



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2018
FINAL



Call to Order

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission was called to order at 4:37pm at the Department of Health and Human Services, 825 L Street Room 423, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was staffed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Housing & Community Services Division (HCSD), Community Safety and Development (CSD).

I. Roll Call

Nikole Nelson, 2 nd Co-Chair Claire Waddoup, 1 st Co-Chair Niki Burrows Kenny Petersen DHHS Staff Nancy Anderson, CSD Program Manager	Doug Lamkin, Chair (E) Nelta Edwards (E) E = Excused U = Unexcused	Ruth Schoenleben, Nine Star Maureen Haggblom, United Way Monica Gross, United Way
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There was not a quorum

II. Approval of December 6, 2017 HHAND Agenda

<u>MOTION:</u>
<u>SECOND:</u>
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>
<u>VOTE:</u>

III. Approval of HHAND November 1, 2017 and December 6, 2017 Minutes

<u>MOTION:</u>
<u>SECOND:</u>
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>
<u>VOTE:</u>

IV. Conflict of Interest Declarations & Annual Disclosure of present Economic Interest
 There were no conflicts of interest.

V. Public Comment
 There were no public comments.

VI. Old Business

- A. Nine Star's employment pilot program, "Fighting Homelessness with the Net and Ladder".

Commissioner Petersen reported that Chair Lamkin gave the letter of support for Nine Star to the Anchorage Committee on Homelessness and was going to meet with Assembly member, Felix Rivera, to talk about the letter but wasn't sure if he was able to.

Ruth Schoenleben from Nine Star spoke about the different agencies they partner with including a major collaboration with United Way and how they are doing things together. It was also noted that the HUD grant is shared with Covenant House Performance Outcomes and Partnerships

VII. New Business

- A. Financial Stability Partnership – Maureen Haggblom with United Way and Ruth Schoenleben with Nine Star

Maureen Haggblom, Director of Income Impact Work with United Way of Anchorage, thanked the commission for inviting her to speak. In the Impact Income area one of the priorities is to build a strong community of financial stable families. Their work is about helping households increase their income and save for the future. It's also about workforce development, building stability through budgeting, debt reduction, helping families save more, and connecting households to resources they need to help them with the next level of financial self-sufficiency.

United Way of Anchorage funds and coordinates tax preparation. Over 5,300 households were helped last year, those 5,300 households saved over \$1,000,000 in tax preparation fees on average, and returned almost \$7,000,000 in refunds to those households and that's only here in Anchorage. The average income for those households is about \$30,000 per year.

United Way along with other providers also coordinates, promotes and funds various community financial fitness events to help connect the community with various workshops. About 90% of the attendees say they gained new skills at the events and are going to put into practice what they learned.

United Way also tries to promote a savings through what they call Alaska Saves, they have an affiliate agreement with America Saves which is a national entity for smaller Alaska Saves savings campaign.

Partners that United Way provides funding have programs that increase levels of financial stability and have very strong outcomes that help their clients attain employment, increase their income, attain more gainful employment, improve credit scores and reduce debt.

Ms. Haggblom reported during the last fiscal year Financial Management programs were provided to over 2,000 people, there are about 15 partner agencies that are involved with these programs. Workforce Skills and Development programs were provided to more than 3,800 individuals. There were more than 1,000 individuals that ended their Public Assistance successfully and became more self-sufficient with the assistance of United Way. Ms. Haggblom added that Nine Star is one of the agencies in Anchorage that contribute the most to that number. Over 2,400 people gained employment as a result of those programs and about 820 people were able to reduce their debt and improve their credit score. This work is also carrying over to the homelessness world.

The YWCA which is funded by United Way along with others has had a more increasing focus on growing client's financial independence and stability to help them move out of homelessness and stay housed. They also act as ongoing support to households as they move through that process. They work with clients from AWAIC, Covenant House, Beans, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and Cook Inlet Tribal Center at this point in time but are looking to expand it further. Last fiscal year YWCA served 269 households and from July to November of 2017 they served 196 households. Of the clients they were helping 93% began keeping a budget, 25% gained employment and 42% started saving monthly.

Case managers are tasked with a pretty tough job at the various agencies they work at and it isn't always possible for a case manager to do it all. It's crucial to listen to the challenges and obstacles of those case managers and what those households are facing in order to enhance the existing system and build what is needed to get past those challenges and obstacles. To help make that happen and make it better YWCA received funding from what they call the back bone partners to the Anchorage Community Plan to End Homelessness, again that's United Way of Anchorage, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness.

YWCA was able to provide training to those in the non-profit community who were working with homeless populations and recently re-housed households. The training focus was all about the importance of economic literacy to help provide those case managers with tools that could help their clients and learn how to teach a basic budget class. They had 52 individuals representing 17 different non-profits that attended and 94% of them have started using these tools and would absolutely attend additional training on financial topics.

Co-Chair Nelson asked if there is a module on training that focused on debt collection/illegal debt collection or being served with a summons or garnishment of wages; is there a module that addresses what their legal rights are. Ms. Haggblom responded it is definitely something that will be on the radar. Co-Chair Nelson proposed they video a training that talks about what the proper response is which could be distributed to meeting and also go on line with it. We need to hold our idea accountable to each other to take it to the next step toward completion of the training module. It was decided to name the training project "Legal Empowerment Training"

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next meeting February 7, 2018 at DHHS, 825 L Street Room 423 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.