

**United Way of Anchorage  
Board Meeting  
March 16, 2022, 4-5:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom**

**Members Present (15):** Walt Bass, Belinda Breaux, Laurie Butcher, Greg Deal, Mike Dunn, Bill Falsey, Charles Fedullo, John Finley, Dick Mandsager, Jordan Marshall, Rachel Norman, Susan Parkes, Natasha Pope, Veronica Reem, Beth Stuart

**RSVP Regrets (5):** Alex McKay, Mike Huston, Daniel Mitchell, Ed Ulman, David Wight

**Staff Present:** Clark Halvorson, Sue Brogan, June Sobocinski, Sandy Stora, Nancy Burke, Sam Longacre, Nina Makarova

**Call to Order:** Bill Falsey called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Veronica Reem moved to accept the consent agenda (February meeting minutes) as presented, Susan Parkes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Executive Committee Report:**

Bill Falsey extended kudos to the Finance and Executive Committee members for their extraordinary work supporting UWA's fiscal action plan. The committees also continue to support and monitor the recruitment and transition of the CFO position. Thank you to all the Board members who participated in the second strategic planning session with Agnew::Beck on March 15, and Strategic Planning Core Team for their continuous work and guidance.

UWA is reviewing the draft lease agreements on the new building and will continue discussions with the Executive Committee to determine if the new space is a good business decision; we anticipate a decision in the next couple of weeks. The building could possibly generate some revenue, similar to Success by Six building, but it also comes with some risks. Strategic planning with Agnew::Beck is moving along well, with two strategic planning sessions with the Board completed.

**Finance Committee Report:**

Laurie Butcher reported that the main focus of the Finance Committee is CFO recruitment. UWA is still down significantly with staffing, and management is working diligently to fill the positions and conduct the CFO search. Because of that, there are no financials at this point, but UWA is committing to a new 45-day schedule for financials, and the Board will see December, January and February financials in April.

UWA is also wrapping up the audit and has asked the auditors for a schedule on final reporting; at this point, we are not aware of any recommended findings. In the meeting packet, there is a summary of the projects the finance team is working on – there has been a long outstanding issue with software, trying to resolve the discrepancies between the two systems – ANDAR and MIP.

Reconciliation of these two products is a positive step towards simplifying the financials processes.

Clark Halvorson reported that UWA has opened up the application process for funding and will be closing campaign on March 28, which will allow UWA to determine the amount available for investment. Last month, UWA reported the projected total of \$4.36M, and we are currently at \$4,376,652, still going in the right direction. The next step is to present a recommendation with supporting financial documents to the Finance Committee for review at their next meeting and then UWA will be bringing a recommendation to the Board at the May meeting. If anyone is interested in supporting this effort through the application reviews, please let Clark Halvorson or Sue Brogan know.

### **President's Report:**

Clark Halvorson reported that UWA has opened the offices fully again without a masking requirement.

### **ACA Navigators**

This past year, UWA has seen a 30 percent increase in calls outside the enrollment period. We know that its due to the thousands of Alaskans who have lost their health insurance along with their livelihoods due to the pandemic recession. The prospect of paying medical bills without insurance creates an incredible financial hardship. From September to present, there have been over 800 enrollments, and we are past the halfway mark of our goal of 1,200. We are also on track to provide one on one assistance to 8,000 consumers and hold 200 public outreach events by August 31, per grant award. Work planned this month includes working with ANTHC in a new partnership serving Alaska Native consumers – this is at no cost to the ANTHC and their membership. We are also doing outreach to businesses about insurance options for employees.

### **Restaurant and Hunger Relief**

UWA just wrapped up its work on the restaurant and hunger relief program and will be doing a presentation to the Assembly on March 18. During the course of the program, 322,496 meals were served, and \$4.1 million expended. 748 jobs were hired, rehired, or kept, with 410 employees getting more hours.

Assembly meeting on March 18 is a check in as well as a tool for them to make decisions on future investments. We will also be holding a stakeholder after action meeting in early April. ACF has made an additional \$300,000 investment into the program and we are watching closely the \$2.64 million request in the capital budget from Senator Tom Begich for another run through of the program; we should know more by next month.

### **Office Space**

UWA is working with the Executive team on the opportunity at the Anvil building. We received inspection reports for the facility at the end of last week and drafted lease agreements early this week that legal counsel is reviewing for a recommendation. UWA has also been in discussions with Jack White Commercial real estate, who has worked with UWA for years at the Success by Six building providing building management as well as sublessee recruitment and support, on availability to provide a similar service at a new facility. UWA will be putting a final decision package forward to the Executive Committee shortly. Thank you to Alex McKay for making the introductions and starting the discussion about this opportunity.

211

Big month for UWA's 211 team. We received notice of a \$289,000 award from the Alaska Community Foundation – between now and June 30, UWA will be conducting phase 1 assessment with the support of a consultant. We will build off the review and report that was done in 2018 by Agnew::Beck. UWA will also work to build a statewide awareness campaign. It is clear that there are large areas of the state that are not as aware of the 211 system, and UWA will work to build awareness and improve its system to support their needs.

UWA also received news this week that we have received a \$1M earmark, thanks to Senator Murkowski. This will allow UWA to put into action the recommendations that have come forward in the assessment. Modernizing, expanding, and enhancing the 211 system will build a more resilient Alaska and measurably improve lives across the state by more effectively connecting people to immediate supports and resources and by providing organizations and communities valuable data to improve community conditions.

### Strategic Planning

Thank you again to all the Board members who have so actively participated in the planning efforts to this point. UWA is excited to be at the point where it will present the Board a draft plan for review at next month's meeting. It has been a great partnership to this point, with the community, Board members, partner organizations and UWA team members bringing different voices and recommendations to the discussion.

### Fiscal Team

First round of CFO recruitment was not successful in identifying a candidate that UWA could make an offer to. We are interviewing several recruitment firms to bring in additional support for another recruitment. For the Senior Accountant position, first round did not produce applications that could move forward to interview. UWA is also working with Opti Staffing to bring in two contract employees to support the team and UWA work as we continue to fill the vacant positions on the finance team.

### **Home for Good Update:**

Nancy Burke and Sam Longacre reported on the current Home for Good challenges with housing enrollment, unit identification, and housing vouchers. In housing enrollment, the goal was to expand supportive housing by 150 units over 3-year project period. In unit identification, the goal was scattered-sided model – using units in different areas, rather than all units in one building. With housing vouchers, the goal was to build community capacity to sustain supportive housing.

In housing enrollment, the challenge is that housing enrollment is below target. Original enrollment schedule was too aggressive for service provider capacity. Home for Good service model was not a good fit for a key service provider. The program needed to slower enrollment to reduce program cost of temporary housing. Solutions include adding new service provider, CHOICES Inc.; improving referral process to decrease time necessary to locate clients; and extension of project timeline – UWA is working with the Municipality on contract amendment.

In unit identification, the challenge is that a scattered site model has been difficult – low vacancy rate, staff are spread out, which adds travel time, and some participants prefer more of a community living environment. Solutions include agreements for blocks of units (onsite staffing

for larger blocks of units, working to replicate in other locations) and landlord housing partnership (recruiting more landlords through incentives and landlord support).

With housing vouchers, the challenge is that the wait time for vouchers can be 1.5-2 years. There is a budget constraint – Home for Good pays rent until housing voucher is secured. Current wait times are much longer than predicted during project launch. If wait time does not improve, enrollment will have to end early for participants to have enough time to secure vouchers before the end of the project.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laurie Butcher, Susan Parkes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Board meeting: April 20, 2022