

Immediate Crisis & Shelter/Care Needs

A review of past approaches and the resources available

- Salvation Army runs a soup kitchen Monday through Friday
- Only food pantry in Sitka open to the public
- Assist people from becoming homeless by helping with eviction notices, electric bills, finding housing, etc.
- Salvation Army has the little store which has clothing and other items
- Assisting 296 people for Thanksgiving this year
- The Fire Department works with the Salvation Army and other organizations to provide help to those who are homeless
- The Fire Department has an open door policy for people who are homeless
- SAFV has a 25 capacity facility
- Have 15 people on average staying at SAFV
- Provide bags of food, cap openers, etc. for men who are not able to stay at the shelter and want to camp
- When someone comes in to SAFV they help with healing and domestic violence awareness
- Often times people stay 6 to 8 months at SAFV
- STA is starting a wrap around program to help families with housing needs including rent payments
- SAFV works with Alaska State Food Department, but accept donations from other people and organizations to help with food needs
- SAFV puts together survival packets with groceries
- Sitka Counseling is the community behavioral health organization in Sitka
- Have eight 2 bedroom apartments that are currently open to the public
- Have a family center program that work with youth
- Community support program for people with mental health problems
- Offer housing for people with disabilities
- Sitka Counseling offers 6 week parenting classes
- Kattleson Library provides access to information to all
- People can come and use computers as long as they need to
- Can work on resumes, apply for jobs, etc.
- Main mission is to serve everyone regardless of income level
- People who are homeless come in on an equal footing to everyone else in the library

Intermediate and Longer Term Solutions

- 5-21 target population
- Located on Lincoln street. Youth welcome to stop by. Basic services provided here and staff are present for support. Scheduled events take place on a weekly basis.
- provide residential services for youth 10-18 (13-18 typical)
- intensive therapy services
- therapeutic foster care, 15 families in Sitka, family therapy, work with youth in these programs
- out-patient programs in schools, socio-emotional and behavioural aspects
- wrap-around services based on client needs

- transitional living program 5 year federal grant for those at risk of becoming homeless, in the process of being reviewed. 50 served last year (all but 2 successful). Place homeless youth with licensed resource parents.
- While in program, need to be in school, volunteering, seeking employment, or working on GED
- Work with them for 18 mths. Staff support for life, job skills etc.
- 16-21 primary population served by transitional housing program. Parents and specialists provide support and skills cooperatively.
- See a lot of individuals lacking functional skills for successful independent living. – programs focused on addressing these needs.
- Grant allows \$30/day for resource parents, as well as resources to remove barriers for youth (eg. Transit).
- AHFC- public housing division
- 3 public housing programs in Sitka
- Swan Lake -62+ or experiencing disability (20 units)
- Income limits- unit based assistance higher, voucher limit lower.
- Subsidized
- Housing choice vouchers- section VIII, can move and keep voucher.
- TBRA home vouchers- available to parolees funding comes from dept of corrections. 2 yr limit.
- Youth aging out of foster care (18). 2 yr limit.
- ECHB? 5 vouchers for those transitioning out of domestic violence situations.
- 42 units, 50 vouchers. Long wait-list. 1 BR largest waitlists.
- 3 new programs have no waitlist- referral based (SAFV etc)
- STA
- General assistance program based on size of family, income, no time limits, case plan requirements.
- Offer traditional foods, tier of priority for those with low income, seniors, so forth until open to public. Usually just provides enough to get to tribal members, those in need and elders.
- USDA food bank used to exist, currently on hold. Based on income.
- Tribal emergency assistance. Tribal enrolled members 250/yr max. Can be used for bills etc. in emergency situations.
- Transitional housing. 3 yr grant. Now, 1 yr grant. 6-20 families, tribally enrolled, applications through SAFV. Goal to help as many as possible. Leasing apartments a new possibility? Still in the works, January?
- Employment program through the tribe, searching and referrals.
- Outlines of policy and applications are available.
- BIHA
- 4 programs which include lease with option to purchase, low rent (similar to AHFC)- native preference, Housing for elders 24 units, student housing voucher program, clothing cost assistance program.
- Lease with option to purchase program. Scaled back subsidy, until person get title it is a month-to-month lease. Relatively long waiting list, but may be a place for people to get long-term housing solution.
- Application process involves extensive screening. Homelessness, history of DV etc have preferences to get those in need into housing.

- Work with voucher program, very few elders have funds for \$810/mth for elder housing program.
- Student housing voucher program. Once a year \$1000 payment for dorm fees. Income limits apply. Any time during school year they accept applications.
- Closing cost assistance. \$5000 payments. Under-utilized.
- More long-term based programs. Stringent screening, payment histories etc. Very cautious about getting people in—then failing.
- Public Assistance
- Food stamps now on debit cards. Comes from anchorage- may take a week.
- Also offer \$120/person for prevention of eviction or overdue utilities. Income limits apply. Only works if it will prevent you from being evicted/ will prevent shut-off.
- White E vouchers! No government regulations, but limited.
- ATAP available to low income families with children not tribally enrolled. Not an immediate solution, and must have kids in the house.
- Legislative Information Office
- SS, Medicare, VA services etc.
- Sees many people experiencing homelessness.
- People who do not know how to read or write come through office. Will help fill out forms and applications.
- Help many people with language issues. Immigration issues as well.
- Landlord & tenant books available- cannot offer legal services.
- Community resource guide finalized soon.
- ?'s
- 15% grant based, rest is billed services at Youth Advocates.
- Student vouchers, must be full time and at college level. Any accredited school or trade school anywhere.
- SEARHC will do VA services.

- PANEL: Healthcare, Counseling, and Nutritional Needs

- Sitka Community Hospital

- Chronic Disease issues- hypertension, depression, alcohol issues

- Homeless adults hospitalized 4-5 x more than general population, length of stay typically longer

- SCH gives \$1 million in charity care every year

- Loan closet for medical supplies available (crutches, dressings, shower benches, etc.)

- SAIL also provides a loan closet

- No individuals with emergent conditions can be legally turned away

- Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

- “talk therapy” and counseling services
- medical case management
- social work resources services not provided by SEARHC
- Sitka Public Health Nursing Clinic
- As of July 1, charges for all services. Sliding payment scale available and no one is turned away for inability to pay
- Immunizations available: flu, DPT, Shingles, etc.
- STD risk reduction and treatment for STDs, pregnancy testing
- Immunizations for children- as of Jan 1 immunizations only offered for children un- or under-insured
- If someone cannot make it to the clinic, contact the clinic- there may be help available
- Plan B emergency birth control available
- Pacific High School
- In order to learn, students need to have basic needs met
- Lunch program meets short term hunger needs
- 30%+ children in school eligible for free or reduced lunch
- breakfast program at KGH and Baranof available
- PHS lunch program provides life skills, job prep and nutrition education
- Homeless students struggle to meet short term needs and often are unable to address long term needs
- Gaps in service- services only offered during school day
- Potential solutions: summer food service grants, breakfast service grants
- Sitka Lutheran Church
- Downtown location
- Less restrictions/regulations on help that can be provided

- Salvation Army the “clearinghouse” for church-based services
- Sitka Lutheran has available: small petty cash fund, Wednesday night soup service, funding available to get people back to their homes/villages
- “The Listening Post” model- listening to people’s stories
- St. Peters-by-the-Sea
- Sanctuary open 24 hours. Balancing providing sanctuary and maintaining a safe space
- Provide sanctuary and connect people with resources/services/other people
- Questions
- Is Planned Parenthood available? Hours drastically reduced. Open 12-3 or 4 Wednesdays
- Subsidized birth control, Plan B, limited services (STD checks, birth control starts). No annual exams. Trying to create a model that can be applied to rural areas
- Plan B available at Harry Race for \$50. Can be taken up to 5 days later. Planned Parenthood can provide an advance prescription for Plan B
- Located on Katlian St. Dan Stockel’s building, across from BIHA
- LOTS of condoms available- free at Public Health
- Hospital discharges often into unsafe situations-how to help? Outpatient and housing-related care often absorbed by SCH, SEARHC, etc.
- SEARHC Tobacco Program- Free tobacco quit support, tobacco replacement products, counseling up to 1 year

Discussion and Future Directions:

Vocational/Employment Comments:

- SAIL provides walk-in services for people with disabilities. Will work with people experiencing homelessness to make future homes livable/accessible. Work with any form of disability, as well as seniors. Offer loan equipment 3mths. For free.
- SOA dept. of labor. Provide comprehensive range of services for people looking for work/training. Serve people experiencing homelessness through a program offering write-offs for employers hiring any individual experiencing homelessness (tax-credit based). Unit set up to assist people needing money to get to school or get back to school. “in-demand” occupations will get funding more easily (eg. Nursing). Those with circumstances in background limiting their attractiveness to employers can get help. Apprenticeship programs available. Veterans are a priority group- any veteran coming in to the job center will receive

services first (eg. Job orders). Veteran's support network for jobs available. Healthcare, benefits, etc. and navigating the VA can access resources to determine eligibility etc. If a veteran is homeless and requires treatment services there are referral options available. Veterans should access a "service officer".

- DVR. Nationwide program to help people with disabilities find or maintain employment. Can provide some initial screenings at the job center. Offer a variety of individualized services focused on counseling services, disability unemployment issues, assistive technology etc. Also serve Wrangell, Petersburg and several outlying communities.
- ?'s
- Specific programs for people experiencing homelessness – 5 categories of workers that can qualify for a federal program. Job center can find funding for variety of trainings- cost should not be a limiting factor.
- Burial issues for both low-income individuals and those experiencing homelessness at the time of death.
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Accomplishments since the 2009 Homeless Summit:

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How do we communicate and coordinate to assure fiscal and humane efficiency

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What are the unmet needs, and how we might collaborate to meet these needs?

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Summary of issues raised, and identification of follow-up actions needed:

- Where do you go when you find yourself with someone who is in need of help?
- How do we provide support?
- Central way for organizations to update their services regularly, "working document", person to contact/phone number, email etc., (eastergroup.org clearinghouse link lists and identifies what organizations provide). Between public assistance and legislative information office there is a sheet full of services available. Link between these two possible? Resource guide will be provided online.
- Federal emergency solutions grant-nationwide. Easter group as advisor board, grant pays for program etc. Letter of intent forced action by Easter group, application itself requires completion. Formation of a work group starting next week? Emails will be sent.
- Resource form available at the library for printing out. (multiple languages?)
- We need to help people with having a centralized agency to walk them through the process. Wrap-around services needed to avoid "revolving door".
- Senior center provides assistance with SS & Medicare. "Families First" Program.
- Helpful to have printed out resource list for school registration—help parent's gain access to this resource (avoid the need for computer access).
- Make the library as well as churches access points for all this information.
- Access to childcare & affordability of existing programs is a huge barrier. Possibility of a future tribal daycare on the way?
- 60+ people on waitlist for single occupancy housing. Influx of single men seeking assistance.
- Possibility of using the larger units to house those waiting on single rooms?

- Dealing with constrictions in place.
- “Humanity from Birth to Death” renaming the summit?
- Non-profit groups survive on volunteers.
- Let’s make it an annual event!
- The END!
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