

Anchorage Reentry Coalition
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
7/26/18

1. **Representatives in attendance from the following organizations/groups:** Alaska Legal Services Corporation; Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development; NeighborWorks Alaska; Catholic Social Services; Alaska Dept. of Corrections; Anchorage Opioid Task Force; Alaska Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Native Men's Wellness Program, Southcentral Foundation; UAA CHD AKTC; Veteran's Affairs; Christian Health Associates; Alaska Mental Health Board; Cordova Center, GEO Group; Partners Reentry Center; AK Christian Ministries; Akeela; Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; Governor's Office of Alaska; Access Alaska. In total 33 individuals were in attendance.

2. **Introductions:**
 - a. Jonathan Pistotnik, new Anchorage Reentry Coalition Coordinator;
 - b. Sarah Caldwell, Case Manager with Cook Inlet Tribal Council but also is affiliated with the Anchorage Reentry Coalition and will work with the Coalition Coordinator;
 - c. Steve Williams and Travis Welch (Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority). Mr. Williams briefly explained the relationship between AMHTA and the Coalition and the Coalition Coordinator, and Mr. Welch introduced himself as the new Program Officer that will be working more directly with the Coalition as Mr. Williams will focus more on policy issues.

3. **Presentation: Jeremiah Newbold, Veteran's Affairs.** Mr. Newbold present information about his role within the Alaska VA Health Care System and the Veteran's Court that takes place every Monday at 1:00pm. Mr. Newbold is the only person in the State of Alaska that has this position. Mr. Newbold conducts in-reach into correctional institutions, he assists veterans with finding resources and services locally, and also acts as a liaison between the VA and the Court for those veterans that are participating in Veterans Court. Veterans Court is a therapeutic court program helping Veterans get a better outcome on their legal charges in return for doing treatment. It was stated that many of the people that he works with have anger management issues and domestic violence charges. It was stated that the 5-year recidivism rate for those that complete Veterans Court was 5%, while the recidivism rate for those that enter but do not complete stands at about 28%. Alaska established the first Veteran's Court in the country in 2004. There is no system in place currently that is able to specifically identify and track incarcerated veterans.

4. **Presentation: Hoth Chan, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC).** Mr. Chan presented information about his organization. ALSC's Fair Housing Enforcement Project is funded by the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and works to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people in Alaska. Among other things, ALSC ensures that landlord/housing providers do not have blanket policies that discriminate against individuals; this includes those with a prior criminal conviction. The unit that Mr. Chan's works in investigates whether landlords have discriminatory policies; if they do, ALSC engages landlords and informs them about violations of the Fair Housing Act of 1967. Mr. Chan stated that discrimination against felons and individuals with a criminal history (even if it was many years ago) is common in Alaska.

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5. **Presentation: Jonathan Pistotnik, Anchorage Reentry Coalition.** Mr. Pistotnik present to the Coalition ideas about his role in supporting the mission of the Coalition and acting as a catalyst for action. Ideas for actions and next steps include: updating the Coalition's website; creating an orientation packet; creating an infographic about the Coalition or one that focuses on 'Anchorage Reentry'; further collaborating with partners around information sharing (e.g. resource directory, informational pamphlets); collaboration between Coalition members and the Coalition Coordinator on DOC in-reach messaging/presentations; engaging in policy and advocacy work; reactivating Integrated Healthcare and Behavioral Health Committees; formalizing the Coalition Case Manager's position within the larger Coalition and aiding her work; Chet Adkins has expressed interest in re-launching and leading the Peer Support group; gauging interest in launching a new Data and Information committee to focus on data related to reentry and issues that concern the Coalition. Coalition members that are interested in assisting with/participating in any of the previously mentioned actions are encouraged to notify the Coalition Coordinator.

If Coalition members are interested in re-engaging with the Coalition Coordinator or the Coalition at-large to conduct particular activities that have halted, or re-join and activate a sub-committee, please notify the Coalition Coordinator. Now is an opportune time to explore new actions within the Coalition. The Coalition Coordinator is eager to engage and partner with Coalition members in the implementation and delivery of Coalition-related activities.

6. **Announcement:** Jonathan Pistotnik is working with several UAA students from the MSW program on practicum placements; any agency that is interested in hosting a student within their agency is encouraged to contact Mr. Pistotnik ASAP. These students are interested in engaging in work that relates to reentry.
7. **Announcement:** Tri-Chair Taryn Link (DOC – Hiland Mountain Correctional Center) has a temporary assignment and will be temporarily handing over responsibilities as a Tri-Chair to Arnaldo Hernandez (Anchorage Correctional Complex).
8. **Next Quarterly Coalition Meeting: October 25th at the NeighborWorks Alaska Office, from 9:30am-11am**