

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting: Special Full Board of Trustee Meeting
Date: March 27, 2020
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Teleconference Only
Teleconference: (844) 740-1264 / Session No: 804 694 192 # / Attendee No: #
<http://thetrust.webex.com>
Trustees: Mary Jane Michael (Chair), Chris Cooke, Ken McCarty, Verné Boerner,
Laraine Derr, Anita Halterman, John Sturgeon

Friday, March 27, 2020

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1:00 **Call to Order – Mary Jane Michael, Chair**
Roll Call
Announcements
Approval of Agenda
Ethics Disclosure

1:05 **COVID-19 Response Funding**

3:00 **Adjourn**

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MEMO

To: Mary Jane Michael, Chair
From: Mike Abbott, Chief Executive Officer
Date: March 22, 2020
Re: Designation of authority grant funds – COVID-19 Response grant program

REQUESTED MOTION:

Approve using \$1,000,000 in FY20 authority grant funds to establish a COVID-19 Response grant program to assist organizations serving Trust beneficiaries to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The authority grant funds to create this grant program are outlined below.

BACKGROUND

With the onset of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, organizations serving Trust beneficiaries have encountered sudden disruptions in their ability to operate and provide crucial services. The Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web in Anchorage and the Polaris House Clubhouse in Juneau have both discontinued services until at least March 31st. Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS), which serves beneficiaries in Anchorage and Fairbanks, implemented safety precautions which have unanticipated budget costs and limit access.

On March 16th the Foraker Group deployed a survey to non-profits statewide to assess the ways in which COVID-19 is and will impact Alaska's non-profit sector, including Trust beneficiary serving organizations. Of the 310 organizations that complemented the survey to date, more than 60 have been identified as directly serving beneficiaries of the Trust. From this survey, direct outreach from Trust staff and inquires directly made to the Trust several critical areas of need have been identified. These include:

- Disruption of services to clients and communities
- Budgetary implications related to strains on the economy
- Loss of revenues due to inability to provide services
- Increased and sustained staff and volunteer absences
- Disruption of supplies or services provided by partners

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In response to these anticipated areas of need, the service disruption impacts on beneficiaries and the financial stress placed on our non-profit organizations Trust staff have assessed how the Trust could be of assistance. Trust staff have identified previously approved FY20 Authority Grant funds that could and are recommended to be reallocated given this unforeseen and unprecedented public health crisis. Those previously approved FY20 Authority Grant funds, as outlined below, totaling

\$1,000,000 would be reallocated to establish a *COVID-19 Response grant program* to provide immediate grant assistance to Trust beneficiary serving organizations.

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FY20 Authority Grant Funds to be Reallocated

<p>FY20 Emergency Assistance Funds</p> <p>Trustees approved \$750,000 for emergency assistance grants for community behavior health providers impacted by planned Medicaid and grant reductions in the FY20 budget process. Following the resolution of the FY20 state budget process and the restoration of state Medicaid and grant funding, Trust emergency assistance was no longer needed. The Trust had granted out \$265,000 to agencies leaving a balance of \$485,000.</p>	<p>\$485,000</p>
<p>FY20 Pooled Predevelopment Fund</p> <p>The Foraker Pre Development Program ended in 2019, resulting in the Trust moving funds previously designated for the Pre Development program as a stand-alone budget item in anticipation of capital requests. The Trust did not receive requests that were not accommodated through the existing partnership grant process, resulting in a balance of \$150,000.</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>
<p>FY20 Supplemental Dental Grant Funds</p> <p>Trustees approved additional funding to ensure beneficiaries had access to preventative dental care when the administration announced elimination of this benefit in early 2020. The benefit was restored by the administration in 2019 resulting in an unexpended balance in the amount of \$200,000.</p>	<p>\$200,000</p>
<p>FY20 SAPT Focus Area – Treatment Access line item</p> <p>A balance in the amount of \$450,000 exists in the SAPT focus area “Access to Treatment” strategy because a large-scale treatment expansion project in planning stages is postponed until FY2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic.</p>	<p>\$165,000</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>

The application and grant award process for these funds would be similar to the Trust Partnership Grant program. Potential grantees would be determined through both targeted outreach by Trust staff, and a broad solicitation through the Trust’s website and social media. A basic grant application letter would be collected from all interested applicants and screened by Trust staff for funding suitability. The funds would be used in the following broad priority areas:

- assistance for emergent beneficiary needs;
- identified health & safety issues; and,
- operational assistance.

Final grant approval would be made by the Chief Executive Officer within the normal grant approval thresholds, not to exceed \$100,000 to any single agency.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Trust staff discussed this recommendation with our statutory Advisory Boards (Alaska Commission on Aging, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse) and they support this recommendation. Staff recommends trustee approval of this reallocation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.