

15 JUN 5 10:52:57

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

May 20, 2015

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS  
05/20/15



**AGENDA**

1

2 Welcome by Council Chair, AHFC CEO/ED Bryan Butcher . . . . . 03

3 Public Comments . . . . . 04

4 Status Report on Homelessness in Alaska

5 1. Project Homeless Connect/Point-in-Time Results -

6 Carrie Collins . . . . . 08

7 2. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness -

8 Carmen Springer . . . . . 22

9 3. Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness -

10 Scott Ciambor . . . . . 26

11 4. Federal Program Update: Dept. of Veterans Affairs -

12 John Pendrey . . . . . 40

13 5. SNHG and BHAP Update - Mark Romick . . . . . 46

14 6. Public Housing Update - Cathy Stone . . . . . 50

15 7. 811 PRA Program - Carrie Collins and Sherrie Hinshaw . 55

16 8. 10 Year Plan Update - Suzi Pearson . . . . . 60

17 DHSS Supportive Housing Strategic Plan . . . . . 62

18 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Update . . . . . 79

19 Council Member Reports and Discussion . . . . . 79

20 Other Matters to come before the Board . . . . . n/a

21 Adjournment . . . . . 89

22

23

24

25



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

(On record - 1:07 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 BUTCHER: Okay. I'd like to call to order the Alaska Council  
4 on the Homeless. It is a little after 1:00 o'clock  
5 on May 20th. And short of having a roll call, I  
6 think, we'll just go down the panel and introduce  
7 ourselves.

8 I'm Bryan Butcher, CEO/Executive Director of the  
9 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

10 TAYLOR: I'm Ron Taylor the Commissioner of Corrections.

11 WILKS: Shannon Wilks, I am the director of Program  
12 Development and the Corporate Compliance Officer at  
13 Anchorage Community Mental Health Services and I'm  
14 one of the public members.

15 BOWEN: I'm Verdie Bowen. I'm the director of Veterans  
16 Affairs for the State of Alaska.

17 PEARSON: Suzi Pearson, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis or  
18 AWAIC and I'm a public member.

19 COLLINS: Carrie Collins with Alaska Housing Finance  
20 Corporation.

21 JESSEE: Jeff Jessee, I'm the CEO of the Alaska Mental  
22 Health Trust Authority.

23 HARRIS: Olen Harris, the Executive Director of North  
24 Pacific Rim Housing Authority.

25 FOLGER: Gary Folger, Commissioner of Public Safety.

1 SVENSSON: Betty Svensson, I'm Deputy Director of the Alaska  
2 Municipal League.

3 KUPER: And I'm Dave Kuper with Christian Health  
4 Associates and public member.

5 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you everybody. We have a quorum.  
6 Welcome everyone that has come today. We've got a  
7 pretty full agenda. We had a very fruitful work  
8 session this morning discussing our update of our 10  
9 Year Plan on ending homelessness and we'll talk about  
10 that a little later on today, but why don't we go  
11 through the room and if everybody could individually,  
12 please, stand and give up your name and your  
13 affiliation so we have an idea of who all is with us.

14 (Indiscernible - away from microphone - see sign-in sheets)

15 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you everybody for coming. We'd like  
16 to start out with Public Comments. Would anybody  
17 like to speak publicly? And the chair in the front  
18 is where you need to get near a microphone, please.

19 PETERSON: Hi, this is Kenny Petersen. And thank you for the  
20 opportunity to come before you for a moment of public  
21 testimony. I'm -- been working on homelessness for a  
22 while and I'm grateful for all of you doing that,  
23 too, to take some time to be here and very  
24 strengthening.

25 As I -- I started this quest quite a long time ago

1 when someone came to me and ask me if I'd put a  
2 billboard at my place of employment that said not to  
3 give money to the panhandlers. And I was willing to  
4 do that for the cause they had at the time, change  
5 for the better, I think it was. And -- but then I  
6 responded back and said well, if you don't want us to  
7 not do that, what do you want us to do, how do we  
8 solve that. How do we help folks on the street  
9 corner at that time and then I started pursuing and  
10 keep showing up.

11 At the time I heard a quote -- not a quote, but a  
12 statement from a leader of our church that was  
13 quoting a scripture in Isaiah 58 and it inspired me.  
14 And so as we talk about finances, talk about where  
15 things are coming I realize that the economic climate  
16 is such that we need solutions and so I shared this  
17 six years ago at Alaska Coalition and I thought it  
18 might be time to share it again.

19 This is from Isaiah, Chapter 58 and it's a system  
20 that we use in our church to fund of all of our  
21 welfare needs. It's called fasting and not for  
22 medical reasons I don't think, but just a few quotes  
23 and let me go as far until I come out  
24 (indiscernible). It says, is this not the fast that  
25 I have chosen, essentially going without food and

1 eating.

2 In our church we do that on the first Sunday of  
3 each month, go 24 hours, two meals and give the value  
4 of that food not eaten, as a fast offering. Anywhere  
5 from \$5 and if someone eats a lot maybe more, I don't  
6 know, for a generous fast offering.

7 It says, if this not the fast that I have chosen,  
8 a day for a man to afflict his soul. So we now  
9 afflict ourselves with those that are without food  
10 and we feel for them.

11 To los- -- and then listen to these amazing  
12 promises, is this not the fast I have chosen, this is  
13 Isaiah 58:6, to loose the bands of wickedness, to  
14 undo the heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go  
15 free and that you break every yoke.

16 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, that  
17 thou -- that thou bring the poor that are cast out to  
18 thy house when thou seest the naked, that thou cloth  
19 him and that thou hide thyself not from their own  
20 flesh.

21 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning,  
22 thine health shall spring forth speedily, thy  
23 righteousness shall go before thee and the glory of  
24 the Lord shall be thy rereward.

25 Thou shalt call and the Lord shall answer. That's

1 good, when you're in a position to call and the Lord  
2 will actually answer. Thou shalt cry and he shall  
3 say, here I am.

4 And then a little bit further it says in verse 10,  
5 if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry and satisfy  
6 the afflicted soul, then shall thy light rise in  
7 obscurity and the darkness be as noonday. Maybe as a  
8 community, as a state that would be amazing.

9 And then the final one, and the Lord shall guide  
10 thee continually and satisfy the soul in drought. It  
11 sounds like we're having a drought coming. Make fat  
12 thy bones and thou, and the State of Alaska and the  
13 communities maybe, shall be like a watered garden and  
14 a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

15 So I propose that as funding goes down for other  
16 things, that we might choose to have a community fund  
17 that we give voluntarily to make up for the lack of  
18 funding that may come in the future.

19 And I'm willing to give the first \$1,000 if  
20 someone would have a fund and someone who has a plan  
21 like Suzi's plan with the State that she's been  
22 leading with others that knows what to do with that  
23 money that comes in a coordinated method. I'll give  
24 the State money. I'll do it every month if they have  
25 a plan that could work and I'll do that through

1 fasting, giving up food. I eat a lot. No, that's  
2 not exactly -- it'll be generous though, but I just  
3 want to propose that.

4 And then also recognize that there's also a faith  
5 liaison folks coming on. You'll need unpaid  
6 volunteers to do most of this work. We'll run out of  
7 funding and so I recommend that whatever solution you  
8 come will probably be a result of personal  
9 relationship both for those coming in re-entry, the  
10 youth.

11 And the finally I was downtown with all the youth  
12 on Town Square and to change the thought of thinking  
13 them as unsheltered youth and instead thinking them  
14 as disconnected family members, our family. The same  
15 thing for the chronic homeless, disconnected family  
16 members. Let's all work to unite on families  
17 according to eternal principles. Thank you.

18 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you, Kenny. Anybody else? Okay,  
19 thank you. We will move into our agenda. We will  
20 start out with a results of a Point-in-Time survey.  
21 Can I ask Carrie to speak to it.

22 COLLINS: Sure, all right, thanks So once again here we  
23 are. We've just completed the compilation of all the  
24 data for the last Point-in-Time count, that was on  
25 January 27th this year.

1           And just, kind of, a recap on the Point-in-Time  
2 count. It's an annual count that anyone who receives  
3 Federal funding and also AHFC funding, I would say,  
4 we, kind of, put that hammer down on that, also,  
5 those organizations are required to participate in  
6 the Point-in-Time count in order to try to get a  
7 broader picture understanding of homelessness  
8 throughout the State.

9           And with that, organizations who receive that  
10 funding are encouraged to reach out to other  
11 organizations, work with Continuums of Care in order  
12 to include those who aren't receiving funding and  
13 aren't required to participate to help the --  
14 encourage them to participate in the process, also,  
15 so we can try to once again get that larger picture  
16 of homelessness throughout the State.

17           One thing that is important to note that this is  
18 just a snapshot. It's a one time picture of  
19 homelessness, so we know that things can ebb and flow  
20 and change depending on seasons and a number of  
21 different variables.

22           So for 2015 there were also a number of Project  
23 Homeless Connect events that happened throughout the  
24 State. This year there were -- I think it was --  
25 looks like, five of them Anchorage, Fairbanks,

1 Juneau, Kenai and Mat-Su. And Fairbanks and Juneau  
2 did not participate in a Project Homeless Connect  
3 event last year, so those are two more, kind of,  
4 larger I would say, data sets that are included this  
5 year.

6 And Project Homeless Connect is, kind of, a one  
7 stop shop typically is how it's developed in each  
8 community to encourage individuals who are homeless  
9 or at risk of homelessness to come in and get  
10 reconnected with services in their community, so it's  
11 another way to capture data for that day.

12 There was also an organized street count in  
13 Anchorage and a lot more effort, I think, a more  
14 robust count around youth this year and I know Carmen  
15 is going to speak to that a little bit in her  
16 presentation, so I won't go into all of the details  
17 on that, but that was something to note.

18 And I also spoke with those who helped organize  
19 the street count for adults and they had a lot more  
20 participation this year with volunteers and such  
21 which allowed them to go out into different areas of  
22 the city that they haven't maybe been able to touch  
23 in the past.

24 So this year, kind of, to break it down there were  
25 1,956 total individuals experiencing homelessness

1 compared to 1,785 in 2014 for that Point-in-Time  
2 count. And for the Point-in-Time count it's also  
3 important to point out that it only captures those  
4 who are unsheltered, so anyone essentially living on  
5 the street or in a hotel for a temporary amount of  
6 time or those in transitional housing, so it does not  
7 include permanent supportive housing.

8 So on the slide 2, the second slide that has the  
9 graph of all homeless persons, you can see the  
10 comparison for 2014 to 2015 broken out by Anchorage  
11 and the Balance of State. And the reason they're  
12 broken out this way is it's the HUD Federal  
13 recognition between the two Continuums of care. And  
14 then we have the State total so you can see where  
15 some of the differences are.

16 We're seeing some changes in unsheltered. I think  
17 some of it for both -- for Balance of State  
18 specifically having two more larger communities who  
19 participated in Project Homeless Connect added some  
20 more data to the count can -- could essentially help  
21 contribute to that. We see a lot of the unsheltered  
22 people participating in the Project Homeless Connect  
23 events.

24 And then also looking at Project Homeless Connect  
25 reports for Anchorage for the last two years they've

1 had a 38 percent increase in people identifying as  
2 having slept outside or someplace not meant for human  
3 habitation this year compared to the 2014 count, so I  
4 think that's reflected. You can see that in those  
5 numbers, too.

6 And then if we move on to the Veteran's slide, I  
7 won't spend a whole lot of time looking at this one  
8 right now. I mean, the numbers essentially are  
9 pretty close. We have some increase in unsheltered  
10 this year compared to 2014, but I know John Pendrey  
11 is going to speak a little bit to that in his VA  
12 Federal update later, so essentially just going to  
13 give you, kind of, some numbers to think about as  
14 we're having this conversation today.

15 And then also wanted to look at chronic  
16 homelessness, specifically breaking out Veteran  
17 homelessness and chronic homelessness because those  
18 are really one of the Federal priorities right now.  
19 We're seeing increased funding coming into the State  
20 and pressures to move funding to assist both of those  
21 populations, so really wanting to point out chronic  
22 homelessness, also.

23 And we can see how chronic homeless numbers and  
24 unsheltered are increasing a bit. Typically that  
25 would be coming from your unsheltered population as

1 we were seeing in some of the previous slides also.

2 So just wanted to, kind of, give some broad data  
3 out there, but I'm open to questions, so feel free.

4 BUTCHER: Anybody have any questions for Carrie?

5 JESSEE: Yeah, on the chronic homeless numbers -- well,  
6 first of all a general comment and I think I make  
7 this every year which is the methodology used to  
8 count is so variable from year to year it just seems  
9 almost impossible to get any accurate sense of trend  
10 over time and I just observe that. It's frustrating.  
11 I'm not assigning blame to anybody, it's just  
12 frustrating.

13 But looking at the chronic homeless, when you say  
14 sheltered, that's some organized sheltered  
15 environment, right?

16 COLLINS: Right. Emergency shelter or transitional housing.

17 JESSEE: So did we loose 49 sheltered beds some how between  
18 2014 and 2015?

19 COLLINS: I don't think we have lost those beds necessarily.  
20 There could be a movement of people moving into  
21 permanent supportive housing. There could be some  
22 under-utilization maybe in some emergency shelters.  
23 I don't have specific numbers, so I definitely -- I  
24 don't want to say that, that specifically was or  
25 wasn't.

1 JESSEE: Well, that just seems like it would be important  
2 to know because you've got basically the same number  
3 of chronically homeless people. In fact, a  
4 miraculously identical number, but there's this huge  
5 shift almost doubling the number of unsheltered  
6 people.

7 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8 JESSEE: I don't -- I don't.....

9 COLLINS: Right.

10 JESSEE: .....get this, I guess.

11 COLLINS: Right. Absolutely, no. We definitely share your  
12 thought and your concern and the continued question I  
13 think you do propose from looking at transcripts  
14 before I started. And then I think we had the same  
15 conversation at the last one about how there's so  
16 many different variables in the numbers and really  
17 trying to be able to drill down to more, like, the  
18 community levels, specific looking into really at the  
19 provider level seeing what is really different and  
20 changing.

21 And I've actually had some preliminary  
22 conversation with both of the Continuums to start  
23 thinking about how we can, sort of, drill down some  
24 of that to get more detail.

25 And also it really comes to the forefront, I

1 think, over the last year or so the importance of  
2 really trying to, one, loop in more people into this  
3 count so that we feel like we're getting more  
4 information or bigger picture.

5 And also really trying to streamline the process  
6 in communities so it's consistent so we have maybe a  
7 little -- less questions yearly as to what might have  
8 happened differently, really trying to support  
9 Project Homeless Connect in as many communities at  
10 least consistently so we don't see, you know, two,  
11 kind of, substantial communities in the State who  
12 didn't participate one year and then all of a sudden  
13 we have data from them, so I agree, we share your  
14 thought and concern on that.

15 BUTCHER:

16 And if I could add to that, that's a national  
17 problem we're seeing. In fact, there was an article  
18 in the L.A. Times last week that said homeless  
19 population in L.A. up 12 percent in 2014. And they  
20 were talking about is it really up 12 percent. Well,  
21 no, probably not. I mean, the -- you know, the  
22 economy is still really bad down there, but it has to  
23 do with gathering of the information.

24 In fact, if you go to that article there's a link  
25 to an article from 2014 talking about HUD and L.A.  
County in this battle over what the number should be

1 and how L.A. County was trying to use different ways  
2 to get to a count, but HUD didn't necessarily agree  
3 with it and, I mean, it just, kind of, gives you an  
4 idea. And they have a huge population, but they also  
5 have a very small geographic area compared to us  
6 obviously.

7 Some insight into something that nationally is an  
8 issue which is not just trying to determine what an  
9 accurate number is, but also having a year to year  
10 consistency where we have somebody participating in a  
11 community and we get a number one year and they're  
12 not for whatever reason participating the next year  
13 and then that alters it.

14 And then you look at some of the other variables  
15 such as the -- particular in Alaska, the temperature.  
16 If the date that's picked, if it's 10 below zero  
17 you're probably going to have more sheltered people  
18 than you would if it was a 40 degree day in Anchorage  
19 and somebody may choose, you know, to -- where they  
20 might have been outside.

21 And so I share your frustration, but I guess I  
22 just want to make the point that this is -- we're  
23 all, kind of, in this and that at least I haven't  
24 determined that somebody's found, kind of, a great  
25 model that gets it as accurate as possible.

1 COLLINS: Yeah.

2 JESSEE: Yeah. No, I get that. It's just -- you know, the  
3 two things you look for are an accurate number of how  
4 many people we have right now and then the second  
5 thing you look for is a trend over time. And I don't  
6 feel like I have much of a handle on either one of  
7 those, so, I mean, I just.....

8 And also on the Housing First Project, you know,  
9 my understanding is the majority of those folks would  
10 have been chronically homeless at some point, are  
11 they counted? How are they counted, if at all  
12 because it doesn't appear they're counted as  
13 sheltered.

14 COLLINS: Right. No. It only includes emergency shelter  
15 and transitional housing, so those who are in the  
16 Housing First would be permanent supportive housing  
17 and they're not captured. And it would be my  
18 understanding that, that's because they're in  
19 permanent housing for an indefinite amount of time,  
20 so there's not a threat that they could become  
21 homeless again in that way.

22 JESSEE: Well, it just seems like it's really a data, you  
23 know, morass because, you know, since we're not  
24 getting credit for some of the stuff we've done, you  
25 know, that's directly related to trying to deal with

1 the chronic homeless, but if you look at this none of  
2 the Housing First projects have anything to do with  
3 the data.

4 And we could do a whole bunch more and it still  
5 wouldn't, you know, indicate to like a policy maker  
6 oh, those projects really help. They cut the  
7 homeless populations by, you know, however many of  
8 those beds we have. It doesn't show up anywhere.

9 COLLINS: Um-hum. I think that's a good point and something  
10 that we can -- so we do track the permanent  
11 supportive housing through our Housing Inventory  
12 Chart which coincides with this, but, you know, we  
13 don't usually present that data, but I think that it  
14 would be something for us to think about moving  
15 forward that we could do it in conjunction and be  
16 presenting those, also and seeing how those numbers  
17 are changing. Those systems should be in HMIS.

18 We should be able to collect the data just as we  
19 do for emergency shelters and transitional housing.  
20 So, I think, that's definitely something that we and  
21 the Continuums could work to present in the future.

22 JESSEE: Okay. Well, (ph).....

23 BUTCHER: Shannon.

24 WILKS: (Simultaneous speech) to comment, the other data  
25 that had -- hasn't been present in the past is -- it

1 was done for just Anchorage, but I think, it could  
2 possibly be done for other shelters throughout the  
3 State is look at those number of individuals who are  
4 repeatedly coming to the shelter.

5 And then the shelters were also collecting the  
6 numbers of people who were new who had never been  
7 there before who are not in their data system. And  
8 that gives an idea of how many new homeless people  
9 even if they're there just for short periods of time,  
10 but these are newly homeless people that have  
11 experienced a period of time when they are  
12 encountering the shelter system.

13 And that can go to look toward -- if you -- I  
14 can't remember, it was in the -- several years ago  
15 that this was -- and I tracked it over a period of  
16 about six or seven years and you could really see the  
17 number of newly -- new people into the shelters going  
18 up steadily on a yearly basis. And because we're not  
19 requiring that of the shelters at this point to give  
20 us that information we really don't know how many of  
21 these individuals are new to the shelter systems.

22 And potentially if the HM- -- if the Homeless  
23 Management Information System could be looked at to  
24 see if we can capture some additional information in  
25 it now that it's under, you know, the State's control

1 and how we can really work with that system to give  
2 us some real data that breaks it down into a little  
3 bit smaller increment.

4 How many of these people are new, how many people,  
5 you know, how long were they there, that type of  
6 thing to just really, kind of, look at the Homeless  
7 Management Information System to see what else we can  
8 actually capture because that can drive strategically  
9 where resources go and how agencies that serve  
10 homeless individuals how they respond to those folks.

11 BUTCHER: Suzi.

12 PEARSON: Well, I would like to say, Jeff, if that's a  
13 personal interest of yours maybe you should help with  
14 the data priority. I think that.....

15 JESSEE: Okay, lesson learned there.

16 PEARSON: You bring it up every year, obviously it's  
17 intriguing for you.

18 And as far as Point-in-Time I -- this always  
19 happens in January for folks. And, of course,  
20 January tends to be really cold for us. This past  
21 winter in Anchorage we had a pretty mild winter, so  
22 the whole 40 degree temperature in January it's very  
23 possible, but it's frustrating that for Alaska that  
24 it is happening in January.

25 I am very disturbed by the increase in the numbers

1 of unsheltered folks. I think that if we had this  
2 information more timely, that Carrie would be able to  
3 tell us why there are more unsheltered folks. And I  
4 don't think you had complete numbers till last week.  
5 And so if we had, had these numbers at least six (ph)  
6 months ago, she might have been able to ask some  
7 questions of some of the agencies, especially around  
8 Anchorage, why.

9 And I would really like to -- I'm excited to hear  
10 about Carmen and Scott talking about HMIS and that  
11 sort -- them taking over as far as the Coalition, so  
12 that's another thing that we need to make sure that  
13 our data is coming in timely enough that we can do  
14 some analysis so the Council can better understand.  
15 This is not as helpful. To have some back data would  
16 be -- or information would be very helpful.

17 And the other thing as far as numbers that I think  
18 has been the most helpful for me as a Council member  
19 have been the ones that have come from the Department  
20 of Education. They're very consistent and very  
21 thorough in how they count and they do unduplicated  
22 numbers. And I think that, that's a significant  
23 reflection of the homeless issue in Alaska because  
24 family -- homelessness among families is one of the  
25 biggest growing populations of homelessness in this

1 State.

2 And so I would like to request that at least in  
3 the October meeting we get the prior year's school  
4 data numbers and I think that, that would give us  
5 time to get the numbers and as well as get some back  
6 story on that so we would have a real conversation.

7 BUTCHER: Absolutely. Any other questions? Okay. Thank  
8 you, Carrie.

9 I'd like to go to Item 2, Carmen, Anchorage  
10 Coalition to End Homelessness.

11 SPRINGER: Good afternoon. Okay. Well, I will follow-up  
12 with my piece on the Point-in-Time since we're on  
13 that topic. I'm not going to repeat any of our  
14 numbers since we just heard about it, but I will say  
15 that we've done some work over the past two years to  
16 try to address the methodology issue. A lot of it is  
17 prescribed by HUD, so there's not a lot we can do  
18 about the definitions, but we have been doing some  
19 work with the outreach piece.

20 We are working both with our adult outreach and  
21 specifically with our youth organizations to try to  
22 firm up a methodology so from year to year we are  
23 doing it in a consistent way.

24 We're also working with some of our colleagues at  
25 UAA to get a objective perspective on how we can

1           carrie this out in a way that's replicatable, but  
2           also consistent with what we are prescribed from HUD.  
3           So we're pleased with the work that's been going on  
4           so far. It is a multi-year process, but we do feel  
5           that the data is getting better.

6           And it is frustrating, but I would encourage you  
7           to remember that our Point-in-Time numbers are just  
8           one of our numbers. It's an important number. It  
9           does give us a picture into one day of homelessness  
10          in Anchorage and in Alaska, but the other piece of  
11          data in Alaska is what we get out of HMIS.

12          And so the second piece we're mostly going to hear  
13          from Scott on, but is the transition of the system  
14          administrator for our Homeless Management Information  
15          System and that's been one of the main projects we've  
16          been working on over the last few months. And so as  
17          we look into the transition of that system, I think,  
18          we'll be getting better access to information on an  
19          ongoing basis.

20          And so with the two pieces that we can use in  
21          tandem, both our Point-in-Time and our ongoing  
22          census, as Shannon was saying, we'll be able to use  
23          those pieces together and get a better overall  
24          picture of what this looks like and that tells a  
25          better story about what's actually happening on the

1 ground, so we'll hear from Scott about -- more about  
2 the HMIS (indiscernible).

3 One of the other major projects the Coalition is  
4 just in the beginning stages of embarking on is the  
5 design of a coordinated entry system. This has been  
6 brought up many times over several years using  
7 different iterations of the same name, coordinated  
8 access, consolidated entry. A lot of different  
9 things, but it's got the same general idea.

10 The concept is that it's a system that's designed  
11 to prioritize the most vulnerable people experiencing  
12 or potentially about to experience homelessness and  
13 to maximize the resources we have in the community,  
14 so we are working with HUD TA.

15 We have a contractor who has helped design  
16 coordinated entry systems in several communities.  
17 And also in dialogue with peers, peer communities  
18 across the country that are a couple years ahead of  
19 us in designing these programs, looking at different  
20 models and how we can put together a design team  
21 within Anchorage to start the process of setting up a  
22 system here.

23 You already heard about our community plan. I'm  
24 happy to answer questions if you've thought of any in  
25 the past couple of hours.

1           And we are hoping over the next few months to  
2           recruit a landlord liaison position that will sit  
3           within the Coalition.

4           The idea behind the position would be to have  
5           somebody, hopefully with a property management  
6           background, but somebody that can work on behalf of  
7           all of the agencies within the community to form  
8           relationships within the landlord communities and  
9           really form a pool of stable units and landlords that  
10          are open to working with our agencies and the  
11          beneficiaries of the programs that we support.

12          Form lasting relationships and a better  
13          understanding of what our programs are, the benefits  
14          that come along with working with our individuals and  
15          to doing outreach to people who may currently be a  
16          little resistant to working with us.

17          And I believe Scott is also going to do a recap of  
18          some of the joint work that most of the State  
19          spearheaded through the Legislative Session, but we  
20          did obviously support the SNHG and BHAP fund. We  
21          also supported the passage -- or the work done on  
22          behalf of SB-49. And the Coalition drafted and is  
23          still supporting a resolution for the support of  
24          expansion of Medicaid.

25          BUTCHER:           Okay. Thank you, Carmen. Do we have any

1 questions? Okay, thank you.

2 SPRINGER: Thank you.

3 BUTCHER: Scott, Scott Ciambor, Alaska Coalition on Housing  
4 and Homelessness update.

5 CIAMBOR: Great, thank you. First, I'd like to thank the  
6 Council for, you know, allowing us to present again.  
7 And then also to participate again in our annual  
8 conference in October. We think having the meeting  
9 at the conference is key to getting our members  
10 outside of Anchorage together and in front of you and  
11 maybe we'll get some more public comment in years to  
12 come.

13 But first, I'd like to recognize other Coalition  
14 members in the audience, John Sperbeck, Sherrie  
15 Hinshaw, and Jess Lederman in the back. Are there  
16 any other Alaska Coalition members on line?

17 And then also on line a subject that we're going  
18 to talk about in this presentation, too, is our new  
19 HMIS system administrators. They may be listening in  
20 today to get a feel for some of the concerns with  
21 HMIS and start -- get a feel for how to make  
22 improvements, so Dave or Adam or Julie, are you on  
23 the line?

24 EBERBACH: Dave is on.

25 CIAMBOR: Great. Thanks, Dave, so I'll introduce you

1                   shortly.

2    EBERBACH:            Sure, great.

3    CIAMBOR:            So in your packet from the Coalition you have your  
4                   power point presentation. You have the Coalition's  
5                   thoughts on the 10 Year Plan. You have the process  
6                   for the HMIS selection and the recommendation from  
7                   the joint Anchorage and Balance of State Committee  
8                   that looked into the HMIS transition.

9                    You have a copy of a draft Balance of State  
10                   Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures that we  
11                   want to put into play for the Balance of State here  
12                   in the short future.

13                   And then also mentioned earlier was some summary  
14                   pages on some advocacy that we did during the session  
15                   getting folks to understand the legitimate impact of  
16                   cutting the basic Homeless Assistance Program and the  
17                   SNHG funding from the budget and what that would have  
18                   meant to members across the State.

19                   And so if you look at the first part of your  
20                   slide, this is really, kind of, geared to why we're  
21                   taking all the activities that we are. This is  
22                   pulled from the next round of the Continuum of Care,  
23                   they're registration NOFA and it talks about, you  
24                   know, the Continuum of Care.

25                   And for council members that don't know two years

1 ago the Balance -- the Alaska Coalition on Housing  
2 and Homelessness agreed to take over the management  
3 of the Balance of State Continuum of Care Program and  
4 so that Continuum of Care Program oversees every  
5 grantee outside of Anchorage.

6 And typically it's about 11 or 12 grantees at  
7 about \$850,000 a year for that program. And so for  
8 many, many years it was really governed as kind of  
9 that, as a program, you know. And, you know, people  
10 apply, grantees get funding, you go on.

11 Well, in recent years HUD has -- requiring more of  
12 Continuums of Care in order to track progress and  
13 gauge performance on how those funds are working in  
14 the various Continuums of Care. And so two years ago  
15 when the Coalition agreed to take this on, I don't  
16 know if we clearly knew what we were taking on, but  
17 it's a complex program and it covers the majority of  
18 the State.

19 And so for the Council I wanted you to just  
20 recognize some of the stuff that we're going to have  
21 to address in the future and it's in your first  
22 slide. So using performance and outcome data, CoCs  
23 should decide how to best use the resources available  
24 to end homelessness within the community including  
25 the CoC Program, the ESG Program, state and local

1 funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream  
2 service resources such as Medicaid and philanthropic  
3 efforts.

4 And so as a Continuum of Care we're supposed to  
5 address all of these in our applications every year  
6 and these are basically all of the elements of a 10  
7 Year Plan. And so this, kind of, goes into our  
8 suggestions and comments in January that we really  
9 would like to see the Council, you know, take this  
10 activity and show us where we are going to plug this  
11 information into the program that we have to apply  
12 for every year.

13 The second slide, kind of, goes into some of the  
14 details of what we've been working on specifically.  
15 The Homeless Management Information System  
16 administrator and technical assistance RFP. The  
17 policies and procedures we'll talk about in a second.  
18 The 10 Year Plan comments and the advocacy piece.  
19 And so the big component is the Homeless Management  
20 Information System.

21 As Jeff Jessee has suggested, there's been  
22 questions and concerns about the accuracy, the  
23 validity, you know, the process of doing the Point-  
24 in-Time count, as well as the other functions that go  
25 along that can be utilized in the HMIS system. And

1 both the Anchorage Continuum of Care and the State  
2 Coalition have had this similar concern.

3 And so last year we had an outside evaluation from  
4 Barb Ritter (ph) from the Michigan Coalition to End  
5 Homelessness who put together a report on the system  
6 for us to take a look at.

7 Based on those results, the State Coalition in  
8 conjunction with the Anchorage Coalition decided,  
9 look, we need to do a little bit investigation of our  
10 system on our own. And so as you may remember  
11 leading into our conference in September we had just  
12 completed a user survey and got a lot of information  
13 from users as to what was working and what wasn't and  
14 where there was some gaps. And had some quality  
15 dialogue at the conference and subsequently in the  
16 month after about how to take that information and  
17 put it into a work plan.

18 And so the work plan came out and identified, you  
19 know, four basic areas of concern. One is it's a  
20 business plan. You know, we didn't really know who  
21 had licenses, who had art (ph) licenses and where  
22 they were located around the State, as well as the  
23 cost mechanisms and if we were getting as much out of  
24 the system for the money we were putting into it, so  
25 there was some business concerns.

1           There was also some concerns with the process, the  
2 Point-in-Time count, you know, how information was  
3 relayed and that came down to communication and  
4 training gaps that we identified. And then also the  
5 reporting and analysis.

6           One of the key concerns for Balance of State  
7 communities with the system is that we've always got  
8 data in congregate as the Balance of State CoC (ph).  
9 Well, we're so spread out folks in Juneau don't  
10 necessarily need to know exactly who's homeless in  
11 Nome in order to solve their local problem, but we  
12 couldn't extract that information from the system as  
13 being administered, so stuff like that was addressed.

14           And so over the last six months the Anchorage  
15 Coalition, the State Coalition have had some pretty  
16 -- pretty delicate conversations about whether to  
17 make a move, whether -- how big this problem was with  
18 our current administrator. And finally came to a  
19 conclusion about three months ago that we wanted to  
20 make a potential shift.

21           A joint transition team, Kathi Trawver UAA,  
22 Carmen, Dave Mayo-Kiely from the Anchorage side,  
23 Balance of State with Sherrie, John, myself worked  
24 through an RFP, were able to get three submissions as  
25 of April 30th and through our ranking and selection

1 process decided on the Institute for Community  
2 Alliance to be our next HMIS system administrator.

3 During the lunch time hour we're actually trying  
4 to put together the final details of the contract so  
5 that we can get it to them, but the goal is to have  
6 them in place and helping to administer HMIS for the  
7 State as of June 1, so we're super excited about  
8 that.

9 And before I give it to you Dave for just a couple  
10 words, the Institute for Community Alliance is a non-  
11 profit organization based in Des Moines. They  
12 provide HMIS training and support for Wisconsin,  
13 Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska and Missouri homeless service  
14 agencies.

15 One of the key targets for the RFP transition team  
16 was to really reach out to them. Dave and Julie had  
17 been to our conference three or four years ago and  
18 had some engagement with our system so they were  
19 somewhat familiar with Alaska. And so we are super  
20 excited to get our contract finished and over to  
21 Dave.

22 And, Dave, at this point if you just want to say  
23 hi, we'll let you have it.

24 EBERBACH: Can you hear me okay?

25 CIAMBOR: Sure.

1 EBERBACH: Okay, great. I'll try to keep it brief, but I've  
2 been doing this for a number of years and I still get  
3 really revved up about this, so I'll have to try to  
4 contain myself.

5 And just listening to the conversation, I've been  
6 on since your public comment period and listening to  
7 the conversation, I can already tell that your CoCs  
8 process, the two CoCs, the people there in the room  
9 are already more aware of the use of data than some  
10 of the communities that we've been in for a longer  
11 period of time, so it's really exciting for us to  
12 here.

13 The energy that you have in spite of the  
14 challenges that you've had over the last several  
15 years of getting good stuff out of your system, the  
16 fact that you're still excited about potential uses  
17 for good data coming out of your HMIS.

18 We see ourselves a partner in this case. In some  
19 of our jurisdictions, you know, we're there for the  
20 long haul. In this case it's a shorter process to  
21 assist you, but we're very excited to be there and be  
22 of assistance to you as you transition through the  
23 next several years.

24 And so we'll help out with Point-in-Time to a  
25 certain degree. Some of that, the ground work that

1                   you all obviously know that you have to do that we'll  
2                   participate as such as we can and then the real time  
3                   counts (ph) during the rest of the year and the  
4                   reporting that you have been seeking we'll be  
5                   focusing on starting June 1st.

6    CIAMBOR:           Great, thank you, Dave.

7    BUTCHER:           Do you have any questions?

8    PEARSON:           I just wanted to say thank you to you and you've  
9                   done some amazing work here as has Carmen. And I  
10                   don't think that everybody realizes the extent and  
11                   the amount of energy that they invested and that  
12                   they're crew invested in making this happen. It was  
13                   a very, very fast turnaround.

14                   Folks in the Anchorage Coalition challenged some  
15                   of the initial steps that were being taken and the  
16                   response from the group was really nimble and they  
17                   made it work and they got us a great provided. I'm  
18                   very excited to hear what we do with HMIS and what  
19                   comes out of this partnership. So, thank you, very  
20                   much for your work.

21    CIAMBOR:           Yeah, thank you. And, I think, our transition  
22                   team are equally as excited. We had a brief  
23                   background meeting with Dave and his team on Monday  
24                   and we said, you know, we had -- you know, for  
25                   example one of our problems has been not being able

1 to break out our Point-in-Time count for the local  
2 level and he's like oh, that will be taken care of by  
3 the next time around, so I think that's great for us.

4 It's great for the Council and it's great for  
5 communities who are either just becoming aware of  
6 their homeless issue or are at a point where they're  
7 prepared to deal with it, so I really am looking  
8 forward to this partnership as Dave talked about.

9 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions? Okay. So thank you,  
10 Scott and Dave.

11 CIAMBOR: So I have a couple more things.

12 BUTCHER: Sure.

13 CIAMBOR: Okay. And so, sorry, that -- that's number one.

14 The second thing is the Balance of State Continuum  
15 of Care, there's a slide in there that just shows you  
16 the huge geography that we're trying to manage this  
17 program.

18 And so again, the importance of putting together  
19 some draft policies for agencies in these communities  
20 who are looking at Continuum of Care funds is for  
21 them to understand the program, know whether it's a  
22 program for them to invest in and to also help us  
23 understand how these funds are used, how they're  
24 performing in the Balance of State so that we can  
25 keep those dollars coming in and from HUD.

1           And also the administrative burden for that  
2 program is pretty substantial and so if and when  
3 there are changeovers in leadership positions, they  
4 won't be starting from ground zero for the next  
5 administrator.

6           The 10 Year Plan, I think we talked a lot about  
7 this, this morning. Again, you know, just re-  
8 emphasizing that the work and the programming that's  
9 going on the State and, you know, Federal level, you  
10 know, we need to know that on the local level so that  
11 we can pinpoint to it either for advocacy purposes or  
12 to put into the grant programs that either individual  
13 agencies or as a Coalition we're applying for.

14           So, again, education is the key. Education,  
15 education, education. Although (ph) the 10 Year Plan  
16 doesn't have to be exact even at a fifth or sixth  
17 grade level, just so that we know where the  
18 information is and what generally speaking everybody  
19 in the State should be going for to end homelessness  
20 here in Alaska.

21           With that said, too, you heard a little bit of  
22 presentation from Sherrie Henshaw about the Technical  
23 Assistance Collaborative. You know, our thoughts on  
24 that is we've been very supportive of that process.  
25 We tried to get a lot of -- as many agencies and

1 communities and interface with the consultants during  
2 that process and realistically that seems like  
3 information that should go into a 10 Year Plan.

4 You know, there should be a permanent supportive  
5 housing section of any 10 Year Plan because that's  
6 what's been coming out of the two CoCs for the past  
7 few years. We need supportive housing in both CoCs  
8 and it's the number one priority, so how are we going  
9 to get that done.

10 And finally, again, the advocacy piece. Bryan  
11 mentioned earlier about the agencies within the  
12 Coalition really coming and stepping up once it was  
13 recognized that the initial version of the budget  
14 from the Governor did not include the basic Homeless  
15 Assistance Program and the Special Needs Housing  
16 Grant.

17 Special thanks to Covenant House, Catholic  
18 Community Services, United Way of Anchorage, AWAIC  
19 Fairbanks Rescue Mission, NEST, ACMHS, RurAL CAP,  
20 Mat-Su Health Foundation, Glory Hole, Gastineau Human  
21 Services and more, these are all folks who said set  
22 up an interview, we'll be in Juneau. And they came  
23 down as soon as we could get that scheduled in order  
24 to explain exactly the importance of this funding to  
25 the work that they do in their local communities.

1 Without that, sort of, in the room conversation with  
2 Pat Pitney, I'm not so sure we would be, as Bryan  
3 mentioned, in this favorable position of having that  
4 stuff signed in yesterday, so special thanks to them.

5 But also, I think, a warning, you know, and  
6 another reason to put together a robust 10 Year Plan.  
7 You know, we're kind of -- our programs are hidden.  
8 You know, there should have been no reason that we  
9 were taken out of the budget in the first place if  
10 people in the communities knew the value of the  
11 agencies that we're working with.

12 So I think, you know, a 10 Year Plan can have a  
13 preventive mechanism for us as well going forward and  
14 just to make sure that it is understood that housing  
15 and homeless services are key to the health of every  
16 community. And with that I'll take questions.

17 BUTCHER: Okay. Does anybody have any questions of Scott?  
18 Okay.

19 CIAMBOR: Thank you.

20 BUTCHER: Scott, and I'd like -- before you leave I'd like  
21 to reiterate what you just said. The work you did  
22 and Jeff and a lot of the people on the Council and a  
23 lot of the people -- Carmen during the Legislation  
24 Session was amazing and I can't even imagine where  
25 we'd be without you.

1 Through the process of the budget almost  
2 everything was at zero at one point in the whole  
3 capital budget and then it looked like this was  
4 coming back and then it was still at zero and then it  
5 was back and then it was in limbo and it was finally  
6 signed into law.

7 And so what our -- what AHFC's Board had approved  
8 at the beginning of the process for the Homeless  
9 Assistance Program was eight million. What ended up  
10 being funded was 7.7 million which isn't exact, but  
11 when you look at the rest of the State Capital Budget  
12 it's an amazing number. I don't know that there are  
13 others in Transportation, matching funds for Federal,  
14 I don't know that you're going to see a program that  
15 stayed intact that way.

16 The Special Needs Housing was at 1,750,000. It  
17 ended up at 1.5, so once again it wasn't where the  
18 process started, but it was much closer than almost  
19 any other program which is -- this would not have  
20 happened if it had not been for -- in fact, I think I  
21 went to OMB one day and saw you in the meeting with  
22 Pat waiting for my meeting Pat.

23 So it really took the education and letting folks  
24 know, not just, you know, people at OMB, but also  
25 Legislators and others what this program does. It's

1 important and just as importantly what would happen  
2 if it didn't exist.

3 CIAMBOR: Yeah. There was a legitimate fear, shelter  
4 providers were talking about cutting staff or closing  
5 down, Housing First projects were in jeopardy, so it  
6 was -- it was dire there.

7 BUTCHER: Yeah, and you heard -- there were some Legislators  
8 that would ask the question to you when you would  
9 talk to them about all of these looking for cuts in  
10 the whole State budget, well, if we cut this out is  
11 somebody going to die. And with most things in the  
12 State budget the answer to that isn't obviously yes  
13 because they're important State functions, but it's  
14 not life or death. This is one that, that is the  
15 answer and there aren't that many of them that,  
16 that's the case, so I think that played a big role in  
17 getting it back.

18 So I just personally wanted to thank you.....

19 CIAMBOR: I appreciate that.

20 BUTCHER: .....and everybody that worked because it made a  
21 huge difference.

22 CIAMBOR: Thank you.

23 BUTCHER: Thank you, Scott. Going on to Item 4, John  
24 Pendrey, Federal Program Update, Department of  
25 Veterans Affairs.

1     PENDREY:            Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to  
2                            give the update from the Federal Program from the  
3                            U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness primarily  
4                            HUD and the VA.

5                            The first thing I'm going to cover on here is  
6                            under funding. On March 2nd HUD announced 7.7  
7                            million in Section 811 rental assistance to Alaska  
8                            Housing Finance Corporation. And DHSS to provide  
9                            permanent homes to 200 extremely low income  
10                           households and disabled persons.

11                           May 19th HUD announced an award of 781,000 in HOPA  
12                           (ph) Program Renewal funding to the Alaska Housing  
13                           Finance Corporation to provide rental assistance and  
14                           supportive services to extremely low Alaska families  
15                           and individuals living with HIV and Aids.

16                           February 18th and 19th the Anchorage HUD office  
17                           has a listening session for a HUD VASH expansion into  
18                           the Native communities for a demonstration program.  
19                           \$4 million is going to be awarded nationwide for a  
20                           pilot program expected to be published in the Federal  
21                           Register in June, about mid-June. What they're  
22                           hoping for is to have -- Tribes (ph) will have about  
23                           two months time to complete the applications and the  
24                           awards will be made in November of 2015.

25                           April 20th in the ongoing effort to end Veteran

1 homelessnes, HUD and the VA announced nearly 65  
2 million to help more than 9,300 homeless Veterans  
3 find a permanent place to call home.

4 The rental assistance is provided to the HUD VASH  
5 Program, HUD VA Supportive Housing which combines  
6 rental assistance from HUD with case management and  
7 clinical services provided by the VA. \$131,998 was  
8 awarded to AHFC funding 17 additional VASH vouchers  
9 throughout the State of Alaska bringing the total in  
10 Alaska to 247. And just an add item on th- -- those  
11 are currently being used at about 93 percent to  
12 actually provide a roof.

13 HUD announced the 2015 NOFA for the Indian  
14 Community Development Block Grant Mold (ph)  
15 Prevention Re-mediation Program. The purpose of this  
16 NOFA is to make awards solely for mold re-mediation  
17 and prevention. The application deadline is 22, June  
18 and the amount of funding available nationally is  
19 \$12,400,000.

20 Under Indian Veteran Homelessness, February 27th  
21 the Anchorage HUD office posted a Region 10 Mayor's  
22 Challenge Form that included video conferencing with  
23 other Region 10 offices. It was a three hour video  
24 conference that included Boise, Portland, Seattle, as  
25 well as people in the office in Pocatello and



1 Washington D.C.

2 The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the  
3 status and the many tools that have been found most  
4 effective in reaching out and serving homeless  
5 Veterans in an effort to meet the challenge toward  
6 ending Veterans homelessness by the end of calendar  
7 year 2015. Formed as a part of a nationwide campaign  
8 for the Mayor's challenge to end Veteran  
9 homelessness, it was launched by First Lady Michelle  
10 Obama at the White House in an event in August of  
11 2014.

12 At this time Anchorage is the only community to  
13 undertake the challenge of ending Veteran  
14 homelessness by 2016. In Alaska the U. S.  
15 Interagency Council Alaska Chapter has been  
16 encouraging other communities to undertake this  
17 challenge and we hope that this Council will also  
18 encourage community partners to support the  
19 challenge.

20 Under Fair Housing, May 14th, HUD announced an  
21 agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage  
22 resolving allegations that its zoning laws violated  
23 the Fair Housing Act and other Civil Rights laws by  
24 discriminating against people with disabilities.

25 Specifically HUD's complaint alleged that city's

1 zoning code imposed restrictions on groups with  
2 certain disabilities such as the maximum occupancy  
3 standards and fees which were not imposed on other  
4 groups.

5 The agreement is the result of a HUD complaint  
6 that was brought under the Fair Housing Act, Section  
7 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the  
8 Americans with Disabilities Act all of which prohibit  
9 discrimination because of a disability. Anchorage is  
10 subject to HUD's enforcement of all laws because it  
11 receives Federal funds, financial assistance from  
12 HUD.

13 The Municipality of Anchorage has updated the  
14 Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing. A new  
15 report dated February, 2015 was prepared by Sue  
16 Fisson (ph) and funded by AMHT and the United Way of  
17 Anchorage.

18 In addition to that some items specific to the  
19 VA's efforts to end Veteran homelessness, right now  
20 the Point-in-Time count shows that there's 130  
21 homeless Veterans in Anchorage, 180 homeless Veterans  
22 across the State. Of those there's 12 Veterans shown  
23 as chronically homeless in Anchorage. This is down  
24 substantially over previous years. It has not yet  
25 been broken out for the balance of the State.

1           What this really means for the issue of Veteran  
2 homelessness in Alaska, it's actually within reach to  
3 not only -- for not only the Municipality of  
4 Anchorage to reach a functional zero in Veteran  
5 homelessness, but for the State of Alaska to  
6 potentially be one of the very first states to reach  
7 a point of functional zero across the entire State,  
8 but what it would take is some real serious  
9 partnerships across the State to do this.

10           One of the biggest challenges we have right now,  
11 we have the numbers, the numbers look like they're  
12 about right, but what we don't have is the names. We  
13 can't get the names unless agencies are willing to  
14 ask the Veteran for a release of information to share  
15 those names and to actually come together as a  
16 community, as a statewide or as a local community to  
17 pull those names out so we know who we're talking  
18 about. We know what their situation is because while  
19 this count was done in January, we've housed an  
20 additional 60 something Veterans in that -- in the  
21 times between the time the count was done and now, so  
22 are they the same Veterans or are they new Veterans  
23 coming in.

24           What the Point-in-Time counts have shown us -- or  
25 shown me between the 2014 and the 2015 counts, it

1 looks like we have a net gain of two homeless  
2 Veterans across the State. Meanwhile in 2014 the VA  
3 was able to move 134 individuals from homelessness to  
4 permanent housing, so did 136 people come out of the  
5 woods that we didn't know about or have we had 136  
6 people come into the State.

7 Regardless of what the answer is, the issue of  
8 ending Veteran homelessness ties to the communities  
9 putting together resources that would allow us to  
10 move people from homelessness to permanently house at  
11 a rate that exceeds the numbers that are coming into  
12 the State of Alaska.

13 And, I think, that is everything that I have. Any  
14 questions?

15 BUTCHER: Any questions for John?

16 PENDREY: That was easy.

17 BUTCHER: Yeah. Thank you, John. Okay. Mark Romick,  
18 Special Needs Housing and Housing -- Homeless  
19 Assistance Program update.

20 ROMICK: Hello, again. So just to -- the purpose of the  
21 update, what you have in your packet, I'm not going  
22 to go through all the different detail, but just want  
23 to, kind of, bring you up to speed on where we are  
24 with the existing program and also to update you on  
25 what happened with the Capital Budget which as Scott

1 mentioned the Mental Health Bill was signed this week  
2 and so our Capital funds for these two programs have  
3 been approved for 2016.

4 So right now we have a NOFA that is out and it  
5 closed and we received a number of applications for  
6 the 2016 money and so pending -- or since the budget  
7 was approved we will be able to go ahead and complete  
8 that process that we have out there.

9 And the funding round for the SNHG Program this  
10 year was a total of \$5.2 million. And part -- most  
11 of that -- or not most of it, but some of that was a  
12 result of a partnership with the Municipality of  
13 Anchorage.

14 The Municipality of Anchorage made available a  
15 couple million dollars in Community Development Block  
16 Grants and HOME funding that they had in hand and  
17 also are scheduled to receive in their next funding  
18 cycle for supportive housing. And so there was a  
19 substantial amount of money available and we're  
20 hoping to fund at least three or four applications  
21 that we received this year and get those projects up  
22 and running within the next 18 months.

23 With that Capital funding also will come operating  
24 assistance for the program. And as the Council knows  
25 from previous conversations we've been managing the

1 SNHG Program in conjunction with the Homeless  
2 Assistance Program to, kind of, maintain consistency  
3 over a three year period of time. And so in your  
4 packet where it talks about the average grant being  
5 \$2.2 million per project, that's over a three year  
6 period of time.

7 And back, just to remind the Council, when -- and  
8 the folks in the audience, when we started the  
9 Special Needs Housing Grant Program in 2009 as a  
10 collaboration between agencies, we made the conscious  
11 decision not to allocate more funds than we were able  
12 to realistically maintain in terms of projects. And  
13 so we've been funding the operating assistance at  
14 three year grants and so every third year there's a  
15 fairly hefty renewal.

16 And so based on the way that we've managed the  
17 program in collaboration with other partners over the  
18 last five years, the \$550,000 reduction that both  
19 programs combined took in this -- in the FY-16 grant,  
20 we don't anticipate making much of an impact on our  
21 renewal since -- so we'll be able to continue  
22 renewing all of the agencies that we've made  
23 commitments to. We'll be able to renew the agencies  
24 we're going to make commitments to this year through  
25 2026 assuming that the funding doesn't go below the

1 level it is now.

2 So we're obviously extremely excited about the way  
3 that the Capital Budget turned out and the vast  
4 majority of the SNHG and the HAP money being approved  
5 in the '16 budget.

6 So coming up this year we'll be renewing a number  
7 of grants that we've made in the past. There's five  
8 operating grants that are set to expire on June 30th  
9 that we'll be renewing with existing funding.

10 And then we'll be funding the -- making the awards  
11 for the projects that we have in the application  
12 process now. And we anticipate making that within  
13 the next two weeks -- making that announcement. And  
14 that it will be a combination of the State SNHG  
15 funding, the Municipalities Capital Funding and the  
16 Homeless Assistance funding.

17 And then on the Homeless Assistance Program this  
18 is a renewal year for us and so those folks that  
19 received grants last year, we'll be renewing them and  
20 we're in that application process right now for those  
21 renewals.

22 So that's, kind of, where we're at. We're, kind  
23 of, in a status quo mode aside from this last funding  
24 cycle that we're going through right now. And, as I  
25 said before, we should have the decisions and the

1 awards announced within the next two weeks on those  
2 projects.

3 If there's any questions I'd be happy to.....

4 BUTCHER: Does anybody have any questions for Mark? Okay.  
5 Thank you, Mark.

6 ROMICK: All right.

7 BUTCHER: Okay. Cathy Stone, AHFC's Public Housing's  
8 Director on an Update on Public Housing.

9 STONE: Thank you, Mr. Butcher. Good afternoon, Council  
10 Members. A couple updates I'd like to give you  
11 relevant to our homeless populations. I think over  
12 the past few years in the Public Housing Division we  
13 have found that we get the most success and usage of  
14 our vouchers through partnerships. And so towards  
15 that end over the past three years we have created a  
16 number of partnerships throughout the State.

17 The benefit we have as the only statewide Public  
18 Housing -- or one of the only statewide Public  
19 Housing Authorities in the nation is that when we  
20 make a partnership agreement with the Department of  
21 Health and Social Services or the Department of  
22 Corrections we can implement it statewide. And so  
23 I'll just go through and give you some updates on  
24 some of the set asides programs that we have that are  
25 through partnerships with other agencies.

1           As Mr. Pendrey discussed we've had a lot of  
2 success with the VASH Program. We are -- I think  
3 we're recognized as the number four VASH Program in  
4 the nation in respect to lease-up and these are for  
5 homeless Veterans. And so we're very proud of that  
6 statistic and with that success we continue to get  
7 new allocations. And as Mr. Pendrey said, we just  
8 got 17 new VASH vouchers about a month ago, so that  
9 brings us to 247 VASH vouchers to administer  
10 throughout the State.

11           We have a couple tenant based rental assistance  
12 partnerships. One with the Department of Corrections  
13 in our Prisoner Re-Entry Program. We currently have  
14 49 leased and 50 allocated with an eye toward  
15 expanding that into Anchorage through an additional  
16 agreement with the Department of Corrections, again,  
17 putting vouchers in that program.

18           We also have an agreement with the Office of  
19 Children Services throughout the State for youth  
20 aging out of foster care. It's a smaller program.  
21 We only have 17 leased, but again, these are young  
22 adults coming out of foster care that are case  
23 managed by an independent living specialist and we're  
24 hoping that they're finding success living on their  
25 own through the assistance of the rental assistance.

1           Recently we just started our Moving Home Program.  
2           It's just being launched. We have 11 families out  
3           shopping and this is a direct referral from the State  
4           of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,  
5           again, our partnership with that agency. And these  
6           families must be receiving supportive services. We  
7           make sure that they're getting and usage of the  
8           voucher is effective to meet their housing needs.

9           And then also towards a decision of partnerships  
10          our FY-16 Moving To Work Plan this year has been  
11          submitted to HUD. And the only activity we've asked  
12          for is an expansion of the Housing First model.

13          Currently we only assist Karluk Manor in  
14          Anchorage. We went into this a few years ago with  
15          them and have been pleased with the success of that  
16          program, the efficiency of the use of the housing  
17          assistance, so we have gone back to HUD and said we'd  
18          like to expand this realizing there's opportunities  
19          in Juneau and Fairbanks and hoping that HUD gives us  
20          that approval and then we can get some kind of RFP  
21          out for them to, you know, submit a solicitation for  
22          that.

23          And I think those are the high- -- oh, and the  
24          Empowering Choice Housing Program. I'm looking over  
25          at Ms. Pearson. And that's a collaboration with the

1 Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual  
2 Assault, as well as the Council. And we have 181  
3 Empowering Choice vouchers leased throughout the  
4 State for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual  
5 Assault that are in shelters that are given a  
6 referral directly to -- from the shelter to us for  
7 usage of these vouchers.

8 And I am free for any questions.

9 BUTCHER: Does anybody have any questions for Cathy?

10 KUPER: It has a little bit to do with supply and demand.  
11 You mentioned and Mr. Pendrey mentioned the  
12 additional vouchers. We have additional vouchers.  
13 What do we need for housing stock to accommodate the  
14 vouchers that you now have 'cause my understanding is  
15 that we don't -- that even with the additional  
16 vouchers there may not be housing available for those  
17 people that could use the vouchers?

18 STONE: Sure. So what Mr. Pendrey was referring to was  
19 the VASH vouchers and Mr. Kuper, you're correct, in  
20 some locations throughout the State there are  
21 challenges with using the vouchers.

22 And that's part of the benefit that we found with  
23 the partnerships is that when you have hard to house  
24 populations, giving them a voucher some times doesn't  
25 mean that they're going to find a place, but if they

1 have an advocate or they have a case manager or  
2 someone else helping them locate a home, the success  
3 rate of actually leasing up with the voucher is much  
4 higher than a typical voucher.

5 In respect to the Vash, you know, there has to be  
6 the -- you know, and these other programs there has  
7 to be a referral coming with them meaning that  
8 there's someone who is recognized. This is a person  
9 that we want to give this voucher to and we're going  
10 to be, kind of, a partner with them in finding them a  
11 unit.

12 So, you know, I think about 25 percent of the  
13 vouchers that we issue in the regular Voucher Program  
14 come back to us for various reasons not all of which  
15 are not being able to find a unit. Sometimes  
16 circumstances change or sometimes, you know, people  
17 move in with someone else, but there is a certain  
18 amount in certain communities where the availability  
19 of affordable housing is not there.

20 KUPER: Thank you.

21 BUTCHER: And I think, Cathy, talking about how we're fourth  
22 in the nation in utilization of our VASH vouchers, I  
23 think that really does speak to the departments  
24 working together to get the homeless VETs in, whereas  
25 if the State were to just hand vouchers out like

1 Cathy had mentioned they're seeing very low  
2 utilization rates and which we have been successful  
3 in getting out (ph), but it is -- it's a challenge  
4 and states are at varying levels of competence with  
5 that challenge. Fortunately we are up near the top.

6 Any other questions for Cathy? Thank you.

7 STONE: Thank you.

8 BUTCHER: Okay. Carrie Collins and Sherrie Hinshaw, 811  
9 Program.

10 COLLINS: Great. So Sherrie and I are very excited about  
11 this new program coming to the state. So, I think, a  
12 year ago, just over a year ago, DHSS and AHFC applied  
13 for funding under the Section 811 Project Rental  
14 Assistance Program.

15 And we were recently awarded funding under that  
16 program, 7.7 million from the U.S. Department of  
17 Housing and Urban Development with an additional 5.8  
18 million in matching funds coming from --  
19 substantially from DHSS and some from AHFC to put  
20 together this program for 200 units of rental  
21 assistance for 200 units of Alaskan individuals and  
22 families experiencing disabilities.

23 And so I'm going to briefly touch on a couple of  
24 the housing pieces and then Sherrie can chime in  
25 with, kind of, supportive services side.

1           So AHFC is helping to coordinate owner or projects  
2           -- I'll say implementation and projects and DHSS is  
3           working with the target population and then helping  
4           to get them into housing, also.

5           So some of the key things with this program is it  
6           is -- it's available to low income or extremely low  
7           income individuals between the ages of 18 and 61.  
8           You can be -- you would be entering (ph) those ages,  
9           but you can continue to remain in the program after  
10          61, so there are some -- kind of, some age  
11          limitations on that.

12          It is an integration program, so individuals who  
13          can live independently, trying to get them living in  
14          an integrated setting. So restrictions are that no  
15          more than 25 percent of the units in a multi-family  
16          unit are restricted to individuals -- serving  
17          individuals with disabilities.

18          It is -- funding is not available for development.  
19          It is strictly rental assistance, so it can go into  
20          rehabilitated units, new units and existing units.  
21          And we're going to start out with four, kind of, key  
22          communities based on identified need from the target  
23          population and so they'll be starting in Anchorage,  
24          Fairbanks, Juneau and Mat-Su Valley and then if needs  
25          are identified in other communities than it could be

1 expanded.

2 So I'll turn it over to Sherrie.

3 HINSHAW: Hi, Sherrie Hinshaw, Division of Behavioral  
4 Health. And just to check in, Al Wall, are you on  
5 the phone?

6 Okay. Well, I'll go ahead. So the target  
7 population, again, is folks who are on State General  
8 Relief Programs through the Division of Behavioral  
9 Health. And I just wanted to recognize in the  
10 audience Kelda Barstad with Senior and Disability  
11 Services as the new Supportive Housing Lead from SDS.  
12 Kelda, if you want to raise your hand. Fine.

13 So when we wrote this a year ago we had at that  
14 time 650 people in assisted living. Now that's  
15 closer to 700 because there were no other housing  
16 options. And so what we had heard from the 811 is  
17 that it was really being targeted to states (ph) who  
18 were in Olmstad litigations and needing to provide  
19 integrated housing opportunities. So we're really,  
20 really glad that this was awarded.

21 DHSS put in quite a bit of funding into this  
22 project, a little over five million for the first  
23 five year ramp-up period and I think that goes to  
24 show our commitment to housing and providing these  
25 opportunities.

1           The average cost for one person on general relief  
2           is about \$16,000 a year and that's not including  
3           additional Medicaid support services. So our  
4           internal estimates show that in the five years of  
5           ramp-up starting with 60 people in the first year and  
6           200 people -- you know, moving up to 200 people by  
7           year four is that over that period we'll show offsets  
8           in the General Relief Program of 11 million. So it  
9           is an investment, but it's also a savings, too by  
10          providing a lower cost, more integrated housing  
11          opportunities. So we see this as a great way to  
12          start moving the system in that direction of  
13          community integration and appropriate housing  
14          settings depending on the persons need.

15                 So I just wanted to recognize Al Wall and then  
16          Duane Mayes at SCS as being two big supporters of  
17          this program and not just being a program, but a way  
18          to integrate permanent, supportive (ph) housing into  
19          what we -- into our business and what we do. And  
20          being -- I believe this is the first time that DHSS  
21          has put money into permanent rental subsidies and so  
22          I just think that also shows that we're committed to  
23          supportive housing.

24          COLLINS:           Great.

25          HINSHAW:           So we're open for any questions. It is very

1 preliminary for us, so we're still working through  
2 all of the details, but we'd be happy to answer any  
3 questions that you have.

4 BUTCHER: Okay. Any questions for Carrie or Sherrie?

5 JESSEE: I just want to say this is really a big deal and  
6 it's been a great collaboration between AHFC and the  
7 Department and this is huge. This is really going to  
8 help a lot.

9 KUPER: Is this the first time there's been an 811 Program  
10 in the State of Alaska?

11 HINSHAW: No, this is the first iteration of the new 811  
12 Program, so the legacy 811 Program there are many  
13 projects across the State that AHFC has funded and  
14 I'll let Carrie jump in, but this is the new  
15 iteration of the PRA, the project subsidy (ph)  
16 scatter sites model. So the legacy program has gone  
17 away and now it's this no more than 25th percent  
18 community integration whereas before it was 100  
19 percent, like, a six-plex and everyone who lives  
20 there had a disability.

21 BUTCHER: And Jeff, kind of, said exactly what I was going  
22 to say, which is if we didn't have DHSS and AHFC  
23 working together on this, it never would have  
24 happened. And only through this collaboration did we  
25 get the 7.7 million and Alaskans are going to

1 benefit.

2 I just really wanted to thank DHSS for all their  
3 work on this because it would not have happened  
4 without you.

5 HINSHAW: And thanks to Carrie for leading putting the  
6 application together, so.....

7 BUTCHER: I already thanked her.

8 All right. Well, we're a few minutes ahead of  
9 schedule. Maybe we can take a five or six minute  
10 break, stretch our legs before we finish the second  
11 half of the agenda.

12 (Off record - 2:26 (p.m.))

13 (On record - 2:36 (p.m.))

14 BUTCHER: I'd like to call the meeting back to order. Let's  
15 move to status report, Item 8, 10 Year Plan Update,  
16 Suzi Pearson, please.

17 PEARSON: Okay. So during our work session that we had this  
18 morning we reviewed the proposed 10 Year Plan and  
19 looked at what we discussed as far as changing  
20 direction quite a bit. And with that we talked about  
21 some of the plans as far as what we need to do with  
22 identifying the agencies. And one thing that came  
23 from that is that the 10 Year Planning Committee is  
24 going to meet on June 2nd.

25 We've already set a date 'cause I said I would

1 tell you all in three weeks. And we're going to look  
2 at what it might look like to -- for different kinds  
3 of agencies and who to be involved in those five  
4 priority areas that were identified in the plan.

5 And then we're going to start calling everybody  
6 and talked to them about the roles that we think that  
7 they might be interested in. And Jeff is just with  
8 his own free time going to do data. So there, I'm  
9 trying -- I'll get us out of here by 3:00 o'clock.

10 BUTCHER:

11 Okay. I'd like to add I really appreciate the  
12 work the subcommittee did. I feel like at the  
13 previous Council meeting we talked a lot about how  
14 there were some things we'd like to change and there  
15 was a new direction we'd like to go, but then the  
16 subcommittee actually had to work to then put  
17 together, kind of, what we talked about in a not very  
18 fleshed out way.

19 And, at least speaking for me, I think you are  
20 absolutely on the right road. I think this is a  
21 great start and I really appreciate the work you put  
22 in 'cause things like that just don't happen between  
23 meetings.

24 Does anybody have any questions or comments for  
25 Suzi or Dave (ph). Okay, thank you.

All right. Sherrie Hinshaw, DHSS Supportive

1 Housing Strategic Plan.

2 HINSHAW: Hi, again, Sherrie Hinshaw. So, Al, are you on  
3 the phone?

4 WALL: I am.

5 HINSHAW: Okay. We have Al Wall on the phone. And Patti  
6 and Jim with the Technical Assistance Collaborative?

7 YATES: Hi, folks, this.....

8 HOLLAND: We are here (ph).

9 YATES: .....is Jim.

10 HINSHAW: I think we're turning up the volume, but we heard  
11 that you are there.

12 So, Al, do you want to do the intro or do you want  
13 me to go ahead?

14 WALL: You go ahead, please, and I will chime in as I am  
15 able.

16 HINSHAW: Okay. So Sherrie Hinshaw with the Division of  
17 Behavioral Health. And I spoke to some of you this  
18 morning about a Strategic Plan effort we are  
19 undergoing with the assistance of the Technical  
20 Assistance Collaborative as the contractor. And just  
21 to mention, we are also lucky that they are also the  
22 contractor on the 811 Program for HUD that we gave an  
23 update on earlier, so they're already becoming very  
24 familiar with our State and then also helping  
25 implement the 811 Program as well. So we're really

1 excited to get to work with them in this project.

2 So you should all have the slides in your packet.  
3 (Indiscernible - away from microphone). So I'm going  
4 to go ahead and run through the presentation and just  
5 give an overview of the Supportive Housing planning  
6 project and then leave some time for discussion from  
7 the Council and the group.

8 And then also to give an opportunity for Patti and  
9 Jim -- or at least Patti to talk a little bit about  
10 TAC and the work they've been doing and then with AC  
11 (ph) (indiscernible) in this project. They work with  
12 quite a number of states on similar projects and  
13 Olmstad plans, so they really do bring a lot of  
14 experience on the intersection (ph) of housing and  
15 health care that we can benefit from.

16 So basically some background on this, we started  
17 with a conversation last August between DBH and the  
18 Trust where we decided we could partner together and  
19 throw in matching funds between the two organizations  
20 because we really needed a way to streamline our  
21 efforts and funding around supportive housing within  
22 DHSS system, outside of the DHSS system and then with  
23 our partners at AHFC and others in the community.

24 We have looked at funder (ph) collaborative ideas,  
25 like, with the Special Needs Housing Grant between

1 the Trust and AHFC and how do we bring those to scale  
2 (ph) essentially for the needs in the State.

3 Also, the CoCs have identified permanent  
4 supportive (ph) housing as their number one need as  
5 Scott mentioned earlier.

6 And the DBH grantees also at the last Change  
7 (indiscernible) Conference which is when all of the  
8 grantees in the State come together, they identified  
9 supportive and transitional housing as their number  
10 one gap in the service system, too.

11 So this is really becoming a priority and,  
12 therefore, it became more important for us to look at  
13 how we're creating integrated housing opportunities  
14 and service opportunities for folks that are served  
15 in the State.

16 Okay. So the scope of work with TAC is looking at  
17 developing a strategic plan to, again, increase  
18 supportive housing and integrated housing  
19 opportunities for people served by the State of  
20 Alaska. And part of that is looking at the existing  
21 resources in State, local and Federal funding and how  
22 that -- assess how that's leveraged and used and then  
23 what, sort of, best practices and continuous quality  
24 oversight to -- for consistency of projects can be  
25 established in the State.

1           So that scope of work is through July and then we  
2 also have a year add-on for -- to assist us with  
3 implementations so a lot of that's going to be TA I  
4 imagine around Medicaid refinancing in the State Plan  
5 to support supportive housing activities, as well as  
6 other strategies in the plan to assist us in  
7 implementing those.

8           So if I could really breakdown the goal of this  
9 plan it's to do a cross disability approach to  
10 integrated housing and services so, again, this is  
11 not just behavioral health.

12           So what are the services. Looking at it from the  
13 beneficiaries perspective what are the services that,  
14 that individual needs, the housing and services that  
15 they need, those served by DHSS. What role can  
16 Medicaid play in that and other funding. What  
17 services are needed for non-Medicaid -- or what  
18 (indiscernible) are needed for non-Medicaid services.  
19 And then how best to restructure our system and  
20 communications to carry out those strategies and  
21 streamlining.

22           So in December the Phase 1 was awarded by the  
23 Trust. Two months of off site planning from TAC to  
24 become more familiar with our system. In March was  
25 the first site visit.

1 April was the second site visit where Jim Yates as  
2 their senior housing (indiscernible) came and met  
3 more with housing developers, both for profit and  
4 non-profit housing developers. May was continued  
5 interviews over the phone.

6 Then the third and final site visit will be in the  
7 first week of June and then drafting the plan.

8 So I mentioned this morning this is a pretty  
9 aggressive timeline, but we felt like with what was  
10 happening in the State around potential Medicaid  
11 expansion and the fact that the majority of the  
12 expansion population would be those who are homeless  
13 and needing supportive housing services, that we  
14 really needed to have a plan in place, as well as the  
15 major reforms going on with the Corrections Re-entry  
16 system.

17 So one of the things that this planning process  
18 has really helped me understand is that supportive  
19 housing is not just a program model or a program in  
20 itself. It's a system -- it's a policy platform for  
21 approaching your system and integrating that into all  
22 of the different projects you do, like, at AHFC and  
23 DHSS. We want to provide services in the person's  
24 home (ph) and in the community, so it really is --  
25 that model is a policy platform and that's how we're

1 approaching it with this plan.

2 So on the next one talking about the plan itself.  
3 In carrying this out and making sure that we had  
4 broad stakeholder input into it, we split it up into  
5 four focus groups or work groups. One being the  
6 housing utilization and maximization group which was  
7 essentially funders (ph) of HUD. HUD, AHFC, the  
8 Muni. We had the Coalition, the Trust, those who  
9 fund housing development in the State.

10 We did have, also, United Way and we invited some  
11 of the Regional Housing Authorities as well in that  
12 conversation.

13 So how -- and that work group was really tasked  
14 with how do we discuss and explore how to increase  
15 affordable housing in the State.

16 The second work group was on supportive housing,  
17 specifically eligibility and allocation. So for  
18 those affordable housing units that are created and  
19 prioritized for supportive housing, how are  
20 populations -- how do they find those units, what's  
21 the mechanism for that.

22 The third group was around service needs and  
23 realignment, so we're looking at meeting with  
24 primarily service providers on what services do you  
25 provide. Where are the gaps. What do you need that

1 we can (indiscernible) or expand this.

2 And then workforce is looking at what are the  
3 competencies (ph) needed for those staff who are  
4 delivering the services.

5 So in carrying out this plan -- or this planning  
6 process, I think what we've learned so far is we  
7 started off with a small group that felt more  
8 manageable with behavioral health providers and we're  
9 really expanding it to all providers in the SDS (ph)  
10 world. We're also going to be doing focus groups  
11 with assisted living homes in June.

12 We also recognize that even though we had a first  
13 meeting with funders and had invited the Regional  
14 Housing Authorities which came, there really is a  
15 very separate system for -- with the Regional Housing  
16 Authorities and the Tribal Health providers. So the  
17 strategies for rural Alaska are not going to be the  
18 same as -- strategies and the funding is not the same  
19 so we almost have to have two tracks in the plan. We  
20 want to make sure that (indiscernible) and continue  
21 that conversation.

22 The other thing we're really learning is there's,  
23 you know, some -- some people might be asking well,  
24 how does this fit in with the 10 Year Plan, is it  
25 duplicative, is it the same, so the way that I'm

1 thinking about it and the way that TAC helped me  
2 understand is that you have the disability Olmstad  
3 population for those who are at risk of  
4 institutionalization or are institutionalized, so  
5 it's a broad disability group.

6 And then you have the homeless group and those are  
7 almost two separate groups and tracking systems, but  
8 they do overlap greatly, so it's really important  
9 that we figure out how to align this with the 10 Year  
10 Plan that you guys are working on and championing  
11 through this Council.

12 As Carmen with the Homeless Coalition mentioned  
13 them working towards a coordinated entry system, one  
14 of the things that TAC has taught us, too, is that  
15 some states are doing a coordinated entry type system  
16 for that disability Olmstad population group so --  
17 with the 811, so how do people access. Although the  
18 811 is starting off with a very specific target  
19 population, as time goes on and we expand that we'll  
20 have to look at how do we recruit (ph) and prioritize  
21 within that system.

22 So my last two slides we're talking about, kind  
23 of, opening it up for discussion and I want to pivot  
24 to Patti is how can this plan compliment what this  
25 Council is doing.

1                   And then, Patti, if you want to add anything from  
2                   your perspective.

3   HOLLAND:            Sure, but I want to first see if Al has anything  
4                   that he'd like to add.

5   WALL:                Yeah. Just -- so this is Al Wall. I'm the  
6                   director of the Division of Behavioral Health. And I  
7                   just wanted to add I think this is a tremendous  
8                   opportunity for the State of Alaska and for -- in  
9                   particular for services of homelessness across the  
10                   spectrum.

11                   As Sherrie mentioned it is not a specific  
12                   Behavioral Health study. This is an assessment of  
13                   all housing, supportive housing and what's available  
14                   and what could be available. So I think it's a  
15                   tremendous opportunity for the State and I'm glad  
16                   it's underway and I'm anxiously awaiting the  
17                   findings. That's all I have.

18   HOLLAND:            Thank you. Yeah, so this is Patti Holland from  
19                   Technical Assistance Collaborative. TAC is a, you  
20                   know, national, non-profit technical assistance and  
21                   consulting firm. We're relatively small comparative  
22                   to other firms.

23                   We really do most of our work at that intersection  
24                   of affordable housing and human service systems for  
25                   individuals living with disabilities,

1 institutionalization and homelessness or at risk of  
2 homelessness. And most of our staff come from either  
3 the housing world or the services world. Most of us  
4 have done some time in state government, if you will.

5 And TAC is also a consultant for HUD. We're the  
6 consultant for the SSVF (ph) Program, so I was very  
7 pleased to hear you speaking about Alaska getting  
8 very close to being able to declare a functional zero  
9 for ending Veteran homelessness. It's very exciting.  
10 And we're glad to see that. SSVF can support that  
11 mission.

12 So Sherrie, I think, overviewed it really well.  
13 You know, I would just add that we try to present  
14 states that are interested in really looking at HUD  
15 increased access to supportive housing, integrated  
16 models in a very actionable way.

17 We look at a cross disability population since --  
18 you know, and Sherrie mentioned this, the individuals  
19 that this Council is concerned with. Those who are  
20 homeless, at risk of homelessness and those  
21 individuals with disabilities often are the same  
22 people. And the most vulnerable often cross all of  
23 the systems.

24 They're in and out of homelessness. They're in  
25 and out of institutions including hospitals and jails

1 and prisons and so we really want to make sure that  
2 the system is grounded in recognizing that housing is  
3 the foundation for a healthy Alaska.

4 And that services while voluntary should be as  
5 individualized and appropriate to the person's needs  
6 and so we try and create plans that -- that (ph) --  
7 ambitious, but realistic targets for developing new  
8 units and leveraging existing resources.  
9 Coordinating and streamlining eligibility and access.

10 You have a lot of great work going on between  
11 building your coordinated entry and the 811 Program  
12 really creates a strong foundation, so we would want  
13 to build on that, prioritizing and targeting the  
14 populations that are most in need, most at risk so  
15 that there's not separate silos of housing programs.

16 So I see the efforts that DBH is doing with this  
17 strategic housing plan as very much being embedded  
18 into your efforts towards the 10 Year Plan. We're  
19 looking at creating a three year plan that involves  
20 really looking at some of the most vulnerable  
21 citizens, so I think we could embed a lot of what we  
22 find and what we recommend as part of your action  
23 steps in your plan.

24 And then we also take a look at as the system  
25 moves towards a platform of supportive housing and

1 moving towards integrated, independent models what do  
2 the services need to look like.

3 And then what is the work force development issues  
4 that need to be addressed and acknowledged so that  
5 staff really feel competent and capable of supporting  
6 people living in the most independent and integrated  
7 setting as possible.

8 So with that I would just open it up to questions  
9 that you may have or comments.

10 BUTCHER: Okay. Does.....

11 HOLLAND: Sherrie, I don't know if there's anything you  
12 would add.

13 BUTCHER: Any questions for Sherrie, Al or Patti?

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Am I on line?

15 BUTCHER: Go ahead, please.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Hello?

17 BUTCHER: Yeah, go.....

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, okay, I'm very sorry. This is Sue with the  
19 Nome Emergency Shelter in Nome and I only was able to  
20 join a little while ago 'cause we were doing a  
21 screening that we couldn't reschedule.

22 And I just wondered -- now, I -- and I'm sorry to  
23 be ignorant, but when you refer to -- is Section 8  
24 housing this 811?

25 HOLLAND: No, no. So Section 8 housing is the Housing

1 Choice Voucher Program. And, Carrier, you might be  
2 able.....

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, okay.

4 HOLLAND: .....to address (simultaneous speech).....

5 UNIDENTIFIED: No, I know what that is. What I'm wondering is if  
6 as part of this 10 Year Plan -- I mean, currently  
7 much -- all of Rural Alaska is ineligible for any of  
8 the voucher programs including the VASH because we  
9 don't have a Section 8 Housing office in -- you know,  
10 in all of our small outlying communities. So is that  
11 going to be looked at so that we can reach those  
12 individuals in rural Alaska that meet all the  
13 criteria?

14 HOLLAND: I could talk about the plans that Cathy is working  
15 on for DBH and then the Council can talk about the 10  
16 Year Plan.

17 So, one, I would love the opportunity to talk with  
18 you. So, Sherrie, maybe you can help us connect  
19 after this meeting so I can learn more about the  
20 shelter and your services in Nome.

21 So yeah, we would be looking at, you know, where  
22 are the resources and where are there not resources  
23 'cause what these states have to do is they have to  
24 start making very difficult decisions.

25 For example, in some states that are very diverse,

1 very rural with maybe small pockets of urban  
2 populations, when the Human Service Department  
3 whether the DBH or another department has a bridge  
4 rental subsidy, for example, that they operate,  
5 sometimes they'll look at those resources being  
6 prioritized in areas or for people that don't have  
7 access to other resources so that resources can be  
8 leveraged across the state to all that need -- all  
9 that needs in a -- in a way that's equitable.

10 So really would be looking at where are the  
11 resources, where are resources needing and over the  
12 course of the three year plan where does attention  
13 need to be targeted to develop resources.

14 BUTCHER: Okay. Well, we have AHFC's Public Housing  
15 Director Cathy Stone here. Maybe, Cathy, you can  
16 comment.

17 STONE: Sure.

18 HOLLAND: Great.

19 STONE: So, you know, our Public -- our Voucher Program is  
20 in 12 locations throughout the State. We have  
21 approximately 4,600 vouchers spread around the State.  
22 And it is true that we can't be in every location  
23 where there are housing needs just because, you know,  
24 the administrative cost associated with creating  
25 separate voucher programs in every location would

1 make it, you know, unworkable. So we try to spread  
2 around the vouchers as best we can in locations where  
3 there are the largest number of people needing the  
4 vouchers that we have.

5 And I do understand that Nome has been wanting some  
6 sort of housing assistance. We do have public  
7 housing in Nome, but it's family housing. It's two  
8 and three bedroom units and -- so this was just an  
9 individual that I know Nome has been struggling with  
10 finding some housing assistance for him. We've put  
11 them in context with the Indian Housing Authority up  
12 here, as well as other resources to try and find some  
13 assistance for -- for this person.

14 UNIDENTIFIED: No, and I appreciate the leads you've given me,  
15 Cathy and I've pursued. I guess I just would like to  
16 challenge the State and AHFC to create some new  
17 models so that rural Alaska where there is a need  
18 could get a per capita share and that might be one  
19 voucher, but I mean, we're not at zero on our  
20 homeless Vets. I can only get my homeless Vets  
21 housed through Housing First grant because I can't  
22 get a VASH voucher for him and that's a more  
23 expensive way to go, so that's all.

24 I understand the current limitations, but I want  
25 to keep arguing for a new model, that's all. And I

1 do appreciate, you know, the dilemma.

2 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you for your comments. That's  
3 certainly something we'll take a look at. Thank you.

4 STONE: Thanks.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

6 HINSHAW: And Patti -- Patti, this is Sherrie. When we gave  
7 a short overview of this earlier this morning one of  
8 the things we ended on was how can we align our  
9 planning efforts and had some suggestions or  
10 possibilities in the power point in either someone  
11 from DHSS co-staffing this Council to help bring that  
12 together, a Council member joining the plan Steering  
13 Committee, other suggestions that the Council might  
14 have.

15 And I wanted to wait for that discussion for when  
16 you could be here to talk -- if you could briefly  
17 talk about how you've seen that structure or (ph)  
18 most successful in other states. If you had any  
19 ideas. And I don't know if that's a discussion that  
20 we need to have or resolve today, but Patti, if you  
21 want to just speak to that really quickly?

22 HOLLAND: Sure, I can just make some points and then it's  
23 something for the Council to consider.

24 I mean, one of the recommendations that we have  
25 for the strategic housing planning process is that

1 DBH create a Steering Committee, so one way that the  
2 -- that planning process can stay connected to the  
3 Council's 10 year planning process is to have a  
4 member from the Council be also on that Steering  
5 Committee because a lot of those members will also be  
6 on the oversight committee for the HUD 811 project as  
7 well.

8 And then in some states on the -- at a Governor's  
9 level housing homelessness council staff from  
10 different agencies have service staff, so perhaps  
11 someone from DHSS and the housing and finance agency  
12 can co-staff the committee -- the council to provide  
13 support and to make sure that there's cross  
14 communication and that there's updating on the  
15 different planning processes.

16 So that, again, it's not separate planning  
17 processes, but that it's joint planning process and  
18 this way the planning that goes on really takes a  
19 look at those individuals who are homeless or at risk  
20 of homelessness, as well as those individuals who are  
21 institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization  
22 and, therefore, in danger of creating possible  
23 Ulmstad (ph) issues for the State, that becomes a  
24 joint planning process for all of the individuals  
25 with the most serious housing and service needs.

1 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. Any further questions? Okay,  
2 thank you very much.

3 HINSHAW: Thank you.

4 BUTCHER: Alaska.....

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you for your time.

6 BUTCHER: Absolutely. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
7 Update.

8 JESSEE: Most of the items that we were going to talk about  
9 have already been covered earlier in the day. One  
10 thing I might add is, again, back to the re-entry  
11 recidivism issues. There are a number of re-entry  
12 coalitions around the State. The Trustees last week  
13 approved \$500,000 to fund staff for five of the re-  
14 entry coalitions and we'll be putting out an RFP for  
15 that.

16 And I mentioned that here because we expect those  
17 coalitions to be, in part, focused on housing issues  
18 around people that are re-entering the community, so  
19 I just wanted to put that out.

20 Otherwise, I think everything else has been  
21 covered.

22 BUTCHER: Thank you. Council Member Reports and Discussion,  
23 do any Council Members have any comments, anything  
24 they'd like to bring up?

25 TAYLOR: This is Ron Taylor, the Commissioner for

1 Corrections. Next week we will be working on our  
2 Prisoner Re-entry initiative and the Governor and the  
3 Lieutenant Governor are co-chairing the Re-entry  
4 Policy Council and then afterwards we'd have an  
5 Implementation Steering Committee meeting.

6 Right now we've probably got about 50 people that  
7 are sitting on the Implementation Steering Committee.  
8 And it really is designed like Jeff was talking  
9 about, focused on those five communities right now  
10 that are actively involved in re-entry, so Anchorage,  
11 Fairbanks, Palmer, Dillingham and Mat-Su and working  
12 with community coordinators as they get hired so that  
13 we could develop community assessments.

14 And not to do a new assessment, but really to make  
15 sure that we're gathering all the information around,  
16 substance abuse, housing, all the areas that are  
17 going to impact re-entry and ensure that it's being  
18 brought to bear so that we have a good understanding  
19 of what's going on in the community.

20 And then we'll be working from there in terms of  
21 ensuring that people are actually leaving the  
22 institution with some connection to the community  
23 prior to them leaving that institution and then doing  
24 our best to keep them as successful when they're in  
25 the community.

1 BUTCHER: Thank you. Any other comments?

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

3 TAYLOR: At the Dena'ina Center. Let's see, the Re-entry  
4 Policy Council is 9:00 to 11:00 and then the  
5 Implementation Steering Committee is 1:00 to 4:00 I  
6 believe it is.

7 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Commissioner.

8 TAYLOR: No problem.

9 BUTCHER: Any other comments?

10 KUPER: I have just one or two comments. One has to do  
11 with the recommendation that -- or planning alignment  
12 possibilities about co-staffing the Council, our  
13 Planning subcommittee has just really benefitted a  
14 great deal from the staffing that AHFC has provided  
15 that process.

16 And so I don't know if this is the time or place,  
17 but I'd like to speak in support of that -- that  
18 possibility because I think that while all of us as  
19 Council Members are well intentioned, we don't always  
20 have the energy and time resources to give to the  
21 things that really have to take place. And so Carrie  
22 was a real key part of our coming forward with a plan  
23 to this point and I just see great strength in that  
24 possibility.

25 The second thing that I just wanted to report to

1 the Council and it admittedly is in Anchorage a bit  
2 of piece -- a bit of information, one of the groups  
3 that I, as a member of the Anchorage Coalition To End  
4 Homelessness, one of the groups that I'm part of is  
5 the Beyond Shelter Steering Committee who eight years  
6 ago committed -- it's a group of providers and social  
7 service agencies that decided that it was not  
8 acceptable that any family sleeps in an unsafe place  
9 during the winter.

10 And so they -- over the years they've gotten  
11 together and there -- today there are seven churches  
12 in the City of Anchorage that have committed to  
13 providing at least one night of emergency cold  
14 weather shelter in the winter so that no family  
15 sleeps in an unsafe place.

16 Someone commented earlier that the -- a real  
17 concern about family homelessness and I just want to  
18 give you a couple of statistics to confirm that  
19 concern.

20 This past winter in Anchorage the Emergency Cold  
21 Weather Sheltering System in churches provided 1,346  
22 sheltered bed nights, that's 694 adult shelter bed  
23 nights, 652 children. And that was made up of 82  
24 unique families that at one time or another found a  
25 need to find shelter in one of the churches that

1 signed on to do that with volunteers from their  
2 organizations.

3 So the number of families that experience that  
4 kind of homelessness is up. Last winter it was 56  
5 families. This year it was 82. So just a little  
6 report on something that doesn't show up in the  
7 Point-in-Time data or HMIS for that matter, but  
8 nonetheless it's a group of citizens that have  
9 rallied together to ensure that one group of people  
10 are ensured of a safe place to sleep.

11 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you, Dave. Anybody else?

12 JESSEE: Well, Bryan, what -- you know, the first part of  
13 David's question was the co-staffing of this Council  
14 and a member of this Council being on the permanent  
15 supported housing group, what do we want to do about  
16 that, anything?

17 BUTCHER: Well, we will -- you know, Alaska Housing is  
18 always going to have strong staff presence for any of  
19 these things at least, you know, while I'm sitting  
20 here. It's one of our priorities and we will always  
21 do what we can.

22 And so building from what AHFC provides is, kind  
23 of, the way I view this, that any -- any opportunity  
24 DHSS or others have is great, but we're always going  
25 to the base to make sure that everybody gets the

1 information they need and that the programs are  
2 administered and so that's my personal view about  
3 that (ph).

4 The only other thing I have to add is that we're  
5 certainly always reliant on our funding levels and  
6 you never know what's going to happen when we get new  
7 leaders in our State. And I just wanted to point out  
8 that the new Legislature passed our programs at  
9 almost 100 percent. Our new governor signed it into  
10 law without taking a dollar from it.

11 And we have a new Mayor of Anchorage who has put  
12 together a transition team and if you read in the  
13 paper this morning, he has a homeless transition  
14 (ph). And so I think that the acknowledgement and  
15 understanding and awareness of this issue is about as  
16 good as I've seen it from community, State leaders in  
17 quite some time. And, I think, that's heartening  
18 because in this time of lean finances it's going to  
19 be really, really difficult and building off what  
20 we've built is going to be integral (ph). And I --  
21 we just -- at this point in time things are about as  
22 good from that perspective as I think they can be  
23 (ph).

24 PEARSON: As far as co-staffing, I'm wondering since DBH  
25 brought up the suggestion, was there some interest in

1 DBH being a part of the co-staffing for the Council  
2 or is that something that would have to be discussed  
3 with the higher ups or.....

4 WALL: If I may, yes, we would be interested (ph).....

5 PEARSON: Hold on there's -- Al, you're -- can you talk  
6 louder?

7 BUTCHER: Yeah, hold on a second, Al, let's get your volume  
8 up.

9 WALL: Yeah, I'm having some technical difficulty on my  
10 end as well, so my sound keeps cutting in and out.  
11 However, yes, we -- DBH would be interested in  
12 serving on that.

13 BUTCHER: That would be great. That would be great.

14 PEARSON: Okay.

15 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you.

16 PEARSON: Cool. So that solves that.

17 JESSEE: And then do we want to designate -- I mean, some  
18 of us are already involved with the permanent  
19 supportive housing. Do -- is there a feeling we want  
20 to designate a person? I'm trying to figure out what  
21 you guys want to do.

22 BUTCHER: What we want to get done right now?

23 JESSEE: No, whether we want to designate a Council Member  
24 as the official liaison, is that what you have in  
25 mind? I'm not really clear what you're.....

1 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, that's something your Steering Committee  
2 (indiscernible).....

3 KUPER: So, Jeff, are you talking -- there's the last  
4 planning alignment slide, the possibilities  
5 (indiscernible) to the Council?

6 JESSEE: Yeah, the Council Member joining PSH (simultaneous  
7 speech).....

8 KUPER: Council Member joining the PSH (simultaneous  
9 speech).....

10 JESSEE: ....which is Permanent Supported Housing.....

11 KUPER: Yeah.

12 JESSEE: ....Planning and Steering Committee.

13 HINSHAW: Well, on the break earlier I was talking to Mark a  
14 little bit about when TAC is here and with Kevin  
15 Marcel (ph) in June and pulling together a few people  
16 from the Council, but I think if there was one  
17 designated person that could carry that message  
18 forward and back to the group, I think that would be  
19 helpful or you could have, you know, Bryan or Mark  
20 potentially from the housing perspective and the  
21 Trust as a major funder and (indiscernible) and then  
22 Ron Taylor with the Correction focus.

23 I think those are really key players in the  
24 Steering Committee establishing -- which we haven't  
25 established yet, so I think we need to establish the

1 Steering Committee at this point before -- as we try  
2 to pull together some draft recommendations. That  
3 way the Steering Committee can look at what TAC has  
4 pulled together and make a decision about what they  
5 want to keep and carry forward or not, so I don't  
6 know if that answers your question specifically. I  
7 think (simultaneous speech).....

8 JESSEE: Well, it, kind of, does. I mean, if you're  
9 looking for somebody to, sort of, have the  
10 responsibility of reporting back from the Steering  
11 Committee, you know, I'd be willing to do that. I  
12 think it might be better to have somebody else on the  
13 Council that isn't already as involved as the Trust,  
14 but if no one else wants to volunteer I'm happy to do  
15 it if that's what we're after.

16 PEARSON: Maybe we should wait until they do have their  
17 committee gathered and then (simultaneous  
18 speech).....

19 JESSEE: I mean, the more Council members that can  
20 participate the better.

21 PEARSON: Right. And once you've gathered that together  
22 make sure that we -- we are aware and we can -- as  
23 Dave and Shannon and the staff and I designate  
24 people, we can talk about that (simultaneous  
25 speech).....

1 JESSEE: Okay.

2 BUTCHER: Yeah, I don't -- I don't feel like I have -- I  
3 don't feel like I have -- know enough to know which  
4 direction to point my finger (ph).

5 JESSEE: Yeah, I hear you. All right.

6 KUPER: I think there's a possibility that a member of our  
7 Planning Committee might be the person that could  
8 perform that,.....

9 JESSEE: There you go (ph).

10 KUPER: .....but I -- but I don't want to mention any  
11 names.

12 BUTCHER: All right.

13 HINSHAW: I guess if there are Council Members who are  
14 interested you can just let Carrie know or e-mail me,  
15 but we'll be meeting over the next months to try to  
16 establish that Steering Committee at DHSS and then  
17 reach out to some other senior members  
18 (indiscernible).....

19 BUTCHER: Okay. Thanks, Sherrie. All right. Any Other  
20 Matters to come before the Board? All right. I'd  
21 like to remind everybody mark your calendars, the  
22 next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,  
23 October 13th. We're doing it in conjunction with the  
24 Coalition On Housing and Homelessness' Annual  
25 Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage.

So with that we are adjourned.

(Adjourned - 3:17 p.m.)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

