

**United Way of Anchorage  
Board Meeting  
October 21, 2020, 4 p.m.  
Via Teams**

**Members Present (21):** Belinda Breaux, Laurie Butcher, Greg Deal, Charles Fedullo, Darlene Gates, Michael Huston, Teresa LaPella, Dick Mandsager, Jordan Marshall, Joe Marushack, Alex McKay, Daniel Mitchell, Rachel Norman, Susan Parkes, Frank Paskvan, Natasha Pope, Veronica Reem, Brad Spees, Beth Stuart, Ed Ulman, David Wight

**RSVP Regrets (5):** Mike Dunn, Bill Falsey, Rick Fox, Sarah Gaines, Tom Yetman

**Others:** Shauna Crawford from Walsh Sheppard for Jack Sheppard; UWA staff: Clark Halvorson, Sue Brogan, Jason Grenn, Angela Pinsonneault, June Sobocinski, Cassandra Stalzer, Cheryl Teller

**Call to Order:** Natasha Pope called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Susan Parkes moved the resolution to accept the consent agenda (September 16 meeting minutes and April and May financials) as presented, Brad Spees seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Executive Committee Report**

Natasha Pope extended kudos to:

- Alex McKay, one of 10 exceptional Alaskan women being honored during this year's virtual Women of Achievement Awards. Alex has demonstrated excellent leadership professionally and in her personal life, in service to our community, and we are pleased to have her select UWA as part of the way she gives back.
- Ed Ulman and Alaska Public Media for their recent award of \$100,000 grant for UWA's next 12 months of Ready to Learn work. This funding is pass through federal funding for public broadcasting. The Ready to Learn program uses the power of public media's educational content to develop broadcast television content that improves early learning skills and school readiness.
- In addition, the Board would like to recognize Ed Ulman for modeling leadership with his involvement in 90% by 2020; he is championing a united collaborative approach, leveraging his organization's ability to contribute, and focusing on the needs of the community.

UWA would like to extend great appreciation to Conoco for supporting the UWA offices for the past 20 years. The Conoco team has been true champions for UWA and the Anchorage community. They generously raised another \$1 million this campaign year – thank you to Joe Marushack and his extraordinary team!

UWA also wants to recognize Rachel Norman and AlaskaUSA for their extraordinary offer to help with UWA's office space. With that, UWA is excited to share that AlaskaUSA, with Rachel's help, reached out after the last Board meeting with a possible office space that could be available before the slated move date. The site is the closed branch office off 7<sup>th</sup> and Juneau Street. UWA's management team and AlaskaUSA representatives have since engaged in discussions and toured the space a few times. It looks like a great fit and a two-year lease agreement is being explored further.

UWA is working to finalize plans for a new fund that will honor the transformational leadership of Michele Brown. The Fund's goal is to identify and honor those in our community who adopt the collective impact model to focus limited resources on common goals and shared metrics to create measurable change throughout the communities. The Board requested to be updated regularly on the retirement plans and fund progress.

UWA is rethinking how to use its workspace with intentional focus on the staff wellness. Clark Halvorson has brought forward a first draft for a new policy covering mobile/telework policy. This mobile work business strategy will address not just the current pandemic, but will be further leveraged to recruit, increase productivity and engagement, provide additional wellness benefits, ensure continuity of UWA operations, and possibly reduce facilities costs as well as our environmental footprint.

## **President's Report/COVID Response**

### **Home for Good Pay for Success Supportive Housing Project:**

Clark Halvorson reported that Home for Good Pay for Success supportive housing project has been a remarkable effort by UWA Project Manager, Eric Glatt, and many great partners, including Social Finance, the MOA, Southcentral Foundation, Alaska Behavioral Health, RurAL CAP, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. A big thanks too to UWA's thoughtful and dedicated Board Committee, chaired by Beth Stuart. The project is now ready for a full launch after clearing three major hurdles:

1. Successful completion of the pilot with a 90% housing stability rate, and an 85% reduction in both client arrests and safety center encounters; 63% reduction in shelter stays; and 44% reduction in EMS transfers.
2. Securing an 11-0 vote from the Anchorage Assembly authorizing the MOA to sign the outcome payments contract. This authorizes the contract for \$4.5M in outcome payments from the MOA if the client outcomes are achieved. Those dollars will then pay for years two and three of the work. The first year is funded by generous grants from Providence, Rasmuson, Premera, and the Mental Health Trust.
3. Signing later this week or next the main contract that creates the Pay for Success financing structure.

The launch will start the scale-up to house an additional 85 unsheltered people in leased apartments within the next 12 months, and up to 150 by the end of year two. UWA is also finalizing contracts with Southcentral Foundation and Alaska Behavioral Health to deliver robust case management over the next three years, paired with technical assistance from outside specialists.

Continuing challenges include securing more housing vouchers and long-term agreements with landlords who'd be willing to set aside housing units, such as RurAL CAP, Hope Community Resources, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, and NeighborWorks Alaska.

### **Education:**

The final retrospective of the 90% by 2020 initiative is in the Board packet; it's a great review and celebration of the work. UWA is also ready to move forward and build upon the success of 90% by 2020. The full Leadership Team of the 90% by 2020 Partnership will meet October 26 and will be reviewing the proposed goals for the next 5-10 years that the Executive Team has developed. These goals relate back to the areas of focus that June Sobocinski presented at the last UWA Board meeting and include:

1. early childhood learning leading to reading proficiency
2. an equity focus on eliminating achievement gaps and
3. a continued focus to reach and maintain a 90% graduation rate

It is anticipated that UWA will be ready for a new launch and rebranding of the community initiative in March 2021.

### **Housing Assistance:**

As of close of business Tuesday, 10/20/2020, 6,006 housing payments (82% rent payments and 18% mortgage payments) have been made to nearly 3,000 households totaling \$5,648,606.49. Each applicant currently can receive housing assistance for up to three months. Demand at 211 remains is very high; the team there continues to support approximately 300 calls per day. On Monday this week, 98 of these calls were from first time applicants looking to apply for housing assistance. To respond to this demand, 211 has expedited and built more capacity into the process by:

- Doing phone verifications for second and third time requests and mailing checks rather than doing additional in person interviews.
- Making two payments at once to keep up with demand and the sluggish opportunities to return to work.
- Adding additional interview times; in the past months, we have been supporting 8 applicants each hour. We are adding an additional 4 slots for interviews each hour.

UWA is also working to get even more proactive on identifying those in need around Anchorage by piloting an effort to reach out to landlords and batching applications from their tenants. UWA is also doing a specific deep dive into fragile neighborhoods to connect with landlords.

Additionally, the court system has set new eviction processes in relation to the CDC moratorium provisions, updated forms accordingly, and have created FAQs to let people know how to access resources. So far, eviction filings remain very low.

### **Learning POD:**

During the pandemic, UWA has piloted a learning pod that is serving some of the most vulnerable children in our PLUS schools and providing access to their learning. Key collaborators include ASD, Camp Fire, and UWA. This has been very successful (from zero engagement to 86% virtual classroom engagement for those students participating). UWA is working to open two additional locations by first week of November.

### **Child Care Funds Update:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in business closures, remote schooling, and many people working from home. This led to a shortage of available childcare across Anchorage. Back in

May, it was documented that upwards of 5,500 possible spaces for children to be in childcare were lost, representing a significant hardship for parents and the economy.

Stated goals are to stabilize open facilities, open more facilities, and enable non-enrolling sites to begin enrolling again, as well as increase staffing to meet CDC recommendations. Programs can use the money to prioritize low-income families and vulnerable youth for fee reduction, payroll costs, and rent/utilities. The funds must be used by 12/30/20.

Total eligible facilities include 176 agencies, operating at 230 different sites, and 11 agencies operating at 14 exempt sites. Total funds disbursed – \$5,687,276. Some background information:

- Licensed sites
  - ~230 sites, some closed due to school closures (e.g., many afterschool Camp Fire programs)
  - Infusion payment: Each site gets a payment equal to half their highest pre-COVID (Dec'19-Feb'20) single-month income [number enrollees \* rate (capped at \$1000 \* 50%)]
  - Monthly payments: Sites receive 5 monthly payments (August-December) equal to \$250/pre-COVID enrollee/month.
- “Exempt” sites
  - ~14 sites, mostly preschools, that are exempt from meeting Muni licensing requirements
  - Infusion payment at 100% of their pre-COVID rate/enrollee
  - Monthly payments at 50% of tuition fee/pre-COVID enrollee

### **Campaign Update**

Cassandra Stalzer went over a PowerPoint presentation on where the campaign dollars are today verses where they were last year at this point in time (about \$400K less). UWA is diversifying the ways in which it is getting money.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Beth Stuart explained that the Finance Committee still has June financials in draft, not quite ready for approval, and urged members to read financial reports. Kudos to Angela Pinsonneault, Interim CFO, for doing such a great job; the Finance Committee would really like for her to continue with UWA.

### **President/CEO Transition Plan**

Clark Halvorson gave a PowerPoint presentation on his first 100 days in office and his agenda. Many compliments on the presentation. Brad Spees complimented the positive outlook. David Wight asked if Clark was meeting with staff and Clark explained the “Town Hall” like Teams meetings he has been having with staff. He also described a culture survey that he will be asking staff to complete.

Motion to adjourn Board meeting was made by Joe Marushack, Susan Parkes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Board meeting: December 2, 2020.