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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS

ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
4300 BONIFACE PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2 (On record - 1:07 p.m.)
3 JESSEE: Okay. I think we're going to go ahead and get
4 started. I'm feeling a little bit like Al Hague
5 (ph). I'm here and I'm in charge. Bryan is going to
6 be a little bit late. He has a family issue that he
7 has to deal with, so he's asked me to get the meeting
8 off and get it started which I'm happy to do.
9 Let's start with introductions. I'm Jeff Jessee,
10 the CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.
11 And Suzi, let's.....
12 PEARSON: Suzi Pearson, AWAIC.
13 WILKS: Shannon Wilks, Anchorage Community Mental Health
14 Services.
15 HORTON: Tara Horton, Commissioner's office of Health and
16 Social Services.
17 SCHMIDT: Joe Schmidt, Commissioner of Department of
18 Corrections.
19 KUIPER: Dave Kuiper with Christian Health Associates.
20 BOWEN: I'm Vernie Bowen with Veterans Affairs.
21 COLLINS: And I'm Carrie Collins the Homeless Assistance
22 Program Manager here at AHFC.
23 JESSEE: Great. And if the members could take a look at
24 the agenda for a moment and see if you see anything
25 missing or any other changes you might want to make.

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1 Not seeing any response then we'll consider this the
2 agenda for the meeting. And we're going to start
3 with public comment and do we have any public
4 commentors? Anybody on line?
5 PETERSEN: Yes, hi, this is Kenny Petersen.
6 JESSEE: Hi, Kenny. Introduce --.....
7 PETERSEN: Hi, sorry I was late getting back (simultaneous
8 speech).....
9 JESSEE: .....introduce yourself and.....
10 PETERSEN: .....I knew public comments was first.
11 JESSEE: Yeah, introduce yourself and give us your
12 comments.
13 PETERSEN: Yeah, this is Kenny Petersen a community member.
14 I'll be joining you shortly, but I knew that public
15 comments was early and I was coming late.
16 I wanted to share a statement about the real
17 purpose of homeless so as we go forward that we would
18 recognize that there's something more than housing
19 first and then caseworkers, but that the actual
20 overall purpose is to rescue the blatant richness of
21 individuals and to help build self-sufficiency and
22 self-reliance and then also provide service
23 opportunities for community members.
24 And so as we go through our discussion today I was
25 hoping that we would find ways that community members

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1 could be involved as they're called or as their
2 desire to be involved in the process and look for
3 ways that we can do that, as well as including work
4 or meaningful community involvement for those who
5 receive assistance to help them to re-engage in the
6 community.
7 So I wanted to applaud what the Anchorage Mental
8 -- or the Alaska Mental Health Trust is doing to
9 focus on employment and opportunities as well as I
10 see that as part of this whole thing, but ultimately
11 I wanted to -- I have a lot of faith groups that have
12 come up and says how can we get involved and I don't
13 have an answer for them.
14 So I wanted to hopefully somewhere in our months
15 before us find ways that faith groups and get engaged
16 and (indiscernible) problem as well, as well as
17 Native groups and business groups and landlords and
18 employers (indiscernible), so I just wanted to look
19 at the whole system of ways that we can involved the
20 whole community in the future.....
21 JESSEE: All right. That's.....
22 PETERSEN: .....so that's the main thing. Thank you.
23 JESSEE: Thanks, Kenny. Any questions or comments from
24 Council members.
25 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

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1 JESSEE: Okay. Anybody else on line? Anybody else here
2 who would like to comment?
3 All right. So let's move on to Status Report on
4 Homelessness in Alaska. We'll start with Carrie
5 Collins and the Point in Time results.
6 COLLINS: Great, thank you and good afternoon everyone. For
7 the record I'm Carrie Collins and I'm the Homeless
8 Assistance Program Manager here at Alaska Housing
9 Finance Corporation. And I'm going to start our
10 Status Report on Homelessness by giving an overview
11 of the Point in Time count that was conducted on
12 January 28th of this year.
13 This is a count that surveys homeless individuals
14 who received housing services on the night of January
15 28th, in addition to surveys through street outreach
16 and Homeless Project Connect events in order to touch
17 those who may not have actually received housing
18 services on the night of the count.
19 This is a count for one day only, so as we're
20 looking through the data keep in mind that we're
21 looking at comparisons of January one day in 2014
22 compared to the one day in January, 2013. It is a
23 requirement of all organizations receiving HUD and
24 AHFC funding in order to participate in the Point in
25 Time count and it is not a requirement of any

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1 organizations outside of that funding structure.
2 However, HUD does require that the continuance of
3 care and AHFC reach out to all organizations in the
4 State in order to try to gather as much information
5 about homelessness in Alaska (ph).
6 I want to point out that there is a consistent
7 process in collecting and reporting this data through
8 the sampling and through the organizations we touch
9 throughout the years. And that it's also an
10 unduplicated count, so when an individual may receive
11 services through emergency shelter and transitional
12 housing and also participate in the point in --
13 Project Homeless Connect events, the data is -- yeah?
14 BURKE: The mic's cutting out (ph).....
15 COLLINS: Oh, maybe I just need to move it a little closer.
16 Thank you, Nancy. There, is that better? There we
17 go, okay.
18 So the data is unduplicated so that, that
19 individual is only counted once in these numbers.
20 So we can go ahead and start looking at the Point
21 in Time data. It should be in your packets that you
22 have there. The very first slide will show a
23 breakdown of where Project Homeless Connects were
24 conducted this year, so we had Anchorage, Ketchikan,
25 Sitka and Kenai and I also need to add the

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1 Matanuska-Susitna Valley. I had forgotten to include
2 that on there, so make sure that they're not excluded
3 in there.
4 One comparison to 2013 is that there was a Juneau
5 count in 2013, but not 2014 and they're working to
6 get back on line for 2015, but this year for 2014 we
7 did have one in Sitka where there wasn't one in the
8 year before.
9 The total count for homeless individuals for 2014
10 was 1,785 compared to 1,946 counted in the 2013
11 count. And the total percentage of unsheltered
12 individuals was reduced from 10.5 to 8.1 percent.
13 So if we go on to the next slide this gives us a
14 graph of total homeless individuals, that would be
15 the second page. And we break it down by Anchorage
16 and Balance of State, this is how we are required to
17 report the data back to HUD based on our breakout of
18 continuums of care within the State.
19 So you'll see a comparison of 2013 to 2014 data
20 for each of those point in time dates in January.
21 And overall we're seeing -- showing a bit of
22 reduction based on this data in homelessness overall.
23 One thing I do want to point out is for the
24 sheltered category this only includes emergency
25 shelter and transitional housing and does not include

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1 permanent, supportive housing (indiscernible) beds.
2 So then if we move onto the next slide this, kind
3 of, starts to show where maybe some of that decreases
4 that we're seeing in that first slide with the total
5 homeless. So if you move on to the Veteran Homeless
6 slide we're seeing a pretty substantial change here
7 in the two different points in time. And some of
8 this could be resulting from the Federal Opening Door
9 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Within that plan
10 it outlines a strategy for ending Veteran
11 homelessness within -- by the end of 2015.
12 We also know that in 2014 for Anchorage Catholic
13 Social Services had 72 additional beds come on line
14 through their Supportive Services for Veterans and
15 their families. And for the balance of State we had
16 a new program, similar program at Fairbanks Rescue
17 Mission that came on line that brought an additional
18 19 beds.
19 JESSEE: But Carrier, those beds aren't counted in the
20 shelter number?
21 COLLINS: No, they are not included in the shelter number,
22 but they could contribute to a reduction in the
23 number of individuals in that sheltered category.
24 PEARSON: Can I ask a quick -- oh, sorry.
25 COLLINS: (Simultaneous speech).....

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1 PEARSON: Can I ask a quick question back?
2 COLLINS: Sure.
3 PEARSON: Without Juneau participating do we have any idea
4 how that impacted our 2014 'cause we see that
5 reduction, however, I'm concerned about.....
6 COLLINS: Right.
7 PEARSON: .....not being very truly reflective of what's
8 happening in the State.
9 COLLINS: Um-hum. And so I want to point out Juneau did
10 anticipate through their organizations reporting data
11 back. They just did not have the same street
12 outreach, the outreach Project Homeless Connect
13 events that they've had in the past,.....
14 PEARSON: Okay.
15 COLLINS: .....so it's not that Juneau did not participate.
16 PEARSON: Okay, thank you.
17 COLLINS: Yeah, no problem. And we had some -- I was in the
18 U.S. Interagency Council on the Homeless meeting
19 earlier today and we had some good conversations, a
20 little bit more focused on Anchorage around some of
21 these numbers and digging into it and seeing if this
22 is really a true depiction of homelessness among
23 Veterans in the area, so there's a lot of
24 conversations going around right now about if
25 additional sampling and such needed to be done in

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1 order to.....

2 JESSEE: Well, because just looking at this there are no
3 unsheltered Veterans, zero unsheltered homeless
4 Veterans in the State of Alaska, that seems
5 manifestly impossible.

6 COLLINS: Right. No, I absolutely agreed and that's why I
7 point out that there were no unsheltered Veteran
8 homeless that were touched on that day during --
9 through this process, so they did not participate in
10 Project Homeless Connect or they did not receive
11 services through an organization housing services
12 through that, that was co- -- that was included in
13 this.

14 JESSEE: So the sheltered number -- I'm trying to
15 understand this.

16 COLLINS: Absolutely.

17 JESSEE: So the sheltered numbers went way down.

18 COLLINS: Yes.

19 JESSEE: But you hear anecdotally during the winter that
20 Brother Francis, Beans overflowing. Have we reduced
21 our shelter capacity because if the shelter capacity
22 is the same in -- let's just take Anchorage, but
23 there is this reduction in the number of people
24 sheltered, then they should be experiencing a
25 reduction in census, but that's not what I'm hearing,

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1 so I don't really understand this.
2 COLLINS: Right. And I am welcome to open it up to those
3 organizations here or anyone who wants to add into
4 that 'cause I don't -- I hesitate to speculate based
5 on.....
6 JESSEE: Sure.
7 COLLINS: .....just the data.
8 BRAGIEL: Good afternoon. My name is Mary Beth Bragiel and
9 I'm deputy director with Catholic Social Services and
10 the current Chair for the Anchorage Coalition to End
11 Homelessness.
12 So part of the discussion we were having about
13 that this morning when we looked at wow, the Point in
14 Time there were 49 homeless Veterans. You have to
15 remember that's one day in time, so the numbers for
16 fiscal year '13 at the Brother Francis shelter showed
17 that we had almost 400 -- or excuse me, over 400
18 Veterans within that year. So we had about 13
19 percent of our population at the Brother Francis
20 shelter from July of '12 till June of '13 that
21 identified, self-identified as homeless.
22 For this fiscal year with about six weeks left to
23 go with a little less than 3,700 people that we had
24 the prior year, so I think it's at about 3,200 right
25 now, we have about 370 people who have identified as

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1 Veterans, so that's about 10 percent. So we're
2 seeing a little bit of a drop in those who identify
3 as Veterans.
4 And in fiscal year 2012 it was closer to 16
5 percent. So we've gone from 16 percent to 13 and
6 we're just under 11 percent so far this year that is
7 self-identifying as Veterans. The overall numbers of
8 homeless are not going down.
9 JESSEE: Okay. Any other comments from Council members?
10 It's still mysterious to me, but.....
11 BOWEN: Well, I believe that the number drop that you see
12 here is directly reflected upon the fact that the
13 number of beds that we have out there to provide for
14 the homeless Veterans at any given time. At this
15 point in time I think that we're hitting that point
16 where we have actually more bed capacity than we have
17 homeless veterans.
18 And, I think, as we move forward, you know,
19 because we finally have hit the point where we
20 actually are serving those that are homeless within
21 that community that we could be reaching that point
22 where we're going to have actually an excess amount
23 of beds at any given point in time, so does that mean
24 we need to stop our efforts, no.
25 I think we still need to continue on with the

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1 efforts 'cause we don't know what going to happen
2 tomorrow as each day goes by. You know, depending on
3 whose working or not working and who's in housing or
4 not in housing.
5 But I know in my office when homeless comes in
6 there was a point in time five years ago it was hard
7 to find them a place to stay and now that's not the
8 difficult -- it's -- the difficulty is getting them
9 to stay in the safe environment, so.....
10 JESSEE: And, Vernie, talk a little bit about what those
11 environments are? What type of beds are we talking
12 about?
13 BOWEN: Well, we have beds that come in through, like,
14 Catholic Social Service. She brought up that point
15 where there was actually a total of 91 beds added
16 this year between Catholic Social Services and
17 Fairbanks, that's a lot of beds. If you really what
18 to look at that in comparison when you're looking at
19 40 to 50 people -- if you look at the 49 people that
20 are housed here in your Point in Time count that are
21 sheltered and then you add another 91 beds on top of
22 that, then that's probably where you're getting your
23 zero number from.
24 And we probably -- at any given day of the week we
25 might have three or four or five homeless somewhere

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1 within the State, but -- and that is because they're
2 choosing not to go to -- we have -- let's go with
3 Karluk Manor which is a place where you can go for
4 chronic inebriates which is downtown. The -- that
5 added another -- what is that, 40 beds in that
6 facility as well as Brother Francis shelter's
7 increased. We have the domiciliary which is in
8 Anchorage which houses, I think it's 90, isn't it?
9 UNIDENTIFIED: Fifty.
10 BOWEN: Fifty. They quite a few beds there. Then we have
11 compensated work therapy facilities for Veterans, as
12 well. And you start adding up all of these beds,
13 pretty soon you start having more beds than you have
14 -- and what I mean by beds, I'm using that as a
15 nebulous number because you could have an apartment,
16 you could have HUD VASH housing vouchers as well that
17 goes along with.....
18 JESSEE: Well, that's, sort of, my question is it scattered
19 site, housing voucher, a combination.....
20 BOWEN: It's a combination of everything all together.
21 Grant per diem programs with -- you know, I'd like
22 out the -- what's the -- Salvation Army. We have
23 grant per diem programs with the Salvation Army for
24 our facilities as well, so -- and it's quite a -- you
25 start looking at a process there's -- there's almost

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1 -- you can go from Brother Francis' shelter to an
2 apartment within that range of housing facilities for
3 these Veterans, so -- and I know that John is the
4 Homeless Outreach manager for the State of Alaska for
5 the VA so he probably even have it even more granular
6 than I have it.
7 JESSEE: Well, thanks, that's very helpful.
8 PENDREY: Yeah, with your permission I'd like to cover some
9 of the data that was covered at the U.S. Interagency
10 Council meeting this morning that addressed this
11 specific issue.
12 JESSEE: That would be great. Introduce yourself and.....
13 PENDREY: My name is John Pendrey. I'm the chief health
14 care for homeless Veterans for the Alaska VA Health
15 Care System. My job is to end Veteran homelessness
16 in Alaska and I've been doing this since 2009.
17 During that time just happened to be -- just about
18 coincided with the time that the Secretary of the VA
19 and the President identified this as one of the top
20 three priorities for the VA.
21 There's been a lot of resources brought into play
22 to try and end Veteran homelessness in Alaska. To
23 that end some of the things that we've done in 2013
24 we housed 126 individual homeless Veterans and they
25 have been Veterans or Veteran's families with about

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1 66 percent of those being chronically homeless.
2 So far in 2014 we've housed 116 homeless Veterans
3 with right now 66 percent of those meeting the
4 chronic homeless criteria.
5 With -- we have increased our availability of
6 housing through the HUD VASH Program through vouchers
7 from 25, that were recycled from 1993 till 2008 to
8 right now it's 210 vouchers. Those are being
9 utilized today at a rate of 81 percent. We're going
10 to exceed 90 percent by the close of the Federal
11 fiscal year.
12 We have 92 percent of our Veterans who enter the
13 HUD VASH Program attaining their permanent housing
14 within 90 days of first contact, so we're not -- it's
15 not something that is going on and on. We're rapidly
16 moving people from first contact into permanent, safe
17 housing.
18 The HUD VASH Program has moved from a case
19 management model to a Housing First model, so we're
20 not waiting for Veterans to have gone through
21 treatment to have become what has traditionally been
22 looked at as ready for housing, we're getting them
23 into house than working on what it takes to keep them
24 in housing. This takes a lot of high intensity case
25 management.

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1 Currently we are maintaining that case management
2 at a rate of about 82 percent of the people who go
3 into the housing maintain it permanently or they
4 graduate from the program successfully going into
5 their own housing on a permanent basis through
6 employment and treatment services.
7 Let's see, when we're looking at these numbers,
8 I've been watching these come down. It's one of the
9 -- my highlights of the year is watch what's
10 happening with these numbers every year. This year
11 it is a -- it was a shock. I expected it to be
12 coming down. I was hoping to get down below 150 from
13 where we were at last year.
14 Last year the statewide number was 210 on the
15 Federal numbers. Now we're looking at 89. It was a
16 shock, but it's also good news. It's showing that
17 what we've done of gaining these resources and expand
18 them out beyond just the Anchorage bowl area is
19 having an impact.
20 Just a couple, three years ago you only were able
21 to receive homeless services from the VA in
22 Anchorage. Now that reach includes the Valley,
23 Juneau, Kenai, Fairbanks. And we're even increasing
24 some of our other tertiary services, the vocational
25 supports out into the Valley.

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1 We have -- I have staff members who are answerable
2 to me for these programs in all of those communities
3 and we're constantly looking at the data. This is a
4 data driven program, so the Point in Time counts they
5 really matter as far as where Congress is going to
6 help us fund and what further resources we're going
7 to receive.
8 We're still seeing about 110, 120 Veterans being
9 identified as newly homeless every year in Alaska, so
10 it is not something that will end just because we
11 find ourselves without any identified unsheltered
12 Veterans. It means that we're -- we'll be trying to
13 move our processes more toward making sure any of
14 those other chronically homeless Veterans are being
15 seen as a priority, but also that we're moving into
16 prevention to try and keep Veterans from hitting the
17 streets when possible.
18 JESSEE: That's great, John. On the 110 that come in every
19 year, what's the story behind that curve? Who are
20 those folks, how are they becoming homeless?
21 PENDREY: There is a number of reasons Veterans become
22 homeless. Right now I'm sure that Mr. Schmidt is
23 aware that the majority of Veterans who become
24 incarcerated, when they're released from
25 incarceration they end up on the streets without

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1 intervention.

2 To that end one of my staff -- the whole job is

3 working with those Veterans who are connected with

4 the Corrections Programs either going into it to try

5 and wave them into Vet courts or other services or

6 when they're coming out to keep them from going on

7 the street. Engage them with services upon exit from

8 the Corrections institutions into services to keep

9 them from becoming homeless, that's one feat (ph) or

10 piece.

11 Alaska still has the great draw. I get calls at

12 least once a week somebody saying hey, I'm homeless.

13 I'm going to get on a plane and I'm going to come to

14 Alaska. And I'm at the other end of the phone saying

15 let me explain Alaska to you,.....

16 JESSEE: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

17 PENDREY: ....but still even if I get that chance, the next

18 call I get is I'm at the airport. I spent my last

19 dollar getting here help me, that does happen here.

20 And when that happens, the Veteran's on our doorstep,

21 we engage 'em right away.

22 There's people who come up here because it is the

23 great dream. You look at the stats nationwide, it

24 looks like we have the jobs. We have free money

25 given to us and people come up here just for free

1 money because it's not reality. It's what the
2 perception is.
3 There is the idea that if you get to Alaska the
4 jobs are there, the housing's there, everything is
5 there and it costs the same as it does to live in,
6 you know, Athens, Georgia.
7 JESSEE: Right.
8 PENDREY: And so I'm constantly having to bat that back down
9 not just with Veterans, but with case managers that
10 are also saying yeah, you want an adventure, go up to
11 Alaska and I have to explain to them this is not all
12 it's cooked up to be. It's expensive here. It's
13 hard to get a restart here and the job market is not
14 what you're thinking, but all of that does contribute
15 to that population coming in.
16 Of course, the obvious one is we have a lot of
17 individuals coming back from conflicts, you know,
18 getting out of the military. They get out of the
19 military not necessarily prepared for the reality of
20 civilian life. And they think they're going to --
21 everything is going to work out. It doesn't work out
22 and real quickly we know that they're homeless.
23 Right now in the domiciliary about 30 percent of
24 our population is from the current conflicts. We
25 have people in there as young as 21, 22 years old.

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1 when I first started there 13 years ago our oldest
2 Veteran was in his 80s and the youngest one was in
3 his 50s. Now we're seeing probably the oldest one is
4 in his 50s and the youngest one is early 20s and
5 we're pushing the teens.
6 Here not too long ago I had a report from the
7 Covenant House. They had a 19 year old Veteran in
8 there that was still qualified for services under
9 Covenant House, but was a Veteran, so we're seeing
10 people come, get out of uniform not really ready for
11 the real world.
12 JESSEE: Okay.
13 SCHMIDT: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....
14 JESSEE: Yeah.
15 SCHMIDT: Thanks for (indiscernible). Our -- in
16 Corrections, it might sound silly, but identifying
17 Veterans is a challenge. If they get booked and we
18 booked them when they come in, if they don't tell us
19 they're a Veteran and give us their represent (ph)
20 numbers, we won't know.
21 With all the health care debate and all that kind
22 of stuff going on we're always looking in Corrections
23 for what out there can we bring for help, you know,
24 from outside. Are they eligible for Medicaid, all
25 these kinds of things and the VA was one of the --

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1 you know, when you become incarcerated Federal
2 regulations mean -- say that we are completely
3 responsible for all medical for everybody. When a
4 Veteran is incarcerated they're still a Veteran, but
5 there's no VA benefit anyone. They're still an
6 Alaska Native, but there's no Alaska Native health
7 benefits any more. They just become a ward of the
8 State.
9 So in looking at that we recently agreed with the
10 VA -- and you might have been involved with that
11 agreement that we made to send data to them to help
12 us identify who the Veterans are. We don't know if
13 that's going to provide anything for us yet, but if
14 there is anything available for these guys 'cause I
15 think re-entry is re-entry coming -- you know, coming
16 back into society.
17 I think -- you know, criminal re-entry is
18 different, but I think many of the aspects are going
19 to be very much -- the psychological aspects are
20 going to be very much the same so that's -- I just
21 thought I'd let you know that's one of -- probably
22 the biggest challenge we have is knowing which of our
23 prisoners are Veterans in the first place.
24 So as we work towards that we'll be able to gather
25 better data on how they proceed back into society

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1 after prison incarceration and then we can start
2 talking about what to -- how do it better 'cause
3 right now we really don't even have a start, so.....
4 JESSEE: Okay. Any other questions, comments on that? All
5 right. Let's move on to a 2-1-1 update, Maureen.
6 COLLINS: Sorry to interrupt. Maureen, just a second. I
7 did just have one more slide. I just wanted to throw
8 it out.....
9 JESSEE: Oh, sure, sorry.
10 COLLINS: .....there real quick before we move on just so at
11 least when you go home you have, kind of, an idea of
12 who -- what was going on with that slide (ph).....
13 So on this last page, it's for chronic
14 homelessness and based on the Point in Time data it's
15 showing a bit of a -- a slight increase for Anchorage
16 and Balance of State in the realm of chronic
17 homelessness.
18 And with that being said I know through the
19 Opening Doors Strategic Plan there is a plan in place
20 in order to reduce chronic homelessness within 2015
21 in conjunction with Veterans' Homeless. And so in
22 the most recent continuum of care application round
23 we were seeing some additional pressure from HUD to
24 have continuums of care identify chronic homelessness
25 as a priority and working to put in place steps to

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1 reduce those numbers. So, I think, we'll see some
2 additional movement as we move forward, so that's,
3 kind of, my final thought on that.
4 JESSEE: Okay. Maureen, you're on.
5 HAGGBLOM: Well, first, thank you for the invite to be here
6 today. My name is Maureen Haggblom. I'm the
7 Director of Income Impact for United Way of Anchorage
8 and I'm actually filling in today for Sue Brogan who
9 many of you know and she's also with United Way of
10 Anchorage.
11 And you have a lot of info that's been supplied in
12 your packet related to 2-1-1, so I would like to just
13 quickly summarize some of that information.
14 So during the year of 2013 about 26,570 calls came
15 through Alaska 2-1-1 through the call center here in
16 Anchorage. And as you can see from the data many of
17 those calls were from Alaskans needing the basics,
18 rent, utility assistance, housing and food.
19 Calls in 2013 represent about a 13 percent
20 increase in calls over the year before. And Alaskans
21 remain challenged in meeting their basic needs for
22 housing, food and utilities. Getting help to make
23 ends meet was the top priority during 2013 and those
24 types of calls for basic needs have doubled since
25 2009.

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1 I also wanted to share with you a few changes at
2 2-1-1 because many of you may have heard that Karen
3 Bitzer, the prior program director, has retired. She
4 had been the director since 2008. Joan Fisher is
5 acting as interim as we search for a new director.
6 (Off record comments on microphone)
7 HAGGBLOM: So, again, Karen Bitzer has retired as the program
8 director and Joan Fisher is acting as interim as we
9 search for a new director.
10 And Sue wanted me to make sure that you all know
11 that two new positions have been created within
12 Alaska 2-1-1 and promote -- we have promoted existing
13 staff into those positions so -- and that's going to
14 create a much more robust organization at 2-1-1.
15 So the call center will now have a call center
16 operations manager. And we will also have a data
17 manager who will be managing all data related
18 activities and will be the responsibility of that
19 data manager, so that's an improvement for that
20 group.
21 And, I think, as many of you all know, Alaska
22 2-1-1 provides free, confidential access to the call
23 center Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.
24 Online data is available 24/7.
25 During 2014 2-1-1 initiated it's internal quality

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1 assurance program, so we did follow-up calls and to
2 callers with specific requests. And part of the
3 follow-up conversations included customer
4 satisfaction questions regarding the service that
5 they had received from 2-1-1.
6 So we found that -- and there's -- some of this
7 information also is in your packet, that the inf- --
8 the data so far for 2014 shows that 96 percent of the
9 callers found the 2-1-1 service to be helpful to
10 them. 98 percent reported receiving assistance as a
11 result of a 2-1-1 referral, so they took the next
12 step. And 98 percent also said that yes, if they
13 needed help again that they would contact 2-1-1.
14 So already in the first quarter of 2014 we are
15 seeing numbers that mirror the years past. An
16 interesting stat is that 840 women have called
17 looking for housing, rent or utility assistance and
18 that's a nine percent increase over the year before.
19 So 2-1-1 is the front door for health and human
20 services in Alaska and it is designed for use by
21 Alaskans, service providers, case and -- case
22 management staff, constituents aids and planners.
23 And we wanted to thank you for your continued
24 support of the referral system for the State of
25 Alaska. And we continue to strive to serve not only

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1 Alaskans, but also to help support a healthier and
2 streamlined health and human services network.
3 Again, there's a lot of data in your packet, feel
4 free -- I think most of you know how to reach me if
5 you have any questions. Feel free to contact me if
6 you have any questions on any of that data.
7 PEARSON: Maureen, are you -- you did a customer
8 satisfaction survey for the phone, is there an
9 opportunity on line to provide feedback to -- in
10 regards to the experience searching (ph)?
11 HAGGBLOM: Not at this time that I know of, but that -- that
12 would be a fabulous point to take back because that
13 would be a way also for service providers I believe
14 to give their feedback, so I think.....
15 PEARSON: Yeah, I -- just from my staff perspective, I think
16 that would be a real valuable opportunity to increase
17 the.....
18 HAGGBLOM: Yeah, I'll definitely take that back and advocate
19 for that.
20 SCHMIDT: And, Maureen, there's a -- you said a nine percent
21 increase in females?
22 HAGGBLOM: There was a nine percent increase in women
23 specifically looking for housing, rent and utility
24 assistance,.....
25 SCHMIDT: Okay.

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1 HAGGBLOM: .....so -- right.

2 SCHMIDT: DOC 20 of our growth is female, only ten percent
3 of the population, so they're out pacing their static
4 population and I just thought that was significant
5 you're seeing the same increase that we are.

6 HAGGBLOM: Interesting.

7 JESSEE: So I notice that the geographic distribution of
8 calls doesn't seem to match the population
9 distribution. What's the -- particularly Fairbanks
10 seems particularly low, is that a marketing issue or
11 a.....

12 HAGGBLOM: If you ask me I would definitely feel like,
13 perhaps, the word is not out there as well in some of
14 the areas outside of Anchorage. I would agree that
15 some of the numbers are not as high as we would like
16 to see in some of the areas outside of Anchorage, so
17 that's an opportunity definitely to get the word out
18 there better throughout the State.

19 ROMICK: Any other questions, comments?

20 KUIPER: Just one more, Maureen, I notice in the -- in each
21 of the snapshots the referrals for basic needs out
22 paces all the other calls consistently with -- well,
23 consistently. The margin is a bit closer in
24 southwest. Comparatively is that -- do you know if
25 that's an increase or decrease from previous years?

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1 HAGGBLOM: I believe the data showed that there had been an
2 increase in -- absolutely in the basic needs in rent,
3 utility assistance, housing and food. And it shows
4 that there was a 13 percent increase in calls over
5 the year before.
6 KUIPER: Okay, thank you.
7 HAGGBLOM: Absolutely. So, I mean, it really shows that
8 Alaskans really remain challenged in meeting some of
9 their basic needs. It's telling, so to speak (ph).
10 KUIPER: Thank you.
11 JESSEE: Okay, thanks.
12 HAGGBLOM: Thank you.
13 JESSEE: Continuum of Care Funding Update, Mary Beth and
14 Scott.
15 (Off record comment on microphones)
16 CIAMBOR: So my name is Scott Ciambor. I'm a planner for
17 the State of Alaska and also the chair of the Alaska
18 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.
19 BRAGIEL: And I am Mary Beth Bragiel the current chair of
20 the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness.
21 CIAMBOR: And so we went on to give you an update on the
22 Continuum of Care Program as it was operated in the
23 State this year for both the Balance of State, as
24 well as for Anchorage.
25 And, I think, I'd like to start off by saying that

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1 there was a lot of changeover this year. We lost a
2 lot of expertise in the management of this program
3 not only in Anchorage, but with Kris Duncan's
4 retirement. And so not only are we in new positions
5 here on having to figure out all the details of this
6 program and operate it, but to try and start -- find
7 the threads of what is important to present to you so
8 that you can make some policy decisions based on the
9 program.
10 And the same goes for the change in the Point in
11 Time count with Carrier here, so, you know, being
12 able to sit here and talk to you this first time
13 around will be a little choppy, but we'll get it
14 together for the next time around.
15 And so just some key things to know about the
16 Continuum of Care Program this year. A couple things
17 that both programs were dealing with. One was there
18 was five percent sequestration cuts to each program,
19 so right off the bat we had to cut some funding in
20 both those programs somewhere within the programs.
21 Two, Congress came out with a report about the
22 Continuum of Care Program, that they're really
23 concerned with the renewal burden of this program.
24 And they really wanted to see that this program was
25 being used and these funds targeted for innovative

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1 programs that were being most effective of keeping
2 people stabilly (sic) housed and off the street, so
3 that was, kind of, something that was dictated
4 through Congress.
5 And then the other thing that came along with the
6 program this year is that these funds go for
7 emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent
8 supportive housing, but HUD made it very clear that
9 with these funds they wanted us to really target
10 permanent supportive housing.
11 And so if there were transitional housing projects
12 in the list that went forward to HUD, it wasn't
13 guaranteed that those transitional projects were
14 going to get funded. And so they're really, kind of,
15 saying to us that permanent supportive housing is
16 where they see that this funding source should go in
17 the future.
18 And so in your packet you have a summary of some
19 of the breakout information from both Anchorage and
20 the Balance of State, so maybe Mary Beth, do you want
21 to start with the Anchorage summary.
22 BRAGIEL: Okay. So we went to our Continuum of Care
23 grantees and asked them to make a proposal for how we
24 were going to meet this five percent in cuts. So
25 they proposed a plan that depending on the program,

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1 some of the programs took larger than five percent
2 and some smaller. It was based on need, current
3 utilization and compromise. And so we looked at the
4 performance numbers of the different grantees and
5 took all that into consideration and came up with a
6 program.
7 So all together our annual renewal demand would
8 have been just under $3 million, but with the
9 reduction amount what was available to us in Tier 1
10 was about $2,800,000 and then we had some planning
11 funds on top of that, so we applied to $2,900,000.
12 And at this point we have received a little over
13 $2,800,000. We still have Tier 2 pending -- or
14 excuse me, Tier 1 was $2,750,000. Tier 2 is still
15 pending.
16 So you can see, I guess this is on the fourth
17 slide or the third slide, what those different
18 projects were. And most of them were continuations
19 with some of the aforementioned changes in the terms
20 of how much money they were requesting. However,
21 AWAIC did put in a project that -- Suzi, what was the
22 term that it was used?
23 PEARSON: Rapid Re-housing.
24 BRAGIEL: No, no, no. I mean, when you -- because you
25 changed the -- t was still in Tier 1, but you

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1 repackaged it, so to speak.
2 PEARSON: Yeah, yeah. I don't remember the name, I
3 apologize.
4 BRAGIEL: But because Rapid Re-housing was one of the types
5 of programs that they were going to fund it was, sort
6 of, at the top of the priority list, that one was one
7 change in our Tier 1. That was really -- that was
8 it.
9 CIAMBOR: Okay. So any questions about the Anchorage
10 program before we move on to the Balance of State
11 summary?
12 Okay. So the way the Continuum of Care works both
13 the Balance of State and Anchorage have a Governance
14 Agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage and
15 utilize Alaska Homeless Management Information System
16 to come up with its reporting for the program and
17 utilize that data. So we work in conjunction, but
18 then also separately once it comes down to doing the
19 actual grants itself.
20 If you want -- are most interested in the process,
21 both the Anchorage Coalition and Homelessness and the
22 Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, both
23 have the entire list of meetings and all the entire
24 notes and processes and the decisions for each of
25 these programs this year, so they're available for

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1 you to look at if you have a lot of free time.
2 So the Balance of State Summary with our five
3 percent sequestration cuts we decided as a committee
4 to -- using the information from the Performance
5 Reports that the program out at YKHC had been funded
6 at four units, but was only using two units
7 throughout the year, so in a sense it, kind of, made
8 it easy for us to say well, those units aren't being
9 used, so that can be where our five percent comes
10 from.
11 I think in a perfect world what we probably would
12 want if we had a very organized system is provide
13 technical assistance to that community in order to
14 keep those units viable so that we don't lose that
15 funding out there, but that's going to be something
16 that we build towards in the future.
17 The other differences in the Balance of State
18 Summary is we requested 799,000. We only received
19 738,000. Right now Our House, the Interior Alaska
20 Center for Non-Violent Living Project is waiting word
21 to see if they get funded during the Tier 2 project
22 and that will be announced in the future, but at this
23 point they haven't been funded.
24 Valley Residential Services in the Mat-Su Valley,
25 HUD added $8,000 to their request and St. Vincent

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1 DePaul in Juneau lost $8,000 for their program.
2 And so those are just a lot of numbers, so your
3 next slide actually shows all the totals for all the
4 projects in the Balance of State and you will see
5 they're, kind of -- they're spread out -- loosely
6 spread out throughout the State.
7 But knowing these are just numbers I went ahead
8 and asked the project managers of those projects that
9 didn't -- had changes in their funding what it
10 actually meant and that's what's on your next slide.
11 I'm still waiting to hear from YKHC about their
12 project.
13 But in St. Vincent DePaul's case in Juneau who
14 lost $8,000 in funding, they've basically said
15 they'll have to cut two households after really
16 figuring out how to use that funding really well in
17 the past year. And the current waitlist for that
18 program in Juneau through St. Vincent DePaul is 50,
19 so that's pretty significant for them.
20 Our House, without their funding there will be a
21 loss of eight units of permanent support housing and
22 we'll leave eight individuals homeless. And then the
23 explanation of whether it's going to be funded in
24 Tier 2 or not.
25 And then Valley Residential Services, as we know

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1 they got a little bit of a boost with $8,000 extra.
2 They'll be able to assist two homeless households for
3 a year.
4 So if you're thinking about what this means to
5 individual programs, you can see just a small change
6 in the funding pattern is really substantial for
7 these folks.
8 PEARSON: Did you get an explanation as to why that $8,000
9 change occurred between St. Vincent DePaul and Valley
10 Residential?
11 CIAMBOR: Yeah, we didn't receive any word at this moment,
12 but I think the way the process works is we'll get a
13 wrap-up from HUD in the future and either -- or we
14 can make that request, too. I think Valley
15 Residential doesn't want us to inquire too much.....
16 PEARSON: Yeah.
17 CIAMBOR: .....and St. Vincent DePaul is a little bit more
18 upset. But that's something that we have to work
19 towards in the future establishing these processes
20 with this program so that we don't have such shifts
21 and hits to certain programs.
22 The next slide is probably one of the more
23 important ones. We got together, both the Anchorage
24 Coalition and the Balance of State and said hey, you
25 know, lets compare some of our final granting

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1 programs efforts to see what our objectives are with
2 these funds and so right there you see the Anchorage
3 and the Balance of State side by side.
4 And so the first objective for each continuum was
5 Anchorage increase progress towards ending chronic
6 homeless and then the Balance of State was to create
7 new permanent housing beds for chronically homeless
8 persons. So with that it, kind of, strikes me as
9 that's -- for those agencies involved in this program
10 that is a policy strategy.
11 And if you combined that with, you know, HUD's
12 priority with this program to create more permanent
13 supportive housing, you start to see that this is the
14 direction that we really probably in our State need
15 to do is figure out how to create more permanent
16 supportive housing.
17 If you look further in some of these other
18 categories that these agencies have to work on, you
19 see they're all heavily tied to performance and to
20 potential partnerships with other sectors within our
21 communit- -- or within our State. You see, you know,
22 access to mainstream benefits, income, permanently
23 housed for six to eight months, so there is more
24 strategy and more partnerships to create for these
25 specific programs so that they can meet these goals

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1 in this program.
2 The last slide I don't think I got into your
3 packet was I was curious about the Balance of State,
4 you know, what is our permanent supportive housing
5 allocation statewide. And so another function with
6 the Alaska Housing management information system is
7 the collection of the homeless inventory chart. What
8 do we have in terms of stock in these areas of
9 emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent
10 supportive housing.
11 And so I broke it down for the Balance of State
12 and so using the 2012 population of Alaska as 731,000
13 people, Anchorage has 298,000 residents, the Balance
14 of State 432,000. For the Balance of State you have
15 about 993 total continuum of care opportunities in
16 the areas of emergency shelter, transitional housing
17 and permanent supportive housing.
18 But if you go ahead and break that down a little
19 bit more which you can do through the AKHMIS system,
20 you find at the emergency shelter there's 561 beds
21 around the State, but 296 of them are directly
22 related to domestic violence beds. So in the Balance
23 of State there's a high number of domestic violence
24 beds, but comparatively a little bit less number of
25 just straight shelter beds.

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1 Transitional housing there's 214 total units and
2 in permanent supportive housing there's only 218.
3 And so if you break that down by community Fairbanks,
4 Kenai, Juneau, Mat-Su and Bethel are the only
5 locations with this sort of housing. And Fairbanks
6 has the most which is 137 beds, but again, I believe,
7 70 of them are VASH vouchers, so it's really more of
8 a voucher program than just a mainstream supportive
9 housing.
10 So I think, you know, the net result is with the
11 -- looking at the data that comes out of this program
12 and getting our next steps for both continuums to
13 work together on sorting out that data to come up
14 with more relative information for policy making and
15 then to comply with the needs of the program.
16 Both the Anchorage Coalition and the State
17 Coalition have already gotten in touch with HUD
18 Technical Assistance to figure out, you know, what is
19 the next wave of managing this program. And we have
20 to address things like coordinated intake, governance
21 agreements so it's very clear who participates in the
22 program, what's going on and then the key thing is
23 performance.
24 These dollars are becoming scarce and Congress is
25 scrutinizing them and so we have to be very clear on

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1 what our roles and responsibilities are with these
2 dollars.
3 JESSEE: All right. Any comments, questions?
4 KUIPER: Just a request, that last slide that didn't make
5 it in, could you produce the data and we could slide
6 it in.
7 CIAMBOR: (Indiscernible) I think I sent it out Carrie.
8 KUIPER: Okay.
9 CIAMBOR: Yeah.
10 KUIPER: All right, thanks.
11 CIAMBOR: Yeah.
12 PEARSON: I really -- as a program that was in Continuum of
13 Care I know this was an incredibly challenging year
14 for the whole process and for both Balance of State
15 and Anchorage. The folks involved did an incredible
16 job and put in just tons of hours to make this happen
17 for our communities, so I want to say thanks so much.
18 Yeah, you guys did great. It was a tough year so,
19 thanks.
20 BRAGIEL: Well, and it might be important to note that just
21 yesterday and today we've been having some e-mail.
22 We are exploring the possibility of only having one
23 continuum of care, you know, process for the entire
24 State. So that's one of the things that we're
25 looking at to see if we can find efficiencies there,

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1 so.....

2 CIAMBOR: Yeah, there's a lot of work hours to put in to

3 both running side by side programs.

4 PEARSON: Right.

5 JESSEE: Anything else? Great, thanks.

6 Mark and Daniel SNHG.

7 ROMICK: Mr. Chairman, and in the interest of everybody's

8 time I'm going to do the overview and then should

9 questioning require a lifeline I will request that

10 Daniel and later Aaron, when we talk about the TBRA,

11 come up and get into the weeds should you so chose to

12 go there.

13 JESSEE: Sounds good.

14 ROMICK: So for those of you that don't know the Special

15 Needs Housing Grant Program and the basic Homeless

16 Assistance Program are managed jointly as part of our

17 capital budget grant programs. And the SNUG Program

18 has been the main vehicle for the development of

19 supportive housing absolutely through Alaska Housing

20 Finance Corporation.

21 There's been other programs developed with -- you

22 know, by DHSS and the Trust, but this has been the

23 main vehicle and it's been around for a long time.

24 And back in, I think, it was 2010, 2009 the

25 Homeless Assistance Program which is the larger

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1 umbrella program was, kind of, super funded as a
2 result of a lot of lobbying and -- or I should say,
3 education on the part of a lot of people with the
4 Administration to increase the Homeless Assistance
5 Program up to the $8 million that it is right now.
6 And as such it's been the main vehicle for the
7 Council to look at achieving results based on the
8 goals and objectives that were in the 10 Year Plan.
9 And so, you know, this is, kind of, the larger source
10 and one that we spent a lot of time thinking about
11 and how to manage it and how we target it from year
12 to year.
13 So the good news is, is that the Special Needs
14 Housing Grant Program and the Homeless Assistance
15 Program were funded at the same level they were last
16 year. There were no reductions in the budget.
17 So the chart that you have in your packet is
18 essentially a forecast of the administration of these
19 funds over the next 10 years. And an idea of the
20 assumptions that we use in terms of setting how much
21 money might be available each year for use in
22 providing supportive housing or homeless assistance
23 through the Homeless Assistance Program.
24 Each year we get about 20 to 25 applicants under
25 the Homeless Assistance Program and the total dollar

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1 request ranges from -- anywhere from five to eight
2 million dollars. That's, kind of, the way it's gone,
3 steadily increasing over time.
4 Fortunately the budget hasn't increase so every
5 year we go through a very technical and detail
6 oriented hair cutting process that, kind of, limits
7 each grant to the total limit of money that we have
8 under the Homeless Assistance Program.
9 So looking at the chart you have three colored
10 bars. The blue one is -- well, let me start with the
11 green one -- or the red one actually which is
12 actually the total budget that we receive each year.
13 And as you can see that's been relatively consistent
14 and we're assuming that it's going to be consistent
15 over the next 10 years, that's the SNUG and the basic
16 Homeless Assistance Program funding.
17 The green bar is actually the total obligations
18 that we've already made for operating assistance to
19 the variety of supportive housing projects that we've
20 funding in the last 10 years -- or actually since
21 2009. And that would be your Karluk Manor, the
22 Tanana Chiefs Conference Project in Fairbanks and a
23 myriad of other smaller Housing First or supportive
24 housing projects with RurALCAP or other
25 organizations, so that's, kind of, like our total

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1 obligation.

2 And you can see it, it increases every three years

3 and that's not an optical illusion, that's by design

4 because when we funded the commitments to these

5 organization and when we renew them every three

6 years, it's in three year chunks.

7 So when we started this program one of the things

8 that we learned from the SNUG Program from the

9 beginning projects in 2000 when we started with the

10 Mental Health Trust and DHSS doing the SNUG Program

11 was that those projects between 2000 and 2000 -- I

12 think six, where we didn't have -- where we, kind of,

13 relied on Medicaid to provide the support services,

14 it didn't actually turn out exactly the way that we

15 thought it was going to and so -- in terms of the

16 consistent ability to bill Medicaid.

17 And so when we combined things in a more

18 formalized way in 2009, we obligated support service

19 dollars and rental ass- -- and offering support

20 dollars in three year chunks so that we knew that for

21 at least three years each one of these projects would

22 be safe.

23 And then -- so every third year there's a huge

24 obligation balance that we need to settle and that's

25 why when you look at the blue line the carry forward

1 to each future years goes up and down also based on
2 that obligation because we are carrying forward money
3 from year to year to settle the obligation in year
4 three.
5 And so we're managing this program on not just a
6 year to year basis, but a decade long basis so that
7 we can make sure that every project that we committed
8 to has the ability to sustain itself throughout the
9 next 10 years as long as we receive consistent
10 funding in the Homeless Assistance Program and the
11 SNHG Program. And that way we can assure that every
12 project that we funded has the greatest chance of
13 success and we don't start losing projects.
14 Now, since we started this process, I think, the
15 Mental Health Trust and DHSS have really started
16 moving forward on trying to figure out a way to get
17 more Medicaid billings for these projects for the
18 eligible services. And so it's possible that in the
19 future some of the ongoing assistance that we've
20 committed to will decrease as those other funding
21 sources come on board.
22 We had some success already, in particular there's
23 a -- I think there's a project in Juneau, Reach. I'm
24 looking at Daniel for confirmation, that gave back
25 all of their operating and support money -- not all

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1 of it, but most of it and -- because they were able
2 to bill other sources for the operation of the
3 project.
4 So looking forward, this is the, kind of, 10 year
5 projection and there's a number of assumptions that
6 we've listed on the chart here that show, kind of,
7 how we anticipate moving forward over the 10 years.
8 This projection assumes that in 2014 we have a
9 capital round of SNHG funding of about a million and
10 a half dollars which is the money that was carried
11 over from last year that we talked about.
12 And there is a -- kind of, a rolling, ongoing
13 amount of about $500,000 which might be reduced by a
14 little commitment that we made to the 811 Program
15 that we submitted with the Department of Health and
16 Social Services, but that really is after -- after
17 those two chunks of money are really the only money
18 that we have to play with in terms of starting new
19 adventures or providing additional assistance to
20 other projects.
21 And that's, kind of, where we're at with this
22 program unless the total dollar amount of money
23 increases into either the SNUG or the Homeless
24 Assistance Program in the capital budget through
25 whatever mechanism whether it's general fund or

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1 foundation grants or whatever, that's, kind of, where
2 we're at.
3 And we're in -- as Scott and Mary Beth indicated
4 the renewal being a very -- having a large concern on
5 the part of the Federal Government as it relates to
6 the Continuum of Care, we are at, kind of, a renewal
7 mode for the Homeless Assistance Program and SNHG
8 with this little bit of flexibility with these two
9 pots of money. So that's, kind of, where we're at
10 with the SNHG Program and the Homeless Assistance
11 Program.
12 We should be towards the end of this month
13 announcing the preliminary -- or the -- do the Intent
14 To Award for the Homeless Assistance Program which is
15 the -- uses up most of the Homeless Assistance -- or
16 the basic Homeless Assistance Program awards which is
17 the largest component of the Homeless Assistance
18 Program fund. And I think -- I can't remember
19 exactly how many applicants we got this year. It was
20 something on the order of 23 or so.
21 COLLINS: There were 30.
22 ROMICK: Thirty.
23 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)
24 ROMICK: So demand is up for the program. The requests
25 were way up, but the money is not. So, like I said,

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1 the hair cutting process will be part of the
2 allocation process that we have to go through.
3 So that's, kind of, the overview of the SNHG and
4 the BHAP, where they're at and how we anticipate
5 moving forward.
6 So if there's any questions I'd be happy to
7 address them or call to Daniel for a lifeline.
8 (Enter Bryan Butcher)
9 JESSEE: Okay. Any questions or comments on -- yes.
10 WILKS: I just have our comment on the observation that
11 Mark made with regard to looking at the trend that's,
12 kind of, across the nation on using Medicaid funding
13 to operate supported housing programs.
14 And I think that being the chief compliance
15 officer of a behavioral health care center and one in
16 Fairbanks that we have to keep in mind that Medicaid
17 is insurance and the services have to be medically
18 necessary. And they have to be provided within a
19 corporate compliance structure that holds the agency
20 accountable for those funds being spent in a
21 medically necessary way.
22 And so I think while Medicaid can provide some
23 services particularly if you have residential staff
24 on site at a supported housing program, you'll have
25 the opportunity to bill Medicaid for those services,

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1 but I think looking at the reliance on a health
2 insurance program to actually pay for operating and
3 support service costs of providers of services to
4 those residents in those housing, can be problematic
5 in the long run, so.....
6 PEARSON: I feel like this is going to be a stupid question,
7 but at the bottom of this line you talk about -- the
8 very last point is that if the 811 application is
9 funded, the annual amount of rental assistance
10 actually goes down?
11 ROMICK: That's correct. We made a commitment in order to
12 provide leveraging to the 811 application that we
13 submitted with DHSS and DHSS provided also a
14 substantial commitment of funding in order to get the
15 points to be competitive. And so if the funding --
16 if that application is approved, than 50,000 of the
17 500 is the commitment that we made ongoing and so it
18 would be.....
19 PEARSON: Okay.
20 ROMICK: .....reduced.
21 Nobody that is currently operating a project will
22 see a reduction, this is just a reduction in that,
23 kind of, flexible amount that.....
24 PEARSON: Yeah, thank you.
25 ROMICK: Sure.

1 JESSEE: Anything else? All right. I'll turn it back over
2 to Bryan.
3 BUTCHER: All right. Thank you very much for chairing in my
4 absence, Jeff. I apologize for not being here. It
5 was my daughter's 6th grade graduation and she was
6 speaking. And she had spent a couple of weeks on her
7 speech and I could not miss it. And it turned out to
8 be a poem that incorporated half of the school so it
9 was -- it was (indiscernible), so, yeah. But no, it
10 was great, it was great. And anyway I apologize for
11 being a little late, but it couldn't be avoided (ph).
12 Let's go to Item 5, HOME Tenant Based Rental
13 Assistance Update. Mark Romick and Aaron.
14 ROMICK: Also I'm going to just give a brief overview and
15 as before if we get into the weeds Aaron is here to
16 provide some detail. And the Public Housing folks
17 just, kind of, walked out, but they'll be back and if
18 there's other questions they might be able to chip in
19 as well.
20 So the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program,
21 we've been operating this for a number of years now
22 and it's funded through two funding sources. And
23 that's the HOME Investment Partnership Act and a
24 tenant -- which has a component for tenant based
25 rental assistance and it is in the Balance of State

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1 only because AHFC is the Balance of State
2 jurisdiction for the HOME Program. The Municipality
3 of Anchorage is the jurisdiction for Anchorage. And
4 so we have taken a component of our HOME funds to use
5 for this purpose in the Balance of State.
6 The other funding source is the Office of
7 Children's Services. It has contributed general fund
8 money to -- under the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
9 and so it is operating in Anchorage. Their component
10 of the -- or their funding is used in Anchorage while
11 our component is used outside.
12 And so this is just, kind of, a Staff's report on
13 where we are at with these two programs. I think we
14 have a substantially -- since we've been running the
15 Prisoner Re-entry Program in conjunction with
16 Corrections for quite some time, we've had, I think,
17 a total of 260 people go through that program at one
18 point or another. And not all 260 actually were
19 successful in leasing up, but they were at least
20 offered a coupon by our Public Housing Division.
21 And the way this program works is that both OCS
22 and Corrections refer people to us and then the
23 Public Housing Division manages the coupon or the
24 voucher that we use to give to the individuals to go
25 out and find a place to live.

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1 You can see in the chart in the midway down that
2 both the average HAP payment -- and HAP is, kind of,
3 a HUD terminology for rental assistance, has gone up
4 from 2012 to 2013 and so has the amount of time that
5 people spend shopping. And so I think that under the
6 Prisoner Program that's probably just a -- I mean,
7 it's an understandable implication in the sense that
8 rents are going up and people are having a little bit
9 more difficult time finding a place to live, even in
10 the Balance of State which has a lot higher vacancy
11 rates in some communities than Anchorage.
12 Most of the prisoners are locating in Fairbanks
13 and Fairbanks has fairly high vacancy rates right now
14 compared to the rest of the State so it might be a
15 little bit easier for people to find a place to live
16 in Fairbanks than some of the other places.
17 This means that, you know -- and, I believe -- I'm
18 going to look at Aaron for confirmation, but I -- and
19 Daniel, but I believe that we did propose an increase
20 in the amount of money that was going to be available
21 for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program in the
22 last Action Plan for the HOME Program which was
23 passed by our Board in Bethel last week.
24 So we are going to be providing some additional
25 resources to this program for both the prisoners and

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1 the youth aging out of foster care in the coming year
2 to help overcome some of those increases in rents.
3 That's pretty --.....
4 You'll also notice that although we don't have the
5 average shopping time on this chart, you'll notice
6 that the average HAP payment for the youth aging out
7 of foster care is about $109 more than it is for the
8 prisoners. And I'm not sure exactly why that is,
9 although maybe people are more hesitant to rent to
10 youth than they are people with a criminal record.
11 I'm not sure what that means for our population,
12 but.....
13 JESSEE: They must know my kids.
14 ROMICK: Yeah.
15 PEARSON: Employment opportunity might also.....
16 ROMICK: Yes, right.
17 PEARSON: .....be a part of that.
18 ROMICK: So, anyway, the other thing that I wanted to draw
19 peoples' attention to and we talked a little bit
20 about this before the Council meeting is that working
21 with Corrections' staff we've gotten -- we starting
22 to get really good data points for the people that
23 have gone through the Prisoner Re-entry Program.
24 And coming up this fall we should have the ability
25 to trace the, kind of, recidivism rate in, kind of, a

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1 graphical form of the people that have participated
2 in the Voucher Program compared against the general
3 population of people who don't receive vouchers or
4 housing assistance.
5 And there's a number of points that we'll be able
6 to look at in terms of recidivism and they're, kind
7 of, noted down at the bottom of the chart here. And
8 we're hopeful partly because of the discussion that
9 we've had about the difficulty in interpreting data
10 that we have right now to say anything definitively.
11 The one nice thing about working with Corrections
12 is they have a lot of data on individuals as they are
13 a captive audience and you can find out fairly
14 quickly whether they've gone back to prison or not.
15 And so the performance -- the evaluation measure is
16 pretty clear. It's either, you know, did they or did
17 they not go back to prison.
18 And so we're hopeful that we're going to get some
19 really good data and be able to show what the effect
20 of getting a voucher would be on the prison
21 population. And provide more evidence to the fact
22 that it's far less expensive to intervene in
23 somebody's life than it is to have them go to prison
24 or as we found on the Behavior Health side, go to API
25 or some other type -- or intensive assisted living

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1 facility.
2 So with that I'll stop and if there are any
3 questions.
4 BUTCHER: Yeah, I'd like to add to that, Mark. I know in
5 conversations with the Legislature we talked about
6 our budget, there was quite a bit of interest by
7 Legislators about this. And, I think, part of it is
8 what Mark talked about with the idea that spending a
9 little bit of money on the front-end can save a lot
10 of money on the back-end. And something that you've
11 been spending many years of your life -- I know you
12 have, too, talking about once we get a large enough
13 sample size, but I think also it's a good example of
14 the siloing that a lot of people think occurs in
15 State agencies not being the case here where they are
16 agencies all working to make sure people aren't
17 dropping through the cracks, so I've appreciated the
18 -- you know, the attention and focus that I've seen
19 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....
20 Does anybody have any questions?
21 UNIDENTIFIED: None on that (ph).
22 BUTCHER: Okay. There being none, let's move on to item 6,
23 10 Year Plan Next Steps. Mark, again.
24 ROMICK: Thanks, Bryan. So the purpose of this agenda item
25 is to, kind of, remind everybody and also look for

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1 some volunteers from the Council to participate in a
2 discussion about the 10 Year Plan.
3 This is the fifth year of our 10 Year Plan which
4 started in 2009. And we, five years ago, came up
5 with some goals and objectives and measurements that
6 we felt we'd be able to do over the 10 years. And
7 now at the fifth year, I think it's time that we've
8 all -- that we agreed that we would take a step back
9 and look at what we've done over the five years.
10 What the goals and objectives we had were. What
11 are performance measurements are. And look at them
12 and decide whether we needed to continue doing what
13 we were doing or whether there was any tweaks that
14 need to happen particularly in the area of data
15 tracking because over the last couple Council
16 meetings and I think it was pointed out today, the --
17 not every data measurement, that tool we have, is as
18 robust as others.
19 And, I think, in the interest of not collecting
20 things that don't have any meaningful value, it's
21 time for us to, kind of, take a step back and look at
22 the measurements that we're using.
23 One of the things that I don't think was mentioned
24 earlier regarding the HMIS system, and I'm glad to
25 see -- I'm glad to hear Scott's report about the

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1 breakdown of units and whatnot out of the HMIS system
2 for the Balance of State because it's nice to see
3 that the HMIS system is being used for some more
4 rigorous data analysis than it has in the past.
5 But in addition to what's available to it -- in it
6 now, the HMIS system is going to be going through a
7 third party evaluation here in the next month, I
8 believe. I can't remember exactly the date that the
9 evaluation is going on, but at the end of that we
10 should have some recommendations on how the HMIS
11 system can be improved, maybe some better reports
12 that we can get out of the system so that we can
13 start using that data in a much more prescriptive
14 policy manner.
15 I think, as it was pointed out in the discussion
16 earlier, the use of the Point In Time data, which is
17 a requirement by HUD, is subject to a lot of
18 fluctuating bias based on the number of people that
19 report and whatnot and so it's very difficult to use
20 that as a definitive source for policy making, so it
21 gives us a direction and a picture, but not as
22 definitive as some of us who are more, kind of, data
23 oriented would prefer.
24 So one, I think, it's time for us all to, kind of,
25 take a step back and look at what we've done in the

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1 five years and that means that it's going to involve
2 some participation by Council Members.
3 And so I don't necessarily need to get a show of
4 hands now, but Suzi, thank you very much, who is
5 willing to volunteer and to participate between now
6 and the end of the year in, kind of, a series of
7 meetings where we look at those goals and objectives
8 and the data points that we're collecting and have a
9 discussion about the use or lack thereof of some
10 things that we're doing and whether we need to change
11 the goals and objectives to make them more
12 meaningful.
13 You know, I know that having been involved in the
14 development of the plan five years ago there was
15 things that we assumed that we'd be able to do that
16 we're just not going to be able to do because the
17 data is not there, there's no way to collect it and
18 so it would be very difficult to show any success for
19 those types of measurements.
20 So if you're interested in volunteering you can
21 let me know. Send me an e-mail or for those that
22 represent Commissioners, if you'd like to volunteer a
23 member of your staff, that would be okay as well.
24 PEARSON: I would like to put it on the record as to who is
25 volunteering.

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1 ROMICK: Suzi Pearson had volunteered already.
2 PEARSON: But I would encourage others to commit to that in
3 the minutes today.
4 ROMICK: And so that's the only thing that I had to say for
5 -- on that -- on number 6.
6 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Mark. Any.....
7 WILKS: And I'll commit -- I'll commit to that.
8 BUTCHER: .....questions? Okay. Item 7, Public Housing
9 Update. Cathy Stone, our Public Housing Director and
10 Mike Courtney.
11 STONE: Good afternoon, Members of the Council. Pleased
12 to be here. For the record my name is Cathy Stone.
13 I'm the Director of the Public Housing Division and
14 brought along Mike Courtney who is the Director of
15 Operations for the Public Housing Division and we're
16 going to tag team this presentation and give you an
17 update on what's going on in Public Housing.
18 First, I'd just like to let everyone know that our
19 fiscal year '15 Moving To Work Plan for the Public
20 Housing Division has just been approved by our Board
21 and it's gone to HUD, that's basically the plans for
22 the next year for the Public Housing Division.
23 It was not -- there wasn't much new in the plan
24 because as of this year we have started a very
25 comprehensive Rent Reform in both our Voucher Program

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1 and our Public Housing Program. There's some time
2 limits in there. There's some stepped up rents in
3 there, as well as some exciting opportunities for
4 people in our Family Self-sufficiency Programs, so
5 we're just in rent reform. Beginning operation of
6 that, so this next year's plan did not change very
7 much as we launch into rent reform and see how things
8 go.
9 In respect to this Family Self-sufficiency
10 expansion, currently the Family Self-sufficiency
11 Program which provides job training skills, education
12 opportunities, things of that nature has only been
13 offered in Anchorage and then just recently in Juneau
14 and we have just expanded that statewide now.
15 And so we're really going to provide that to all
16 of our participants understanding that if we're
17 asking you to, you know, time limit out of public
18 housing or Voucher Program, we want to provide you
19 some skills and resources to do that.
20 Bearing in my the time limits to do not apply for
21 persons with disabilities or elderly people, that's
22 over the age of 62.
23 I want to update people that we have a new
24 statewide Advisory Board in the Public Housing
25 Division. We choose people that are either in the

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1 Voucher Program or in our public housing statewide,
2 all over the State and we're excited to get their
3 feedback on the things that we're implementing, how
4 we're running things and what they want in public
5 housing.
6 And we plan on bringing all those folks in, in
7 July for a meeting and, you know, sit down and have a
8 full day of meetings to discuss how our operations
9 are and what they'd like to see us do and what we're
10 doing right and what we can change.
11 In respect to the affordable housing demand in
12 Alaska in general, demand remains extremely strong
13 we're to the point of having zero vacancy rates in
14 many places throughout the State. This is troubling
15 to us.
16 Toward that end we've created a new subsidiary
17 which Mike Courtney will talk about a little bit
18 known as the Alaska Corporation for Affordable
19 Housing, but the main concern being that in some
20 communities there is just not enough affordable
21 housing for people that are lower income and what
22 we're finding is that even what was typically lower
23 income housing is being taken by those who have more
24 income, so lower income people are being squeezed.
25 And everyone here is probably very aware of this

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1 problem, but in some places in the State it's more
2 severe than others.
3 We currently have 6,389 applicants on our waiting
4 list just in our Public Housing Program statewide.
5 And on our Voucher Program we have 4,232 people on
6 our waiting lists, so, you know, those are
7 significant numbers. Many of those are duplicates.
8 However, you know, that's over 10,000 people
9 statewide both weighing (ph) those combined and
10 clearly there's just not enough affordable housing
11 for the people that need it.
12 There's some good things happening. We are
13 offering a Set Aside Program. We have multiple Set
14 Aside Programs. We have the Empowering Choice
15 Housing Program which is a set aside referral program
16 to people that are displaced due to domestic violence
17 or sexual assault. Ms Pearson is well aware.....
18 PEARSON: Thank you.
19 STONE: ..... and -- you're welcome. And it's starting
20 it's second year. We're pleased with how it's been
21 run so far and are looking forward to wrapping it up
22 and we've really maxed it out to the highest degree
23 that we can with the funds that we have and our
24 hoping that, you know, going forward -- we did get a
25 Legislative appropriation of $2 million to continue

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1 running that, so we will be going with that for the
2 next several years hopefully, as well as a set aside
3 of a million vouchers -- a million dollars in voucher
4 funding is also what we're contributing to that.
5 We have the VASH Program, Veterans Affairs
6 Supportive Housing that's statewide. We continue to
7 administer that with the Veterans Administration.
8 We have the Prisoner Re-entry Program, another
9 referral program that we're pleased with and that's
10 in about it's third year. And that's for persons,
11 you know, coming out of incarceration who are being
12 referred by their parole officer and we've seen some
13 good results of that.
14 Some interesting dynamics are that many of those
15 are women and what appears to be critical to those
16 women and the reason they value this so much and
17 really want to succeed is to get their children back.
18 Coming out of incarceration, wanting to reunite their
19 families which is a really exciting, good process
20 that we're seeing with the Prisoner Re-entry Program.
21 And we also have the Youth Aging out of Foster
22 Care Program that we're administering with DHSS
23 that's exciting. Another referral program for those
24 between 18 and 23 that are in foster care that are
25 technically eligible for Foster First services, but

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1 are at an age where they really don't want to live
2 with a foster care family, so giving them an
3 opportunity to get out on their own.
4 They're not ready to pay the full amount of rent,
5 are not able to, but providing this voucher
6 assistance through a referral by an independent
7 living specialist who, kind of, monitors their
8 progress. We're excited about the opportunities
9 there as well getting those young people on a good
10 footing and on a good start after, perhaps, you know,
11 having some tough circumstances that they've gone
12 through in life. So those are some of the set asides
13 that we're currently operating.
14 And we're also excited about the opportunity to
15 partner with DHSS on another set aside. We're
16 calling it Journey Home. The final agreement hasn't
17 been inked, but the plan is to offer voucher
18 assistance on a referral basis for persons with
19 disabilities in the community, you know, breaking it
20 out by different numbers of referrals in different
21 communities depending on, you know, the agreement
22 which we haven't finalized.
23 I don't want to talk too much about it until all
24 the details are completed, but that's another
25 commitment that we're making with DHSS and that's

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1 also part of the 811 application that you heard
2 about, so hopefully if that application is approved
3 we're looking forward to adding significant numbers
4 of dollars in that program as well.
5 Mike, I just took, like, two of your things. I'm
6 so sorry.
7 COURTNEY: Lucky me.
8 STONE: So I'm going to turn it over to Mike and let him
9 go through the rest of our piece.
10 COURTNEY: Thank you. And good afternoon. Back to, kind of,
11 piggyback a little bit on what Mark was saying
12 earlier and Cathy, also.
13 Just wanted to thank a lot of the people in this
14 room that we're partnering with on this 811
15 demonstration project. If we can be the successful
16 applicant it could get us up to 300 vouchers and
17 really make a huge difference in helping the persons
18 with disabilities in all of our communities, so it's
19 really exciting. And I think we've got a really good
20 team. A lot of leverage put together, so cross your
21 fingers and thanks to everybody who has been so
22 helpful on that.
23 Some of you may know about two years ago we
24 created the Alaska Corporation for Affordable Housing
25 or what we call ACAH. And it enables us to do a lot

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1 of things that traditional HUD funded agencies are
2 not able to do and increases the potential for both
3 leveraging cash, financing and also partnering with
4 developers and so it makes it much easier to develop
5 property that would be through the traditional HUD
6 resources.
7 And we are in the process of developing two new
8 affording housing project. Actually one new one and
9 a redevelopment of another.
10 In Mountain View we have -- actually are working
11 on the formal name for the property, but we have a
12 new apartment community of about 70 units going in on
13 Mountain View Drive next to the Special Olympics
14 training building. It will be a total of 70 units,
15 50 will be family and 20 will be senior housing
16 units. All affordable with project base assistance,
17 so I think there's maybe five units that are closer
18 to market and other than that all the units will have
19 assistance.
20 It's also going to have a wonderful community
21 building space that the Rasmuson Foundation has
22 helped with funding on. We plan to use that resource
23 for the entire Mountain View community and not just
24 residents, health fairs, job resource things, working
25 with the Community Land Trust and the Community

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1 Council on ideas that we could utilize that building
2 for so it's pretty exciting there.
3 In addition to that in the Russian Jack
4 neighborhood on San Roberto Street we have four very
5 old and tired four-plexes that we're in the process
6 of demolishing and we hope to have that happening in
7 August. We'll redevelop it with 18 new units using
8 the same development team that we're using in
9 Mountain View.
10 We're pretty excited about this because it's going
11 to change the face of the San Roberto neighborhood
12 and hopefully spur some other redevelopment there.
13 And then also obviously in Mountain View some badly
14 needed affordable housing there which hopefully will
15 be able to attract a large section of different
16 income streams.
17 We're really excited because the Community
18 Councils and the communities have welcomed us for
19 both of these properties. And to give you an idea of
20 what these will look like in the end, they're very
21 similar -- the same architect that did the Trailside
22 Heights properties at Lake Otis and Abbott are
23 developing this.
24 And we're in the process of finalizing some of the
25 city planning issues and working with the State on a

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1 few other development wrinkles which are pretty
2 typical in a situation like this.
3 And we're hoping to break ground on both of these,
4 start demolishing the properties on San Roberto in
5 August and hope to start on the Mountain View project
6 in August, also.
7 We're in the process of relocating all of the
8 residents that we have at San Roberto now and many of
9 them will get vouchers and quite a few of them are
10 going to move into other public housing units, too,
11 so that process is well underway and we're pretty
12 excited about it.
13 Be glad to answer any questions that you might
14 have on it, also.
15 KUIPER: I just have an information question. You both
16 mentioned affordable housing, could you give us a
17 paragraph definition of what that means?
18 COURTNEY: Well, I think, the traditional definition would be
19 -- affordable would be anything that would be
20 approximately 30 percent of a family's gross income.
21 I've said this in many other forums and I know that's
22 the traditional HUD definition and this is more my
23 personal opinion than anybody else, but if you look
24 nationwide that traditional 30 percent formula is not
25 what most Americans are living with any more.

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1 I think nationally most people are -- even in this
2 room are paying much over 30 percent of their monthly
3 income to rent and so I think that definition is
4 probably going to change in the next five years if
5 you had to ask me.
6 We still have the very low income persons under 30
7 percent and that's a lot of what we've been targeting
8 for -- I think through the Planning Department and we
9 realize that, that's a real area of need, but at the
10 same time as Cathy said, we're seeing more and more
11 higher income people coming in and using public
12 housing and voucher resources that maybe if we move
13 them down this rent reform continuum, we'd be able to
14 get those people into more traditional market
15 apartments that they could actually afford making
16 more room in public housing and the Voucher Program
17 for those under 30 percent people.
18 I don't know if that answered your question or
19 not?
20 KUIPER: It did.
21 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions? Okay, thank you very
22 much Mike and Cathy.
23 Let's move on to Item 8, the Alaska Coalition on
24 Housing and Homelessness Update. Scott, if you could
25 come forward.

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1 CIAMBOR: All right. Thank you, everybody. So first I want
2 to start off by saying thank you to the Alaska
3 Council on Homeless for entertaining the idea of
4 holding your next meeting during the annual
5 conference of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and
6 Homelessness. And double thanks to taking us up on
7 the offer of actually participating while we're in
8 Juneau where we decided to move the conference.
9 I met with the Juneau Homeless Coalition last week
10 and they're super excited to be able to host not only
11 the conference, but to be in the room during this
12 meeting as well and have a chance to participate, so
13 thank you very much.
14 BUTCHER: Great.
15 CIAMBOR: Just a few slides here for -- in your packet. I'm
16 sorry (indiscernible) this one with the big map. For
17 those who don't know the Alaska Coalition on Housing
18 and Homelessness has been around since the mid '90s.
19 It's been a volunteer board all the way up until this
20 point.
21 And the mission of the Coalition is to be a
22 statewide organization that works to develop
23 strategies to increase the availability of affordable
24 housing and eliminate homelessness in our great
25 state.

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1 So if you think about that mission it is very,
2 very broad and so the Coalition really wants to dive
3 into issues of, you know, street outreach and
4 services for folks who are chronically homeless, all
5 the way up to the actual development of units and he
6 impact of not having enough fair market units in
7 markets across the state, so it's very broad.
8 On the second slide you see in 2012 the Coalition
9 had a Board retreat and really, kind of, finalized
10 what exactly its mission is and what it wants to do.
11 I think the overall motivation of the Board -- as I
12 said, has been overwhelming volunteers, many who are
13 running shelters or developing affordable housing in
14 their own community or leading local coalitions and
15 seeing the need to participate on the State as a
16 means to, you know, affect some change.
17 And so the core functions of the State Coalition
18 is one, educate, two, advocate, conduct outreach,
19 collaborate, network and to provide technical
20 assistance to communities who are interested in
21 tackling these issues.
22 The tools that the Coalition has are the bi-
23 monthly meetings. They're on teleconference and are
24 held here in Anchorage. The annual conference you
25 all know about. The website, resource

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1 identification. And then one that we've added in the
2 last two years is, kind of, oversight of the Balance
3 of State Continuum of Care Program.
4 And so at that time in 2012 the Board noted that
5 it really wanted to be more effective by increasing
6 Board capacity, so we have an eligibility for up to
7 15 Board Members to participate. Maintain and expand
8 current funding sources.
9 Currently we're working on a job description to
10 hire staff to hopefully have our first employee in
11 next six months. I'll conservatively say six months,
12 but hopefully sooner than that and so that we can do
13 more.
14 Again, there is a huge desire on the Board to see
15 more units on the ground in local communities and
16 less homelessness in the entire State, so there's a
17 real drive to do what we can to make that happen.
18 The third point that we came up with as a priority
19 action is develop ongoing, consistent communication
20 with membership. We have a list serve and try to put
21 out information on -- of our idea of housing and
22 homeless issues on a consistent basis.
23 The next point is items that we've covered a lot
24 today already, educate ourselves and advocate for
25 uniform housing and homeless data collection

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1 including inventory, needs and gap analysis, Point in
2 Time Homeless Court, AKHMIS and Project Homeless
3 Connects.
4 And, I think, the key thing here is that being
5 able to break all of that information down to a
6 community level. A lot of time the programs or the
7 information received is broken down into Anchorage
8 and Balance of State which then doesn't translate to
9 somebody in Sitka who wants to know how many homeless
10 people are in my community.
11 I had a high school student ask me that question
12 the other day and I had to weave a three step process
13 for her to find that simple number and so that's
14 something that we would like to sort out.
15 As Marie is here from the Municipality of
16 Anchorage and she has the agenda for the Alaska
17 Homeless Management Information System outside
18 evaluation with Barb Ritter so you can take a look at
19 that and that's going to take place next week. And
20 so not only is the State Coalition, but the Anchorage
21 Coalition and anybody who potentially could use that
22 information onto getting better and consistent
23 understanding of homelessness in their communities is
24 really excited about this evaluation.
25 The fourth -- fifth bullet point was to encourage

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1 and help launch coalitions. We try to do that
2 through education and advocacy and then improve our
3 Coalition website. If you haven't been there lately,
4 we have tried to put as much information on these
5 issues to be a resource for folks just learning about
6 this in their community or just wanting to get
7 involved.
8 Again, the next side, that's our current Board of
9 Directors. We'll have elections at the conference
10 again this year. We have 11 members right now and we
11 have space for 15, so if you know folks who want to
12 be involved, please, let us know.
13 The next slide, this is our current structure, our
14 committees structure for the Coalition. And the two
15 that are in red are the Alaska Homeless Management
16 Information System and the Balance of State Continuum
17 of Care.
18 We talked about the vital importance of data, as
19 well as the large commitment to oversee the Continuum
20 of Care and so this is a place where we would
21 encourage the Council if you have employees, if you
22 have people who are interested in broad and abstract
23 data elements or want to be participating on
24 statewide policy through this Continuum of Care
25 Program, please, refer them to us to participate.

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1 This Continuum of Care Committee looks rather
2 large, but when you end up happening (sic) is that
3 participation waned amongst these folks because
4 they're very new and they got overwhelmed once (ph)
5 they got into understanding what they would have to
6 do and so realistically the decision making came down
7 to two reviewers and that's not necessarily how this
8 Continuum of Care is suppose to work.
9 It's supposed to be a community input and a set
10 governance agreement for all involved and a very
11 clear process for how to use those funds, so I'm
12 doing some recruiting here with the Council today.
13 The next slide is the AKHMIS Oversight and so not
14 only is that important to the Balance of State
15 Continuum of Care, but the Anchorage folks, so you
16 see a healthy mixture here.
17 One thing I would like to say about that process
18 is -- and we talk about the confusion around the
19 numbers, well, in our initial discussions leading up
20 to the evaluation coming next week, one of the
21 comments was that, you know, we have a hard time just
22 getting agencies who are supposed to be doing the
23 data to participate. And that is such a hard
24 struggle to do that we don't have time to do the
25 analysis.

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1 So a lot of times the struggle has been just to
2 get the data input so we can apply for a grant or an
3 individual agency could use it and so there hasn't
4 been this overlying analysis of what's in there.
5 And like I say, as I mentioned in our Continuum of
6 Care report, I think your policy decisions are in
7 that information. Permanent supportive housing is a
8 need and it's elevated not only in the data, but in
9 the objectives of both of those programs, so I would
10 encourage this Council to be more demanding of this
11 data and to get the analysis you need to make these
12 decisions.
13 The next slide is, kind of, a maze and it's this
14 one. When I first starting learning about the
15 housing and homelessness system here in Jun- -- or
16 when I was in Juneau on the local level I had to
17 create this 'cause I didn't understand where all the
18 pieces were.
19 And so if you think about the mission of the State
20 Coalition to be very good educators and advocates we
21 have to understand our system really, really well.
22 And so you see there's a ton of folks working on
23 these issues and so our role as a Coalition is really
24 to highlight what these agencies are doing and then
25 encourage strategies and policy amongst one another.

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1 One of the things that we have observed as a
2 Coalition, too, is that traditionally in our industry
3 data and communication has flowed through AHFC, the
4 Trust and the State down to the people actually doing
5 the work on the local level, but none of that
6 information in any clear or manageable way is getting
7 into local and Tribal government, the business
8 community or even to the Legislature.
9 So one of the things that we, as a State Coalition
10 Board, is we want to be able to do some more of those
11 education and advocacy options on the issues of
12 affordable housing and homelessness.
13 Based on the previous SNHG report, you know, if
14 all of our data is pointing to the need for permanent
15 supportive housing, yet our primary funding source of
16 the SNHG is flat line well, that to me tells me that
17 we need to look elsewhere for potential resources to
18 develop this housing.
19 And HUD put out a report 10 years ago, an average
20 of 7.2 funding sources per housing project,
21 affordable housing project. And so we realize that
22 even if there were robust fundings in these
23 traditional venues, we still need to branch out to
24 the local community, the business community and then
25 other forums to help get these projects on the

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1 ground, so this is what we hope to educate and
2 promote.
3 On slide 7, one of the key things that happened
4 recently is the Anchorage Coalition, the State
5 Coalition has entertained this idea of building
6 capacity and we're, kind of, going down separate
7 roads when finally I think it was Sherrie Hinshaw
8 said hey, this is, kind of, ridiculous, let's get
9 together and see how we can be cohesive and work
10 together.
11 And so on March 4th we had a Housing Alliance
12 meeting which was AHFC, the Mental Health Trust
13 Authority and the executive committees of both the
14 State and Anchorage Coalition. And we wanted to
15 discuss basically what was on that previous slide,
16 you know, how our network works and how can we make
17 it more efficient so we can be more productive and
18 house more people.
19 And so the meeting resulted in, you know, really
20 investing in both Coalitions and definitely making
21 sure that one staff is -- is higher (sic) at both
22 levels, that they work highly in conjunction not only
23 with the Anchorage Coalition, but with all the other
24 Coalitions around the state. And so it was really,
25 kind of, a source of momentum and, I think, everybody

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1 walked away from that meeting saying, yeah, let's do
2 more.
3 Last Friday the State Coalition Board of Directors
4 met and we sketched out our first job description.
5 We have a follow-up meeting in a week from now and
6 we're hoping to finalize some of those details
7 really, really shortly.
8 Our main education tool is the annual conference
9 and so this is really, really exciting news not only
10 for the fact that we get to take the conference to
11 Juneau and that community is really excited to host
12 it.
13 But also as part of that program the Alaska Mental
14 Health Trust Authority and KTOO and 360 North have
15 partnered to do, kind of, a lead-up project into that
16 conference and it's called A Roof, examining homeless
17 and affordable housing in Alaska. And you can go to
18 the KTOO site. It's already up and live.
19 And the goal from them is to take stories on these
20 topics from communities all around the State and link
21 them together and promote them as stories that are
22 important to every community. I'm really excited.
23 It's not only news stories, but KTOO has public media
24 connections all around the State and will be leaning
25 on their partner reporters to provide content from

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1 all around Alaska.
2 There's video links for videos on these topics and
3 then there's also the Instagram and Facebook page
4 dedicated to these stories.
5 So my pitch to the Council and everybody in the
6 room is if you are working on a project that's
7 innovative or you simply want to explain a
8 programmatic details of what you're doing that people
9 might not understand, please send Casey, the reporter
10 assigned to an this project an e-mail.
11 The site's been up for about two weeks and it's
12 already had 2,000 hits, so they're getting some
13 positive feedback already. And I think, you know,
14 from our perspective the only way that this
15 initiative works really well is that we get a very
16 diverse view of housing and homeless issues across
17 the State.
18 The other component to this project and one of the
19 reasons we really wanted to have it in Juneau is that
20 KTOO and 360 North are located across the street from
21 Centennial Hall and so they are interested in live
22 streaming work sessions and televising components of
23 the conference and so this meeting will have that
24 opportunity.
25 And we are currently taking suggestions from folks

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1 who want to put on work sessions at the conference.
2 And so this is a great opportunity because this link
3 will be available for you to use as a teaching tool
4 for the next year afterward.
5 So if you want to talk about Home TBRA Program,
6 Mark Romick, and do a very spiffy job exactly what
7 that is and how it's important to the people around
8 the state, we'll capture you and you can -- you no
9 longer have to attend meetings, you can just send
10 them the link.
11 (Off record comments)
12 So we're really excited about that.
13 The next two slides, again, it goes back to this
14 -- you know, one of our key goals back at our retreat
15 in 2012 is sorting out the data. We talked a lot
16 about the AKHMIS. And, you know, for those who don't
17 know AKHMIS handles the Point In Time homeless count,
18 the Homeless Inventory Chart, the Annual Homeless
19 Assistant Report and then the Continuum of Care
20 reports that we have to file with HUD.
21 So they have a lot of responsibility, but I think
22 one of the things that we really want to get out of
23 this evaluation is how can we make it digestible so
24 that we can effect those other areas that don't know
25 much about housing, but need to in order to provide

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1 some resources to help us be successful.
2 And then finally, you know, Alaska Homeless
3 Management Information System really focuses a lot on
4 persons and then the units available for the persons
5 experiencing homelessness.
6 You know, one of the other key things that we talk
7 about a lot is this access to housing data in
8 general. And it's really, kind of, multiple
9 different places and there's real confusion
10 especially among the local government level on what
11 should be tracked, where to get it and how to compare
12 it with other communities. And so we're talked a
13 little bit in previous things about a housing data
14 website.
15 There's two ways that you can do -- provide
16 housing data to the community level. One is, like,
17 in the State of California where they provide -- the
18 Community Development Department provides all the
19 housing elements -- all the housing data points that
20 are necessary to create a housing element in a
21 comprehensive plan. And they make it mandatory and
22 tie it to the funding that they want to provide the
23 communities. Not too bad for communities, all they
24 have to do is basically cut and paste the data
25 because the Community Development provides it for

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1 them.
2 In other States like Vermont, the Vermont Housing
3 Finance Agency created similar data set and website
4 with just the data down to the community level. All
5 the basic things that people should be evaluating on
6 the community level and provide it for people to use.
7 And what ends up happening is not only is it great
8 for local government, it's great for the public media
9 and then everybody in the state is drawing off the
10 same source and not confusing one another with how
11 much housing stock is in an individual community.
12 And so those are things that we have a work group
13 going, AHFC, the Department of Labor, the Trust, the
14 State Census Department and the Alaska Coalition.
15 And, Mark, I did talk to an IT guy last week and
16 have some details on that.
17 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Scott. Do we have any
18 questions?
19 CIAMBOR: Great, thank you.
20 BUTCHER: All right, thank you.
21 I'd like to go to Item 9, Council Member Reports.
22 And I would like to start and this is really more of
23 a welcome from me that would have taken place had I
24 been here, but first of all I'd like to welcome Dave
25 Kuiper as our newest member replacing Jeff Wheaton

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1 and we're very happy to have you.
2 We're also very happy to have Carrier Collins.
3 This is her first meeting replacing Kris Duncan who
4 worked on the issue for a long time and any time
5 somebody who has been around a long leaves and
6 somebody new comes in you'll lose a lot of
7 institutional knowledge, but you gain a fresh
8 perspective and we've really appreciated Carrie's
9 fresh perspective since she's been here.
10 I also just wanted to talk a little bit about what
11 you're probably seeing discussed a lot in the
12 newspaper and more and more in the television news
13 and that's just Anchorage's housing crises as a
14 whole.
15 And even though AHFC focuses far more on our
16 public housing, affordable housing, senior housing,
17 the homelessness and we have our, kind of, niches,
18 housing as a whole in Anchorage and in the State and
19 the shortage we have on it is of great concern to us
20 because as an example we're seeing housing stock
21 shortage at all levels.
22 And so if you've got folks in condos and in
23 starter homes that moved in as a single person, is a
24 couple, now have a family need more room, but there
25 are no houses -- larger houses for them to move to,

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1 they stay where they are. And as a result you've got
2 folks that are renting that are now in a position to
3 buy, but can't buy because they can't find the
4 starter homes or the condos that they would normally
5 transition into.
6 This very much effects us and as Cathy Stone
7 brought up earlier with the rent reform we have,
8 we've got thousands of folks on our waiting lists,
9 homeless and otherwise that we would like to help,
10 that we would like to get into our public housing.
11 And so we're putting together a program to get the
12 work able people working and transitioning a little
13 bit faster out of our public housing.
14 Ten years ago the average stay in our public
15 housing was three years. Today it's eight years.
16 And so being able to help those individuals move into
17 housing is a positive for them. It also allows us to
18 serve our waiting list, homeless and otherwise, but
19 once again, of there are no rental units, there are
20 no -- nothing for them to move into, they have no
21 place to go.
22 So anyway, I just, kind of, wanted to just remind
23 folks of the issue because it is out there more and
24 more and we're out speaking everywhere we can. I
25 spoke to the AEDC Board this morning mostly on the

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1 housing issue in Anchorage, but also certainly
2 bringing up homelessness and how it affects all of
3 these areas.
4 Channel 2 News came and interviewed me and
5 interviewed Mark and interviewed Cathy last week.
6 They're looking in the very near future at having a
7 multi-part series on the Channel 2 News about housing
8 in Alaska and very specifically in Anchorage.
9 So we're very excited that there seems to be more
10 attention and more focus on this because this is
11 something that if it's not dealt with on all levels
12 it's going to be detrimental on all levels.
13 Also we had a conversation and a few people in the
14 room might have had the conversation, there's a
15 couple folks that got -- I think, the Humanities
16 Forum gave a grant out to a couple folks to do a
17 documentary on homelessness in Alaska and they're
18 just getting going on it.
19 And, I'm sorry, I don't have the names in front of
20 me. You can contact me or Mark and we can get them
21 to you, but one of them is from out of State in
22 Arkansas and has done quite a few public television
23 documentaries.
24 And so they're interested very -- they started out
25 very specifically wanting to deal with the

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1 homelessness in Anchorage and the special challenges
2 that come with it, the harsh winters that you
3 wouldn't see as an example where he's from in
4 Arkansas, but as they began to talk to more people
5 they began to think they wanted to broaden the focus
6 a little bit to homelessness in Alaska and to make a
7 couple trips out to rural Alaska, so we will
8 certainly keep the Council informed on where that
9 goes.
10 I don't think they would be using us specifically
11 on focus on particular stories, but we're certainly
12 available to give them the contacts and give them all
13 the information.
14 With that, open it up to the rest of the Council.
15 PEARSON: I just want to say before Scott left I really,
16 really appreciate all the work that you and the rest
17 of the Board have done. He has brought the Coalition
18 up tremendously and taken on some huge projects, so I
19 did want to say thank you for all the work that
20 you've done. It's incredible.
21 BUTCHER: Thanks, Suzi. And I would echo that as well. And
22 a lot of what you talked about, about coordination
23 and working together, more information, I know we've
24 talked about 'em. That's one of the reasons we're
25 coordinating in Juneau as we are. It's obvious that

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1 the communication between all of the groups can
2 improve, so we want to work like you do to make sure
3 that it gets better. Okay.
4 KUIPER: Mr. Chairman?
5 BUTCHER: Yes.
6 KUIPER: I would like thank you for your welcome to this
7 group. I come to this to be here to learn and then I
8 also come to it with fairly limited experience, but a
9 very focused experience with emergency cold weather
10 shelter for families in our city.
11 While the Point in Time data is what it is, we
12 just finished -- we just went through a winter during
13 which 81 families found emergency cold weather
14 shelter in churches and/or Clair House or McKinnell
15 House in their overflow. That constitutes some 800
16 -- also 880 bed nights that were not available in the
17 traditional sheltering system for these families.
18 And I'm grateful for the Beyond Shelter steering
19 committee, a group of social service agency --
20 providers and also faith based communities that have
21 served together to provide that, but that's, kind of,
22 a glaringly large number of families that during the
23 winter were forced to find shelter in the sway.
24 Gratefully it was available, but during the summer
25 when -- at least in Anchorage, when the Cold Weather

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1 Plan provides for this kind of emergency sheltering
2 in facilities by ordinance, that's not in pace. And
3 so these families, many of them, will be faced with
4 camping or living in their cars over the summer
5 months. So this continues to be one of those areas
6 where I think we have a gap in services.
7 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, David. Any other comments?
8 Okay. Let's move on to the Federal Program Update,
9 the HUD Update. You were at the same graduation --
10 sixth grade graduation that I was.
11 REED: I guess I was, yes.
12 (Off record comments)
13 REED: Well, thank you for -- I did just run in 'cause I
14 was attending my son's sixth grade graduation and
15 that only happens once, so.....
16 My name is Carma Reed and I'm with the U. S.
17 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the
18 Anchorage field office. I'm here on behalf of
19 Colleen Bickford who is the field office director.
20 She either is sick at home right now or on a plane to
21 Seattle, but either way she couldn't be here and she
22 couldn't make this morning.
23 We had a really nice meeting this morning with the
24 U. S. Department of -- United States Interagency
25 Council on Homeless which consists of Federal

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1 agencies here in Alaska. And also those that are not
2 represented in Alaska have an opportunity to
3 participate by teleconference.
4 That body is charged with helping to achieve the
5 Opening Doors Plan. It's a Federal plan to end
6 homelessness and there are five basic goals. One of
7 the goals is what our topic was this morning which is
8 to end Veteran homelessness by 2015.
9 Secretary Donovan urged Mayors throughout the
10 country to adopt that goal and Mayor Dan Sullivan did
11 adopt that goal, so our purpose this morning was to
12 talk about how we could support the Mayor in
13 achieving that goal. So we talked about data and we
14 talked about collaboration.
15 Lots of entities doing good work, that wasn't
16 really the purpose of us meeting. I think much the
17 same as with this body, it was really how could we be
18 more than the sum of our parts by meeting together.
19 And so it was a good conversation and we'll be
20 reporting out on that.
21 But I would like to emphasize that we meet -- we
22 have typically met on the morning of your afternoon
23 meeting. And really the reason that we do get
24 together is to hear how we can support State and
25 local efforts, so I'm open to hear the rest of the

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1 afternoon where we might fit in with that and if you
2 have any ideas right now I'd be happy to hear them,
3 too.
4 BUTCHER: Any questions or comments for Carma? Okay, thank
5 you.
6 REED: Thank you. And I know -- I say John Pendrey with
7 the VA is still here, too. I don't know if he would
8 like to.....
9 BUTCHER: Would you like to say something or.....
10 PENDREY: No, I think I had my say a lot earlier.
11 BUTCHER: Okay, all right. Yeah, we were the two late folks
12 here. All right. Let's move on to Legislative
13 Intent Language. Jeff Jessee.
14 JESSEE: This is the last page in your packet. And this
15 grew out of some conversations that the Trust has
16 been having with the Legislature, particularly the
17 House Finance Committee for a while, but came to a
18 head this year.
19 Basically what we have been trying to convince
20 them of is that if they continue on the path that
21 they're on, they can expect to have to build another
22 prison in the $300 million range in capital probably,
23 what, 50, $60 million in operating costs.
24 And I was lucky enough to be able to pull out a
25 projection that was done by ISER back in 2008 that

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1 showed -- this was before Moose Creek came on line
2 and it showed the projected increase in correctional
3 population and where along there they would have to
4 build a prison. Sure enough they built a prison
5 right when they had to and as I told them they were
6 on track, unfortunately they were on the wrong track.
7 So what we tried to convince them is look, there
8 are people out there already working on this issue of
9 recidivism and pulling different agencies together,
10 but what we lack is the policy and budgetary will of
11 the Legislature to actually take those efforts and
12 take them to light speed. And that they needed to
13 look beyond the usual suspects when they think about
14 recidivism.
15 They tend to think about public safety, the Court
16 system, the Department of Corrections, Department of
17 Law and start looking at what does it really take to
18 support people so that they don't come back into
19 Corrections.
20 And basically what we pushed was housing,
21 employment and support for recovery, that if you
22 supply those three things then you can dramatically
23 decrease the recidivism rate and hopefully bring back
24 the curve, if you will, of prison population to match
25 the capacity that the Department of Corrections has.

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1 So they did pass this intent language and you'll
2 notice that it does have the Department of Health and
3 Social Services, the Department of Labor and Work
4 Force Development, AHFC, along with the Trust
5 Authority, the Court system and Corrections to work
6 together to develop a plan and implement a plan to,
7 again, bring the prison population down to match the
8 capacity that we have.
9 Commissioner Schmidt has already convened a group
10 of the heads of these agencies to have some
11 preliminary conversations. And our hope is that by
12 next February we're able to go back to them and say
13 look, here's your alternative. If you invest in
14 these types of housing and other supports for people
15 coming out of Corrections, then you can drive this
16 curve down to match your capacity to house people in
17 Corrections.
18 And, of course, from their standpoint, avoid
19 building a prison and funding the operations, but of
20 course from our standpoint, getting much better
21 outcomes for the people of the State of Alaska
22 because we don't want people incarcerated. What we
23 want them to do is lead productive lives in the
24 community.
25 So we see AHFC and all of the housing partners as

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1 critical because these folks are -- as I'm sure Joe
2 can tell you, many of these folks are coming out of
3 corrections and they don't have housing, they don't
4 have employment services, they don't have support for
5 recovery and they're going right back into the
6 system, so that's where we are so far.
7 Joe, I don't know if you want to add something to
8 that.
9 SCHMIDT: Sure. Yeah, just to quickly -- housing, sober
10 support and employment and it's hard to -- those are
11 the big three with re-entry and which one is more
12 important is a tough question. If you -- you have to
13 have some employment to have housing. If you don't
14 have decent housing you can't have a -- you can't
15 hold a job. And if you don't attend to your sober
16 support you might as well forget the other two, so
17 they're both really hand in hand.
18 It goes beyond just working together with the
19 other departments. We meet with the Judges. We talk
20 about speaking our time accounting language (ph). A
21 Judge might want someone to have a sentence that --
22 with so many days that ends maybe before fishing
23 season.
24 And it's easy to fall into a trap where you think
25 that's the Court, that's the judicial branch. We're

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1 the executive branch. They're not going to tell us
2 that. We're going to do our time accounting based on
3 the regulations and statutes that we are required to
4 utilize and he's going to get out when he gets out
5 and many times those two concepts are completely
6 different.
7 The Judges can't understand how do I give this guy
8 60 days and he's out of jail the next day. Well, you
9 apply credit for time on another charge that we
10 didn't even know about or he didn't even know about
11 and all of a sudden release dates aren't even as
12 simple as you think.
13 Our premiss is let's knock that barrier down and
14 work with the Courts. If the Court feels -- we exist
15 to -- we execute the sentence the Court gives these
16 guys. If they want them out for fishing season, then
17 we should all speak the same language without
18 breaking any laws and get 'em out for fishing season
19 then, so we're starting to share some of the
20 verbiage.
21 Time served means we let them out today, right.
22 Instead of trying to do the math at the Court and we
23 do our math and they don't line up, we're trying to
24 come together on that sort of thing. And I know
25 that, that sentence life is a different discussion

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1 then all of this, but it's all for the same end.
2 Fishing season might be an employment opportunity,
3 right, and it all factors in.
4 Some of the programs, Handcuffs To Hard Hats, they
5 call it in other States. We're calling it Hiland Out
6 to Hard Hats where the -- we're taking females --
7 females has come up several times in this meeting
8 today.
9 The Unions are also reporting that their numbers
10 of females on the roles is down and below what they'd
11 like for it to be, so we've developed a program.
12 We're going to bus about a dozen females on a pilot
13 program out to the 302 training center and they're
14 going to get direct indentured into a Labor Union
15 when they're done.
16 So, again, it's all to the same end. It's
17 housing, it's employment and it's sober support and
18 we're actually looking forward to this. We were --
19 I've been working with Jeff for eight years now on
20 many of these things and what he was able to do is,
21 kind of, get it codified into one piece of verbiage
22 here that, kind of, says the concepts of what we've
23 been working on.
24 And what we're seeing here is the Legislature,
25 kind of, driving us, I think, a very good direction,

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1 you know. Knock down the silos and work together and
2 attend to those big three. And realizing, of course,
3 it's only up to the offender. We can't do anything
4 for anybody. They have to decide to do it right when
5 it's time to do it right, but I think this stuff is
6 going to help, so.....
7 BUTCHER: Thanks, Commissioner. One other just to, kind of,
8 tie it back to the Council is you'll notice the one
9 state agency in the intent language that is not on
10 this Board is the Department of Labor and Workforce
11 Development. And we've talked internally about
12 talking to the Governor's office about getting that
13 added because it seems common sense that the agency
14 that works with labor and employment would have a
15 valuable role in this Committee so, hopefully, we can
16 do that.
17 SCHMIDT: Yeah, Commissioner Blumer is very, very involved
18 in this. The Handcuffs to Hard that was her idea,
19 the fish processing. We'll have nearly 100 minimums
20 that are getting close to the end of their sentence
21 working in fish processing plants this summer.
22 Again, in coordination with the Department of Labor
23 is how that stuff comes together, you're absolutely
24 right, yeah.
25 BUTCHER: Okay, thanks. Any questions? Okay. Thank you,

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1 Jeff. Let's move on to Nancy, Alaska Mental Health
2 Trust Affordable Housing Focus Group.
3 BURKE: I'm right here.
4 BUTCHER: Oh, I knew where you were in the room.....
5 BURKE: We're surrounding you.
6 BUTCHER: .....and I got lost, I'm sorry. Go ahead.
7 BURKE: Well, I stepped up when we began the discussion
8 around the intent language because it's been a
9 conversation at the Trust with our -- our focus areas
10 have been set for six or eight years, some of them.
11 And we feel it's time to maybe change up and use our
12 investments to support some of these priorities that
13 are coming through.
14 I think another group that we haven't talked about
15 today is the Medicaid Review and Advisory Group
16 that's moving through the Department of Health and
17 Social Services. It's focusing on people who are not
18 meeting (ph) income limits for some of the new
19 insurance plans, who are probably 30 percent of area
20 median income and below and are not engaged in
21 Medicaid. And those are the folks that I think this
22 Council is already discussing on the housing side of
23 the fence.
24 It seems to me that each of these groups, the
25 recidivism group has a piece of homeless folks, the

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1 Homeless Council and the MRAG group, you know,
2 there's just a lot of overlap. And so it's one of
3 the things that, you know, I just wanted to put
4 before the Council was as the Trust looks at our
5 investments for housing and our focus area, are there
6 ways that we might better use our resources to
7 conduct the business of this Council.
8 I think it would probably be a fair and somewhat,
9 sort of, gentle critique that we've been -- maybe if
10 we're talking developmentally we've been really doing
11 parallel play on this Council. We come and we're
12 talking about what we're each doing in our own areas,
13 but we really haven't set a goal together.
14 And, you know, like I would love us to say, okay,
15 these two pages need to go together. You know, we
16 need this number to go down as we invest this. And
17 then, you know, all of you have staff like me and
18 others in the room, make it happen and then, you
19 know, come back and report on that.
20 I think that's -- maybe there's a potential right
21 now with the Homeless Coalition's coming up to speed
22 and, you know, these groups bubbling around that,
23 that's what we do.
24 You know, maybe we take the Department's high
25 flying folks that are also in Corrections and also in

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1 API and we say okay, that's what we're going to work
2 on or the families that are cycling through our
3 churches or, you know, it could be any -- any number
4 of goals, but we certainly would be, I think, willing
5 as the Trust to commit our resources to reflect a
6 shared goal because I think we believe that most of
7 the times when the system is really struggling, it's
8 our beneficiaries. It's the folks who have the most
9 disabling conditions and are having the hardest time
10 making it in the world.
11 So, you know, just over the course of the summer,
12 in Council years past we've had groups that have met
13 and talked about making budgeting decisions together,
14 making policy decisions together. I certainly would
15 be willing to, you know, commit our -- the Trust
16 resources which, you know, include some staff over at
17 DHSS. We worked with the Commissioner to get buy in
18 (ph), that we can tag ourselves to these efforts and
19 set up some common goals and watch 'em over time.
20 And that was the discussion that the Federal
21 Interagency Council had this morning. You know, I
22 think it would be a really powerful thing to do that
23 on both sides, the State side and the Federal side,
24 so I just wanted to put that out there.
25 And I think that it speaks to the 10 Year Plan

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1 update. It would be, I think, maybe a better use.
2 To what end are we updating our 10 Year Plan if not
3 to set priorities and to use them as our shared
4 funding goals. And so that might be the vehicle that
5 gets used to, kind of, take a look at those
6 resources.
7 I think, that's it. Yeah, that's it.
8 BUTCHER: Okay, thanks, Nancy. Do we have any questions?
9 Okay.
10 Okay. Other Matters to Come Before the Council?
11 Does anybody have anything they'd like to add?
12 JESSEE: Well, now that you're on board, I guess some
13 discussion I'd like to have among the Council members
14 is where are we going as an organization?
15 You know, I pulled up the 10 Year Plan and was
16 surprised -- I shouldn't be, but I was surprised to
17 go oh, we've halfway through the 10 Year Plan. And,
18 in fact, there's a whole bunch of goals that we had
19 set for 2014. And just, sort of, looking at 'em
20 quickly some of we made, some of them we're not
21 making.
22 You know, the Council is supposed to be making
23 recommendation to get us there, so I'm interested in
24 your vision and the vision of other Council Members
25 of, I guess to be blunt, just coming and having

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1 report outs about data and going um-hum, okay, yup,
2 that's -- we've got the data and then going away
3 doesn't really seem to advance the cause
4 significantly.
5 So I don't have any specific kind of idea here
6 other than, you know, what are we going to do? What
7 are we going to do.
8 BUTCHER: That's it, that's all I have to answer just that?
9 JESSEE: Yes, that's it, that's it.
10 BUTCHER: Okay. Yeah, it's a very good question and it's
11 something that we've been talking internally quite a
12 bit and that's what drove Mark discussing trying to
13 update the information that we're gathering, as an
14 example, because when we started this five years ago
15 we took our best estimates based on what we thought
16 might make the most sense.
17 Well, we're five years in and there's data that
18 we're collecting that is good, can be improved.
19 Maybe there's some we don't need to. Maybe there's
20 things we haven't been that we need to, but I do
21 think as part of that process, touching a little bit
22 on what Nancy said, we do need to develop how we're
23 going to move forward on this.
24 And -- because it has -- it seems like it has
25 become, what you said, mostly a discussion of we get

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1 this amount of money. Here's what we do with it.
2 Here's how things look and it's an update and it's
3 good information, but we can be more than that I
4 think.
5 And when we started out, at least my perception of
6 it was bringing agencies together, bringing folks
7 together to communicate in ways that maybe we hadn't
8 been doing as well as we could and I think that's
9 happened. I think there's a much positive momentum
10 that's occurred there that wasn't there five years
11 ago, but that doesn't mean that's the only thing we
12 should be looking at.
13 And I know I talked to Bill Block (ph) and I think
14 you did as well, the new HUD regional administrator
15 who was the head to the Seattle area homelessness
16 group that talked about bringing all of the involved
17 parties together and how they went through their
18 processes.
19 And there's two things I, kind of, learned in
20 talking to him. One was there can be better
21 coordination and Scott and I have talked about that
22 and we're taking positive steps to do that.
23 The other part of it was they have a lot more
24 money in Seattle than we do. You know, as he talked
25 about all of the different people that would sit down

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1 and they'd all bring their money to the table and I
2 would say, you know, it does need to be coordinated
3 better.
4 We do need to make our decision making in a better
5 way, but that aspect of it is not really as much as
6 what you might see in Seattle with the country and
7 the city and the state and the feds and, you know,
8 different non-profit groups and, you know, with a lot
9 of Microsoft money. And so -- but I think that
10 merits more digging into to see how we can improve it
11 because I agree with just about everything you said,
12 that this can be made better and I'm interested in
13 doing it.
14 SCHMIDT: (Indiscernible).....
15 BUTCHER: Sure.
16 SCHMIDT: In Corrections we try to talk about why should the
17 public care and I think that's a question I have not
18 heard answered here. Why should the public care
19 about homelessness, right. We're all here, we all
20 know, we all have our piece of it. We don't know
21 why.
22 When you talk about Corrections and recidivism and
23 reductions in prison population and all that some
24 people say it's because there's lives that are
25 destroyed. These people destroy lives and then their

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1 life is destroyed and it's all about life destruction
2 and these human beings on both sides, victim or
3 perpetrator are -- need to be restored.
4 Others say I don't know anybody that's in prison.
5 Couldn't care less about any of that, but when you
6 tell that person it's 50 million a year to run a
7 jail, see. So there's something in this for
8 everybody whatever they're going to respond to and I
9 don't know that we have that here. And I don't know
10 what the answer is to this group.
11 And in Corrections we have a graph and it shows if
12 we continue to do what we're doing which is -- a
13 couple years which was nothing, we're going to have a
14 graph that probably looks about like this. Here's
15 our prison beds. If we don't build any more, they're
16 going to cross in about 2016, right. So my
17 presentations have always been if we can do something
18 today that's a quarter of a percent, 20 years from
19 now that's about 15 percent, right. We won't be
20 around in 15 years to see it, but it seems to make
21 sense there.
22 If they have a financial outlook or a real
23 humanistic type outlook, it seems to register, so for
24 whatever that's worth, I don't know what that
25 question would be in this group, but.....

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1 BUTCHER: Yeah. Well, I think it's something that there's
2 no one answer to and, I think, as a group we need to
3 determine what role we are going to play because each
4 of our agencies do things individually and they're
5 not coordinated and to what degree should they be
6 coordinated and how can we do that.
7 I good example, I think, that has really made some
8 improvements is what you've done with funding for the
9 Anchorage Daily News and.....
10 JESSEE: Oh, through (ph) Recovery Alaska?
11 BUTCHER: Yeah, and there's a number of groups and I would
12 leave them out if I tried to name them, but it's
13 gotten a lot more reporting. I think the public is a
14 lot more aware.
15 I can say for a fact Legislators are more aware
16 because when we first started putting this together
17 five or six years ago it was surprising how many,
18 kind of, pulled themselves up by their boot strap
19 let's help the people that want to help themselves,
20 kind of, mentality there was out there.
21 And you'd talk to them and you'd say well, what
22 about the children. What about, you know -- a third
23 of these people didn't get a choice. They're eight,
24 they're 10, they're 14. They've gone to 10 different
25 schools and then they'd start to get it a little bit,

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1 but at least in the limited time I've been in this
2 job I'm not hearing those kinds of things before
3 (ph), so I think it's getting out there a little bit.
4 It's not something that's being coordinated
5 through the Council and I'm not saying that it should
6 be, but it's an example of positive steps that we're
7 all taking that is making -- that is improving the
8 situation, but not necessarily coordinating things.
9 JESSEE: So what do you think we could do, look forward to
10 or do in the interim so that when we meet in
11 September we have an expectation of some outcome,
12 some -- something the Council is going to do then
13 that we can work on between now and then? I don't
14 know if that's a helpful framing or.....
15 BUTCHER: Well, I think participation in the Council in the
16 10 Year Plan update which Mark spoke of it more
17 specifically in data, but we're not restricted to
18 that.
19 I mean, we're halfway through a 10 year plan.
20 There's goals. There's measures. There's data. All
21 of those things can be updated. And, frankly, if we
22 were to in the interim be able to come back to the
23 Council with something, recommendations on how to
24 improve this, I think, that would have been a
25 valuable use of our (indiscernible).....

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1 PEARSON: I would say as far as updating the 10 Year Plan,
2 it's going to be really critical in this short term
3 period. Right now AHFC owns the plan, sort of.
4 They're in charge of it and I think we need to be
5 more inclusive. I think that's where the Alaska
6 Coalition members are going to be important, not just
7 State Commissioners.
8 I realize that as a public member that's my
9 representation, but I think it's really important to
10 include some of those other people in the community
11 to make it effective for the whole state and I
12 haven't seen that part yet.
13 I really, really want to see this plan updated and
14 brought in alignment with a lot of the other plans
15 both at the Federal level, but at the local level.
16 Juneau and Anchorage have got great plans. Juneau's
17 -- I mean, Anchorage's is actually working on their
18 next, you know, five, 10 Year Plan that we're going
19 to be developing and how do you want to do that. Do
20 you refocus the whole thing to population versus, you
21 know, actual activities.
22 I think that, that's really critical in giving us
23 more direction, but I also think that there needs to
24 be with doing that more accountability on our part to
25 make a difference and to make that change, so.....

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1 BUTCHER: That's a good point.
2 JESSEE: So are we in the process of updating the plan or
3 is that something we need.....
4 PEARSON: He just asked us to.
5 JESSEE: .....to do?
6 PEARSON: Mark just asked us to do that.
7 ROMICK: He -- you were out of the room when I asked for
8 volunteers.
9 PEARSON: Oh,.....
10 ROMICK: (Simultaneous speech) while you were out of the
11 room.
12 BUTCHER: Yes. Yeah, we asked for volunteers to work.....
13 JESSEE: Okay.
14 BUTCHER: .....during the interim on updating of this and,
15 you know, people can say yes today, but even if they
16 don't say yes today that doesn't mean they can't say
17 yes tomorrow, so.....
18 ROMICK: Right.
19 BUTCHER: .....the more, the merrier certainly because we do
20 want as many perspectives as possible. And whether
21 it's members of our Council or members of interested
22 groups, anybody that wants to participate certainly
23 will have that option because we want to make sure
24 that we are an inclusive as possible.
25 JESSEE: So the idea is we'll have a draft of that in

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1 September, is that a reasonable time frame or.....
2 BUTCHER: That's as much as (ph).....
3 PEARSON: Let's commit to it. Just.....
4 BUTCHER: Yeah, I was going to say --.....
5 PEARSON: .....make it happen.
6 BUTCHER: .....I was going to say I think a lot has to do
7 with how many people participate and how much time we
8 have. And I would love that to be a goal, but I'm
9 not going to promise that's going to occur because if
10 we end up with four people at our first two or three
11 meetings, it's going to be very obvious that, that
12 will not be occurring, so it's up to the group.
13 JESSEE: Okay, fair enough.
14 KUIPER: Mr. Chairman, is it within the scope of this
15 Council to call a special meeting of this Council
16 between the two sessions that are on the calendar for
17 a specific purpose?
18 ROMICK: I guess what I would recommend that it's going to
19 take more than one meeting and that it's going to
20 take a series of meetings.
21 And that, perhaps, there's an existing -- I think
22 it's -- I can't remember the name of it, but there's
23 an existing Housing Policy/Budget Committee --
24 subcommittee of the Council. And I'm just assuming
25 that all these people that volunteered would be on

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1 that and that we could meet periodically during --
2 over some schedule because I think it's going to be
3 more than one meeting. It's not going to be just one
4 shot thing.
5 It took two days and eight hours both days going
6 through the public process to create the 10 Year Plan
7 in the first -- when we did it in 2009. We were over
8 at the Trust. We met for two days. There was a
9 whole series of meetings. And I'm not saying that we
10 need to go through that process again 'cause we're
11 talking about a refinement not complete scraping and
12 moving on, at least I'm assuming that right at this
13 point.
14 So I would suggest that, you know, once we get the
15 list of people that are going to be on it, that we
16 schedule at least two or three meetings between now
17 and September, kind of, work through this and the
18 first meeting being the scope.
19 You know, everybody doing their homework about
20 reading the plan, the goals and objectives that come
21 with the ideas about how they may change or how they
22 need to change, what does need to change because the
23 way that the process -- or the way that plans should
24 work is that the State plan is consistent with the
25 Federal plan so that we can get access to the Federal

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1 money.

2 And that the plans of the local coalitions and

3 then the State plan is broad enough that all of the

4 local coalition plans can fit within that broad

5 spectrum so that we're all working towards the same

6 goal 'cause we can't -- you know, it's the -- every

7 community is going to be different.

8 Every -- theoretically every coalition, local

9 coalition might have a little different focus. We're

10 all going to be focusing on homelessness, but there

11 might be something in Anchorage that's different than

12 Fairbanks and Bethel and Juneau and Sitka and

13 Ketchikan, but as long as they're all working towards

14 the same overall goal of reducing homelessness and

15 using specific programs, than they'll be coordinated.

16 And, I think, that's the kind of thing that we need

17 to puzzle out exactly how all that fits together and

18 that.

19 So it would probably be -- the first meeting would

20 probably be fairly long to go through all of that

21 stuff and then maybe a couple of follow-up meetings

22 to, kind of, fine tune exactly what the plan might

23 look like and how it might change, as well as what

24 measurement tools we're going to use that we can rely

25 on to show progress and how we're doing.

1 BUTCHER: Yeah. I mean, I would imagine it would be a
2 number of informal work sessions more than it would
3 be a formal meeting. And I think we'd probably know
4 a month or so out of the September meeting what we
5 can accomplish because it should be -- you know, it
6 should be a fluid process.
7 Whereas we have things to discuss in September,
8 but that's not it. We don't say okay, updated that.
9 Let's wait six months and find out what the numbers
10 look like again. It's something that can be improved
11 upon. And I don't know that, that necessarily -- you
12 know, that level of inter-activity was what was being
13 thought when the whole thing was put together in the
14 first place, but it seems obvious to me that, that
15 would be a more responsible way of moving forward.
16 JESSEE: Well, that makes sense. Then the implementation
17 is always the bug-a-boo. And now with the budgetary
18 situation the way it is at the State level, it's
19 going to be a challenge to generate enthusiasm on the
20 part of the Legislature to invest.
21 I mean, you're under pressure every year with your
22 budget. You know, right now with the Legislature, I
23 mean, who knows how it might change, but I don't
24 expect some of this to change. Even if you can show
25 them where they save money, they don't want to make

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1 the investment.
2 They just don't want to spend the money which is
3 why the intent language is, perhaps, an entry point
4 into that discussion because they seem to have gotten
5 convinced that they're going to spend a chunk of
6 money either way. So if we can come up with a plan
7 that's realistic that will achieve one of their
8 goals, I think we might have a chance of getting them
9 to invest something in it, but I think it's going to
10 be tough going.
11 I mean, part of me sort of says well, gee, you've
12 got all these homeless people and we're going to be
13 focusing on folks that have criminal behaviors, but
14 the fact is in this political environment you've got
15 to have some reason why they're willing to invest
16 something and right now that's the only train that
17 seems to have a chance of moving.
18 So I don't know how that factors into how you put
19 together a plan and a set of recommendations, but,
20 you know, again, if we're going to come forward to
21 the Legislature with some kind of a visions for the
22 second five years, we've got to have unfortunately a
23 better argument then well, these are our fellow
24 Alaskans and, you know, they're homeless and we need
25 to help them and that's just not going to get it.

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1 KUIPER: I think one of the things that -- Bryan, that you
2 mentioned earlier, the group that you had met with,
3 Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, once the
4 housing issue become an economic development issue
5 that moves a whole new sector of our population, our
6 citizenry into really caring about this.
7 And so there's -- it's not just one level or group
8 that we need to educate and advocate with, but it's a
9 number of them and so as the Anchorage Chamber of
10 Commerce picks up that housing piece and says, you
11 know, we're having a hard time bringing people into
12 our city. It's effecting our economic development
13 and those things become real public issues for every
14 person in our city and State to be concerned about.
15 I think that's going to help us.
16 So I really applaud that connection with the
17 Anchorage Economic Development group because if they
18 can help move this from their concern side of things,
19 well, then that's going to bring -- that has the
20 potential of bringing private sector funds to the
21 table because they'll see the benefit of investing in
22 housing or related issues for the whole community.
23 BUTCHER: Yup. Yeah, that's a very good point. In fact, if
24 there was one, kind of, eye opening aspect of a few
25 of us talking to them this morning it was the concept

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1 that if people need housing in Anchorage, the private
2 section should just build it and everything is good
3 and the eye opening that it doesn't pencil. They
4 can't build it and whether it's selling it or
5 rentals, they can't do it and make their money back.
6 And, I think, that was an eye opening to folks
7 because now we're dealing with the middle class and
8 the upper middle class and not having -- you know,
9 having, kind of, the door shut in their face, too
10 because the stock that's needed for them to purchase
11 isn't making any money because of the cost of land
12 and the construction.
13 And, frankly, the -- you know, those things rising
14 a lot faster than our incomes are rising in Alaska as
15 a whole, but in this particular area Anchorage and
16 that's eye opening to think about the private sector
17 not being able to build housing and make money.
18 Okay. Anybody else have any comments?
19 PEARSON: Let's do it.
20 BUTCHER: All right.
21 REPORTER: I don't think you can see the hand back here.
22 BUTCHER: Oh, sorry, Kenny.
23 PETERSON: Sorry, I was at the meeting earlier today, but
24 just didn't have the chance to.....
25 REPORTER: You have to go to a mic for me though.

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1 (Off record comments)

2 PETERSON: Sorry, they had me sit way back there. I was
3 just -- since you weren't here at the meeting this
4 morning, there was a thought about maybe organizing
5 around Veterans, for example. Veterans that would be
6 in the Corrections facilities, the Veterans that are
7 in the shelters and so on.
8 And maybe some effort of a coordinated funding so
9 in six months that if we -- the Mayor just bought
10 into it, they'll be challenges to other cities. If
11 we can do something that would coordinate funding
12 that would accomplish the three goals of the
13 Interagency Plan which is the Opening Doors Plan
14 which everything is directed to.
15 And they measure it already by the actual
16 reduction of Veterans, so we could count that in the
17 shelters because we all know the Point In Time count
18 is vague and so the actual reduction of that, the
19 actual increase of permanent supportive housing for
20 Veterans and the actual amount of folks employed or
21 in meaningful opportunities of Veterans then maybe in
22 the next six months we could effect those three goals
23 that are in the Opening Doors Plan.
24 And that, kind of, ties into what we are doing
25 this morning, some coordinating funding event of

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everything going to Veterans for a little bit and then we'll learn how to coordinate on something. And you can get everyone to buy in on Veterans and then we could have chronic and otherwise, so that was just a thought tying in what we did this morning.

BUTCHER: Yeah, that's a good point because it's like Jeff had just mentioned anything that we can get that's going to resinate with the policy-makers that made the decision on funding, you know, that's a step that will end up benefitting everybody, I think, if we can show success with it.

All right. That being said, thank you everybody for your time this afternoon and we're adjourned.

(Recessed - 3:40 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

6 THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE**
7 **HOMELESS**, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 21st day of May, 2014, commencing at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the offices
8 of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, 4300 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, Alaska, pursuant to Notice;
9

10 THAT this Transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a true and correct transcription of said Public Hearing, taken by and thereafter transcribed by Suzan Olson;
11

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

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

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 10th day of June, 2014.

16

17 Suzan K Olson
Notary Public in and for Alaska
18 My Commission Expires: 08/01/15

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