

MEMORANDUM



TO: CBJ Committee of the Whole

FROM: Scott Ciambor, Chief Housing Officer 

DATE: October 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Assembly Taskforce on Homelessness Update

Assembly Taskforce on Homelessness

The Assembly Taskforce on Homelessness held six meetings between June 13 and September 12, 2017 with the purpose of holding a conversation on the issues regarding homelessness in Juneau and to report back to the Assembly.

New Housing and Homeless Services Coming On-Line in 2017-2018

Before discussing the recommendations from the taskforce, it is important to keep in mind the additional resources to assist persons experiencing homelessness in our community that have been added in 2017/2018.

1. Juneau Housing First Collaborative: 32 units of permanent supportive housing (Opening Oct. 2017)
2. Juneau Housing First Collaborative: Funding for 6 units of scattered site permanent supportive housing through the [Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness CoC competition](#). (FY2018)
3. Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority: Veterans Administration Supportive Housing vouchers (20 vouchers for SE Alaska)
4. Volunteers of America Terraces at Lawson Creek Phase II: 3 set aside units with homeless preference.
5. JAMHI Health & Wellness: Healthcare Clinic to be open on-site of Juneau Housing First Collaborative project. (Nov. 2017)

The impact of these efforts will be understood by the community as each are *fully* implemented. The next community-wide measure to help gauge the impact of these efforts will be the results of the 2018 Point In Time Homeless Count survey that will take place January 24, 2018.

- Will there be a reduction of overall number of persons experiencing homelessness?
- Will there be a reduction in unsheltered homeless in the community?

2016 & 2017 Point In Time Count Results		
Point In Time Count	2017	2016
Unsheltered	59	51
Emergency Shelter	56	77
Transitional Housing	100	83
Total	215	211

Homeless Task Force Recommendations

- **Winter Campground:** An additional campground is unlikely to assist the most in need. The CBJ should not invest resources in a campground and instead should invest in the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness proposals that will have a greater chance of long-term success.
- **CBJ Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator:** On September 7, 2017 the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority approved a \$100,000 FY18 partnership grant request to the City and Borough of Juneau for the Housing and Homelessness Services Coordinator. This position will assist in coordination of local housing and homeless services with community partners such as the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, mainstream service providers and members of the community at-large to help build capacity and pursue the additional taskforce recommendations. The position will also inform and advise the CBJ Assembly on the progress of these efforts.

Coordinated Entry: One key task of the CBJ staff person will be to assist homeless assistance agencies (emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing) put into place and operate a coordinated entry referral process. Coordinated Entry has been utilized to house and place residents at the Juneau Housing First Collaborative project but can be extended to all homeless housing and service programs. Coordinated Entry involves the following steps:

1. Identify and survey persons experiencing homelessness using the VI-SPDAT assessment tool;
 2. Date entry into the Alaska Homeless Management Information System (HMIS);
 3. Generating a by-name list of persons experiencing homelessness;
 4. Consistent case conferencing meetings targeting those highest in need and to identify housing & service gaps; and
 5. Quarterly HMIS data updates on overall system performance. The quarterly updates will provide regular data to inform policy decisions.
- **Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (JCHH) Proposals:** Each of the JCHH proposals was discussed by the taskforce with final recommendations included in the [September 12, 2017 memo](#). Also in the packet were worksheets for each of the following ideas with a more detailed description, cost estimates, partners, expected impacts, risks and challenges, and action steps.

One clear point in the conversation about the JCHH proposals was that organizations that currently operate housing and services for the homeless are functioning at capacity while fulfilling their core mission. Therefore, any additional housing units or targeted service will require collaboration and additional funding sources.

1. **Warming Center:** If Assembly approves \$75,000 request, establish a partnership with existing emergency shelter providers to put into place a warming center to be operated when the temperature drops below 32 degrees during the winter. 0-25 beds. (November 2017 – April 2018)
2. **Scattered Site Housing First:** The Taskforce recommendation was to immediately fund \$185,000 (\$120,000 tenancy support & 1 FTE @ \$65,000).

However, with CBJ Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator and the Juneau Housing First Collaborative FY2018 funding award becoming available, it might be more efficient to help develop that program further with a funding request in the future. There are three components that will need to be developed among the partners to put into place:

- Fair Market Apartment Landlord Participation
- Level of Rental Assistance & Managing Agency
- Supportive Service Provision to help a person maintain housing.

We recommend that the Assembly revisit funding scattered sites in six and twelve months, informed by the success of the new services that are coming on line this year.

3. **Assertive Community Treatment Team** – An Assertive Community Treatment team consists of a transdisciplinary team of medical, behavioral health, and rehabilitation professionals who work together to meet the intensive needs of recipients with severe and persistent mental illness. Total preliminary costs = \$210,708.
 - i. .25 FTE Prescribing Clinician=\$42,550.25
 - ii. 1.0 FTE Case Manager=\$82,420.00
 - iii. .25FTE Nurse II= \$25,648.25
 - iv. Peer Support 1FTE=\$60,090.00

The Taskforce was really supportive of this type of an approach based on experience with a significant number of local persons experiencing homelessness with severe and complex needs.

In conversations with local and state behavioral health agencies it was clear that this sort of activity didn't necessarily need to be directly and exclusively funded by CBJ. Utilizing the CBJ Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator to begin the conversation with community partners on ACT implementation, to engage with state agencies, and target a future ACT team implementation would be appropriate.