

**MAYOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

October 15, 2020 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/95545247449> or call: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 955 4524 7449

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Wade Bryson called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

**Committee Members Present:**

Wade Bryson, Chair  
Marla Berg  
Dave Branding  
Katti Carlson  
Scott Ciambor  
Mandy Cole  
Bruce Denton

Chris Gianotti  
Michelle Hale  
Mariya Lovischuk  
Jackie Pata  
Dave Ringle  
Rorie Watt

**Committee Members Absent:** Jackie Bryant

**Staff Present:** Jesse Perry

**Guests Present:** Holly Blood, System Administrator, Institute for Community Alliances

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved.

**III. REVIEW AND DISCUSS CHARGE STATEMENT**

Chair Bryson invited members to respond to the Mayor's charge. Jackie Pata stated that she hoped the Committee's conversations would continue, and produce concrete recommendations and outcomes. Michelle Hale affirmed the goal that the Assembly, the CBJ Housing Office, and the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (JCHH) deepen their collaboration toward addressing the needs of Juneau's homeless population. Rorie Watts commended the work begun, and would like to facilitate a process that normalizes communications with JCHH and identifies the top priorities across Juneau's continuum of care.

**IV. REVIEW JCHH PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES**

Mandy Cole summarized the JCHH document and highlighted the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Service gaps call for collaboration to address the complex barriers to housing, and to identify the biggest problems and ways to address them. Providing services to the homeless is usually the purview of non-profits, but the entire

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community benefits when partners come together in behalf of homeless adults, youth, and families. Short- and long-term strategies are both important to meet JCHH goals.

Holly Blood discussed the role of the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) in supporting JCHH. ICA oversees the administration of AKHMIS, the database of homeless information used across Alaska. All grantees of HUD and CoC funds are tasked with entering data in the AKHMIS system. Access to AKHMIS is free, and providers benefit by using the system even if they are not required to enter data. ICA provides training and reports for all users of AKHMIS.

Blood indicated that AKHMIS data is central to Coordinated Entry (CE). CE is a crisis response process to address homelessness by prioritizing clients for supported housing. CE is in its infancy in Alaska, but growing as communities work through the challenges of inflated priority lists, inconsistent data collection, the shortage of data on youth and families, and the need for more case management to prevent evictions.

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASSEMBLY**

### **A. Continue to Work on Youth Shelter**

Emergency services for Youth (ages 10-18, 18-24) have been a perennial concern. As part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), partnerships involving the Zach Gordon Youth Center, Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and CBJ are making progress toward adding a Youth Navigator, an emergency shelter, and a Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program.

### **B. Support JCHH Planning and Resource Development**

Chair Bryson conveyed the Assembly's need for a more formal structure to guide collaboration between JCHH and CBJ. This structure would include assigning Assembly Member Michelle Hale as liaison to JCHH, and CBJ staff Jesse Perry to coordinate and report liaison activity.

City Manager Rorie Watt reported that CBJ's posture toward social services has evolved over the years and will continue to evolve, making clear communications critical. A new structure should move away from emergency funding in response to individual requests toward an annual process based on a common understanding of needs and the best ways to address them.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Board Chair Chris Gianotti reported that critical maintenance on their properties will need \$2M in order to defer major maintenance for 30 years. Gianotti supports a more formal relationship with CBJ, and hopes the relationship will be able to respond to SVdP's needs. Katti Carlson agreed with Gianotti, indicating that establishing a process will help new leaders to participate. Manager Watt suggested that a subgroup may be needed to discuss building maintenance, and Chief Housing Officer Scott Ciambor reported that CBJ has a tool in the Affordable Housing Fund, which might be adapted to address maintenance needs in our high cost housing market.

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**C. Assign Liaison to JCHH**

Michelle Hale expressed support for JCHH, as well as her willingness to serve as a liaison to the organization. Service Providers responded positively to the proposal as a way for the community to make progress in providing homelessness services.

**D. Request annual updates from JCHH in September regarding its Principles & Strategies**

Please see items A – C above regarding a formalized structure for planning and communication. Additional comments noted the importance of mutual recognition, an accepted framework, and action on our community's most urgent priorities.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 MIN. EA.)**

No public comment was received.

**VII. ADJOURN**

Prior to adjourning, Chair Bryson emphasized the importance of a CBJ/JCHH partnership for our community's most vulnerable citizens, and acknowledged the honor of serving as Committee Chair in this vital work. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 4:40pm.