

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
SPECIAL FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 26, 2017
4:30 p.m.

Taken at:
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 110
Anchorage, Alaska

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:

Mary Jane Michael, Chair
Christopher Cooke
Laraine Derr
Carlton Smith
Paula Easley
Jerome Selby
Greg Jones

Trust staff present:

Steve Williams
Andy Stemp
Carley Lawrence
Michael Baldwin
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Valette Keller
Jimael Johnson
Miri Smith-Coolidge

Trust Land Office staff present:

Wyn Menefee

Others participating: Faith Meyers; Dorrance Collins.

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the meeting to order and acknowledges that all trustees are present. She asks for any announcements or any ethics disclosures. There being none, she asks for a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE COOKE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE DERR states that this is a day of committee meetings, and asks why public comment is being done.

MR. WILLIAMS states that this is actually a full board meeting. He continues that tomorrow's agenda is focused around the governance documents, which includes the bylaws and charters, and we wanted the opportunity for the public to provide comment on that prior to the board going into discussion on those changes.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that, after the meeting, we will go into recess and continue tomorrow. She comments on the process of going through refining the bylaws and writing new charters for the organization for the various committees and roles. She thanks the trustees and staff for the time and energy put into this over the summer. It was a monumental task to spend the time to share values, beliefs, and to take the time to look at the organization and its future. She continues that several meetings were held in July and August; the public was involved in September; the documents we reviewed in October; and today we will take one last opportunity to have public comment on those issues and any other issues to come before the board. She states that she would like to open the public comment, and reads the guidelines. She then acknowledges that there are two written public comments: One was from Dennis Johansson, which each trustee received by email; the other was from Faith Myers and Dorrance Collins, a copy of which was provided to each trustee. She recognizes and welcomes Faith Myers.

MS. MYERS states that the Alaska government equates creating new programs for the disabled with improved rights. Alaska is about 20 years behind best practices when it comes to protecting the disabled. She continues that this opinion is based on the following facts: The Alaskan government has never produced a grievance procedure and appeal process law or regulation specifically designed for individuals with a cognitive disability, like in some other states. As of today, the Alaskan government does not adequately require that assistance is provided to the disabled when they are filing a complaint. State law, AS 47.30.847, only applies to some facilities, and the law does not state when the patient advocates must be available. She asks what will it take to improve the rights for the disabled in Alaska to best practices. She continues that, for a start, the Mental Health Trust Authority bylaws should be amended to require the establishment of a standing committee that would catalog the rights of the disabled and the number and types of complaints. Without the basic knowledge of beneficiaries' rights and complaints, the Trust Authority and the State will find it impossible to fund the advancement of quality of care for the disabled to best practices.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that if it is not in the bylaws, what about a charter that the Trust is committed to recognizing patient rights. She continues, that typically would not be seen in a bylaw document. She adds that she is thinking about a way to incorporate that into one of the existing charters, or creating a new charter.

MR. COLLINS suggests putting it into the mission statement, to be an issue on the committee meetings. In talking to the Alaska Mental Health Board, Disability Law, ask them what needs to be improved.

CHAIR MICHAEL replies that for the moment the trustees wanted to spend time on the bylaws and charters.

MS. MYERS states that they would like to see some kind of committee that is focused on the problem of improving rights.

MR. COLLINS states that this has been 20 years, and adds that both he and Ms. Myers would be willing to serve on any committee.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks both and asks if there is anyone on-line that would like to testify. She then asks if there is anyone else in the audience that did not sign up that would like to testify. If there is no further public comment, she recesses the meeting, and we will resume at 9:00 o'clock in the morning tomorrow.

(Special Full Board Meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m.)