

3     ROMICK:           No, we have time for questions. Questions from  
4                   the Council? Thank you, John.

5     ROZZI:            Okay, you bet.

6     ROMICK:           Okay. At this moment we're going to jump back  
7                   into the formal Homeless Coalition updates and we are  
8                   going to go to the Kenai Peninsula next with  
9                   Catherine DeLacee.

10    BURNS:            Mr. Chairman, while she's coming up to the table  
11                   could I share something?

12    ROMICK:           Yes, absolutely.

13    BURNS:            I just wanted -- you know, I actually -- the  
14                   agencies that are -- particularly the behavioral  
15                   health agencies that are billing Medicaid for  
16                   services to individuals who need housing support, et  
17                   cetera, they often use taxicabs particularly in the  
18                   Valley to transport individuals to their offices for  
19                   group therapy or whatever it might be, medications,  
20                   et cetera and are billing Medicaid for those taxicab  
21                   rides.

22                   And I just wanted to let people know that, that is  
23                   something that agencies can and do, do and it's not  
24                   cheap. We pay some cabs all the way from -- for the  
25                   Mat-Su we've -- a couple of cabs bills over three,

1 \$400. So we are looking at that, but there's a lot  
2 of -- and we're not -- maybe the \$300 one is  
3 distressing, but for the most part certainly  
4 localized cab costs at least allows the individual to  
5 get supports and get to their -- and so -- but I want  
6 -- just wanted people to know that, that is a  
7 billable, as they say, service.

8 ROMICK: Thank you. Go ahead.

9 DeLACEE: My name is Catherine DeLacee and I am speaking for  
10 the Kenai Peninsula Continuum of Care. I work for  
11 the host agency Love, Inc. of the Kenai Peninsula and  
12 I have to also say that I am a CICADA which is Cook  
13 Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Board Member  
14 and this has been a productive year for us.

15 In 2008 I was working at the Food Bank and started  
16 seeing people carrying in babies in blanket sleepers.  
17 That was my first exposure to homelessness 'cause  
18 they were living in their cars. And I -- 'cause  
19 we're so far flung (ph) on the Kenai it isn't obvious  
20 who is homeless, so it's a challenge.

21 Last year my agency helped 632 people and 160  
22 households. And this -- and I'm only-- we're only  
23 one agency. We're probably the lead agency on the  
24 Kenai, but we've been doing the Project Homeless  
25 Connect which I think has grown and grown and grown

1 and has been a wonderful opportunity to educate the  
2 community.

3 One of the things I saw in the last two years that  
4 was shocking to me, one assumes that if you come to  
5 the homeless coalition or the Project Homeless  
6 Connect that one were homeless and I had several  
7 people say oh, no, but I think I'm going to lose my  
8 job. And so there was a spirit of fear which I had  
9 never seen on the Kenai and so they were trying to  
10 prepare for that eventuality. And, of course, given  
11 our economy now it's happened.

12 Our coalition has been through the paces. We're  
13 growing. The Project Homeless Connect has probably  
14 helped that because we've drawn people to the  
15 coalition from Project Homeless Connect and much  
16 community support. I told the previous group that we  
17 had so many volunteers we had to turn people away  
18 which was the good news as far as acceptance of the  
19 issue.

20 Some of the really good things that have happened  
21 this year was our local hospital opened up a six bed  
22 detox center. And we deal so much with  
23 methamphetamines and issues of that nature and heroin  
24 that it just is a God send.

25 As a CICADA Board Member I used to -- had to beg

1 to try to find a bed for anybody just to detox so  
2 they could get into treatment, so this is just going  
3 to be, I believe, incredible for our community that  
4 we will at least have that facility.

5 Again, with behavioral health and additions, we  
6 have three women in our community, separately, who  
7 decided that they wanted to do something and opened  
8 up three different facilities. And it's for people  
9 coming out of treatment or out of Corrections and  
10 wanting to do something with their life and I'm so  
11 proud of them.

12 I still have a lot of fear for them because of the  
13 ongoing cost of doing such a thing, but it's such a  
14 passion they have that it's good for everybody to see  
15 that we are stepping up, but as I said when we  
16 started out I went to ISER (ph) and they said we had  
17 five or 600 homeless in 2008 and it has grown  
18 substantially and we're a second class borough.  
19 Nobody keeps track. School District probably was as  
20 close.

21 When we got into the BHAP we did the HMIS so  
22 that's helped, but it's really difficult when it's so  
23 huge to know the numbers. And our coalition we  
24 discuss a lot, affordable housing and we know that's  
25 on the list, the wish list, I guess, 'cause we don't

1 have enough. Nobody does any place in the country.

2 The one thing that I see that hurts the Kenai is  
3 we have no emergency shelters. And so starting about  
4 October 1st through April 30th you just pray that no  
5 one dies because that's the reality 'cause there's no  
6 place for them to go and we're -- but we work on  
7 that. And we're talking with the churches now and  
8 there has been expanded interest and they're  
9 participating in a rotating cycle of providing  
10 housing, emergency housing.

11 But I'd like to say to the Council, thank you for  
12 listening. I've been a Legislative research analyst.  
13 I know what you're dealing with, with the finances.

14 And the one thing I would say is that I think we  
15 would really benefit from having a subcommittee on  
16 homelessness with the Legislature. Some portal where  
17 even all the communities would have some place to  
18 contact. You could -- have better knowledge of what  
19 was going on and it just seems like a reasonable  
20 thing to me.

21 And in my second class borough if I can say to my  
22 Mayors and my Borough Mayor well, Juneau think it's  
23 important enough that they now have established a  
24 committee for that purpose. I think that would be  
25 really helpful to me because I try to convince them

1 all the time that everybody is a resident and so --  
2 but I appreciate your efforts and I also am in  
3 sympathy with your problems. Thank you.

4 ROMICK: Anybody have any questions for Catherine? Hold on  
5 one second.

6 BURNS: Can I ask one, please? Well, I actually have two.  
7 In your report you mentioned the Indigo House, just  
8 op- -- it just opened or.....

9 DeLACEE: Just opened.

10 BURNS: And how was that -- is that one of those homes  
11 that one of your -- you know.....

12 DeLACEE: They -- they just opened.....

13 BURNS: .....friends opened?

14 DeLACEE: .....the doors and taking donations from the  
15 community. Freedom House was one of the examples of,  
16 I think, within four months they had 75 percent of  
17 the money they needed. So, again, that's a real  
18 positive for the community to see that they can do  
19 it.

20 BURNS: And do you think that the six beds at the hospital  
21 for withdrawal management is having an impact?

22 DeLACEE: They've been full ever since they opened up in  
23 August and literally I would have to almost bend the  
24 truth to try to get them in a bed any place in the  
25 State. And I'm sure you're aware that if they decide

1 they may want to go to treatment, you maybe have 12  
2 hours to get them in any place before they'll change  
3 their mind, so we see it as a God send.

4 BURNS: I would just like to share, this is funding that  
5 the Legislature gave to the Department two years ago.  
6 It started out at 31 million and then was reduced by  
7 the Legislature to 11 and then the Governor took five  
8 more, so it was \$6 million, but we did offer it up to  
9 communities and Soldotna and the hospital chose  
10 withdrawal management.

11 And here in -- in Fairbanks they're doing a  
12 sobering center. It, however, encountered a lot of  
13 not in my back yard issues, but I think they may have  
14 opened this month, like a week ago.

15 And then Mat-Su has a facility for pregnant women  
16 and children, so -- and that was all funded with that  
17 special appropriation from the Legislature for three  
18 years, two -- a year ago.

19 ROMICK: Thank you.

20 DeLACEE: I guess I would like to add one thing is that the  
21 Borough has four small first class cities and about a  
22 dozen unincorporated villages, et cetera, so I  
23 understand the concern.

24 And it would be also helpful if the Council or the  
25 Legislature indicate what they think should be the

1 priorities. I worry about things being from one  
2 place together and what's provided, but I think that  
3 would be helpful. And I think, again, this  
4 subcommittee would be a vehicle to do some of that  
5 stuff, that would be really helpful. Thank you.

6 ROMICK: Thank you. Brian Wilson, you're up next.

7 COLLINS: Can we put Mike, is it Mike Sanders? Yeah, Mike  
8 Sanders next, I'm sorry.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, sorry.

10 COLLINS: We have some other presentations going on and  
11 tours and such and they're just trying to meet those  
12 commitments, also.

13 SANDERS: How's it going, everybody. I'm Mike Sanders. I'm  
14 the housing and homeless coordinator for the City of  
15 Fairbanks.

16 Just to touch on something you mentioned about the  
17 sobering center. It's not quite opened yet.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, yeah (ph).

19 SANDERS: It's -- they're very close. They have a few  
20 hurdles that they're going over right now. They have  
21 to get everybody medically trained and they have a  
22 few things that they're still working on. They  
23 planned on having their open house today -- or it's  
24 actually tomorrow to coincide with this event, but  
25 they were unable to make that deadline.

1 BURNS: Thank you.

2 SANDERS: All right. So here in Fairbanks at any given time  
3 we have about 250 folks that are homeless. Most of  
4 them are in the emergency shelter. About 170 or so  
5 are usually in the emergency shelter. We have some  
6 transitional programs. And then in the wintertime we  
7 still have about 30 folks that are completely  
8 unsheltered.

9 I know last time I was here I talked about how,  
10 you know, one of my first weeks on the job we went  
11 out and visited the camps and I was -- you know, I  
12 was coming up from Texas and I was just blown away  
13 about how, you know, it was negative 30 out and we  
14 were walking through two, three feet of snow and  
15 there's people living in cardboard boxes and tents  
16 and it still happens now.

17 We have about 13 percent of the State's homeless  
18 population. In the last year we've seen 1,526 unique  
19 individuals receiving services. Out of that 1,172  
20 were adults, 354 were youth and 70 were unaccompanied  
21 youth.

22 Fairbanks receives about 40 percent of the Balance  
23 of State CoC funds which is about eight percent of  
24 the overall CoC funds for the State.

25 Overcrowding is a problem here as well. It's

1 about double the national average, but it's nothing  
2 compared to some of the more rural places.

3 All right. Coordinated entry, the last time that  
4 I came and testified for the Governor's Council I  
5 wasn't sure about coordinated entry, how it was going  
6 to go over here in Fairbanks. It was still at that  
7 -- you know, just six months ago it was still, kind  
8 of, touchy subject to say the least here, but since  
9 then things have really turned around. I'm super  
10 happy and proud of the community for coming together  
11 on coordinated entry.

12 I believe on my update that I sent Carrie, I  
13 actually had a mistake in there. I'd said that all  
14 of the required folks had already signed. There is  
15 one outlying agency that hasn't signed yet, but they  
16 are in the process. They should be signing.

17 All right. The Rescue Mission just recently did a  
18 trial of the various assessment tools for the Balance  
19 of State and fortunately they came up with the  
20 VI-SPDAT (ph) for that being the most accurate and  
21 the most user friendly. And the reason I say  
22 fortunately is because that's the same assessment  
23 tool that Anchorage uses and for the Balance of  
24 State.

25 I know Brian will probably talk to it more, but it

1 would be great if the entire state at some point had  
2 data sharing and the ability to, you know, talk to  
3 one another.

4 All right. Fairbanks is also close -- we've  
5 agreed on an ROI. We think our ROI will be very  
6 similar to Anchorage and we strongly advocate for the  
7 Balance of State to adopt an ROI that's similar to  
8 Anchorage's as well for the same thing for the State-  
9 wide data sharing.

10 We're working on how our referrals and case  
11 conferencing will look and how our move-up strategy  
12 will be for individual folks. The great thing about  
13 the case conferencing is that we already have a  
14 couple of organizations here in town that are also  
15 looking to do the same thing.

16 The Re-Entry Coalition is looking to have case  
17 conferencing and Interior Aids Association just got a  
18 grant for opioid treatment and a part of that grant  
19 is involving case conferencing. And because  
20 Fairbanks is, kind of, a small town, a lot -- these  
21 three organizations it's the same people traveling in  
22 the same circles so the case conferencing for  
23 coordinated entry should be pretty simple for us to  
24 accomplish.

25 All right. And then the last big thing that I

1 want to talk about for Fairbanks is everybody heard  
2 Mayor Kassel earlier today talking about how when he  
3 first was elected he wanted to do a summit for  
4 Fairbanks on homelessness. And because we're in a  
5 second class borough he didn't have that authority  
6 and this City is a home rule city.

7 And even though I'm a city employee they made a  
8 distinction with my position that I would be  
9 completely independent so that I'm not burdened by  
10 the same constrictions that they are, so on my non-  
11 profit hat we're allowed to do a symposium.

12 So on December 6th at the Westmark we're going to  
13 have the Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness. And  
14 it's being co-hosted by FNA, Fairbanks Native  
15 Association. We're super proud about that. And the  
16 whole focus of our symposium is we're taking the  
17 Alaska Supportive Housing Plan.

18 And I' sure as you all know, it's -- you know, the  
19 first half of it is, like, the best practices and  
20 this is what permanent supportive housing looks like  
21 and how they do this and the different funding  
22 sources that are needed currently.

23 And then the second half is all the Legislative  
24 stuff which we strongly advocate for as well. You  
25 know, we definitely agree that there should be a

1 Legislative Committee. And we cautiously advocate  
2 for consolidation of funding sources and we advocate  
3 for the State Housing Trust, but we're going to focus  
4 on that first half of the Alaska Supportive Housing  
5 Plan.

6 And really what we want to do is we want to figure  
7 out how we can get more rapid re-housing and more  
8 permanent supportive housing going on here in  
9 Fairbanks.

10 We already have some permanent supportive housing  
11 and we have one rapid re-housing program here in  
12 town. The rapid re-housing is doing very well. The  
13 permanent supportive housing doing really well as  
14 well.

15 However, the need is so much greater than our  
16 current capacity, so we're really hoping that on  
17 December 6th we can get together as a community and  
18 really breakdown that plan and figure out how we can  
19 get more of what we need to end homelessness here in  
20 Fairbanks.

21 And with that I'm ready for any questions.

22 BURNS: I just had one about -- are you -- I see -- are  
23 you bringing up someone from the TAC for this  
24 purpose?

25 SANDERS: Yes, TAC is coming. They're bringing up a few

1 folks. They're going to help facilitate the entire  
2 event. So we have TAC and Foreacher on board. Let's  
3 see, DOL, DBH, TCC, DVR. We have -- I think we have  
4 a lot of the -- AHFC. I believe we have -- the  
5 Mental Health Trust just told me today that they'd  
6 have folks there, too.

7 My understanding is, you know, we're going to have  
8 the right people in the room and everybody that's  
9 here at this conference is more than welcome to  
10 attend. It's is a -- it's a free event and as long  
11 as you register before November 1st. Because of some  
12 requirements after November 1st we have to charge  
13 \$25, but it's a free event. It's one day. And it's  
14 going to be a work session. It's not going to be --  
15 you know, there's going to be talking, but it's going  
16 to be action planning.

17 ROMICK: Okay, thank you, Michael.

18 SANDERS: All right, thank you.

19 ROMICK: Carrie, is Brian next?

20 COLLINS: Yes.

21 ROMICK: Okay.

22 WILSON: Thank you, Council, for -- am I on? Speak loud  
23 enough -- you know, one of the nice things about  
24 having the Council meet at our conference is I get a  
25 lot of mic time.

1 ROMICK: You have three minutes.

2 WILSON: Three more than I had. You know, first I want to  
3 just thank the Council. Six months ago we came and  
4 spoke and put down some pretty serious asks of the  
5 Council. To really look at what role the Council is  
6 playing and what we could do to work better together.  
7 And it is my understanding that there has actually  
8 been a few meetings on separate occasions.

9 And I know that we had the opportunity to sit down  
10 with the Governor as well. It was interrupted, a  
11 little short for issues outside of our control, but  
12 it's -- I feel it's a real positive step forward in  
13 this dialogue.

14 And I feel like at this conference you've heard it  
15 pretty clear, communities are doing an amazing job  
16 with very little resources. You know, shelters with  
17 less than one FTE. You know, communities piecing  
18 together 10 different funding sources to open up 32  
19 units in Juneau. They've improved our ability to  
20 report on homelessness and where the need is in our  
21 State in ways the State has never seen before.

22 We, as a Coalition, have made it a priority to be  
23 as transparent with our information that we have. We  
24 don't own that information and I really encourage  
25 every Council member to frequently visit our data

1 website and utilize those dashboards. It was just  
2 updated today to the third quarter numbers of 2017.  
3 It's quarter to quarter comparison going back for a  
4 year and a half. You know, that's a resource that  
5 not a whole lot of CoCs across the nation have based  
6 on my conversations, so please utilize those.

7 But, I think, that it's really important that we  
8 never forget the service gap that exists in our  
9 system. We are doing our best to follow best  
10 practices and follow HUD guidance to improve the way  
11 that we deliver and resource -- and allocate  
12 resources in this State.

13 I can't say it enough, when we press the button on  
14 coordinated entry and we start utilizing common  
15 assessments across the entire State it's going to  
16 become even more clear that we have nowhere to refer  
17 individuals for the majority of our State. Where  
18 folks are presenting in communities where their  
19 closest intervention is over 1,000 miles away not  
20 even connected by a road system. We really need to  
21 keep that in focus.

22 We aren't doing our job. And so I think a big  
23 step in this and I mentioned it this morning is  
24 communication. The communities are doing their best  
25 to communicate through data. We do our best to

1 communicate to the Council twice a year, more than  
2 twice a year if we can, but at the Legislative level  
3 I feel that there is no ability for communities or  
4 for advocacy organizations or for agencies to  
5 communicate on a routine basis to our State  
6 Legislature.

7 Housing is brought up in every community that I  
8 visit, not just because I work for the Coalition, but  
9 because every community is really struggling right  
10 now with the lack of capacity.

11 I feel like this Council is very well positioned  
12 to recommend a Legislative Committee or have housing  
13 and homelessness assigned to a current committee at  
14 the Legislative level so we can have this dialogue  
15 happening because a lot of what we need to see in the  
16 future would be -- would require acts of our  
17 Legislature.

18 I mentioned this before and several communities  
19 have mentioned this, they're doing the leg work.  
20 They're learning about best practices. They're  
21 putting together project proposals and they're having  
22 a hard time accessing any funding to get those up and  
23 running.

24 You know, our CoC competition, grant competition  
25 is becoming increasingly competitive every year.

1 This year we received four new project proposals from  
2 communities. It wasn't a surprise. We've been  
3 really working hard with them to learn about what  
4 they need to do to address homelessness in their  
5 communities. And unfortunately we could only  
6 recommend funding for one of those new entities.

7 Not because they weren't good proposals, but just  
8 because it's really competitive and we could only  
9 recommend funding for 50 percent of what they asked.  
10 And that wasn't new programmatic money, that was a  
11 reallocation. A really tough decision that our  
12 Coalition had to make, so it's not really a plus/gain  
13 in our eyes.

14 And so I know -- I'm not -- you know, I don't want  
15 to give off the impression that I think that everyone  
16 at this table is sitting on a pot of money and not  
17 allocating it out to the community, that's not what  
18 anybody thinks.

19 I don't want to give out the impression that you  
20 aren't doing a great job with the resources that you  
21 do have. It's very limited right now, but I do want  
22 to say that every entity here is trying to address  
23 the same population.

24 It just makes a heck of a lot more sense if we  
25 could create a funders collaborative as recommended

1 in our Strategic Supportive Housing Plan which brings  
2 together multiple agencies and private foundations to  
3 have the discussion of prioritizing our goals in  
4 addressing homelessness and finding opportunities to  
5 leverage those funds and make it easier for  
6 communities to access these.

7 And I'm not saying this as an outsider. We are  
8 one of those entities that manages a fund that's  
9 identified and we would love to sit at the table and  
10 figure out how communities can access BHAP funds with  
11 CoC funds in a very easy way or leverage against HOME  
12 funds or whatever, you know, it's just that  
13 connection.

14 We're leaving that up to communities that don't  
15 have a whole lot of that knowledge to figure out that  
16 problem. And if it took the Chair of our Coalition  
17 five years to put into place 32 units in a community,  
18 what answer do we have when we go and give technical  
19 assistance to a community like Ketchikan that's never  
20 heard of any of these funds or never even spoken to  
21 somebody that works at AHFC or the Trust in some  
22 cases. I think it's unreasonable for us to think  
23 that, that's something that can happen.

24 So we've talked about, you know -- Sue talked  
25 about how we need to really have -- build our

1 capacity to, you know, increase the knowledge about  
2 these funding streams in communities and I totally  
3 agree, but that cannot replace the funding piece of  
4 there -- if our Coalition were to ramp up our staff  
5 and be able to do that in a more effective manner, we  
6 need to have something to tell them in terms of how  
7 do they access these funds because I'm just not  
8 seeing a whole lot of new programmatic money out  
9 there.

10 And I don't think that creating a funders  
11 collaborative would necessarily create this new  
12 programmatic funding, but it could find some  
13 efficiencies in our process.

14 And then finally I think this Council is very well  
15 positioned to begin the dialogue about creating a new  
16 funding source. We're one of three states in the  
17 entire nation that has no State Housing Trust Fund.  
18 I don't know why that is because it sure isn't for a  
19 lack of need out there.

20 And it's tough right now in the Legislature and I  
21 understand in all your positions. I've worked in the  
22 public sector as well, that it's not a fun thing to  
23 go to your elected officials asking for money when  
24 you have nearly a 50 percent budget deficit in your  
25 State budget, but these things will take time to plan

1 out. And if we don't start now, really the only  
2 people that are suffering are our clients because  
3 eventually we're going to have to address this issue.  
4 I don't see any way other -- any other way about it.

5 So if we start now, then we could be prepared in  
6 the future. If we wait five years, then it could  
7 just be another five years after that. So I'll leave  
8 my comments for that. I'll probably make some more  
9 though if there are questions.

10 ROMICK: Questions for Brian?

11 KUIPER: So I'll ask you the same question, Brian that.....

12 WILSON: Sure.

13 KUIPER: .....I asked Sue. The three -- of the three  
14 initiatives, you think that the Council is in a  
15 really good position to encourage, move toward, the  
16 Legislative Committee I understand that would be a  
17 Legislative thing, but this funders collaborative  
18 especially, do you think that's best outside of the  
19 State Coalition or can it -- do you think it could  
20 function under the Coalition's purview as a  
21 committee?

22 WILSON: Quite frankly I don't really care what it would  
23 look like.

24 KUIPER: You don't care.

25 WILSON: Yeah. I mean, honestly it would require all the

1 same people at the table, so whether we're  
2 facilitating that conversation or AHFC is, it's still  
3 the same people around the room. So I would love --  
4 mean, I'm totally fine with our Coalition taking on  
5 that. We would need additional resources. I mean,  
6 it's just me right now, you know.

7 And, you know, we -- I'm proud of the work that we  
8 have done as a coalition, not just me, but our Board  
9 Members in getting this level of engagement. People  
10 flying, you know, a long ways to talk to you guys and  
11 to network and so -- but it's not sustainable right  
12 now.

13 And so if it's a couple of staff members that or  
14 if it's assigned staff members of AHFC or in the  
15 Trust or DHSS it doesn't really matter, but what  
16 matters is that all of these entities, plus  
17 additional Rasmuson Foundation, the Anchorage  
18 Coalition Board, they all need to be at the table.

19 KUIPER: Right.

20 WILSON: Yeah.

21 KUIPER: Right. So then the second question is and I may  
22 have misunderstood something that our plenary speaker  
23 shared today, but I thought for sure I heard her say  
24 that \$3 million of the National Housing Trust Fund  
25 flowed our direction as a State, is that accurate?

1 WILSON: Yeah, that's accurate. In fact,.....

2 KUIPER: What happened to it?

3 WILSON: .....Mark could probably talk.

4 ROMICK: Sure. The money under the National Housing Trust

5 Fund which is funded from the proceeds from Fannie

6 Mae and Freddie Mac comes to Alaska Housing.....

7 KUIPER: Okay.

8 ROMICK: .....and it's going out as supportive housing

9 assistance for development.

10 KUIPER: Okay. So it's being used,.....

11 ROMICK: It's being used, yeah.

12 KUIPER: .....and did not -- okay, thank you.

13 ROMICK: And, I think, we have one more allocation coming

14 in. I guess it's anybody's guess whether Congress

15 will continue to fund the National Housing Trust

16 after this fiscal year.

17 KUIPER: Thank you.

18 ROMICK: Any other questions for Brian.

19 PEARSON: I want to ask as far as the advocacy piece that

20 you all have been doing. I know that gone to

21 Washington D.C. every year and really gathered some

22 national advocacy pieces. Can you -- and Diane's

23 presentation was fantastic, fantastic. How are you

24 blending that with your State advocacy?

25 WILSON: Sure, that's a great question. So we're fortunate

1 enough to receive grant funding from AHFC and the  
2 Trust every year to fly a contingency of Alaskans to  
3 the National Conference. I act as the State lead for  
4 that with the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

5 Every year they have a Capital Hill day and we  
6 really for starters rely on our State partners to  
7 help. They do an amazing job of saying, you know,  
8 here's -- here's you represen- -- here's your Federal  
9 delegates. Here's what Boards they sit on. Here's  
10 the important issues nationally that they would have  
11 some influence on.

12 And so we use that as a starting point for our  
13 Federal advocacy, but we really utilize the feedback  
14 that we receive from communities and the data that we  
15 have to basically display the need that we have  
16 there.

17 You know, a lot of the recommendations that came  
18 out of the Governor's Council are solvable at the  
19 State level, but there are some that need Federal  
20 assistance.

21 So, for example, this last year we spoke quite a  
22 bit about the Federal definition of chronic  
23 homelessness and how that doesn't apply to rural  
24 areas to all of our delegates and they all agreed.

25 We talk about challenges that we have in our SOAR

(ph) Process for folks accessing mainstream benefits and some of the challenges they're having for appeals to that. We have a zero percent approval rate of appeals in our SOAR Progress right now, worst in the nation and so we talk about that and some of the challenges that -- and some of the things that they might be able to do to help with that, so that's really how we approach it.

ROMICK: Thank you, Brian.

WILSON: Thanks, Mark.

ROMICK: Next up we have Mandy Cole from the Juneau Coalition.

COLE: Thank you, Council, for the chance to speak today. I am Mandy Cole. I am from Juneau and I've been co-chair of the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness off and on for about a decade. And I am hopefully going to switch out here again soon, but I thought I would give you, kind of, one of the -- the summaries of one of our best years so far.

I know that everyone has mentioned that we opened a Housing First facility just this year. September we welcomed our first guests in and it's been amazing. We established with community support a primary care and behavioral health clinic within the Housing First facility, so everyone of those 32

1 people will have access to free, available health  
2 care and case management and behavioral health  
3 support, so we're super proud of that. It's the  
4 first in Alaska.

5 Kind of, one of the things that we learned,  
6 however, in establishing the Housing First  
7 Collaborative is that projects of the magnitude even  
8 for a City that has resources and is organized like  
9 Juneau is was very difficult.

10 And it sounds like many of my colleagues have  
11 talked to you a lot about that funding collaborative  
12 idea, but what I want to tell you is that in this  
13 fiscal climate there may be less money available for  
14 building projects, but there are also people doing  
15 more work than they used to with less money which  
16 means there's less availability for someone to just  
17 pick up the phone and call Daniel Delfino or anyone -  
18 - other expert who can give advice about how to put  
19 these funding packages together.

20 And so while yes, the money is important, it's  
21 also really important to have direction, layered with  
22 expertise and to make those things available for  
23 projects over time because without that, you know,  
24 the money is important and we need it, but you also  
25 need to have help sometimes establishing how things

1 fit together. And so I wanted to just, kind of, add  
2 that to my plea for the funder collaborative wherever  
3 it's located.

4 Juneau also wanted to bring to your attention that  
5 as we move closer to providing supportive services  
6 with our permanent housing options whether they're  
7 scattered site or in a, kind of, single facility we  
8 also need help as communities to bring all of the  
9 needed resources together.

10 So I ask you to think, if we had all of the money  
11 that we needed, would a perfect solution to this be  
12 that every shelter and every housing provider had its  
13 own staff of case managers. It might be a perfect  
14 solution, but we would be duplicating many efforts  
15 because people need help from different places.

16 And so part of what I think is important as we  
17 move forward in co-locating supportive services and  
18 housing, is to really have a plan for how each  
19 community wants to do that. Does my emergency  
20 shelter need 10 case managers for 100 people or does  
21 my emergency shelter need a housing support  
22 specialists and a collaborative agreement with  
23 another behavioral health provider to provide case  
24 management services.

25 And I think that we all know that collaboration is

1 the way to go, but what we need is facilitation for  
2 that collaboration because we're all trying to do our  
3 best with what we've got and our own dedicated  
4 funding streams.

5 So what I imagine is that as things become -- as  
6 Medicaid becomes a source of payment and as housing  
7 supports are tied with housing resources, with rental  
8 assistance, things like that, that we need to work  
9 together in order to make models that communities can  
10 follow that make sense given the resources that we  
11 have rather than inventing everything from the  
12 beginning each time a community wants to build a  
13 supportive housing project.

14 And then finally I wanted to talk to you about the  
15 idea of (phone ringing interruption) -- also I just  
16 wanted to finish up by talking to you about the --  
17 this is a human driven process and the people who  
18 work with persons on the street whether they're doing  
19 outreach or whether they're doing shelter work or  
20 they're doing supportive services work they're  
21 special people who spend a lot of time and energy  
22 trying to make things work for people in difficult  
23 circumstances.

24 And I know in Juneau we have a difficult time  
25 filling positions and I think that is -- I've heard

1 that echoed in other places as well. And so part --  
2 you know, part of my request to you is to consider  
3 that while this work is difficult and while funding  
4 is difficult, in order to get it done we have to  
5 have, kind of, the human element to do it and we have  
6 to be able to pay the people who are doing housing  
7 living wages to do housing work. The irony there is  
8 that if you need support to maintain your own housing  
9 while you're a housing specialist for others it's not  
10 fair and it's not right.

11 So thank you very much and I really appreciate my  
12 time here.

13 ROMICK: Thank you, Mandy. Any questions for Mandy? All  
14 right, thank you. Let's see next up we have Dave  
15 Rose from Mat-Su Coalition.

16 ROSE: I would like all of you to take a minute and  
17 stretch and (indiscernible - away from microphone).  
18 I thought about bringing a hammer up to remind you  
19 that it takes a hammer to build a home. And I hope  
20 you don't feel like we're using the hammer for  
21 something else to get your attention on things. And  
22 I have a question for you. I -- Mr. Romick, I  
23 suspect that, that's not allowed, so I'll make it  
24 rhetorical.

25 What can we do to increase Mr. Burns' funding?

1           What can we do to influence Juneau so that instead of  
2           going from 31 million to three million to possibly  
3           zero? We turn the corner, turn the ship and impress  
4           upon whoever that we need more funds, not less funds  
5           because we all need to support you because without  
6           Alaska Housing Finance Corporation we will have  
7           nothing.

8           If the rest of us could imagine this meeting is  
9           canceled because each of your agencies were  
10          determined to be easy cross -- each budget lines to  
11          erase and now we've got the budget deficit down to  
12          whatever billion, yeah, maybe we'd have a balanced  
13          budget. I doubt it, but maybe, but at what expense.

14          So I know you can't tell us, but we need to  
15          research what can we do to maintain and/or increase  
16          funding to you all because we rely on you?

17          I've got churches working with me. I've got  
18          individuals working with me. I've got a coalition of  
19          agencies and organizations and together we do a  
20          wonderful job.

21          And we're lucky because we've got the Mat-Su  
22          Health Foundation and they've got enough money that  
23          they can be generous and support community  
24          initiatives which is awesome. Not every community  
25          has that, but even that is limited to 20, 80, 100,

1 200, \$300,000 depending on the project, depending on  
2 the scope, depending on the need, depending on the  
3 ability to convince them that yes, this is something  
4 we're funding. Excuse me, but that's peanuts.

5 You guys in the past have had 25, 50, 100, \$150  
6 million to help people across this State. I'm a  
7 fiscal conservative. I probably sent some of those  
8 people to Juneau. They got the wrong message from  
9 me. That's not why I sent them to Juneau. Yeah, I  
10 want a balanced budget. Yes, I want things, too.

11 You've got to balance your budget. You just have  
12 to, but you don't put your kids outside in a tent to  
13 save on heat. You don't sell the house to live in  
14 the car if you can at all figure out a way to do it  
15 so you can keep the house, too.

16 We need more jobs. We need more people working.  
17 We need things to turn around. As a State we need to  
18 recognize and find other sources of revenue, perhaps,  
19 carefully and cautiously, but we need to keep you  
20 guys in business.

21 So with that I'm going to also highlight what  
22 we've been doing, but we've only been able to do this  
23 because you guys have helped us. Okay.

24 This graphic talks about the number of people we  
25 served. It talks about the number of services and

1 the average assistance of all of \$444, that's the  
2 average assistance, but you know what that does?  
3 That keeps people in their housing. It keeps them  
4 from living in a car or doubling up at their friends  
5 or family or neighbors.

6 It keeps their record clean so they don't have a  
7 court view eviction notice on there or a small claims  
8 court claim against them because landlords look those  
9 up. Landlords are risk adverse. Again, I'm one of  
10 those landlords, but I'll take a chance every now and  
11 then.

12 Well, that \$444 probably saves that family \$2,000  
13 because then they can stay in the housing. They can  
14 get the new job if they lost the old one. They can  
15 fix the car so they can get to the job and continue  
16 to work and not have an interruption in paychecks.  
17 That's what that really represents, is that bump in  
18 the road that we helped them over. Thank you for  
19 providing the assistance so that we can do that.

20 You'll see a number of reasons -- or number of  
21 services that we offer their on the right hand side.  
22 You'll see on the opposite side reasons for  
23 homelessness, reasons that they do need help.

24 We don't usually list it, in fact, we don't help  
25 people who would present the reason for homelessness

1 is they scam somebody or they lost their money on a  
2 drug deal or they lost their money because they just  
3 squandered it on alcohol. We don't list that because  
4 we don't help those folks. Unfortunately those folks  
5 fall through the cracks.

6 This is the folks -- these are the folks who  
7 missed a week of work because they got ill and when  
8 they missed a week of work they missed a paycheck.  
9 So those are the reasons that we deal with through  
10 the Homeless Assistance Program, through the  
11 Emergency Solutions Grant and through the Continuum  
12 of Care Program as well.

13 And I have to tell you -- my boss is probably  
14 going to give me a hard time on this one but that's  
15 all right. The Coordinated entry, we're moving along  
16 on it and we're filling out the forms and we're doing  
17 it the right way, but it scares the heck out of us  
18 because we haven't worked with those people as much.

19 Anchorage, they've worked with those folks. The  
20 impression is that you understand what's involved and  
21 it's going to -- and it's part of the plan.

22 We have a couple of Housing First Programs and  
23 projects, but that's not our comfort level, that's  
24 not where we're at so it scares us a little bit, but  
25 we're going to be ready and with those funds we're

1 going to do the best we can because we also recognize  
2 those folks need housing, too. We're going to do  
3 what we can, but honestly it's a little scary.

4 If you look at our Mat-Su agencies, the agencies  
5 that are -- these are just the folks participating in  
6 the Homeless Assistance Program grant with us, okay.  
7 These are not all of the agencies working with us,  
8 but that's -- that's what that is.

9 And if you look at the demographics, age and race-  
10 wise, gender, disability it looks a little bit  
11 skewed, 78.5 percent of the folks we help are white,  
12 Caucasian, but if you look at our 20- -- what's the  
13 last, 2010, is that the most recent census, U.S.  
14 Census, yeah, that's our demographic. That's who we  
15 are. So it's in line with exactly who lives there is  
16 percentagewise those are the folks that are getting  
17 help.

18 And I'm happy to say we're getting more and more  
19 folks from the Alaska Native community stepping in  
20 and realizing that we have this resource and we're  
21 helping them as well.

22 I was going to go through my 11 pages and then  
23 somebody reminded me that you have those in your  
24 notes and I've actually heard talk from a couple of  
25 you, that you've actually read 'em. Thank you, wow.

1 You guys need a pay raise, so -- oh, three things and  
2 then I'll be done.

3 We do, do landlord luncheons. We've done three of  
4 them. We just have our -- we had our second one last  
5 spring. Great way to engage not just landlords, but  
6 out in the Valley we have property management  
7 businesses, okay. And the folks working for them  
8 need to know what's available and how we can -- we  
9 have people to place and we can support them for a  
10 little while. That's been helpful.

11 We've also just recently did a Valley Pastors  
12 faith based community, let us tell you what it is we  
13 do with housing so we can help you stretch your  
14 dollars further. A lot of churches, a lot of faith  
15 based organizations will have benevolent funds and  
16 then they might have \$2,000 in 'em, they might have  
17 \$10,000 in them, but they can help, like, \$100 at a  
18 time.

19 So we just thought let's get together with them  
20 and tell them what we can do so that their dollars  
21 are stretched that much further. And it's a little  
22 bit selfish also because it gets the word out,  
23 community awareness is raised, but also then there  
24 are some things we can't do and we want to be able to  
25 call them up and say can you help this couple, can

1           you help this family. Can you come alongside this  
2           son or daughter that needs some mentoring because  
3           there are some things we can't do that they can do.

4           We had 16 people show up at that. And a couple of  
5           the deaconesses that showed up were like wow, thank  
6           you so much. You gave us the words to give people  
7           hope, but yet at the same time hold them responsible  
8           or show them the path to self-sustainability 'cause  
9           that's really what everybody wants.

10          They want to be independent. They don't want me  
11          telling them what to do or you telling 'em what to  
12          do. They want to be independent and in order to  
13          truly be independent you need to be self-sustaining.  
14          That, I guess, in a nutshell is what we're trying to  
15          do.

16          John Rozzi came up and told you the three things  
17          he told me to tell you earlier and I forgot to tell  
18          you, so that's covered.

19          Do you have any questions?

20   ROMICK:           Questions for the Mat-Su Coalition?

21   BURNS:            I have on. Can you just briefly tell me about  
22                      your work with Jack Hebert and the Cold Climate and,  
23                      sort of, what's happening there if anything if it's  
24                      continuing?

25   ROSE:             Thank you. Mr. Dave Kuiper is also a member of

1 that subcommittee from the State Coalition. We were  
2 in Representative Young's office. He repeated it  
3 three times that boy, somebody ought to be doing  
4 something with Commodore homes because that's the  
5 wave of the future, tiny homes.

6 Jack Hebert, I contacted him, again, at  
7 Representative Young's suggestion. We've met with  
8 him. He has put together a two page proposal to look  
9 into it further basically. He thinks it's -- it is  
10 doable. It is possible, but he needs to go a little  
11 bit further with it as -- studying it as to what the  
12 proposal will be. So we're working on saying no, we  
13 want you to be a little more specific, what actually  
14 could be done.

15 And I would like to go back to Representative  
16 Young's office 'cause he promised to find some money  
17 for us if we did this and ask him we'd like 150 or  
18 \$300,000 and we're going to approach three  
19 communities and we're going to produce six homes and  
20 deliver them to those communities and see how it  
21 works as a pilot or something like that. That's  
22 basically what we're trying to do there.

23 BURNS: Thank you.

24 ROSE: Yeah.

25 ROMICK: Great. Any other questions?

1 KUIPER: Just one, you didn't want an answer, did you, to  
2 the question that you asked?

3 ROSE: Only if you can.

4 KUIPER: Well, you've already started with what I would  
5 suggest. The more -- at least in my guess is that  
6 the more you can tie this kind of thing to dollars  
7 saved well help us make the case.

8 ROSE: Okay.

9 KUIPER: I think that's the deal or at least part of it.

10 ROSE: Thank you.

11 ROMICK: Steve, do you have a question?

12 ROSE: Yeah.

13 WILLIAMS: Hey, Dave. Steve Williams at the Trust. Thanks  
14 for your presentation. And thanks for all the folks  
15 who have taken the time thus far and probably  
16 everyone else who will come up after you to present.

17 You did ask the question about what you could do  
18 and Dave, kind of, jumped on it a little bit, but I'd  
19 like to add a couple of things to what can be done  
20 to, kind of, further the awareness, the education  
21 both at the local level, but also at the State level  
22 which is to do exactly what you just did.

23 I mean, you provided at the very beginning a  
24 concise, data driven message about an issue, and this  
25 can be any issue. We're talking about housing and

1 homelessnes today, but it's any issue and how it's  
2 impacting the local community. What the local  
3 communities are doing to try and come up with  
4 solutions and meet part of the need, but are now  
5 looking for additional assistance and support from  
6 other entities outside their community, in this case,  
7 you know, the State.

8 And you spoke specifically about the Legislature  
9 and how do we ensure that -- or try to ensure that  
10 the resources that the State has at its hands are  
11 used in the most effective way and serving the  
12 greatest needs.

13 That's a tall order because there's lots of needs  
14 statewide and everyone thinks, you know, their  
15 particular need is the greatest, but at the end of  
16 the day really the greatest need is, in my opinion,  
17 making sure that our communities are addressing the  
18 needs of the most vulnerable people in our community.

19 And, you know, the Mat-Su Housing and Homelessness  
20 Coalition's doing that and other entities and your  
21 partnering to do that, but in order to ensure that we  
22 have to communicate why that's important. And  
23 someone spoke about it earlier this morning and a  
24 couple of people reiterated it and they were talking  
25 about prevention.

1           And you mentioned providing -- making sure that  
2           people had a safe place to live. And that translates  
3           at the child level it's important and it's important  
4           so that kids feel safe in their home. They can do  
5           their school work, that translates into better  
6           outcomes in the school system which translate as the  
7           kid moves through.

8           And I know I speaking to choir right now, but  
9           which translates into being productive out in the  
10          community which decreases risk for contact with the  
11          criminal justice system which leads to someone  
12          actually being a productive member either through  
13          volunteer or employment in their community and then  
14          being productive in the State.

15          So what I've just described was what the  
16          Governor's, kind of, theme -- three word theme is  
17          which is smarter, safer, stronger. And, you know,  
18          those are really key -- those are the key elements.  
19          If we start focusing at that level, we'll start  
20          seeing the outcomes. Granted it's going to take  
21          time, but we'll start seeing our communities really  
22          being healthier, safer and stronger.

23          And then the other piece to this is always --  
24          comes down to, you know, a dollar sign or people like  
25          to focus on the dollar sign, but the dollar sign is

1 not the end all, be all, but it's important.

2 And in my personal opinion and I think folks --  
3 many folks would agree anyway and which is one of the  
4 reasons the Legislature is having a special session  
5 right now is that the State needs to focus on a long  
6 term State fiscal plan and that can take many shapes.

7 It can take many forms, but unless the Alaskan  
8 community is communicating that to the Legislature as  
9 a need that they want to see their elected officials  
10 make a very difficult decision on and take action on,  
11 it's not going to happen.

12 So the key point to this is that we need to get  
13 people educated about the issues and then make sure  
14 that they're contacting their representatives to  
15 voice those concerns. And you gave a very excellent  
16 example of that at the very beginning, so thank you.

17 ROSE: Thank you.

18 ROMICK: Thank you. Next up Dana Meyers with Kodiak. Is  
19 Dana still here? She probably went onto another  
20 session, so that leaves the Anchorage Coalition to  
21 End Homelessness, Kristi Duff, you're up.

22 DUFF: Good afternoon. Can everyone hear me?

23 ROMICK: Yeah.

24 DUFF: My apologies for missing a portion of the earlier  
25 updates. I had a call scheduled, but what I've been

1 hearing throughout today and a lot of our themes are  
2 focusing on what we still need in our communities to  
3 address homelessness and the challenges that come  
4 with that.

5 I think that my report captured a lot of those. I  
6 could touch on them if the Council is interested, but  
7 I would also like to focus on some of our successes  
8 and where things are coming along that I didn't maybe  
9 expand on in the update earlier this morning.

10 I think that we're hearing probably in general  
11 that a lack of treatment services, substance abuse  
12 treatment services statewide is a real challenge for  
13 us, that in addition to a lack of case management  
14 resources in Anchorage are affecting our ability to  
15 reach all of our clients needing housing and helping  
16 them stay stably housed. That's a key piece with the  
17 wrap around services. Once we -- we can find clients  
18 and have them in housing, but they don't have those  
19 ongoing supports it's difficult for them to be  
20 successful.

21 We're also seeing -- and I won't get too much into  
22 this, I know that Nancy gave an update earlier about  
23 the Mayor's office and the effort that is going  
24 forward with the Muni, but we are seeing an increase  
25 in crime in Anchorage. There's a lot of discussion

1 around it right now and there has been rhetoric, if  
2 you will, trying to link that increase in crime to  
3 homelessness despite their being a lack of evidence  
4 to support that.

5 And, I think, funding overall we're seeing it  
6 statewide, but it applies to Anchorage as well, the  
7 ongoing needs that we have, a lot are driven by a  
8 need for those funding resources and we have a gap in  
9 being able to provide those services when we are  
10 short on some of those funds.

11 In spite of all of it we're making a lot of good  
12 progress and there's a lot of exciting updates that I  
13 can give. We talked about the Coordinated Entry  
14 Program and housing placements to date so you have  
15 those numbers available, but I think a lot of that  
16 success is due to the community collaboration that  
17 comes through Coordinated Entry.

18 When I started a year ago, I was going around to  
19 provide and trying to get some information from them  
20 and I had someone flatly tell me no one wants  
21 Coordinated Entry and no one wants to do it. And  
22 I've continued to see that resistance in some ways,  
23 but largely it's been a very good effort to see the  
24 providers come together.

25 And it's difficult when you've got multiple

1 funding sources that sometimes have compliance that  
2 conflicts with other funding sources. You've got  
3 different missions. You've got different populations  
4 you serve. And to watch really good people who work  
5 very hard for this cause come together is -- it's  
6 very exciting.

7 And as the Coordinator Entry manager prior to  
8 moving into this position, I'd go to all of those  
9 meetings. I'd see how this works and the  
10 similarities and differences in all of our  
11 populations and it's very exciting to see that come  
12 together. We're still through that process finding  
13 ways to grow and implement the program and  
14 brainstorming that through our oversight committee.

15 I'd also say that the Coalition in general is --  
16 it's a really exciting time. We're building our  
17 capacity. We're growing. There was about eight or  
18 nine months where there was no director. Now that,  
19 that director position is filled.

20 The Coordinated Entry Program manager is also a  
21 Coalition Staff member, so prior to that there's only  
22 been one staff member, now there's two for the  
23 Coalition.

24 We're also working to bring the transition  
25 coordinators who are mentioned in your report under

1 the Coalition in terms of supervision and program  
2 management. There are still different fiscal agents  
3 in the community that manage them as the employer of  
4 record, if that make sense, but we're consolidating  
5 our resources, coming together.

6 And an office move that will take place at the end  
7 of this week we'll bring us all together into one  
8 spot, too. We were previously scattered throughout  
9 the community and even though we were working  
10 together it does present a challenge when you're,  
11 kind of, parceled out in the community.

12 We also had the opportunity -- we have a temporary  
13 contract. It was about six months for mobile  
14 outreach. We're finding through either assessments  
15 in the community, the most recent Point in Time count  
16 and other efforts that we still have a large portion  
17 of our population that does not come to any of our  
18 agencies for services.

19 So we're hoping to find another way to use the  
20 mobile outreach model that we did previously to fund  
21 a position like that and keep someone that can go  
22 into camps, along with our social worker that's  
23 embedded with the camp -- or the CAP (ph) Team.

24 This person also would go to places in the  
25 community that don't participate in HMIS or are not

1 as involved in Co-ACEH (ph) data.

2 They would also go to the library, for example and  
3 other resources in the community that we see being  
4 impacted by our homeless clients, but those clients  
5 that don't necessarily go to Beans or Brother Francis  
6 or to the Rescue Mission kind of places around town.

7 And as the Coalition grows I think it's very  
8 exciting our Membership Committee is really looking  
9 for ways to be creative and broaden our membership  
10 and interest.

11 Right now the majority of our Board is comprised  
12 by social service providers which, we have a lot of  
13 great minds in the room, but we want to diversify  
14 that and seek opportunities to grow that 'cause this  
15 is -- it's an issue that's pressing on all of our  
16 resources in Anchorage and the State, not just  
17 particular service providers.

18 And I'd also say that our Education and Advocacy  
19 Committee is reinvigorating their strategies and how  
20 we can advocate in a community, but also bring a  
21 certain amount of education. I think there's a lot  
22 that's getting lost maybe in what we read in the  
23 paper, other discussions and what's truly leading to  
24 the impacts that we are facing and how we resolve  
25 those.

1 Questions?

2 ROMICK: Randall.

3 BURNS: Yeah. Can you -- you mentioned that the Assembly  
4 -- in your report you mentioned that the Assembly had  
5 requested that a mapping of low income and multi-  
6 family housing by census districts be completed. Are  
7 you all working -- is the Assembly working on that?

8 DUFF: Yeah. I was just looking at Nancy. There was a  
9 meeting last week and so the mapping is a generalized  
10 area of where you would find either services in the  
11 community or housing, but it's not specific client  
12 locations. That is something we cannot do through  
13 HUD.

14 BURNS: I was just wondering because a couple of cities  
15 have been using geo mapping to identify where they  
16 really need to put their resources and I'm wondering  
17 if this is, sort of, what you're trying to get at?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

19 DUFF: Yeah.

20 BURNS: Okay. Okay.

21 DUFF: Yeah, that's -- I was trying to include some of  
22 the Mayor's initiatives in.....

23 BURNS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

24 DUFF: .....this report, but didn't lead the -- the  
25 update wouldn't -- Nancy.....

1 BURNS: Okay.

2 DUFF: .....gave her testimony, but yes, that is exac- --  
3 that is the (simultaneous speech).....

4 BURNS: Cool. And then is there a reason why the fiscal  
5 agent that Neighborhood Works -- NeighborWorks is no  
6 longer the fiscal agent?

7 DUFF: It was a temporary -- well, so like I said before,  
8 the prior Coalition director, she gave her notice  
9 very early, but left in December or so of last year  
10 and in that planning process I think the decision was  
11 made knowing there wouldn't be a director or  
12 also,.....

13 BURNS: I see.

14 DUFF: .....kind of, how that was, but all positions were  
15 scattered in the community and.....

16 BURNS: Okay.

17 DUFF: .....we rolled it back to the Coalition this year.

18 BURNS: Thank you very much.

19 ROMICK: Any other questions? Well, thank you so much.

20 DUFF: Thank you.

21 ROMICK: So next up on the agenda is Colleen Dushkin with  
22 the Association of Housing Authorities.

23 And just to let everybody know, I'm going to use  
24 the discretion bestowed upon me as the Chair to power  
25 through the break and so if you need to get up and

1 use this facilities or get water feel free to do  
2 that.

3 (Off record comments)

4 ROMICK: We all have your presentation in our packets, too.

5 DUSHKIN: Great, thank you. I think I changed one of the  
6 slides, but for the most part it's the same.

7 (Off record comments)

8 DUSHKIN: So I'll just say next page.

9 ROMICK: There you go.

10 DUSHKIN: If that works for you and then sorry for everybody  
11 else in the audience. So (indiscernible) my name --  
12 well, that's hello and good afternoon. My name is  
13 Colleen Dushkin and I am -- I have the pleasure of  
14 being the administrator for the Association of Alaska  
15 Housing Authorities. There we go. I guess this is  
16 for everybody else's benefit since all of you can't  
17 see it, so -- okay.

18 So I'd like to say thank you to the Council for  
19 inviting me here to speak today especially Suzi and  
20 David who took a keen interest in the Association and  
21 what we do.

22 So the AAHA membership includes the 14 Regional  
23 Housing Authorities and the Alaska Housing Finance  
24 Corporation. And we meet -- whoa, sorry. We meet  
25 quarterly. I don't know why it's -- okay, hold on.

1 We meet quarterly and we have an annual meeting every  
2 year. It's a time when all the 14 Regional Housing  
3 Authorities come together. We're really the -- AAHA  
4 is the link of bringing all of the tribal Housing  
5 Authorities together.

6 So just a little bit about the Regional Housing  
7 Authorities. They were developed -- or established  
8 in 1971 and their borders are -- they're bordered  
9 around the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lines.  
10 And of the 237 NAHASDA tribal recipients in the  
11 State, the AAHA members represent 196 of them.

12 And so the core funding for the Regional Housing  
13 Authorities is through the Indian Housing Block Grant  
14 which is the -- authorized through NAHASDA or the  
15 Native American Housing and Self-determination Act.  
16 I think I got that all right.

17 So AAHA members are in every corner of the State  
18 and they build affordable housing in some of our most  
19 remote areas, in addition to the urban centers in  
20 Anchorage and Fairbanks. So they help reduce  
21 overcrowding. They preserve existing housing through  
22 programs like the Weatherization Program and they  
23 house families and seniors.

24 And additionally the Regional Housing Authorities  
25 are one of the largest employers in rural Alaska and

1 they play a critical role in sustaining the local  
2 economies.

3 So what does AAHA do: so we have two primary  
4 activities, but we provide unified State and Federal  
5 advocacy, affordable housing development and funding  
6 information and training and technical assistance all  
7 in the effort to increase the supply of safe,  
8 sanitary and affordable housing. And I'll go into  
9 more detail about these two activities as we go on.

10 So we have a Training and Technical Assistance  
11 Program and this is delivered through the HUD office  
12 of Native American -- well, it's not through ONAP  
13 (ph) anymore, but it's a HUD grant and it's got a  
14 number of activities. And it's really to build  
15 capacity in tribal housing.

16 So some of the -- the two core TA activities we  
17 have is the regional trainings and the direct  
18 technical assistance. And this is where TA  
19 contractors go on site to Tribal Housing Authorities  
20 whether it be the 41 additional Tribal Housings or  
21 the 14 Regional Housing Authorities in the State and  
22 they're really to develop capacity.

23 And one of the things that we're very proud about  
24 -- proud of is for our Regional Housing -- or  
25 regional training the programs are developed directly

1 for Alaska, so they are -- our material is vetted  
2 through our local ONAP office and it's really geared  
3 to our tribes in TDH- -- or Regional Housing  
4 Authorities.

5 One thing that I'd like to highlight is we've been  
6 doing a few master plans in the past and one of which  
7 was the Newtok/Mertarvik (ph) relocation. So we did  
8 the -- through the T&TA Program we did the Affordable  
9 Master Housing Plan for that and it included the  
10 number of homes, the type of homes that the community  
11 would need in the new site. It documented the  
12 infrastructure needs and the funding types that would  
13 need to go along with that project, so that was  
14 something that we were very proud about.

15 The other key, kind of, activity that we do is  
16 advocacy. So we have a robust advocacy process where  
17 we have an active Legislative Committee that meets  
18 both as an as needed basis to address a number of  
19 issues.

20 Every year we develop priorities that are based on  
21 the challenges that the Regional Housing Authorities  
22 are facing. It's a consensus basis committee. And  
23 then those -- anything that comes out of that  
24 committee is then taken to the Board and ratified by  
25 the Board.

1           It's important to understand the time and  
2           dedication that the Regional Housing Authorities put  
3           into helping develop these documents. They're truly  
4           are the experts in the areas and they do spend  
5           countless hours to help ensure that those documents  
6           are correct.

7           We also have -- do things like if there's  
8           Legislative Bills that are going through Congress  
9           making sure that we provide testimony to try to get  
10          them passed, advocating for additional funding.

11          Thank you to the Governor who supported and wrote  
12          letters for -- to ensure that the Indian Housing  
13          Block Grant was funded for the -- under NAHASDA.

14          So this is -- if you go to -- I'm going to just  
15          touch on these programs. These are the four  
16          priorities that were listed in our last State  
17          priorities. We've going to be developing our new  
18          priorities coming up next month and so these are the  
19          documents. I don't have them printed out for you,  
20          but they are available on our website, but I do want  
21          to touch a little bit on each of the programs.

22          So the Supplemental Housing Development Grant  
23          Program, it's a program through AHFC. And a big  
24          thanks to AHFC for being a good partner in developing  
25          and leveraging funding for the Regional Housing

1 Authorities.

2 So the Supplemental Housing Development Grant  
3 Program has been around for over 25 years and it's  
4 really a key tool for the Regional Housing  
5 Authorities to be able to leverage Federal funding  
6 and non-Federal funding to develop and rehabilitate  
7 homes across the State. So they -- with that funding  
8 there are standards that come with, so the Regional  
9 Housing Authorities are building to the BEES Standard  
10 which is the Energy Efficiency code, so they're  
11 really extremely energy efficient affordable housing.

12 Another I'd like to highlight is the  
13 Weatherization Program. Since 2008 20,000 homes have  
14 been weatherized in 185 communities. That is not  
15 only with Regional Housing Authorities, but Regional  
16 Housing Authorities really play a key role in  
17 developing that and administering that program  
18 throughout the State.

19 So the -- and, of course, with the funding  
20 environment those funding sources have been down, but  
21 these are -- we're advocating for making sure that  
22 the Supplemental Housing Development Grant Program is  
23 funding, Weatherization is funded. We were  
24 supporting the NEVA (ph) which is a loan program for  
25 community and Regional Housing Authorities to apply

1 to have energy efficiency upgrades to buildings in  
2 the communities.

3 And, again, all of the information is on our  
4 website to grab. And we could -- maybe, Carrie, I  
5 can a copy of those documents to you and you can  
6 forward.

7 On the Federal level our top priority has always  
8 been NAHASDA re-authorization. NAHASDA is the  
9 primary vehicle for Indian Housing funding to come  
10 into the State and to be distributed across Indian  
11 country. It's been -- it hasn't been re-authorized  
12 since 2008, so it's just a very top priority for the  
13 Regional Housing Authority members. It makes --  
14 without having an authorized program it makes  
15 investors leery to really build upon the leveraging  
16 tools that the Regional Housing Authorities need.

17 NAHASDA has been flat funded since its inception  
18 and so it's really lost that huge purchasing power.  
19 I know that the plenary speaker Debra, is that her  
20 name?

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Diane.

22 DUSHKIN: Oh, Diane. Diane spoke about how that funding has  
23 eroded. We've done different calculations and HUD  
24 also has a different calculation, but it's been  
25 essentially flat funded since 1998, so.....

1           And then the last priority was the Tribal  
2           enrollment question. Tim Olson who is the director  
3           that covers census for our region announced at AFN  
4           that they would not be requesting Tribal enrollment  
5           on the 2020 census which is great.

6           Some of our other initiatives, homelessness. You  
7           know, the Regional Housing Authorities are able to  
8           provide homes to some of our communities to lessen,  
9           you know, the overcrowding situations, but I think  
10          the bottom line is there's not enough funding.

11          Health and Housing, I've heard it as a theme  
12          throughout this conference which makes me really  
13          excited because it's an initiative that we really  
14          want to take on, really that health and housing are  
15          connected and to have housing is to be a healthy  
16          community.

17          So it's -- I have to again thank Diane that  
18          brought those comments forward. I heard it in the  
19          coalition updates. The gentlemen from Savoogna, I  
20          mean, talking about that mold, healthy housing,  
21          healthy communities. It really is interrelated. So  
22          how do we really tell that story and, you know, make  
23          sure that everybody is making that connection.

24          And finally I think this is the slide that's  
25          changed in your book -- or in your handout and I

1 think I should have named this partnerships. We need  
2 your help. What can you do to -- you know, how can  
3 we work together. How can we form partnerships to  
4 make sure that we are advocating for safe,  
5 affordable, decent housing.

6 And so some of these are -- you know, we're always  
7 told to -- what are your stories. What are your  
8 housing stories. And we're not talking about the bad  
9 housing stories or the good housing stories.

10 Really documenting the success stories and the  
11 continued needs in the communities and how we can --  
12 if we can rely on you, you could rely on us to do  
13 things like submit testimony, have public testimony  
14 when there's a NAHASDA re-authorization coming up or  
15 when there's funding bills passing, so really how can  
16 we -- it's to start a conversation on how can we work  
17 together to advance our mutual issues.

18 And finally, how can AAHA help you. How can we  
19 really create these partnerships to, you know, make  
20 the connections because we're talking about housing  
21 which is a direct correlation to Corrections and to  
22 health and to all of -- I think it's so wide spread  
23 that really how are we going to come together and  
24 make sure that we can fund and have affordable  
25 housing to benefit everybody.

1 And with that, cut it off. Qagaasakung, thank  
2 you.

3 ROMICK: Thank you, Colleen. I have a question for you.  
4 So in the spirit of the conversation that we've had  
5 today about capacity and you operate a very robust  
6 technical assistance program,.....

7 DUSHKIN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8 ROMICK: .....if -- and given, you know, that the Regional  
9 Housing Authorities and Tribal governments are super  
10 important out in the rural areas, as well as in many  
11 of the other communities, is it possible for an  
12 organization, let's say, using an example in Bethel,  
13 wants to undertake a permanent supportive housing  
14 project, could they working through the Tribal  
15 Council or the Regional Housing Authority come to you  
16 for technical assistance to, kind of, address the  
17 capacity issue that people have been talking about in  
18 terms of who will help them, kind of, puzzle through  
19 putting together the development and mirroring the  
20 services through either, you know, the State system  
21 or through the Indian Health Service organizations  
22 that are throughout the State?

23 DUSHKIN: That is a very good question. I would answer that  
24 by saying -- and one thing that I guess I didn't  
25 explain was, kind of, that process, the training and

1 technical assistance process where if the Tribe came  
2 forward and the Tribes need to request services  
3 directly to HUD ONAP.

4 And so if the Tribes came forward and they were  
5 able to demonstrate how it builds capacity within  
6 their Indian Housing Program, I would probably say  
7 that would be an eligible activity and I -- I mean,  
8 as long as it's within the Indian Housing -- it's --  
9 they have to be Indian Housing Block Grant  
10 recipients.

11 And so how that looks I don't know if it could  
12 directly go for the development of supportive  
13 housing, but how it can integrate to build the  
14 capacity of the tribe itself. So whether that be  
15 helping them to be able to do program development or  
16 something that builds their capacity for them to then  
17 do that. So I -- I don't know if that answers your  
18 question or not.

19 ROMICK: I think so 'cause.....

20 DUSHKIN: Okay.

21 ROMICK: .....here in Fairbanks, you know, Tanana Chiefs  
22 Conference operates a supportive housing and Housing  
23 First project and then it's always, kind of, thinking  
24 about that and how, perhaps, you know, similar  
25 projects like that could be developed across the

1 State.

2 DUSHKIN: Yeah. Well, the good -- the good thing is, is  
3 that the answers lay with HUD.

4 ROMICK: Okay. We'll get Deb Alston to say -- and Colleen  
5 to say yes later on after the show. Any other  
6 questions?

7 KUIPER: Not really a question. I'd just like to make a  
8 comment that I'm really excited to see the Regional  
9 Housing Authorities much more engaged with the  
10 Homeless Coalitions since that really seem to be a  
11 key piece that had been missing for many years.

12 We're not traditional homeless providers. We  
13 aren't usually running shelters. We aren't doing a  
14 lot of the things that some of the homeless  
15 coalitions are doing, but we're building housing  
16 stock in the rural areas and when there is no housing  
17 stock that's the only way to address the homeless  
18 problem.

19 So I'm really excited to see the Regional Housing  
20 Authorities. I'd like to thank, you know, Colleen,  
21 Suzi, Dave, AHFC, get everybody in the same room and  
22 make sure we're coordinating better and just keep  
23 moving forward.

24 ROMICK: Thanks.

25 UNIDENTIFIED: And I wanted to confirm, you've been flat funded

1                   since 1998?

2     DUSHKIN:        Yes.

3     UNIDENTIFIED:   Okay.

4     DUSHKIN:        The Indian Housing Block Grant has been.

5     ROMICK:         Thank you.

6     DUSHKIN:        Is that it?

7     ROMICK:         Any other questions?

8     DUSHKIN:        Thank you.

9     ROMICK:         Great, thank you so much.   So the next item on our

10                   agenda is discussion of the Alaska Supportive Housing

11                   Plan with Carrie Collins and Susan Musante.

12    BURNS:          Mr. Chairman?

13    ROMICK:         Yes.

14    BURNS:          I unfortunately need to leave here about 4:20 to

15                   catch a plane so I'd really like hopefully that the

16                   presentation was relatively brief so that we could

17                   talk about and maybe actually take action before I

18                   had to leave.

19    ROMICK:         Absolutely.   And given that both these individuals

20                   have certain reasons to listen to both you and

21                   myself, I think that they've taken that into

22                   consideration.

23    MUSANTE:         Sure cut me off.   Okay.   So I'm going to -- I'm

24                   not going to speak for very long because you already

25                   have a written report which speaks to the housing

1 plan that DHSS responded in terms of our progress on  
2 that, but what -- the message, I think, I want to  
3 give you as the Council is that even though there  
4 have been several asks for this Council to adopt this  
5 plan and endorse it, it doesn't mean it's been  
6 sitting on a shelf getting dusty. There's been lots  
7 going on.

8 There's lots of progress already on this, so I'm  
9 just going to go real quickly and say so, for  
10 example, one good example is the Moving Home Program  
11 Vouchers. 150 vouchers are out there throughout the  
12 State. The problem, of course, is that we've used  
13 them all. We had 100 percent utilization with a 90  
14 percent retention, so people are staying housed with  
15 a combination of vouchers, rental assistance and  
16 services.

17 The 811 Program that we've been speaking to most  
18 times we've come here is actually ready to start a 10  
19 person pilot any second. I said that last time, but  
20 really it really is happening.

21 I know that I've heard today talk about work force  
22 and work force development and not necessarily having  
23 the people, the boots to the ground to help with the  
24 services, so a couple of efforts in that regard.

25 One effort is that the Division is spearheading a

1 move to certify and train people themselves who are  
2 in recovery to be available to people who are not far  
3 enough along on the path -- not as far along as they  
4 are on that path. Not specific to housing, but a lot  
5 of places are using people in recovery as some of  
6 their on the ground support services, so that's  
7 pretty exciting for us.

8 I think the really, really big thing and I just  
9 want to highlight this is that Alaska was awarded an  
10 Innovation Accelerator Program Grant from CMS. And  
11 the point of this is to get the housing folks in the  
12 room with the services people who provide the  
13 services and fund the services to really put together  
14 a full package of services that will help people get  
15 housed and off the streets in integrated settings and  
16 this is an exciting opportunity.

17 The team is made up of our housing partners which  
18 is AHFC, the Association for Alaska Housing  
19 Authorities who you just heard from, the Alaska  
20 Housing Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. And  
21 three Divisions from the Department of Health and  
22 Social Services, so we've got the Medicaid folks in  
23 the room, we've got the Division of Behavioral Health  
24 and we have Senior and Disability Services in the  
25 room.

1           The Trust has got at least one person working on  
2           this amazing team. We've keeping Elizabeth Schultz  
3           in the Governor's office informed and we're looking  
4           to decide we might need in the room, but one of the  
5           things as I was hearing people talk today is that it  
6           seems like there's another ask is to really look at  
7           this idea of a funders collaborative. And, you know,  
8           we think that doesn't necessarily mean just a housing  
9           provision collaborative.

10           It also means services and housing, so maybe we  
11           can begin to answer that question through the IAP.  
12           At least we'll have some conversations with some  
13           experts in the room.

14           And I'm going to stop so that Carrie can go and  
15           you guys can move on your resolution.

16   COLLINS:           Thank, Susan. And Randall, I will keep it very  
17           quick.

18           So just like Susan highlighted a couple of the  
19           things that are happening, I want to reiterate that  
20           just because the plan hasn't been adopted, doesn't  
21           mean that work hasn't been being done. And we  
22           recognize that this has probably brought to light an  
23           opportunity to continue to better streamline our  
24           communication about the work that is being done  
25           throughout the State, so.....

1 But I specifically want to speak to housing  
2 development goals that were in the original plan,  
3 provide some progress on that. If you're following  
4 along it's goal number three.

5 So progress to date on that plan since 2015 there  
6 have been 226 new units developed for homeless and  
7 disabled Alaskans in 11 communities throughout the  
8 State.

9 In addition there have been 32 project based  
10 vouchers through AHFC's Public Housing Division that  
11 were awarded to the new Housing First PSH project in  
12 Juneau.

13 There's a couple other, sort of, assumptions or  
14 recommendations that were in the plan about housing  
15 development that we want to speak to as we've done  
16 some progress on those also. So one of them is the  
17 review of the Special Needs Housing Grant Program.  
18 In there, there was a recommendation for a housing  
19 development by backing out some of the SNHG, Special  
20 Needs Housing Grant Program funding with Medicaid  
21 billable -- or Medicaid billing and also with Section  
22 8 Housing Vouchers.

23 And Susan being very quick and running through her  
24 update didn't have a chance to speak to it, but in  
25 our discussions with DHSS, and Susan Randall please

1 correct me if I'm misstating this, it seems that the  
2 services that are -- or the assistance is being  
3 supported through the Special Needs Housing Grant are  
4 not Medicaid billable services, so backing out that  
5 piece for Medicaid support is not a feasible option.

6 And then also the other piece was bringing in  
7 those Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers in order to  
8 back out the operating support that is currently  
9 under the SNHG Program.

10 There are 15 projects that are supported through  
11 the SNHG Program, only two of those would be eligible  
12 for Section 8 vouchers if they were made available.  
13 So that, kind of, puts into perspective that there's  
14 not as much reliance on that assumption that's in the  
15 plan in order to lead to housing development, so I  
16 wanted to speak to that really quickly.

17 And in addition in your recommendations that we'll  
18 move to next that we're putting forward is the link  
19 between the Continuum of Care housing support for 60  
20 to 100 units over the next five years.

21 And so after looking through where all the housing  
22 supports are coming from, most of those Continuum of  
23 Care units that are being supported or could be  
24 supported in the future are also supported through  
25 other funding sources such as the Special Needs

1 Housing Grant Program, the Greater Opportunities for  
2 Affordable Living or AHFC's matching funds to CoC  
3 programs. So the goals in the amended packet have  
4 been adjusted to reflect that duplication.

5 That was quick.

6 ROMICK: Thank you, Carrie. So I believe at this time we  
7 need a motion for -- to adopt the resolution.

8 PEARSON: I will make a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-1.

9 BURNS: Second.

10 ROMICK: Seconded. Any discussion from the Council?  
11 Hearing none I will take a quick roll call. And that  
12 would be Steve Williams?

13 WILLIAMS: Here. Yes.

14 ROMICK: Let's see, Randall Burns?

15 BURNS: Yes.

16 ROMICK: Diane Casto, are you still on the line?

17 CASTO: Yes, I am.

18 ROMICK: And are you voting.....

19 CASTO: Yes.

20 ROMICK: Go ahead.

21 CASTO: Yes.

22 ROMICK: Okay, thank you. Betty Svensson?

23 SVENSSON: Hi, yes, I am here.

24 ROMICK: Was that an affirmative vote for the resolution?

25 SVENSSON: Yes.

1 ROMICK: Olen Harris?

2 HARRIS: Yes.

3 ROMICK: Suzi Pearson?

4 PEARSON: Yes.

5 ROMICK: David Kuiper?

6 KUIPER: Yes.

7 ROMICK: And Mark Romick? Yes. Motion carries and we have  
8 adopted Resolution 2017-1 the amended goals and  
9 action steps for the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan.

10 Thank you, everybody. Thank you, Carrie and  
11 Susan.

12 Moving on the next item on the agenda is the  
13 Alaska Plan to End Long Term Homelessness, Suzi  
14 Pearson and Dave Kuiper giving us an update.

15 PEARSON: Dave, please interject whatever, you know.

16 ROMICK: I think he's offering the gavel to you.

17 PEARSON: Yeah, of course. We normally have a tug of war  
18 over this one, but this is -- I'm going to be brief  
19 because most people have the packet or have the  
20 packet on line.

21 So this is the Alaska's Plan to End Long Term  
22 Homelessness. It's the 2017 Progress Report which is  
23 the second year that it's been in effect. And once  
24 again this report is based on a (indiscernible)  
25 model, so all of the information is coming from our

1 local communities as far as their activities and what  
2 they're doing that can feed into the priorities of  
3 the plan.

4 The Alaska Supportive Housing Plan that we just  
5 adopted was a companion piece to this plan and  
6 primarily impacts Priorities 1 and 2. So I'm going  
7 to point out a couple of examples that are -- I  
8 thought, were very creative and -- I mean, they're  
9 all super fantastic and so -- but I want to really  
10 point out a couple here.

11 So Priority 1 was about housing development and  
12 the Supportive Housing Plan has done a great deal.  
13 They've been very active in that area.

14 And I also wanted to recognize Nome's local Tribe,  
15 Nome Eskimo Community using some of their funding to  
16 develop new rental assistance for their tribal  
17 members.

18 As Colleen talked about and as we've discussed  
19 amongst several different conversations that we need  
20 to bring in tribal funding so that rural programs can  
21 help get support that they need in order to address  
22 the housing problems that they've been experiencing.  
23 So I really think that, that's a very exciting step  
24 that we're making.

25 And another one is the Kenai Peninsula, the detox

1 beds that they have created. To Catherine and her  
2 community, this is a really fantastic opportunity for  
3 all of us to start to look at different models. This  
4 is an area that has impacted housing and homelessness  
5 considerably throughout our State and especially with  
6 the increased opioid problem. Having resources is  
7 incredibly critical to breaking the cycle of  
8 homelessness, not just having housing, but having  
9 access to resources such as mental health and  
10 substance abuse.

11 And we know that even in Anchorage that there's  
12 not enough services and that throughout the State  
13 there's definitely no services in many communities  
14 and they're having to go to other larger communities  
15 and often times as somebody said they're getting  
16 stuck in a hub community like Bethel and not moving  
17 back into the village and so you're ending up with  
18 folks that are once again then caught into a cycle of  
19 homelessness.

20 Priority 2 around Supportive Services, this is a  
21 key issue. We've had so many grants in the past 10  
22 years moving over to capital and not getting the  
23 supportive services that we need in regards to case  
24 management and the assistance that those who are  
25 homeless and at risk of homelessness desperately

1 need.

2 That case management ideally -- no, it's not  
3 ideally. What it's doing is ensuring that, that  
4 person has the support that they need and the access  
5 to resources and the guidance that is critical to  
6 successfully ending substance abuse in their life and  
7 achieving housing in a stable and permanent basis.

8 Priority III, I think we've heard a lot about that  
9 today in regards to education, engagement and policy.  
10 This particular -- it was so exciting to hear Diane  
11 Yentel talk about the National Low Income Housing  
12 Coalition. It's -- I've always gotten a lot of  
13 feedback and response from them for support as an  
14 agency and their information is spot on. It helps me  
15 just work with my Legislators to help them better  
16 understand what's going on in my community. Their an  
17 excellent resource and we're talking about policy  
18 data. This is what we want.

19 This is the story that we want to use in order to  
20 make things happen. The story starts with data, but  
21 then it also is the story of each individual and what  
22 they're experiencing and really this is critical  
23 support that we've got here.

24 And Priority 4 is Prevention support and  
25 prevention has -- this is something as somebody who

1 works in a shelter has very -- has had a difficult  
2 time getting folks into safe supportive housing.  
3 This prevention effort or even to stop people from --  
4 who is in a domestic violence situation and maybe  
5 they've been able to get the abuser out of the home,  
6 but they don't know how to maintain their housing.  
7 This kind of prevention work that we've been doing  
8 through BHAP and other programs very critical and  
9 life sustaining for many, many in our communities.

10 And I'm trying to make this fast for you, Mark.

11 ROMICK: Thank you.

12 PEARSON: And then, of course, we come back to data, data,  
13 data. And, I think, that Brian, he has talked about  
14 the fact that he's a data geek. I think you actually  
15 find a lot of people in this room are data geeks and  
16 most importantly the people you want to talk to like  
17 your Legislators, the people who have money are data  
18 geeks. They want the numbers. And HMIS, all of that  
19 has been really critical to ensuring that we are  
20 successful in obtaining those numbers.

21 I think that ICA which is the Institute for  
22 Community Alliances, they've been our contractor for  
23 HMIS or Homeless Management Information System,  
24 they're support has been incredible for both  
25 Anchorage and for Balance of State. They've created

1 reports. They've made sure that we've done  
2 collecting data. That we've had training.

3 And I would have to say that's one of our best  
4 partnerships ever related to data and, I think -- I  
5 want to make sure that everybody -- if you don't know  
6 them, you should know them. These are incredibly  
7 smart, smart people.

8 And finally, as far as -- I know it's not part of  
9 the report, but I did want to say that we get to do  
10 this once a year as far as discussion and reporting  
11 on our plan, but we only get to do this in the  
12 Coalition's conference. And I think that each year  
13 this conference -- and this conference has been going  
14 on for almost two decades. I don't know if folks  
15 know that some of the earlier conferences were in the  
16 Brother Francis shelter, so the fact that it's been  
17 going on has been great.

18 In the last 10 years the work that Scott Ciambor  
19 and Bryan (ph) have done have been incredible.  
20 They've really pushed a lot of -- just the engagement  
21 and energy and the involvement that they've had  
22 through the Balance of State has been just I think I  
23 really want to honor that and make sure that they  
24 know that and that we all recognize the work that  
25 they have done.

1 And to finally as far as the other thing that I  
2 wanted to say is for us to be a part of this at the  
3 conference is really critical. We have our meetings  
4 twice a year and the fact that the Coalition actually  
5 creates time on their agenda for us to be here to  
6 talk to and listen to you has been -- that's critical  
7 and it's the way that we get information and it's the  
8 way that we find out what's happening not just  
9 through the reporting, but through the actual stories  
10 and the conversations one on one are really  
11 important, so thanks for that. And that's all.

12 ROMICK: Thank you. Questions from Council Members?

13 Okay. The next item on our agenda is State Agency  
14 Updates and we received a lot of information from the  
15 different agencies about what's going on in their  
16 departments related to programs and services that  
17 address homelessness and so at this point, I think,  
18 we just have to have an open section to ask any of  
19 the agencies if they'd like to add anything to their  
20 presentation or Council Members if you have any  
21 question of any of the material that you read in the  
22 packets.

23 And I'll start with Diane and Betty on the phone,  
24 if you have any questions or things that you'd like  
25 to add?

1 CASTO: No, I think it was all pretty clear and I will say  
2 this is my first time attending and I'm attending for  
3 Allison Hanzawa our special assistant. I've  
4 participated in some of the homelessness and housing  
5 issues over the last number of years, but I really am  
6 pleased and excited to hear such a broad array of  
7 folks talking about this issue. It's so critical to  
8 everything that we're dealing with right now in the  
9 State.

10 You know, you think about right now I'm in Juneau  
11 and we just started the new special session and HB-54  
12 and crime and domestic violence, sexual assault, all  
13 of these things are so tied into everything we're  
14 doing and I just am so pleased to hear so many people  
15 talking about the need for case management, the need  
16 for mental health services, substance abuse services,  
17 services for safe housing for victims, so I don't  
18 have any specific questions, but I'm just really  
19 pleased and I think we've made tremendous strides in  
20 the last two (ph) years in this issue so, thank you.

21 ROMICK: Thank you. Olen? Dave? Steve? Okay. Well,  
22 thank you everybody.

23 I guess we've come to the end of our agenda and I  
24 just wanted to take a moment and reiterate what Suzi  
25 said about thanking Bryan, Scott and everybody that

1 was involved in putting a Coalition meeting together  
2 this year. And how important it is for us as a  
3 Council to be here and listen to what everybody has  
4 to say.

5 I also want to remind everybody that even though  
6 we only meet twice a year, we do have an e-mail  
7 available in case anybody would like to provide  
8 comments to us at any given time during the year and  
9 that is iach@ahfc.us and so we're open to hearing on  
10 any subject over the course of the year even outside  
11 -- particularly outside of the meeting that we have.

12 I want to thank Carrie from our Staff and Daniel  
13 and Cathy for organizing our portion of it and making  
14 things happen. And with that, is there's any other  
15 last minute comments from the Council Members?  
16 Hearing one, I will call this meeting to an  
17 adjournment. Thank you.

18 (Adjourned - 4:00 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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STATE OF ALASKA

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

THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC MEETING of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS**, was taken on the 23rd day of October, 2017, commencing at the hour of 1:30 o'clock p.m., at the at the Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, Alaska, pursuant to Notice;

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 5th day of December, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 08/13/19

**ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING 10/23/17**

**Alaska**  
**Housing**  
FINANCE CORPORATION