

Written Public Comment

(received February 6, 2025)

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This is a written comment to encourage The Mental Health Trust board to continue support for the 907 Navigation app that is part of the Alaska Impact Alliance request.

My name is Twyla Mundy, a resident of this state for 55 years, and a retired teacher of the Anchorage School District. In the last few years, I have been involved in prison ministries here on the Kenai Peninsula. I had wanted to share this story of Wildwood Willa with you during the public comments on February 5, but time was not in my favor!!! Wildwood Willa is a composite of some of the many women that I have had the honor of listening to their stories and in a time BEFORE the 907 app existed...

Willa had a court date on a late afternoon and found herself released from the prison after 5 PM. She was not on probation and had to find her way through the system of resources ALL BY HERSELF. Twyla picked her up, since she did not have any family that could help her in the area or that she wanted to accept help from. She didn't want to return to the same 'friends' because she needed to find a "new place" that was safe.

We called Love, Inc, but they were closed. We thought about calling the Women's shelter but she had not really been abused...it was her addictions that had played the biggest part of her downfall. We had the use of a car so we headed to the Peninsula Hospital. At the registration desk we asked for help but we didn't know what kind of help we needed. The nice lady at the front desk said they USED TO HAVE A LIST OF RESOURCES but....then another person tried to help but it was after 5 PM and the rest of the staff had already left.....so what was Wildwood Willa supposed to do??? What was the next step?

I will leave Wildwood Willa's story now and let you know I pray she somehow found some assistance to start her life again in a positive way! I know as just a person that feels all deserve and have the right to a better life, I felt HELPLESS!!! And HOPELESS, how was Willa feeling????

When I saw the potential for this 907 Navigation app (that is being developed) as a tool to help I was overcome with emotion at the thought of how this little tool in the hands of Willa, anyone trying to maneuver the systems that are already in place, or those that would like to 'come along side' them and help could TOTALLY change the game for so many.

Please fund this request to complete the build out of the 907 Navigation App, the ongoing mainframe and the updating of these critical resources. It will be monies well spent.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely
Twyla Mundy