

# Trust

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

## Trust FY18-19 Budget Cycle

A Summary of Stakeholder Insights and Input

- This past legislative session, two major Trust priorities were passed: Senate Bills 74 and 91. The Trust is committed to supporting the successful implementation of these important reform efforts.
- In September, trustees will pass a budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 prioritizing Medicaid reform and criminal justice reform and reinvestment.
- Stakeholder input is integral to the Trust's budgeting process. In years past, the Trust has convened stakeholder groups to discuss and provide recommendations for each focus area independently. The systems change we are embarking upon with our partners is a more integrated approach to stakeholder engagement.
- On July 6 and 7, the Trust convened a cross-focus area work group with 39 participants representing a broad range of stakeholder perspectives to discuss reform and make recommendations for the Trust's budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

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"DURING A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED FISCAL CHALLENGES IN ALASKA, WE FIND OURSELVES FACING UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BENEFICIARIES. TOGETHER, MEDICAID AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT WILL TRANSFORM THE SYSTEM OF CARE AS WE KNOW IT - IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE FOR BENEFICIARIES WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTROLLING THE STATE'S COSTS."

- JEFF JESSEE

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## How can we ensure reforms are successful and produce positive results for beneficiaries

### CULMINATING THEMES

Transformative thinking • Cross-agency coordination • Housing • Employment • Prevention and diversion services • Access to treatment services • Culturally-competent and data-driven practices • Care coordination • Peer support • Community coalitions • Rural resource development • Workforce development • Technology • Cost savings • Measurable outcomes • Public outreach • Ideological shift around criminal justice and citizens involved in the correctional system

## THE TRUST CAN SUPPORT REFORM BY:

- Serving as a convener for important cross-disciplinary discussions.
- Shaping a positive public dialogue around reform and the importance of community inclusiveness.
- Encouraging use of evidence-based practices and targeting investments where they are likely to have the most impact possible.

## Action-oriented Recommendations in Support of Medicaid and Criminal Justice Reform

1. Develop an effective process and invest in resources to conduct outreach and engagement to ensure beneficiaries understand and enroll into Medicaid with a concerted effort on beneficiaries being released from prison.
2. Increase investment in rental assistance and supportive housing vouchers and systematically target specific populations.
3. Build community capacity to assess criminogenic behaviors using evidence-based practices before individuals intersect with the criminal justice system.
4. Support the development of a continuum of diversion programs with a focus on pretrial.
5. Build provider capacity to bill Medicaid.
6. Increase use of telehealth and assistive technologies to expand access to and quality of services, broaden the continuum of resources available in rural communities and realize cost savings.
7. Foster coordination among community reentry and housing coalitions and leverage their work to build community capacity and readiness to address beneficiary needs in an integrated, culturally competent, data-driven and locally appropriate manner.
8. Target workforce development efforts to address specific competencies that will be required by reform and coordinate across sectors to ensure providers and beneficiaries have access to a consistently competent workforce at all levels of care. Improve education and training opportunities for peer support workers and unpaid caregivers.
9. Catalyze developers and funders and provide coordination support to implement the Strategic Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing developed by DHSS and the Technical Assistance Collaborative.
10. Set the collective expectation among beneficiaries, parents, providers, employers and policymakers that employment or engagement in meaningful activities is possible and vital; ensure employment goals and strategies are part of all treatment/prisoner release planning.

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HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ARE  
KEY TO SUCCESSFUL REFORM.

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