

**DISCUSSION:
DETERMINING FY17 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES**

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees meeting
November 17, 2016

There will be additional cuts made to programs serving beneficiaries in the proposed budget from Gov. Walker and more from legislators. How do we decide which reductions to accept and which ones to fight? How do we identify cuts we can recover from, and cuts that are catastrophic?

Medicaid optional benefit services are important to the health and safety of Trust beneficiaries. These services include Medicaid adult dental, prescription drugs, physical therapy, personal care, hospice, case management, among many others.

Taking into account the state's fiscal situation and the risk of further cuts, how much effort should the Trust and advocacy partners invest to protect these services? Should we advocate to protect all Medicaid optional benefit services equally or should we prioritize a list? What information is needed to build an effective advocacy campaign? What are our strategies?

The state of Alaska spent \$257 million on home- and community-based service waivers in FY16 and it is on track to increase in FY17.

What will be the major contributing factors related to Medicaid reform and the budget in support of our waiver-based system of care?

How should we advocate for the alcohol tax and Title 4 revisions?

Through executive proclamation, Gov. Walker recognized November as “Family Caregivers Month” to promote awareness about the important work provided by families and other natural caregivers for seniors and persons with disabilities.

These caregivers are critical to all Trust beneficiaries as they provide the foundation of long-term care so that their loved ones may live at home for as long as possible, sometimes at a cost to themselves, and save the state millions of dollars in uncompensated care. How can we increase attention about the value of caregiving in order to enhance supports for them?

The Trust and many partners invested a great deal of social capital in SB 91, criminal justice reform. How should we prepare to answer questions and attempts to pull back from the reforms in SB 91 during the next session?

Same question for SB 74.

How do we educate new legislators and staffers about beneficiaries and the systems that serve them, between now and January 17, and during session?

Do trustees support encouraging the legislature to work on a comprehensive fiscal plan?

Potential Bills

Bill	TRUST	AMHB	ABADA	ACOA	GOV COUNCIL
Title 4	X	X	X		
Alcohol Tax	X	X	X		
Senior Benefits Reauthorization				X	
Disability Awareness Educ. for Law Enforcement/ Voluntary ID Bill					X
Supportive Decision Making					X

Moving Forward

- Governor releases budget
- Analysis of budget by staff and advisory boards
- Joint meeting between Trust and advisory boards to discuss budget priorities
- Present budget analysis at trustee committee meetings
- Meet with newly identified Senate/House finance committee chairs and sub-committee chairs
- Development of materials
- Work with new legislators and staffers for enhanced understanding of beneficiaries and mental health budget bill
- Scheduling of meetings with legislators for trustee hill visits during Juneau trip, as appropriate