

# **Written Public Comment**

**(received 8/28/24)**

**From:** [John Rozzi](#)  
**To:** [public.comment@mhtrust.org](mailto:public.comment@mhtrust.org)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for the Reentry Coordinator Position  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 11:46:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of Support for Reentry Coordinator Position.pdf](#)

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August 28, 2024

To Board of Trustees,

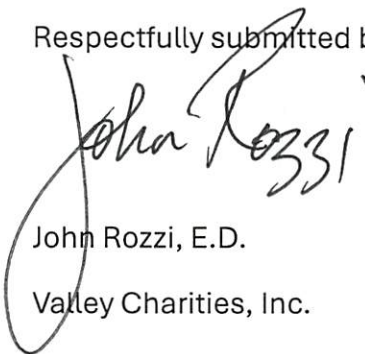
Hello, my name is John Rozzi. I'm the Executive Director for Valley Charities. Inc. We are the fiscal agent for your program that supports the Mat-Su Reentry Coordinator position. I'm writing to encourage you to continue your participation in funding of a very successful program that you created.

The Reentry Coordinator position is pivotal in paving the way for our case managers to navigate for a trust beneficiary reentrant to successfully integrate back into our community with fewer unachievable obstacles.

It would be a shame for you to walk away from a program that annually meets or exceeds the Alaska Mental Health Authority Grant Goals.

Thank you for having the foresight of creating a program to support an easily forgotten trust beneficiary reentrant population.

Respectfully submitted by,



John Rozzi, E.D.

Valley Charities, Inc.

**From:** [Kim Champney](mailto:Kim.Champney@mhtrust.org)  
**To:** [public.comment@mhtrust.org](mailto:public.comment@mhtrust.org)  
**Cc:** [Blastock, Allison E \(DOR\)](#); [Boyer, Eric D \(DOR\)](#); [Barstad, Kelda O \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment regarding Trust Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 11:24:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment - Trust Budget FY26 08282024.pdf](#)

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**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.

Hello,

Please accept the attached letter for public comment. I apologize for this late submission.

Sincerely,

Kim Champney

*Kim Champney, MSW (she/her)*  
*Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities*  
**907.957.1970 phone and text**  
<http://www.aaddalaska.org>

**We build better lives.** From the Shared Vision work

Alaskans share a Vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our Vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.



## ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

*PO Box 20874  
Juneau, Alaska 99802*

*To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.*

August 27, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Association of Developmental Disabilities to express my strong support for the continued funding of the Center for Human Development's Employment Training programs. These programs play a vital role in equipping our workforce with the necessary skills and certifications required to provide high-quality Supported Employment services to Trust beneficiaries, particularly those with developmental disabilities (DD). Increasing employment among our beneficiaries is a priority for DD service providers, and the Center for Human Development's training is essential to achieving this goal.

The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) has been actively engaging with the Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to address systemic challenges and improve access to Supported Employment services. A critical component of these efforts is ensuring that program administrators complete national certification, and that employment specialists, including job developers and job coaches, receive the specialized training necessary to support our beneficiaries effectively. The Center for Human Development is currently the primary provider of this essential training.

However, it is important to note that providers currently do not have dedicated funding to support these training costs. The current rate structures do not include provisions for the expenses related to sustaining a well-trained workforce. Without adequate funding, there is a real risk that providers will be unable to meet the training needs, ultimately impacting the quality of employment services provided to Trust beneficiaries.

Therefore, we urge the Alaska Mental Health Trust to consider ongoing financial support for the Center for Human Development's Employment Training programs. Such support should be viewed not merely as a budgetary allocation but as a strategic investment in the focus area of Beneficiary Employment. By ensuring the availability of high-quality training, the Trust can directly contribute

to improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, enhancing their quality of life, and promoting their independence.

We believe that sustained investment in these training programs aligns with the Trust's mission to improve the lives of its beneficiaries and ensures that service providers can continue to deliver effective, evidence-based employment services.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Trust to enhance employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities across Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kim Champney  
Executive Director

CC:

Allison Biastock, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Eric Boyer, Senior Program Officer  
Kelda Barstad, Program Officer

**From:** [Christina Shadura](#)  
**To:** [Public.comment@mhtrust.org](mailto:Public.comment@mhtrust.org)  
**Subject:** C.Shadura Written Testimony/Support of Reentry Coalition Coordinator, Anchorage  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 5:35:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [C.Shadura.WrittenTestimony.AnchorageReentryCoalitionCoordinatorSupport 8.28.24.pdf](#)

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You don't often get email from cshadura@nwalaska.org. [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.

Please see attached Written Testimony for review by the Board of Trustees.

Always Respectfully,

Christina Shadura  
*Anchorage Reentry Coalition Coordinator*

**Email:** [cshadura@nwalaska.org](mailto:cshadura@nwalaska.org)

**Direct:** 907-677-8412

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

NeighborWorks Alaska

8/28/2024

To: Board of Trustees, Mental Health Trust Authority

Trustees: Anita H, Rhonda B, Kevin F, Corri F, Brent F, Agnes M, John M.

*RE: Public Comment in Support of Reentry Coalitions, Anchorage specific.*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you folks today at the Board of Trustees Meeting. I am submitting this as additional testimony which will mirror my public comment in which I had to cut down for respect of the time limit. My name is Christina Shadura and I represent the Anchorage Reentry Coalition, but I speak to you today as a multi-generational, lifelong Alaskan, member of the Anchorage community and an advocate to address an issue relating to Trust beneficiaries.

**Really briefly, for those who don't know...**

The Anchorage Reentry Coalition is a collective formed by various agencies and community members with the goal of supporting individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community aka Reentrants. Over the past decade, the Coalition has worked to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and assist those with Criminal Justice Involvement by addressing challenges faced during reentry back into both Anchorage and statewide. The *Coalition's Steering Team* has a role in collecting resources and building capacity to identify gaps and barriers in the reentry process. This team is composed of representatives from diverse organizations, service providers, state departments, and those with lived experience, ensuring a wide range of perspectives are considered. The Coalition works alongside local, state, and federal partners to develop and improve community-based reentry systems. This collaboration aims to create processes that facilitate successful reintegration of reentrants that is person-centered and fiscally responsible. The Coalition's efforts include supporting and understanding availability and streamlining connections to services, programming and funding opportunities to address topics like health equity, treatment access, vocational training, employment, housing, and peer mentorship programs just to name only a few.



**It's just that simple, and it's just that complex folks.**

The Reentry Coalitions represents an effort to create a supportive environment for Criminal Justice involved folks, ultimately contributing to a safer and more inclusive community.

As someone who has worked in both Corrections, Human Services and the Reentry Space for over ten years in Anchorage, I've been connected to the Coalition. I've been the designated Case Manager, I've served on the steering team, and now, as of a few weeks ago, I have the honor of serving as the new Coalition Coordinator. I sincerely thank the MHTA for shouldering the funding burden to support Reentry Coalitions statewide in recent years, but I implore you to take a closer look at the **collateral consequences** that could occur should these Coalitions be de-funded from a Capacity and Collaboration perspective, specifically in Anchorage.

According to the most recent Department of Corrections Offender Profile, which is a DOC created report that provides information on all aspects of Alaska's prison population each fiscal year. Statistics, Trends, that sort of thing. This current report looks at the previous fiscal year and can be referenced on the Alaska.gov website.

According to the Offender Profile, Anchorage sees the highest number of individuals releasing in the community who are in some stage of the Corrections and Criminal Justice System. For my data folks listening: *In the last fiscal year, the # of individuals on Probation and Parole in Anchorage were approx. 1,355. For reference, the next largest community of folks on P&P was Palmer at 346. The # of individuals in Pretrial status in Anchorage was 1,002 with the next largest community in Palmer Pretrial at 259. Electronic/Ankle Monitoring in Anchorage? 107, Palmer at 2<sup>nd</sup> with 44.* These individuals are being released into Anchorage at the highest rates in our state, one way or another, so resources must continue to be identified to meet the need of this

specialized population who arguably face the most barriers to accessing all these services. These folks require advocacy, navigation and opportunities to reintegrate, and that's where the Coalition comes in.

Coming into this role with a Reentry Case Manager background; My goal with the Coalition is to bring together a stakeholder community to determine what initiatives need to be focused on that can maximize the grant opportunities we are fortunate to receive while streamlining these referrals to minimize the gaps and fill the silo's. **We are building a living breathing Resource Guide that can be utilized by both reentrants, professionals, service providers and our Corrections and Public Safety workforce.**

Not only are we in a position to address problems and provide solutions in this space but we are also in a position to assist in providing community-relevant data that could influence or help determine future funding allocations, *such as the number of individuals identified as Reentrants who are also identified as Mental health Trust Beneficiaries, or how many folks are out on the streets of Anchorage on this beautiful rainy day who are Homeless due to their involvement with the Criminal Justice system, and how many of those are both MHT beneficiaries, homeless, and identified as reentrants.* Anecdotally, we believe this to be an overlooked piece of the puzzle in the effort to minimize the number of folks who are homeless in Anchorage and is just one example of how our Coalition and General Membership can play role in identifying that data and those individuals.

**Please consider the collateral consequences and the step backward in progress that losing these Reentry Coalitions in Matsu, Juneau, Fairbanks will cause, and in the Anchorage community. We are collaborative, we want to support Anchorage by supporting the rehabilitation and reentry workforce, we want to support the Department of Corrections and their initiative to have offenders leave their custody better than when they went in, and most importantly, we want to continue serving our community and the many reentrants who identify themselves as MH Trust beneficiaries.**

**Always Respectfully,**

**Christina Shadura**

**Direct Line: 907-677-8412**

**Email: [cshadura@nwalaska.org](mailto:cshadura@nwalaska.org)**

**Website: [www.anchoragereentry.org](http://www.anchoragereentry.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/anchoragereentry](https://www.facebook.com/anchoragereentry)**

**Office Located at: NeighborWorks Alaska  
2515 A Street Anchorage, Alaska 99503**