

Written Public Comment

(received February 5, 2025)



2/6/2025

Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees Testimony

By: Tamar Ben-Yosef

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership

Good morning members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is Tamar Ben-Yosef, and I am here today representing our organization A2P2 – the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership.

Since 1995, A2P2 has worked closely with partners and stakeholders across Alaska to transform systems of care and increase access to health care and related services for all of Alaska’s children and their families.

We are grateful for the partnership we’ve developed over the years with the Mental Health Trust and for your support that has enabled us to grow as a trusted source of data and information on children’s health-needs and opportunities in Alaska. Your investment in our work is positively impacting the health of your pediatric beneficiaries and the wellness of their families overall.

In response to a need highlighted by the Mental Health Trust, A2P2 began working with partners to conduct a statewide needs assessment of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health in Alaska. Today, I would like to share the final report with you and to thank you for recognizing the importance of this field as you, state leadership and policymakers tackle immense challenges related to the wellbeing of your beneficiaries.

The term infant and early childhood mental health is frequently misunderstood.



Infant and early childhood mental health is defined as “the ability of young children to form close and secure relationships, experience and manage a full range of emotions, explore and engage with their environment and learn within the context of family, community, and culture.”

Understanding the interconnections between programs, policies, and the needs of caregivers and young children is crucial to our ability to address them through policy and investment.

This report establishes a common understanding of what infant and early childhood mental health is and highlights the foundational work that has been done to bring IECMH into existing programs in Alaska, unmet critical needs, and the opportunities to build a more coordinated system of services and supports. There are still significant gaps that must be considered when planning investments in child care, early childhood workforce, maternal mental health, Medicaid reimbursement policies, etc.

This report includes six recommendations based on the findings in this report and also informed by ZERO TO THREE’s framework for developing comprehensive statewide infrastructure to support IECMH. These recommendations include both specific IECMH specific needs, as well as the opportunities to strengthen the intersecting workforce and programs that IECMH services and supports depend on.

I am happy to share that there are already efforts underway to address the recommendations, specifically relating to increasing workforce, increasing access to support for early childhood providers and to messaging and education.



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

We look forward to sharing more information with you on these efforts and invite you to reach out to us with any questions about the report or its findings.

Thank you all for your commitment to this important work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamar Ben-Yosef".

Tamar Ben-Yosef
Executive Director
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership



2/5/2025

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

My name is Desiree Scott. I am the current director of Alaska Center for Resource Families (ACRF). I am writing in support of the Alaska Impact Alliance funding of the UReCares Stipend and Respite Program.

ACRF has offices in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Mat-Su and serves families statewide. We provide support, information, and training to foster, adoptive, kinship, and guardianship families throughout Alaska. ACRF Believes in the collaborative projects of the Alaska Impact Alliance, to include the UReCares stipend and Respite Program.

Unlicensed relative caregivers often receive very little support from OCS, rarely receiving monetary support. It is extremely common for relative caregivers to become emergency placements, resulting in little time to prepare and plan for the children in their care. Unlicensed relative caregivers do not have time to build on support systems, when overnight placement occurs. Many relative caregivers reside in Rural Alaska, who are often off the road system. Financial hardship is one of the largest concerns reported amongst unlicensed relative caregivers.

The stipend and respite program provided by the Alaska Impact Alliance provides a tremendous amount of financial support for unlicensed caregivers. These funds and services provided supports unlicensed relative caregivers and prevents children from unnecessarily entering foster care with strangers.

Respectfully,
Desiree Scott



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5050 Dunbar Drive, Suite A2 Wasilla, AK 99654 tel 907.376.4678 fax 907.376.4638

www.acrf.org

Jadeen Blythe

From Jadeen Blythe <jadeenelving@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:34 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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I would like to be heard via phone I've been waiting on the phone since testimony started and haven't had a chance to speak. If I don't get to speak I wanted to leave a message.

Message below 🖱️

I called in to offer support for Alaska Impact Alliance Funding of the Urecares Stripend and Respite Program. I'm a relative caregiver. I wasn't expecting to raise my grandson. When we moved him in we were already budgeting every penny to get by. And the support we received from the Urecares Stripend program helped us tremendously financial with gas for the car to make it to all my grandsons mental health appointments and doc appointments. And meeting with the OCS caseworkers. It also helped us buy clothes and other much needed items he needed when he moved in with us. He moved in with absolutely nothing. We bought him a brand new bed some toys and of course shoes and clothes he needed badly. We even got to take him to Hatchers Pass for a mountain experience. He loved it. He never had his own bedroom before let alone his own toys and clothes that weren't shared with other kids his age. It meant so much to me that we were given this help.

I would love it if Alaska Impact Alliance helps the Urecares Stripend and Respite Program to help more families like mine. It meant the world to me that people cared about us.

Thank you

Jadeen Blythe

Public comment for Beacon Hill

From Bobbi Andrew-Green <bdgreen86@icloud.com>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 2:25 PM

To Public.comment@mhtrust.org <Public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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My name is Bobbi Green, and I am a licensed Alaska resource family caring for medically complex children. I am always grateful for Beacon Hill and the incredible support they provide. Whenever I receive a new placement, they come together to ensure immediate needs are met providing meals, clothing, and essential supplies.

I have also had the opportunity to use their visitation services with previous placements, and in my experience, it was essential to the family's success in reuniting. Beacon Hill serves as a vital hub for families experiencing foster care, as well as for resource families like mine. Their support makes a real difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Green

Sent from my iPhone

AK Mental Health Trust Authority

From Candice Richardson <candice@beaconhillak.com>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:45 PM
To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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Hello,

My name is Candice Richardson and I am 26 years old. In Dec of 2013, I entered foster care here in Alaska with my younger sister. In 2017, I exited care at age 18 and was connected to Beacon Hill through my previous OCS case worker. I started working in the boutique processing donations in 2017. This was my first real job. Working in the boutique gave me customer service skills, computer, phone, and literacy skills. With the support of Beacon Hill, I eventually became the manager of the boutique and continued to build skills with an ultimate goal of working with families. 7 years later, I am now in the position of my dreams as Director of the Beacon Hill Anchorage Family Support Center where I facilitate family contact for children in foster care and able to use my lived experience to walk parents through reunifying with their children.

Over the years, Beacon Hill has been a rock in my life. I have watched miracles run through this place and have been so blessed to be a part of its growth over the years. From teaching me how to be an independent, hardworking adult to walking me through being a first-time mom during the 2020 COVID pandemic and its added financial challenges. One of my favorite parts about Beacon Hill is its mission to serve vulnerable families across the state and how each staff member is valued and cherished for their work, motivating us to grow and continue serving. The funding we receive from Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority will help us continue serving Alaska's families at risk.

Thank you so much for your consideration of the proposal to expand the Family Resource Center at Beacon Hill,

It's going to help many others just like me.

Candice Richardson

Family Support Center Director - Anchorage

907-222-0925 | Helpline: 907-277-0925

candice@beaconhillak.com

2807 ARCTIC BLVD, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

www.beaconhillak.com



Public Testimony: Alaska Impact Alliance's Family Resource Center Network

From Dawn Paulson <Dawn@beaconhillak.com>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:51 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

You don't often get email from dawn@beaconhillak.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My name is Dawn Paulson. I'm the Family Support Director with Beacon Hill and we are a founding member of the AK Family Resource Center Network. We provide tangible needs for families such as diapers, formula, clothing, household, and hygiene items. We also provide Family Support services to reduce trauma and build hope for all who are impacted by foster care, primarily this is family contact for children in the foster care system. Frequent, quality family contact is a primary indicator of reunification for families with children in out of home placement and provides opportunities for families to practice new parenting skills.

The resources the AK FRC Network is providing our agency and staff is so valuable – from research informed trainings on applicable topics like standards of quality, to cross agency collaboration, and most importantly a database.

As a small child-welfare non-profit agency, our focus is on the children and families we're serving. Often data collection is challenging, especially when investing precious raised funds towards administrative tools like a costly database rarely rises to the top of the budget list but is needed. Being able to join forces with other agencies, learn from one another, and have a shared resource like the Family Assistance Management System (FAMS) database is so helpful to the work we do. It makes data collection simple, documentation organized, and we look forward to pulling reports to inform the services we currently provide and decisions for growth. The tools built into the database and those to come, aid us in assessing a family's needs, evaluating the quality of services we're providing and impact of those services on families. We have used the FRC startup grant funds for the time and staff costs of attending training and implementing the database. Although the database is intuitive, being the first agency to use it requires extra time to work out kinks and learning new systems has its learning curve and workforce

challenges. The lift is great, but the payoff will be worth it when we are using it to its full potential.

We are grateful for the opportunity it gives our families and services. We are grateful for the collaboration the Network provides us with as an agency – together we do better work. We are grateful we can help develop this phenomenal resource for other small agencies like us to benefit from.

Thank you for your time and consideration of public testimony.



Dawn Paulson

Family Support Director

907-222-0925 | Helpline: 907-277-0925

Dawn@beaconhillak.com

2807 ARCTIC BLVD, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

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A graphic banner for Beacon Hill. At the top, the logo 'BEACONHILL' is displayed in a light blue and dark blue font. Below the logo are three circular icons: 1) 'SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN ALASKA' with a hands icon, labeled 'PREVENT'; 2) 'FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES' with a stroller icon, labeled 'SUPPORT'; 3) 'HEART GALLERY OF ALASKA' with an Alaska map icon, labeled 'ADVOCATE'. At the bottom, the text 'THROUGH LOVE' is written in light blue.

A dark blue rounded rectangular button. On the left is a white calendar icon. To its right, the text 'BOOK A MEETING WITH ME | CLICK HERE' is written in white, uppercase letters.

Public Comment re: SHARP

From Rachel Gearhart <Rachel@jamhi.org>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:00 PM
To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

 1 attachment (13 KB)
Document2.docx;

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I am unable to stay on for public comments any longer, thank you for your consideration!

Rachel Gearhart

Rachel Gearhart, LCSW, CDC I
(she/her)
Chief Operating Officer
JAMHI Health & Wellness, Inc.
3406 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 463-3303
Find us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#)

JAMHI exists on the beautiful ancestral and contemporary land of the A'akw Kwáan and T'aakú Kwáan peoples. I am humbled to work, recreate and live here; and affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history and experiences.

If I fail to ask, please let me know your preferred pronouns when speaking with you.

"Helping people live their own best lives"



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expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal regulations 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

My name is Rachel Gearhart and I'm an LCSW with JAMHI Health & Wellness, Inc. in Juneau. I believe that we have a tabled funding request that we'll have someone available to speak to during the appropriate time frame for that; but I'd like to share public comment about the usefulness of SHARP contracts in spaces that support beneficiaries.

I am a former SHARP 2 recipient who paid dutifully on my student loans for 8 years before I was eligible for and approved for a SHARP contract. Successfully completing my SHARP 2 contract allowed me to stay in Alaska, repay my student loans 10+ years earlier than I would have been able to on my own and remain with my same employer for more than 14 years – moving from the intake clinician all the way up to COO today. Eventually I was lucky enough to be a part of the SHARP Council and help get SHARP 3 legislation passed in May 2019.

JAMHI and agencies like ours have long struggled with recruitment and retention of behavioral health providers as we work to do more for our clients with less. fee for service rates that don't always align with actual costs. We currently have three SHARP-3 contracts that we have been able to use to hire and retain high-quality employees with the support of the Trust. While there are some additional support-for-service opportunities, they were not options for these three employees because they did not have student loans to repay. Without these SHARP contracts we may not have retained these employees the length of time that we have; one of them has recently hit more than 10 years at our agency; one will reach five years in March; and the last one will reach nearly 3 years. We're so thankful for the Trust's support of SHARP's Support-for-Service programs in Alaska.

SPAM: Public Support for URe Cares Stipend & Resource

From Holly Handler <holly@southeastkin.org>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 1:01 PM
To 'public.comment@mhtrust.org' <public.comment@mhtrust.org>
Cc 'Charity Carmody' <charity@alaskaimpactalliance.com>

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Dear Members of the Board:

Thank you so much for listening to all of the public testimony this afternoon. You have great patience! I'm sorry time ran out before I got to testify and want to pass on written comments.

I'm a co-director of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit culturally-based kinship navigator program serving Southeast Alaska kin families. These are grandmas, aunties, uncles, and other families raising their little relatives outside the state foster care system. Data tells us that for every child in the custody of the Alaska Office of Children's Services, there are eleven in "informal" care. We urge you to support the Ure Cares program run by the Alaska Impact Alliance to support those informal kin families and help keep kids out of the system.

The financial support available to informal caregivers versus licensed foster parents is huge – \$452 a month for the former versus about \$1400 per month for the latter. Many informal caregivers don't even take advantage of that temporary assistance benefit out of fear that related child support requirements for the parents will harm the family. Relatives raising kids come from all walks of life and all economic circumstances. But even for working adults, the cost of caring for an extra child or children – often in a crisis – can be overwhelming. We referred clients to the URe Cares program to help cover things like shoes, winter coats, bedding, sports equipment, fishing rods, school activity travel, and cultural regalia. When families can get those basic supports, they can have more peace of mind, enjoy more stability, and keep kids in safe homes longer. The investment pays off community-wide by kids being able to stay with family instead of stranger foster care, be better students at school, eventually become better workers in the work force, and be in a better position to be community leaders.

Thank you so much for your past support of the program, and continued support going into the future. These relatively small investments go such a long way.

Holly Handler

Kin Support Program – Haa Yaitx'u Saiani
Co-Director/Kin Legal Advisor
907-321-9433
southeastkin.org
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100% Communities - Alaska

From Jennifer Hudson <jchudson4@alaska.edu>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 1:36 PM
To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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Hello,

I tried to make a public comment but did not get the chance. My name is Jennifer Hudson, and I am a person in long-term recovery who has been a part of the 100% Communities - Alaska (Kenai Peninsula) initiative since its inception. I am writing to express my support of this initiative and its vital efforts to establish a coalition and hire a dedicated coordinator. This initiative ensures the well-being and resilience of our community through increasing access to essential services, including food, housing, transportation, medical, dental, education, behavioral health, family support, job training, and more. This initiative is a data-driven, collaborative model that brings together diverse stakeholders into ten action teams to address systemic challenges and create actionable solutions. This initiative seeks to eliminate barriers and improve the quality of life for all residents of the Kenai Peninsula. I have seen this initiative begin with reading a book, doing a survey in the local grocery stores, and now seeing the 907 app on my colleague's phones. This shift from paper resource lists, done by a variety of entities to this streamlined app that is available across Alaska, is an example of how this initiative works for Alaskans statewide. We are trying to find the gaps and bridge them through conversation and action.

The formation of a coalition is a significant step forward in building a unified, inclusive network of local organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to these shared goals. Additionally, hiring a coordinator is essential to ensuring the initiative's success, as this role will facilitate communication, organize resources, and drive the implementation of strategies tailored to our community's unique needs. This initiative has the potential to bring significant transformative change to our region. With the help of Alaska Impact Alliance and the Mental Health Trust, I know first-hand this is useful and benefits our community.

**Gratitude,
Jennifer Hudson RCP, PSPII, CT**

***Graduate Student Peer in Recovery**
University of Alaska Peers & Allies to Wellbeing & Recovery (UA PAWR)
***Writing Specialist**
Phone: 907.262.0321

***Job Training & Postsecondary Education Action Team Co-Lead**
<https://www.alaskaimpactalliance.com/907-resource-navigations/>
Read the Anchorage Daily News article: [Solving the Community Service Gap in the Kenai Peninsula](#)



SPAM: Support AKMHTA funding for Beacon Hill Family Resource Center Expansion

From Dave Kuiper <DKuiper@christianhealth.org>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 11:43 AM

To Public.comment@mhtrust.org <Public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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To whom it concerns,

I am writing in support of the Trust's help in funding the expansion of Beacon Hill's Family Resource Center.

The purpose of Beacon Hill is to "support, serve, and encourage vulnerable children within our community." Its Family Resource Center is the hub for all its programs designed to prevent crisis, support families and advocate for children who would otherwise be at risk of suffering adverse conditions and potential unhealthy and unsafe outcomes. From the Family Resource Center:

- Beacon Hill partners with the Alaska Office of Children's Services to provide space and supervised family contact for families with children in foster care referred to them.
- Beacon Hill provides Safe Families for children whose families find themselves in a personal crisis and benefit from a safe place and family for children to be hosted while their parent(s) work through the crisis.
- Beacon Hill also makes available tangible needs in its Boutique for foster families, kinship or relative providers and biological families who may be struggling to make ends meet.

These are just three of the ways the Family Resource Center is utilized to fulfill the purposes of Beacon Hill that, in my opinion, also serve the purposes of the Trust as it "works in prevention and early intervention services for individuals at risk of becoming beneficiaries."

As Project Coordinator for the Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter funded by grant from the Municipality of Anchorage, I view Beacon Hill as a key partner in our efforts to support the families that we host during the cold weather months. Our families have often benefitted from "shopping" in the Boutique, where each family member can receive clothing and other resources at no charge to them. We have also partnered with Beacon Hill to provide a safe place for a family to stay while critical issues in the family are sorted out.

Beacon Hill is a vital part of the safety fabric of our community. They have outgrown the capacity of the current Family Resource Center and NEED the renovations proposed for its expansion so they might meet the growing need to "support, serve, and encourage vulnerable children within our community." I encourage you to help fund this project!

Sincerely,

Dave

David Kuiper, MDiv
Associate Director
Faith-Based Community Initiatives Liaison
Pastoral Counselor / Life-Coach

2121 Abbott Road, Suite 202, Anchorage, AK 99507
Office (907) 522-7090 | Direct (907) 802-1502 | Cell (907) 317-2887
www.christianhealth.org



“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Testimony - Storyworks AK

From Laureli Ivanoff <Laureli@AKNPA.org>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:34 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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Thank you for taking the time.

My name is Laureli Ivanoff, originally from Unalakleet. I currently serve as the Executive Director of Native Peoples Action, a statewide nonprofit. I am also a current columnist and writer for High Country News. I've written for Anchorage Daily News, Outside and Orion magazines, and The New York Times and I am passionate about accurately sharing stories from the Alaska Native community. I thoroughly believe in the need for Indigenous representation in all forms of media. For this, students throughout Alaska need to understand they have a story. And honor the stories and experience of their peers.

In 2016 I was thrilled to welcome Storyworks to our community in Unalakleet and Unalakleet Schools. Connecting Regan Brooks, the founder, and Unalakleet High School English teacher Giaana Peterson to bring the first team out to our community on the west coast of Alaska was exciting. Exciting because I knew our young people in Unalakleet would have the opportunity to practice crafting a personal story and share their story, not only with their class, but with the community.

We all know building community is essential during a time when people are more disconnected than ever. Story is the easiest way to foster understanding and bridge gaps between us as human beings. Giving young people the opportunity to work with community mentors, Storyworks staff, and one another does many things is giving in so many ways. It builds confidence. Provides practice for doing scary things in the future, and shows young people they have a voice and can use their voice.

I firmly believe in Storyworks and the work they do in our communities and for our communities. I would love to see the trust support Storyworks and see our young people gain important skills for current and future success.

Thank you.

Laureli V. Ivanoff | Paniuq

Executive Director

[Native Peoples Action](#) & [NPA Community Fund](#)

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907.304.3200


 Image

TESTIMONY

From Jodi McLaughlin <mclaughlin98@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 12:18 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

 1 attachment (18 KB)

Testimony AKEDA.docx;

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Hello—I was very confused to handle calling in on phone and where I fit in the line to testify.

Here is my testimony I spent time on and hope to share with the group.

Jodi McLaughlin
907-223-7359

We never thought our healthy happy 20yr old may be vulnerable to a serious insidious Eating Disorder (ED). When a very traumatic event struck in college, soon so did the ED unbeknownst to us. It would get months head start gaining a foothold of self-destruction in her before we'd notice something off during brief visits, and years before she courageously revealed needing help. This is not uncommon. EDs are sneaky and they lie.

We thought we had talked about all the right things. It wasn't enough. There had been some body image issues within sport, leaving her more vulnerable to an ED. Had she & we been armed, insulated, and supported with better knowledge and words, the seeds to later grow into the cruel devastating battlefield of an ED may not have taken root. It zapped inner strength, peace, and confidence taking over her life, and in many ways mine. A local counselor explained most of her clients navigate through some level of disordered eating at some point in their life, thankfully many are able to avoid an actual ED. Add social media in kids' pockets feeding algorithms on how to be skinny or how to hide throwing up, add a trauma, and add a campus party practice, it can become not only normalized but glorified. We were in disbelief & shock as she and friend explained just how common "Pulling Trig" (PT) is on campus. I inquired what made him once briefly concerned enough to ask if she had a problem, he explained & then added "but then PT is just not all that uncommon". Sure enough tiktok and google produce plenty of hits on this campus culture activity. If you've had too much to drink and don't want a headache, just PT. If you are day drinking and have hours of partying to go, just PT. If the room is spinning or you need more room, just PT. My loved one sometimes used this more "socially acceptable" practice to hide the shame of actual her ED, and peers around her were none the wiser.

There is so much to learn, countless support sessions, clinics, books, appointments, then attempt to educate family, on egg shells in your home hoping you aren't doing it all wrong all day every day. I belong to enormous facebook communities where some have been struggling for 20-30 years with inadequate diagnosis, treatment, or support. When an everyday basic life function is interrupted, stunted, and warped, particularly while their bodies and brains are developing, it's catastrophic physically, emotionally, and mentally, and takes skilled treatment. What we wouldn't do to have had a survival suit to pull out when the inevitable storms in life arrived and avoid the struggle that is now hers. My daughter spent 3 hrs/nt 3nts/wk over 9wks in her room during her internship doing intensive therapy online fighting to regain her footing. Then started another program leveraged by us to return to school. Thank goodness for her motivation, determination, and grit and that we have adequate insurance for lifesaving IOPs to the tune of \$50,000 apiece allowing a continuation of education and life, but some are not so fortunate. When others are having coffee or visiting with friends, she is in appointments between classes. Sacrifices stack up--emotions, time, energy, heartache, anxiety, missed opportunities. Before she was even capable of sharing her diagnosis we spent 8 weeks in an online Denver based course with other parents learning how to perhaps effectively talk to her about this. Making recovery a priority is all consuming.

I urge you to prioritize this issue by funding AKEDA so they can educate the community, fund prevention programs, minimize risks, and support impacted Alaskans so that families like mine can avoid the turmoil of trying to exorcise an ED from their child that can disrupt for a lifetime.

Public comment for Beacon Hill

From Cindy Vegetabile <vegetabile.cindy@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 2:25 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

Cc Kristen Bierma <kristen@beaconhillak.com>

[You don't often get email from vegetable.cindy@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello! I was unable to call in to give my public comment for Beacon Hill, so I am submitting and writing instead. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

—

Name: Cindy Vegetabile

Role: Foster parent

Comment: I am so grateful for the services that Beacon Hill provides. As a new foster parent, and a new parent to kids in general, they have been a phenomenal resource. Not only do they help me find clothes and physical items for my children to make sure they're cared for to the best of my ability, but when my home lost power for two days in January during my first week of childcare, Beacon Hill was able to help me find a place to stay with my children to make sure we were safe and warm.

They are constantly available, accessible, and going above and beyond in everything they do. They truly have a passion for helping families in our community, and they are easily the most helpful organization I have worked with throughout my fostering journey. It truly takes a community to raise a child, and I am so proud and grateful that Beacon Hill is part of my community. They are essential. Thank you for supporting them and helping them to further their mission.

Best,
Cindy Vegetabile

Reentry Coalition

Fairbanks Alaska, Marsha Oss

11/27/2024

Dear Reentry Coalition Team,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the grant support you provided me during my time of transition. Your generosity and belief in my potential have been instrumental in helping me rebuild my life.

The grant not only gave me the financial assistance I needed but also instilled a renewed sense of hope and determination. With your help, I was able to use my grant funds, to help secure stable housing, job training, and tools for work, which has been critical in my journey toward self-sufficiency.

Thanks to this opportunity, I have been able to Enroll full time at UAF, where I'm pursuing a associates degree for Process Technology, where I have achieved a 3.8 GPA. As well as maintaining a full-time job at C&R Pipe & Steel. This milestone has opened doors for a brighter future and given me the confidence to keep moving forward.

I am deeply grateful for the important work you do to support individuals like me, and I hope to one day pay it forward and contribute to others' success as you have contributed to mine.

Thank you for being a vital part of my journey.

Sincerely,

Chris Gillaspy

Marsha Oss

From: Denzel Mcklin <mcklindenzenel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2024 8:00 PM
To: Marsha Oss

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello..This is Arvin Castro I just wanna say Thank You So Much to Alaska Trust Authority and Ms Marsha Oss For Giving Me a chance to start with my Life again after my incarceration and To Forget my past that put me in trouble..You Guys Helped Is A big break for me to start myself in a right way and This will be one of my motivation to start and do the right thing..Thank You so much I really Appreciate u guys with all my Heart..God Bless You all 🙏❤️

Marsha Oss

From: Mark W. Adair <markwadair10@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Dear Alaska trust Authority,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for furnishing my new apartment with a TV stand, Kitchen table & chairs and a dresser. I had no idea this kind of support exists for people who go through adversity. Between all of you who helped me and the folks with the VA veterans care program - I have the support of being back on my feet and onward to great things.

Sincerely,
Mark W. Adair

Marsha Oss

From: Marsha Oss
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Text from Jack Brown

Tis is to the Alaska trust Authority I wish to thank you very much for your assistance in obtaining my apartment and helping me get back on my feet I couldn't have gotten a better start in life with out your help again I wish to thank you very much sincerely Jack Brown
Sent from my iPhone

Marsha Oss

From: prosperous128 <prosperous128@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 9:00 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Alaska Trust Authority

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Alaska Trust Authority,

I would like to thank you for the support and supplies that have been granted to myself and the local community here in the North Star Barrow. I am more stable in my life than ever before, and it feels good to say I have a home and can pay bills. This is definitely possible due to the contribution of the Trust Authority. I hope to someday become stable and wealthy enough to do the same for others as you have done for me. After my incarceration I can say I am now a productive member of society. It is my dream to continue to succeed, and build a farm to help with increasing Alaskan locally grown farm and produce, the Trust Authority has help me move a step closer to this goal.

Thank you, your truly Corey Green

Sent from Proton Mail Android

Marsha Oss

From: Tabitha Truax <tntrax37@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 8:03 AM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Alaska Trust Authority Thank You Letter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dearest Alaska Trust Authority,

I would like to say thank you for all you have done for me and my recovery & Helping me get the things that I needed to accomplish my goals this year. In the past year you have helped me sustain stability. Which is something that I have wanted in my life for a very long time being a recovering drug addict. You don't understand how grateful I am. I'm currently fourteen months clean, I have a home, I have a wonderful career, That you also help me buy Winter Gear for! I couldn't have done it without you! And the help of Marsha Oss. So again thank you! Your kindness truly Has helped me through some very dark times. I will continue to make you proud!

Yours Truly,

Tabitha Truax

Marsha Oss

From: Dana Smoke <danasmoke81@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 9:17 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Re: Recall: This is what is coming

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern. I am writing this letter to show my gratitude to the Alaska Trust Authority. My name is Dana smoke i am 32 years old and I have four children ages ranging from 8-12. I was recently released from being incarcerated for almost 2 years. When getting out I was worried about where I was gonna live and how I was gonna successfully get on my feet once again. Going to Marsha Oss She gave me hope and made me and my essential needs feel important. I received help with move in costs which helped me immediately within days of being released from being incarcerated. Also i recieved help with some essentials right away. Like a jacket and clothing and items like that. Me and my kids are truly grateful for all the beds and household items we have received. Never in my life have I ever gotten brand new furniture and items like the ones me and my children have gotten. It felt like a dream to me. Because of everything the Alaska Trust Authority has helped me with I have gotten such an amazing fresh start with my life. It helped with relief of so many different needs. Thank you for everything you have done for me and my children. No words will ever be enough to try to explain how truly grateful I am and how blessed I feel. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Dana Smoke

On Fri, Sep 27, 2024, 10:16 AM Marsha Oss <MOss@fairbanks.us> wrote:
Marsha Oss would like to recall the message, "This is what is coming".

To whom it may Concern.

I wanted to express my appreciation to Alaska Trust Authority. The help the trust has given me with move-in cost deposit and 3 months rent.

Their generosity has gotten me on my way to self-sustained lifestyle, upon re-entering into society and left with nothing.

Within those few months of help, I was able to find work and put myself through school.

Now being well on my way to completing school, with a permanent position in Local 375 Union.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,
Shawnee Post.

Shawnee Post.

12/04/24

Alaska Trust Authority,

Greetings. My name is Kyran Ruerup and I was released on 6/21/24. Since then I have gotten my own apartment, a steady full-time job, and own a vehicle. I am writing you this letter to express my sincere gratitude for your aid in helping my reintegration into society.

Your funds have been used to get me things that I have sorely needed. Two years into my incarnation my storage unit was broken into and cleared out. My whole life was in that unit and we didn't find out about the theft until I was released two years later. The funds you have generously provided purchased my bed, bedding, couch, tv, clothes, appliances, and other household items.

I do not know what I would have done without your help. I can not possibly thank you enough for the support you have shown me. I am sure that I would still be struggling to make my apartment into a home if I had not received your help. I am truly grateful for your time and aid. I hope you have a blessed holiday season.

Thank you for everything,
Sincerely,
Kyran W. Ruerup

Marsha Oss

From: John Gloria <johngloria161982@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Trust authority thanks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, my name is John Gloria. I was recently released from incarceration this past year and through great people like Marsha Oss and the trust committee I have been able to reintegrate myself back into society, without help from this committee and Marsha I honestly don't know where I would be since my recent conviction I have always live life on the wrong side of society only up until my release this time I've never had any real support from anyone who truly wants to see me succeed, so the keys to success have always felt outside of my grasp, but this time around has been different with the support of this committee and Marsha I feel as though I can finally be a functioning member of society, so thank you for all the support and help in my path to success

December 6, 2024

To Alaska Trust Authority:

Thank you so much for your support in helping me get back on my feet. Your assistance has made a great difference in aiding me to continue moving forward in re-establishing my life after years of addiction.

Funding the cost of obtaining my driver's license and SR-22 insurance was a huge step in making it possible for me to find employment.

Providing financial assistance for an apartment, furniture, and household goods was more than I could have imagined.

I am humbled by your generosity and thank you sincerely. I will definitely help others in need when I can.

With gratitude,

Troy E. Towse

Marsha Oss

From: Marsha Oss
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 7:28 AM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Cristy Melvin

Hey this is a thank you note going to the Alaska trust authority I want to thank you for all your help that you've done getting me clothing and hygiene stuff it's greatly appreciated without you guys I would have gotten out with nothing again thank you for all the warm clothes and thank you for helping me with hygiene materials also shampoo body soaps. This program has been a great help for me to getting me back started on my feet Sent from my iPhone

Marsha Oss

From: Ursula Trueheart <ursulatrueheart1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Hello, my name is Ursula Trueheart. I was recently incarcerated and upon my release I've learned about the programs that offered reentry appreciative of the help that I received from the reentry program. I really appreciate all the help that I received...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, my name is Ursula Trueheart. I was recently incarcerated and upon my release I've learned about the programs that offered reentry appreciative of the help that I received from the reentry program. I really appreciate all the help that I received and I want to thank you tremendously on the help that you provided me with since then I've been able get back on my feet to have my car fixed. Buy new clothes I really appreciate it and just know that you make a difference in people who are going through the reentry program thank you.

To: Alaska Trust Authority

I would like to thank the Alaska Trust Authority from the bottom of my heart for allowing Marsha Oss to help me and my 2 son's, one 14 year old and one 7 month old, get back on our feet. I've been struggling for about 6 years with addiction and just recently turned my life around for good. I just graduated a yearlong treatment with Wellness Court and now have a full time job at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. Your program has helped me with my deposit for my first apartment that I've had in a very long time. I also got help with so much more; my electric deposit, and everything to make my apartment a home for me and my 2 kids. We were able to get a beautiful couch, a queen bed frame, mattress, bedding for all of us, kitchen dishware, bathroom necessities, a bed for my baby, pots and pans, a T.V for our living room, a vacuum, microwave, and so much more. We now have everything we need to get by and I couldn't be more excited and grateful to be able to provide my kids with the necessities that they need and deserve and now I am able to give them a life they deserve thanks to your program for giving us the means to do so.

Sincerely,

Aimee Ludwick

Blaize Charles

Xavier Carroll

12/8/2024

Marsha Oss

From: Marsha Oss
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 10:36 PM
To: Marsha Oss
Subject: Mario Bruce

I Mario Bruce jr want to thank Alaska trust authority and ms marsha for all the help and assistance that you have provided and given to the people who are in need and the direction of better living and help with rental assistance and I first hand want to say thank you and god bless both parties and helping me get back on track and down the right path and also happy holidays from yours truly Mario A Bruce Jr Sent from my iPhone

8:03

LTE

< Notes



Done

Alaska Trust Authority

My name is Anthony Hunter and I would like to thank the Alaska Trust Authority for helping me get back on my feet and re entering the community from my time being incarcerated |

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Parent Conference 2025

From Rami M. Pagel <moonflowerdreams@yahoo.com>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 11:47 AM
To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

You don't often get email from moonflowerdreams@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Rami Pagel-Miller, and I am a parent to two wonderful adults with autism. Stone Soup Group has been a source of support for our family for over 20 years, and they have truly been a place I have come to love because the staff cares, and they offer many resources in our community that families like mine need to help us navigate this journey.

My youngest daughter, Bianca, and I have been volunteering with the Stone Soup Group for many years and advocating throughout our community, helping families who are new to their diagnosis or just need support while they figure things out. Bianca tells her autism story with pride, and it's wonderful to see her helping so many people.

One of their major community events is the Parent Conference, and it is something I look forward to each year. The conference provides many opportunities to connect with other families, find resources, learn new things, and be around others who understand exactly what your life is like as a parent or caretaker for someone with a disability. It's a way to reach people face-to-face and know we are not alone. When you care for someone you love with a disability, life can be isolating, and you may not know where to turn for help, but Stone Soup makes it possible to break through that wall by putting events together like their support groups and this Parent Conference.

I encourage you to attend a conference one year and see how important it is for families like mine to have this opportunity. I have personally met some amazing people and even friends. I love listening to the keynote speakers and learning their stories. I could go on and on about how much fun I have had at this event in the past and talk about the tears I've cried because I found my village within this group, but I'll end with a quote that I used at the conference in 2024 with Stone Soup: 'When you have a child with a disability, you will find strength and hope in people who are further ahead in their journey than you are, and believe it or not, you will become a source of hope and strength for those that are just beginning theirs.'

Thank you for your time.
Rami Pagel-Miller

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)