

City & Borough of Juneau
2020 Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness
Agendas/Minutes

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

October 8, 2020 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

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

Webinar ID: 955 4524 7449

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wade Bryson, Chair

Marla Berg	Chris Gianotti
Dave Branding	Michelle Hale
Jackie Bryant	Mariya Lovischuk
Katti Carlson	Jackie Pata
Scott Ciambor	Dave Ringle
Mandy Cole	Rorie Watt
Bruce Denton	Jesse Perry, Staff

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS
- IV. SUMMARY OF 2017 TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS (Scott Ciambor)
- V. OVERVIEW OF PROVIDERS' SCOPE OF SERVICES
 - a. AWARE
 - b. Family Promise
 - c. JAMHI
 - d. St. Vincent de Paul
 - e. The Glory Hall
 - f. THRHA
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 min. ea.)
- VII. ADJOURN

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I. ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

All members were present.

Also in attendance: Mayor Weldon, City Attorney, Rob Palmer, Deputy Clerk, Di Cathcart

Mayor Weldon expressed appreciation to members willing to serve during this emergency, and shared the questions she wants the Committee to address:

- What population does each agency serve?
- What populations are unserved?
- How can we address unmet needs through the winter?

Mayor Weldon reported she looks to this group for their expertise and insights to avoid duplication of services and to fill service gaps.

City Attorney Rob Palmer briefed Committee Members on the legal requirements regarding the work of public meetings:

- Meetings must have a quorum to conduct business.
- Outside of scheduled meetings Committee Members are prohibited from having conversations about Committee business when more than 3 committee members are present.
- Conflicts of interest: If you are paid by a business you are prohibited from advocating on behalf of that business or voting on anything that pertains to that business. Advocating for general needs is acceptable.

In response to Chair Bryson's question about ideas from members, Mr. Palmer stated that items of interest should be forwarded to Jesse Perry as the Committee's primary contact, or

members may present their ideas at next meeting. The goal of these policies is to promote public transparency & trust.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

III. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

All Members responded to Chair Bryson's invitation to introduce themselves to the group.

City Manager Rorie Watt expressed appreciation for the Committee's efforts, recognized the challenges to mission coordination during a pandemic, and encouraged everyone not to lose sight of accomplishments as demands increase and resources decline.

IV. SUMMARY OF 2017 TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Scott Ciambor summarized the recommendations of Assembly's 2017 Task Force on Homelessness:

- *Do not pursue a winter campground.* For the summer of 2020 CBJ Parks & Recreation closed the Thane Campground and opened the Mill Campground to provide enhanced services.
- *Develop a Coordinated Entry System.* Using a grant from Alaska Mental Health Trust, CBJ hired a Coordinator of Homelessness Services in 2018.
- *Provide a Warming Shelter during cold months.* A warming shelter has been in operation for the last three winters.
- *Provide Scattered Site Permanent Supported Housing (PSH).* A Glory Hall project provides scattered site housing for four clients.
- *Develop an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team.* JAMHI stood up an ACT team this fall.

- Additional service developments:
 - A Food Service grant from the Alaska Community Foundation was awarded to United Way this fall.
 - Day Services are currently under discussion.
 - New Glory Hall and United Services Center progressing towards construction.
 - An emergency youth shelter is under development involving THRHA, Zach Gordon, and with additional support from the Juneau Coalition.
 - A Navigator program funded by the Juneau Community Foundation began in 2018 and is now administered through Bartlett.
 - AWARE and Family Promise received funding for rapid rapid-rehousing (RRH) projects.

V. OVERVIEW OF PROVIDERS' SCOPE OF SERVICES

The following agencies gave an overview of their operations and services.

- a. AWARE: Mandy Cole
- b. Family Promise: Katti Carlson
- c. JAMHI: Dave Branding
- d. St. Vincent de Paul: Dave Ringle, Jackie Bryant, Chris Gianotti
- e. The Glory Hall: Mariya Lovischuk, Marla Berg, Bruce Denton
- f. THRHA: Jackie Pata

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 min. ea.)

Cindy Audet, North Douglas, expressed appreciation for the Committee's work, and requested that alternatives to Lemon Creek Correctional Center be considered for housing non-compliant clients.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the committee; meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

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

October 15, 2020 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Scott Ciambor	Dave Ringle
Mandy Cole	Rorie Watt
Bruce Denton	Jesse Perry, Staff

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. DAY SHELTER UPDATE
- IV. DEFINING "FUNCTIONAL ZERO"
 - a. DATA
 - b. SYSTEM ANALYSIS
 - c. CLIENT CENTERED OUTCOMES
- V. BRH CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 min. ea.)
- VII. ADJOURN

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**MAYOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
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MINUTES-DRAFT**

October 15, 2020 3:00 PM

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Jackie Bryant	Mariya Lovischuk
Katti Carlson	Jackie Pata
Scott Ciambor	Dave Ringle
Mandy Cole	Rorie Watt
Bruce Denton	Jesse Perry, Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: All

Staff Present: Jesse Perry, Coordinator of Housing & Homelessness Services

Guests Present: Bradley Grigg, Bartlett Regional Hospital

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved.

III. DAY SHELTER UPDATE

Mariya Lovishchuk reported the Glory Hall is in discussions with the Filipino Community Ltd. to rent its Community Center located at 251 South Franklin Street for use as a day shelter, and hopes to confirm an agreement by October 21. The Day Shelter would be open 7:00am – 9:00pm, and provide inside seating for meals. The Filipino Community Hall can accommodate up to 70 individuals at one time.

IV. DEFINING “FUNCTIONAL ZERO”

A roundtable discussion highlighted the following understandings of “Functional Zero”:

- Oriented toward long-term outcomes
- Relies on data collection for system analysis
- Able to identify system gaps in outreach and service
- Makes significant demand on resources
- “Only that which is measured matters”
- Complements client-centered services

V. BRH CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT

Bradley Grigg, Chief Behavioral Health Officer at Bartlett Regional Hospital, reported on the development of Bartlett’s Crisis Stabilization Unit. The Emergency Department has seen a 300% increase in requests for support since March 25, and the Unit expects to be operational in November.

The Unit provides direct mental health care to non-hospitalized individuals experiencing an acute psychological crisis that may jeopardize their current community living situation, with the goal to:

- Reduce the number of youth sent out of the community for treatment
- Provide a step-down for adults who have been discharged from the Mental Health Unit but still need support.

The Unit is building a facility with 8 beds next to the Rainforest Recovery Center. Dave Branding/JAMHI emphasized the need for additional community housing and the importance of identifying root causes of homelessness in Juneau.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 min. ea.)

No members of the public made comments to the Committee.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

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

October 29, 2020 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

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

Webinar ID: 955 4524 7449

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wade Bryson, Chair

Marla Berg	Chris Gianotti
Dave Branding	Michelle Hale
Jackie Bryant	Mariya Lovishchuk
Katti Carlson	Jackie Pata
Scott Ciambor	Dave Ringle
Mandy Cole	Rorie Watt
Bruce Denton	Jesse Perry, Staff

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. REVIEW AND DISCUSS CHARGE STATEMENT
- IV. REVIEW JCHH PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES
- V. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASSEMBLY
 - A. CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUTH SHELTERING
 - B. SUPPORT JCHH PLANNING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
 - C. ASSIGN LIAISON TO JCHH
 - D. REQUEST ANNUAL UPDATES FROM JCHH IN SEPTEMBER REGARDING ITS PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES TO ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (2 MIN. EA.)
- VII. ADJOURN

***THIS AGENDA IS PROVIDED AS A DRAFT TO ENCOURAGE
ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ASSEMBLY AND JCHH.***

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

October 15, 2020 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

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I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Committee Members Present:

Wade Bryson, Chair	Chris Gianotti
Marla Berg	Michelle Hale
Dave Branding	Mariya Lovischuk
Katti Carlson	Jackie Pata
Scott Ciambor	Dave Ringle
Mandy Cole	Rorie Watt
Bruce Denton	

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 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.

MEMORANDUM

TO: CBJ Mayor Beth Weldon and Assembly
FROM: Jesse Perry, Housing and Homelessness Services Coordinator 
DATE: December 4, 2020
SUBJECT: Recommendations from Mayor's ad hoc Committee on Homelessness

Mayor's ad hoc Committee on Homelessness

The Mayor's ad hoc Committee on Homelessness (Committee) held three meetings between October 8 and October 29, 2020 with the purpose of holding a conversation on the issues regarding homelessness in Juneau and to report back to the Assembly.

Context

CBJ's changing role in the delivery of social services corresponds to changes in the homeless community and service capacity within Juneau's Continuum of Care (CoC).

Previous to this Committee's work, in 2017 the [Assembly Task Force on Homelessness](#) held six meetings in 2017 that reached the following conclusions:

- In response to the gap left when the Thane Campground closes each fall, investing in JCHH proposals that have a greater chance of long-term success is preferred to investing in a Winter Campground.
- A CBJ Housing and Homelessness Services Coordinator can work with providers, the Assembly, and members of the community at-large to build capacity and to develop Juneau's Coordinated Entry System.
- A zero to 25 bed Warming Shelter between the months of November and April when the temperature is at freezing or below will fill a vital services gap.
- Waiting for six months before considering Scattered Site Housing First funding will allow time for the current Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) project to advance.
- An Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT), which is a transdisciplinary outreach team, can address the needs of clients with severe and persistent mental illness.

The Task Force's recommendations were followed by the successful collaboration of CBJ, JCHH, the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and other stakeholders to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

Since the service changes initiated in 2017, additional gaps have come to the Assembly's attention:

- Gaps in funding limit the ability of providers to develop new services and sustain existing ones.
- Service gaps leave those experiencing severe mental health and substance abuse disabilities without a clear path to housing.
- Gaps in data limit the community's ability to assess its needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the stress on Juneau's homelessness services. On March 16, 2020, CBJ activated Juneau's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and worked with local service providers in response. The following week, the Cold Weather Shelter was relocated to the Armory in compliance with CDC guidance for congregate shelters. Since the outbreak Quarantine and Isolation services have been provided at the Driftwood Hotel, Mt. Jumbo Gym, and Centennial Hall. As COVID spread among the homeless community in September, the EOC, Public Health, Bartlett Regional Hospital, and Capital City Fire/Rescue coordinated rigorous weekly testing in coordination with housing and shelter providers to monitor the spread of COVID-19. As of December 4, three consecutive weeks of testing have resulted in the detection of zero positive cases within the homeless population.

With grants by the Assembly in support of homelessness services there remain significant funding needs within the Coalition. Prompted by these and other contingencies, Mayor Weldon on September 25, 2020 appointed the ad hoc Committee on Homelessness and issued a charge to:

- Develop a framework to help providers coordinate purposes and services between CBJ and social service providers
- Review the JCHH priorities as submitted to the Assembly
- Detail the importance of data and commitment to collecting and managing data about homelessness

Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Recommendations

- **Youth Shelter:** JCHH has worked to restore emergency services for Youth (ages 10-18, 18-24) since the Cornerstone Campus, located at 9290 Hurlock Avenue, closed in 2018. In the fall of 2019, JCHH joined a region-wide collaboration involving CBJ, local and state agencies, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA), as well as youth with lived experiences to identify the service needs among homeless youth. To date, the Coalition has added a Youth Navigator position, and secured funding toward an emergency shelter and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program for youth. The Committee encourages the Assembly's active collaboration with all stakeholders to secure a site where shelter and housing services for youth can be delivered.
- **JCHH Planning and Resource Development:** The need for homelessness services has expanded while at the same time Juneau providers face increasing

service costs. These conditions put pressure on providers to defer maintenance and repairs in order to maintain the delivery of services. Assembly support for long-range planning will help the community secure long-range sustainability in its delivery of homelessness services.

- **Assembly Liaison to JCHH:** The Assembly often receives funding requests to support homelessness services. An Assembly Liaison to JCHH will provide a strong link for the Assembly and the Coalition to collaborate on mutual plans and goals.
- **JCHH Updates to the Assembly each September:** As homelessness and homelessness services continue to evolve, an annual update to the Assembly will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to review progress and focus efforts toward making homelessness in Juneau rare, brief, and non-recurring.