

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY  
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 3, 2019  
2:20 p.m.**

**Taken at:  
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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Trustees Present:

Chris Cooke, Chair  
Mary Jane Michael  
Laraine Derr (via Speakerphone)  
Paula Easley  
Carlton Smith  
Verne' Boerner

Trust Staff Present:

Mike Abbott  
Steve Williams  
Miri Smith-Coolidge  
Kelda Barstad  
Andy Stemp  
Luke Lind  
Michael Baldwin  
Carrie Predeger  
Katie Baldwin-Johnson  
Jimael Johnson  
Valette Keller  
Eric Boyer  
Autumn Vea

Trust Land Office:

Wyn Menefee  
Jusdi Doucet

Also participating:

Patrick Anderson; Dr. Heidi Brocious (via Speakerphone); Michelle Brown; Nancy Burke;  
Denise Daniello (via Speakerphone); Annie Dear (via Speakerphone); Jeannette Lacey Dunn (via  
Speakerphone); Doug Harris (via Speakerphone); Mariya Lovischuck (via Speakerphone);  
Corrine O'Neill; Beverly Schoonover; Tiel Smith.

## PROCEEDINGS

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and stated there was a quorum.

### ROLL CALL

TRUSTEE MICHAEL noted that Trustee Selby was not present at this committee meeting, but all the other trustees are present.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any announcements.

TRUSTEE EASLEY stated that Alison Kulas is no longer with ABADA.

MR. ABBOTT added that Ms. Kulas resigned effective the beginning of December, and her position is currently vacant. Bev Schoonover is the acting director for ABADA and Mental Health Board, and is present.

CHAIR COOKE asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by TRUSTEE MICHAEL; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

*There being no objection, the MOTION was approved.*

### ETHICS DISCLOSURES

There were no ethics disclosures.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 17, 2018)

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2018, was made by TRUSTEE MICHAEL; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

TRUSTEE BOERNER referenced her comment on the importance of the comp plan on page 6 and stated that it was important that the unique aspects be reflected in the minutes. She requests that be included.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL suggested writing up what should be included, and those minutes can be approved at the next committee meeting in Juneau.

**MOTION:** A motion to table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting was made by TRUSTEE MICHAEL; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

*There being no objection, the MOTION was approved.*

### JUNEAU HOUSING FIRST

MR. WILLIAMS stated that Kelda Barstad will speak to the Juneau Housing First project.

CHAIR COOKE stated that a motion was needed.

**MOTION: A motion to approve a \$350,000 substance abuse prevention and treatment focus area allocation to the Juneau Housing First Collaborative for the Juneau Housing First Collaborative Phase II -- the funds will be from the treatment focus area strategy -- was made by TRUSTEE DERR; seconded by TRUSTEE EASLEY.**

MS. BARSTAD stated that there are several members of the Juneau Housing First Collaborative on the phone who are willing to speak in more detail about how this project has impacted their community. She continued that the Forget Me Not congregate, single-site, permanent supportive housing units are in place. Phase I is of a similar size of 32 units. Phase II is proposing an add-on to that existing building. Permanent supportive housing is an incredibly critical service for the continuum of care. It combines an opportunity for permanent housing with supportive services for individuals who are chronically homeless; that is what Forget Me Not specifically targets. She added that this proposal is going to focus on single adults. She stated that permanent supportive housing helps individuals stabilize after being homeless. This intervention is critical in moving people from crisis to being able to focus on the goals they have to get well and heal from trauma. She added that people that are homeless experience incredibly high rates of trauma; and having a home to be able to become stable and heal is incredible. She highlighted a few things for the Juneau project, and stated it is a service that works and saves money in the long term as a service system.

MS. LOVISCHUCK stated that she is the executive director of The Glory Hole and thanks all for considering this request. She addressed the question about the location of the project in Lemon Creek. The Glory Hole conducted a survey among their homeless adult patrons about whether they would want to be Downtown or in another location. About 60 percent of them said they did not want to be Downtown due to the fact of there being too much temptation to drink, and there being too much violence. She added that 30 percent did not care; and the other 10 percent wanted to stay Downtown. She explained that The Glory Hole is the emergency shelter, and the Lemon Creek location is much better. It has separated folks from the supportive housing from those who are in active trauma and crisis. Transportation has been provided for folks who need to get to the Lemon Creek facility, which is also close to the bus line.

TRUSTEE SMITH added that all the factors in the area come together in an ideal zoning approval situation for that location.

DR. BROCIOS explained that she had been leading the evaluation on the data, which was recently updated, and noted that a median number of homeless months for each individual is 125 months. The residents that are there now have probably had ten years of homelessness. She talked about the statistics with regard to the decreased service use and stated that there was a significant reduction in use of ER visits, ambulance services, the sleep-off center, and the police services. This is quite an impact on the community. She continued that there has been a decrease in the average number of days per month that residents have had four or more drinks. It appears that drinking has gone down slightly, and that data will continue to be watched. She added that the data has been impressive in terms of the effectiveness both on the community service use and in overall resident well-being.

MR. HARRIS stated that he is the Chief Integrative Service Officer with JAMHI Health & Wellness, which is the service provider for the professional primary medical services, as well as

behavioral health service. He continued that instead of having to go to the emergency room for primary-care needs, the residents go downstairs on a walk-in basis and receive the care. There is a full-time mental health clinician, full-time case manager, a full-time patient assistant, and full-time support nurse for the PA available for all of the residents. He added that having a pharmacy has just been approved, and it will be located at Forget Me Not Manor. That service will include free bubble packing, which will significantly increase medication compliance for the folks. There will also be two nationally certified fitness trainers coming on-site on a weekly basis to provide coaching on various wellness aspects for nutrition, exercise and other activities to promote overall wellness, in addition to the physical wellness. He stated that some prime health issues have been identified that have been addressed more appropriately than through emergency services. The relationship with the clinician and case managers is phenomenal, and they have provided a barrier-free step in services and building relationships necessary for many of these people to develop and become comfortable enough to be able to deal with the traumas that they have lived with. He added that they are very prepared to be able to provide the services to the additional residents from Phase II, in addition to the continued services for the current residents. He thanked the Board for the consideration of the funding request.

MS. DUNN stated that she is the director of case management at Bartlett and added that this is a great opportunity for anyone who may have some outstanding debt at other clinics that are not willing to accept them now with their Medicaid expansion.

MR. HARRIS stated that there is one additional service which is providing medication-assisted treatments out of the clinic. There is a huge demand for that, and that is being provided out of both of the clinics with all of the prescribers.

MS. DUNN stated that the hospital partners very closely with the Midtown clinic which has made health outcomes better for the residents because now providers in the hospital can initiate some interventions that may not have been previously successful. With close follow-up from the clinic and case management, there is a lot more follow-through on initiation from anything from antibiotics to medications for chronic conditions; which will support the health outcomes in the long term. She added that, for the benefit of the residents, there is a big impact at the hospital.

TRUSTEE EASLEY stated that an amazing job is being done, and it has all been pulled together.

CHAIR COOKE stated that it is interesting that this proposal seems to be one in which the Trust's contribution has a huge multiplier effect and that the local entities and the hospital are not only supportive of it with their words, but are also putting money into the expansion. He stated appreciation for all the hard work done by all the partners in Juneau on this proposal.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL reminded trustees that the motion is on the table.

*There being no objection, the MOTION was approved.*

### **PAY FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM**

MS. BARSTAD introduced Nancy Burke, Homeless and Housing Coordinator for the Municipality of Anchorage. She will talk about how the Pay for Success program has developed and will give additional detail on the next year of development and the vision for the future.

MS. BURKE stated that Anchorage will absolutely stand up to the numbers, and this work has been going forward with the Trust's support for many years. She continued that permanent supportive housing involves many different sectors, many different kinds of funding, new configurations of resources to make things easily accessible to people who are the most vulnerable and have the most challenging time getting to those resources. She explained that the Pay for Success project that HUD is supporting in about seven other communities is looking at an arc of how to bring about additional projects to scale with Housing First, as opposed to working project by project. This is a whole community view of what it would take to do Housing First in Anchorage. She continued that with her today was Michelle Brown, the president of United Way which is the sponsor and the fiscal part of the Pay for Success project, which is their expertise in this community. Also on the phone is Annie Dear from Social Finance, a technical assistance entity supporting the Pay for Success project in Anchorage. She stated that permanent supportive housing is appropriate for a large percentage of those adults that are homeless in Anchorage; there are about 1100 people each year that are homeless. Over the past two years, the Pay for Success timeline has worked on receiving the grant and then completing feasibility, which was completed in May of 2018. It is now in project design, and one of the aspects is how to get enough providers to serve the number of people targeted in this project. She talked about the pilot year for the Pay for Success project. She stated that RurAL CAP is a provider that is skilled, and has been the lead in this work for many years. This pilot year is called Year Zero, and will work in depth with providers on skills training and technical assistance. People will be housed in this first year. It will be done in an environment where all can discuss and learn before going into a formal contract in the Pay for Success model. The target will be for 60 people this first year. She explained the eligibility criteria, and then provided some detailed budgets that helped to clarify questions about where Trust funding might be used within this project. One of the things that is important for the partners in this project is that the housing providers have all recognized that it costs more to house vulnerable people with very high needs.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asked if there is a Phase II Housing First single-site project in this to take care of the people that are the most difficult to serve; and will that level of support be provided in scattered sites.

MS. BURKE replied that this is Phase II, and explained that the allocation of those in Anchorage is about 70 or 75 percent scattered-site already being done. She stated that some people want to live in a single-site project because they feel supported; others want to be in the community where no one knows their history or who they are.

CHAIR COOKE asked if the cost for the facility was not included in this projection.

MS. BURKE replied yes, and explained that they are trying to run the capital parallel to the project.

MR. ABBOTT asked what that million dollars was going to be used for.

MS. BURKE replied that there will be capital need for future years, and that million dollars will help support that.

CHAIR COOKE asked the status of this proposal, and if it is offered as an information item.

MR. ABBOTT replied that the Trust has not funded a request like this before, and a funding source has not been identified for this yet. It is an information item.

MS. BURKE stated that the Municipality, a potential co-funder in this project, stated that their commitment to be an end funder on this project is very real. Also, new revenue from an alcohol tax proposal passed the Assembly and will be going to the voters in April in Anchorage as a potential place for payment, not only for Pay for Success, but also for ongoing needs of people in the community that are not making it or who are homeless. She added that there are also other things happening.

### **RURAL CAP**

MS. BARSTAD introduced Patrick Anderson, the CEO of RurAL CAP, and Corrine Smith, the director of housing.

MR. ANDERSON stated that he has been the CEO of RurAL CAP for 11 months and his part of this presentation is to dispel any community discussion about troubles at RurAL CAP. There was a period of turmoil with about six interim and permanent CEOs cycling through in the last three years. He was hired in January and expects to be permanent. He continued that he has three outstanding executives working with him: Tiel Smith, chief operating officer; Corrine O'Neill, director of the division of supportive housing; and the HR manager and chief finance officer rounds out that team with a lot of experience and passion. He moved to the summary of the five years' projected funding for operation of this project. RurAL CAP initially partnered with the Anchorage Community Mental Health System, but they dropped out. Prior leadership felt that this was an important function meeting a critical need within Anchorage, continued with it and assumed the assets. That became Sitka Place, which began operating without any sustained source of funding. He explained that RurAL CAP has no other sources of funding other than what is referred to as discretionary, and we are obligated by nonprofit rules to spend what we have. The project cannot be sustained when we have responsibility to the entire state of Alaska for services.

MS. O'NEILL stated that Sitka Place is located at 1905 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. That property was formed to provide housing when there were no other housing options. RurAL CAP took it over in 2014, and were lucky to work with the Division of Behavioral Health Services that understood the importance of making this into permanent supportive housing, to serve some of the people that had some of the most severe psychiatric issues. There were ongoing operations from them for three years, but they were unable to continue that this year. The gap is why RurAL CAP is challenged to sustain it, and also replicate it around the state. That is not a Medicaid billable service. She continued that seven units were set aside for the VA, and we have been involved in housing some of the highest and most challenging cases from the Choices Act Team. She talked about the challenges and asked for this year of funding to get to where they need to be.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL stated that RurAL CAP is one of the strongest organizations in town and have always been a tremendous contribution to the community. In looking at the funding for FY19 and adding it up, it is almost \$820,000 a year. She asked if that was right.

MS. O'NEILL explained that what was used in the past year was other unrestricted funding, and we have pulled in profit made on other rented buildings to make the project sustainable. Also

planned is raising the rents \$50 per month, which will take about a \$30,000 gap out.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL stated that her recommendation would be three years of funding at \$150,000, because this will not turn around in a year. Medicaid will not happen in a year, and we have already committed to organizations to bring on Medicaid. She continued that she would support the \$150,000.

MR. ANDERSON agreed, and stated that the necessity of continuing to seek funding consumes a lot more of the indirect cost recovery than would ordinarily be allocated. He was not sure that it can make three years because it depends on a lot of independent variables; but this population is important.

CHAIR COOKE stated confusion on whether this is an update because he did not see a funding request. He asked for clarification.

MR. WILLIAMS replied that this is just an informational update, and more information will be brought to the Full Board when we meet in Juneau. This will come directly to the Board.

MR. ANDERSON stated that he failed to acknowledge that Nancy Burke is a member of the RurAL CAP board of directors and thanked the trustees and staff for the opportunity to discuss the many people that are served at Sitka Place.

#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

MR. WILLIAMS stated that not much has changed in the FY20 budget discussion. The new administration came in, and by statute they need to release a budget by the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of December. What the new administration did was use the previous administration's budget that was developed as a starting point to meet that statutory requirement. They claimed to review that budget in detail and re-release their recommendations by February 15<sup>th</sup>. He continued that they plan on releasing a revised budget by mid-January. At that time, staff will go back and re-review what those recommendations were in Governor Dunleavy's budget. The budget release on December 14<sup>th</sup> was reviewed by staff, and there was only one difference between what the trustees recommend and what was included in the budget.

#### **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ITEM**

MR. WILLIAMS provided a high-level overview of what is seen as the advocacy items that will be paid particular attention to, the first being what will happen with Medicaid and Medicaid expansion. It is a very important element, and the reason why the Trust got engaged in pushing for expansion in the beginning. He stated that the other big area is criminal justice reform and looking at how the Administration and/or the Legislature will look at what was enacted through SB 91; if there are any recommendations for changing laws as a package, or whether it is through individual bills. During the election and campaign process, the Administration was pretty strong on wanting to repeal, which was also heard from legislators. He continued that the Criminal Justice Commission will have their first meeting in Juneau before the Trust meeting. There will be new commissioners that will be joining the Commission, and this will be a topic of conversation. He added that staff is collectively looking at these things. He mentioned that the Trust has been engaged with the Primary Care Association, and Trustee Boerner a member in her role as the CEO of the Alaska Native Health Board. There is also a group that are paying close attention to what actions might be taken around Medicaid to have a collective voice to provide

education.

### **API UPDATE**

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that this is a Trust staff update and she is not speaking on behalf of the Department. She continued that there have been some administrative and leadership changes. Gavin Carmichael, the former chief operating officer at API, has been appointed as interim CEO of API. Dr. Guris, chief of psychiatry, is the acting medical director and is providing additional stability there for medical oversight. She added that Al Wall, the new deputy commissioner, pointed out that this is not just an API issue, and we have to think about the full continuum of behavioral health care and services and how that impacts API and the role of API in that system. There are multiple groups working on this that are interested in not just the API issue, but the different components of the system. She stated that API has a governance board that appears to be meeting monthly and includes representatives of the Department, different commissioner-level folks, and folks that have been in the Department. Charlene Tautfest from the Mental Health Board is also a representative in that group. She also pointed out that the Department has established a one-year renewable contract with North Star to provide psychiatric and substance abuse services through their Arctic Recovery Program. That was an attempt to address some of the capacity issues at API to get folks into services.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asked if Duane Mayes returned to SDS.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that he has taken a director position with DVR in the Department of Labor.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asked if there was any progress or comments on crisis intervention.

MR. ABBOTT replied that the Legislature appropriated \$12 million for a variety of substance-use-disorder-related services, a one-time chunk of capital budget money that does not lapse. The Department received one responsive proposal to its RFP and granted \$2 million to Bartlett Memorial Hospital in Juneau. They are making renovations, and were approved for 16 beds. He stated that Southcentral Foundation, Providence and others are working with staff to consider starting this service, and the conversation is continuing.

CHAIR COOKE stated that the board has always felt that this should be a process that the Trust takes an active role in and hoped that was being communicated to the new administration.

MR. ABBOTT stated that was made clear to the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. He continued that the Deputy Commissioner is the one with day-to-day involvement with the API-related challenges, and that the Trust is willing to partner both on the policy, as well as a potential funder of an analysis, consultation, change, et cetera.

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

TRUSTEE SMITH stated that it was a terrific day for the beneficiaries with the land exchange and all that effort. Second, the contact with the communities and continuing to increase the public relations profile of the Trust is terrific.

TRUSTEE BOERNER congratulated staff for the work done, and seeing that come to fruition is a great feeling. She expressed her appreciation and gratitude this past quarter. She talked about



doing a radio program and that it was fantastic to be able to present with Trust staff on the Line One radio program in her capacity for the Alaska Native Health Board and the partnership work done with Alaska Primary Care Association, in addition to the joint meeting. She thanked staff for the support.

CHAIR COOKE concurred with the other comments, and stated that in preparing for this meeting he went to the Web site which was very easy to maneuver, and found what he needed and printed it out. He stated that he liked the product and thanked all.

MR. WILLIAMS shared that on December 28<sup>th</sup> Banasi Lal, who was a commissioner on the Alaska Commission on Aging, passed. He wanted to acknowledge that on the record. He stated that he met Banarsi when he first started at the Trust and that he was a genuinely authentic, caring individual, and someone engaged with the Trust in a variety of capacities. He worked at Fairbanks Native Association, was a longtime commissioner for the Commission on Aging, was a board member for the Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities, served on the advisory council for the Pioneer Homes. He was someone who was actively engaged in the work that we do on a regular basis out in the community and statewide. He acknowledged that a longtime advocate and a friend of the beneficiaries has been lost.

CHAIR COOKE asked for anything further. There being none, he asked for a motion.

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by TRUSTEE EASLEY; seconded by TRUSTEE MICHAEL.

*There being no objection, the MOTION was approved.*

(Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.)