

**Anchorage Reentry Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
1/25/24  
Hosted online via Zoom**

**Representatives in attendance included those from the following organizations/groups:**

United Way; UAA – College of Health; GEO Group; Partners Reentry Center; Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Alaska Dept. of Health (Division of Behavioral Health); VA; AK Behavioral Health; Alaska Department of Corrections (SCCC; HARS); CITC; Alaska CHARR; Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness; Alaska Public Defender Agency; Media7; Pacific Community of Alaska.

Total Attendees: 32

**Jonathan Pistotnik (Coalition Coordinator, Anchorage Reentry Coalition; [jpistotnik@nwalaska.org](mailto:jpistotnik@nwalaska.org))**

Mr. Pistotnik opened the meeting and introduced the speakers and meeting agenda. Mr. Pistotnik stated that he just returned from facilitating a reentry simulation in Juneau in collaboration with the Juneau Reentry Coalition, which was hosted in concordance with a fly-in advocacy effort that was organized through the Alaska Reentry Partnership. The simulation went well despite the massive snowfall. He stated that a group of folks from around the State were in Juneau advocating for reentry and policies that support the work, including representatives from SCF and CITC among others; his impression was that things went very well and that he feels like policy makers will be primed for additional advocacy from the community as pertinent bills and policies are brought forth. Mr. Pistotnik pointed out two specific bills that may be of most interest: Rep. Vance has a bill to change the laws around access to technology inside DOC facilities, and Sen. Tobin has a bill that is geared towards changing the composition of the Parole Board. He expressed optimism regarding the technology bill and the prospects of moving it forward. He also reminded the audience that SCF FWW is engaged in supporting reentry and shared the link, and alerted the audience that there may be an upcoming episode of Talk of Alaska with Anne Hillman that focuses upon reentry.

[SCF FWW link: [www.southcentralfoundation.com/family-wellness-warriors-nuiju/](http://www.southcentralfoundation.com/family-wellness-warriors-nuiju/)]

**Heather Phelps ([heather.phelps@alaska.gov](mailto:heather.phelps@alaska.gov))** – Ms. Phelps introduced herself as the new Project Officer focused on Disability Justice with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; she replaced Travis Welch who previously held the role. She commented that she has prior experience working at DOC and DJJ, and that she is getting up to speed with current efforts.

**David Moxley ([dpmoxley@alaska.edu](mailto:dpmoxley@alaska.edu))** – Mr. Moxley is an Assistant Dean with the College of Health at UAA; he is responsible for overseeing degree programs with justice and human services including those with a focus on behavioral health. He stated that he has been in Alaska for about five years, and has roots in the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Moxley stated that they have been working towards the establishment of a low-barrier educational programs in Human Services (AA, AES, BA, and occupational endorsements)

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and OECs in Children's Behavioral Health, Conflict Resolution, ICWA, Guardianship, Case Management, and SUD Treatment, and that there was an effort to align those opportunities with state certifications and with the job market. Mr. Moxley stated that they welcome folks that are reentering the community, and that it is one of their priority groups. It is an open-admissions program, is student centered to, curriculum has a strong experiential learning component; and are sensitive to relieving student debt. He is also involved in two federally funded workforce development projects that are geared towards training in behavioral health, that includes completing a project and professional portfolio development; tuition assistance and stipend. Mr. Moxley stated that they pride themselves in having a no wrong door approach and can help students navigate to opportunities that best meet their interests. Mr. Moxley is happy to help connect interested students with advisors and appropriate staff.

Mr. Moxley stated that they are moving forward with hiring a faculty member focused on supporting students that are formerly incarcerated and hope to have that position established in the fall; professional support will be available for students, but there will be an emphasis on peer support. He stated they are establishing a program akin to Project Rebound, and hope to create supports around housing and create a community of learning. Mx. Moxley stated that they have already had justice-involved students in the past that have contributed positively, which has helped to inform their approach and added that student navigators will also aid the students.

Mr. Moxley added that he is starting to work with Kenai Peninsula College and DOC (Wildwood Prison), and discussing the inside out model, looking at bringing faculty into facilities, making some basic core coursework more accessible to incarcerated students; Hiland and Palmer could also be locations where coursework is made available. The Human Services committee may be in a position to serve as a linkage to the reentry community.

**United Way of Anchorage (UWA), Housing Programs - Sam Longacre (slongacre@ak.org), Karlo Mercene (kmercene@ak.org), Sandy Mixayphon-Celario (smc@ak.org), Mary Abraham (mabraham@ak.org)**

Mr. Mercene explained that the Landlord Housing Partnership (LHP) started in 2022 and helps to expand the number of long-term stable housing opportunities for those that are experiencing homelessness in the Muni of Anchorage. It was explained that the LHP utilizes a web-based platform (PadMission) to help with placements of tenants, there are monetary incentives to landlords to accept tenants that may otherwise have barriers (e.g. conviction, bad credit, evictions) that may impede their ability to find a place to rent, and that a risk mitigation fund is available to participating landlords in the event there is damage to a unit caused by a renter. Specifically incorporated in this program are incentives for landlords for renting to people that have criminal convictions. It was stated there are 85 landlords/entities that are engaged in the LHP; there were 22 current vacancies/openings.

Mr. Mercene also spoke about the Eviction Diversion Program and that the UWA works with the Alaska Court's Eviction Diversion Program to assist with mediation between landlords and tenants, provided one-time rental assistance, and connects tenants with additional community resources

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Ms. Longacre proceeded to explain the Home For Good Anchorage project, and stated that Home For Good is a Pay For Success project that utilizes a scattered site model, that aims to house individuals that are high-utilizers of emergency services. Ms. Longacre presented some data demonstrating that participants experienced/demonstrated reductions in safety center intakes, arrests, calls for EMS transport, and shelter days. It was explained that Home For Good uses a Pay For Success financing methodology: philanthropy provides startup costs, but project payments will not be achieved until success has been realized. Ms. Longacre described eligibility, which includes a history of homelessness and emergency services usage, layered with Coordinated Entry, and also via service provider referrals. It was clarified that the project does not currently utilize DOC data, however it does have safety center intakes and arrest data; incarceration data could be informative but is not currently incorporated in the data collection component.

**Jeremy Landreth (Alaska Behavioral Health; [jlandreth@akbh.org](mailto:jlandreth@akbh.org) or [Jeremy.landreth@alaska.gov](mailto:Jeremy.landreth@alaska.gov))** – Mr. Landreth introduced himself as the Mental Health Release Planner based out of ACC East. He shared that AKBH has a drop-in center for both AKBH clients and non-clients that will be opening at 13<sup>th</sup> & Gamble. People that are in crisis and in-need come visit this center to receive care, and it will be opening in the coming weeks. Information will be shared when it becomes available.

**Joshua Adams (Partners Reentry Center)** – Mr. Adams stated that they still have homeless stability slots open, but had no other updates.

**Jonathan Pistotnik (Anchorage Reentry Coalition)** – Mr. Pistotnik reminded folks that NeighborWorks Alaska has reentry support, and that Paul Williams is the case manager and point of contact for that program. Mr. Williams is seeing an uptick in his caseload. [The program flyer with details will accompany meeting notes]

**Sam Adams-Lahti (VA)** – Ms. Adams-Lahti alerted people to an opportunity that was available in regards to a grant that was geared towards helping veterans with various types of legal supports; it was stated that it is not currently a type of resource that is currently available in Alaska. [The flyer with the details will accompany the notes].

**Amanda Joseph (CITC)** - Ms. Joseph stated that CITC has established a housing support program and inquired if an email list for the coalition was publicly available, and Mr. Pistotnik stated that he does not typically make that publicly available due to the constant updating and maintenance associated with the list but that he was certainly opening to providing targeting connections. It was stated that CITC has been connecting with organizations and programs in an effort to better understand how it can fit into existing work in the community.