

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

**FULL BOARD MEETING**

**May 21, 2020**

**8:30 a.m.**

**WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference**

**Volume 2 of 2**

Originating at:

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120

Anchorage, Alaska

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**Trustees Present:**

Chris Cooke, Chair

Rhonda Boyles

John Sturgeon

Laraine Derr

Ken McCarty

Verne' Boerner

Anita Halterman

**Trust Staff Present:**

Mike Abbott

Steve Williams

Carol Howarth

Miri Smith-Coolidge

Kelda Barstad

Travis Welch

Luke Lind

Michael Baldwin

Carrie Predeger

Katie Baldwin-Johnson

Jimael Johnson

Valette Keller

Eric Boyer

Autumn Vea

Allison Biastock

Sarah Morrison

Travis Welch

**Presenters & Statutory Advisors:**

Emily Palmer; Nancy Burke; Michele Brown; Linda Isaac; Gordon Glasser.

## PROCEEDINGS

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. With all the trustees present, he asked for any announcements.

TRUSTEE McCARTY announced that his son got accepted into med school and is on his way to becoming a psychiatrist.

CHAIR COOKE congratulated him. There being no other announcements, he moved to the update from the Alaska Commission on Aging and recognized Emily Palmer.

### ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING UPDATE

MS. PALMER stated that she was the new executive director for the Commission on Aging. She thanked the staff for all their help and began with a brief overview on the Commission on Aging. She continued that their mission is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans and to assist them in leading meaningful lives through planning, advocacy and education, as well as interagency cooperation. She added that Alaska does have the fastest growing percentage of 60 and older when compared to all 50 states. Those 60 and older make up 12 percent of Alaska's population. She stated that roughly 10 percent of those 60 and older have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. There are currently 33,000 Alaskans caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. They are often family members that do not get paid for providing those services. She moved on and talked about the variety of different programs the Commission provides to help support older Alaskans and then spent some time talking about the impacts of COVID-19 on seniors. She then briefly talked about what was done for legislation this year; 29 different bills were tracked, and six of those were passed. House Bill 96 was for Pioneer Homes and decreased the rate for residents within the home. It changed the age for people to become eligible to get on the waitlist from 65 to 60. That makes an additional 45,000 Alaskans potentially eligible to move into one of those homes. She asked for any questions.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Palmer and recognized Gordon Glaser, one of the council members.

MR. GLASER stated that they are quite concerned and very involved with the pandemic and trying to end some of the concerns about protecting our people in place. He thanked the Mental Health Trust and Kelda Barstad, in particular, for all the help in this transition.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked about the long-term vision of senior care in the State of Alaska.

MS. PALMER replied that will be something that a lot of people will be looking at in the next few years. She stated that a lot of work has been going into the home- and community-based program. A lot of success has been seen in being able to support seniors to age in place for longer within their homes and communities and with their families. That has been successful.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Ms. Palmer for her presentation and asked if there has been a good deal of uptake from utilizing some of the new tools like Zoom by elders in the state.

MS. PALMER replied that there has definitely been an uptick in elders across the state utilizing the technology. She stated that there are a lot of challenges with that. Not everyone has access to the Internet, and not everyone has devices to be able to use Zoom.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Palmer for her presentation. She asked what happened regarding the data showing a significant dip in the number of beneficiaries served in 2018.

MS. PALMER replied that in FY17 there was a regulation change made that redefined and changed how some services were delivered. There was a lot of confusion as to who could qualify and who no longer qualified. Over the course of the year that stabilized, and people were able to get services or requalify.

TRUSTEE McCARTY gave a shout-out to Ski Kowalewski at the Chugiak Senior Center who turned 100 on April 7<sup>th</sup>. He asked about the numbers being seen regarding elderly directly getting the COVID virus.

MR. PALMER replied that Alaska has been fortunate in that the social isolation measures were put in place before things got really bad compared to the Lower 48. She stated that there were only three cases of people living in assisted living or a nursing home who got coronavirus.

TRUSTEE STURGEON also thanked Ms. Palmer for her presentation and asked about the availability of assisted living and nursing homes compared to the number of people that are wanting it.

MS. PALMER replied that she would have to get back on that. She stated a survey was done just in Anchorage, and there was an average occupancy rate within all assisted living nursing homes of 73 percent. She added that there is a huge variety, and unfortunately, that data is not tracked across the state.

CHAIR COOKE asked about the legislation affecting Pioneer Home and veterans' home rates, and what the situation was now with regard to those homes.

MS. PALMER answered that the rates just passed and will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. In general, it will be roughly a 25- to 30-percent decrease in the rates that those residents are currently paying. She pointed out that no one has been evicted from the homes due to the rate increase or due to the inability to pay. The Pioneer Homes have a great payment assistance program to help all individuals who cannot afford the rates.

CHAIR COOKE asked about the relationship the council has with those programs.

MS. PALMER replied that with Pioneer Home boards there is a member of their advisory board sitting on our board, and our chair sits on their board. There is a lot of interaction. She stated that they also work really closely and directly with staff at Senior and Disability Services to make sure all of the different programs that are supported through grants are getting the assistance they need. There is also a lot of outreach with various senior centers across the state,

and we are looking at ways to increase that outreach over this coming year.

CHAIR COOKE asked about the issue of fraud and combating the efforts to separate seniors from their assets.

MS. PALMER replied that the Commission does not have a strategy other than having classes or putting out information on the various new ways of fraud. They will be looking at trying to develop some strategies, as it is a big concern.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Palmer and moved to the Finance Committee report update.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE DERR stated that the discussion on all of these items took place at the Finance Committee on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and there are three motions from the committee.

**MOTION:** The Finance Committee recommended to approve the incremental building expenditures, totaling \$10,405,837, budgeted for the fiscal year 2021, to be paid by the property manager from rents and other income collected from the properties.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any discussion or comments. He asked if it has always been the practice to bring this forward through a motion.

MR. MENEFEE replied that these come forward in the April Finance Committee meeting every year and are to deal with paying the property expenditures, the upkeep, the taxes, and all that is necessary to keep those buildings in order so that the revenue generating from them can continue. Motion 1 was dealing with those properties that can afford to pay all the expenses from the rents coming in from the tenants. Motions 2 and 3 deal with the costs exceeding the amount of money collected from the rents. The reason this is done every year is that the authority from the board is needed to make expenditures like this because it is not in the operating budget.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated that the \$10 million for Motion 1 is a large amount and asked for a brief clarification for the minutes, the public, and the beneficiaries.

MR. MENEFEE replied that the costs deal with the properties owned in Washington, Utah, and Texas. It also includes some of the TAB; the detox center in Fairbanks; Assets; Fahrenkamp; Denardo. He stated that when the operating expenses and capital improvements are added, the total comes to \$10,405,836.85. Compared to fiscal year '20, there is an increase of about \$400,000.

CHAIR COOKE called the vote:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

TRUSTEE DERR moved to the next motion from the Finance Committee.

**MOTION:** The Finance Committee asked the Board to approve funding for the Non-Investment/Program Related Real Estate and Real Estate Management Program Trust funded properties in the amount not to exceed \$53,032 for the fiscal year 2021 from the Central Facilities Fund, which appropriation shall not lapse.

MR. MENEFEE stated that REMP stood for Real Estate Management Plan. He explained that the amount there is wholly for the Trust Authority building. The Trust Authority resides in that building and it is not fully funded with rents from all the tenants. There are also some capital improvements of \$15,000.

CHAIR COOKE called the vote:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

TRUSTEE DERR moved to the last motion.

**MOTION:** The Finance Committee asked the Board to approve and instruct the CFO to transfer up to \$53,032 to the third-party property manager as requested by the TLO for capital improvements to the Non-Investment/Program Related Real Estate and Real Estate Management Program Real Estate Trust funded properties.

MR. MENEFEE added that it is “up to,” and the reason is that if the money is managed to be saved through the year then the full amount will not be used, and the full amount does not need to be transferred.

CHAIR COOKE asked who the property manager is.

MR. MENEFEE replied that Colliers manages multiple properties both in this state and Washington and Utah. He continued that they manage quite a few of the Trust’s properties. He explained that a property manager is used for all of the rent properties, and even when there is something that needs to be done with the building. The property manager does take care of those types of things.

CHAIR COOKE called the question:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

TRUSTEE DERR concluded her report.

CHAIR COOKE stated that the subject of Item No. 4 will be considered further at future

meetings. He moved to the Resource Management Committee report.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that there is one motion and read it.

**MOTION:** The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concurs with the Resource Management Committee and the Trust Land Office recommendation for the Executive Director to negotiate a disposal through lease or sale of all or part of Trust parcels S1005 and S82631, and the subsequent execution by the TLO of the documents necessary to facilitate the transaction and development.

MR. MENEFEE stated that the proposed motion has to do with the L Street property downtown. This property is well located and right off of Minnesota Drive and the area of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He continued that it is vacant and there is interest from someone that might want to develop that. This is being set up to allow to do either a competitive sale, negotiated sale, competitive lease, negotiated lease, to be able to be done in a commercially responsive manner to be competitive with the competitors.

CHAIR COOKE stated that it was explained in detail that such a motion would give the TLO the flexibility to respond quickly to proposals that may be forthcoming. He asked for any other questions or comments, and then called the question:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

TRUSTEE STURGEON concluded his report.

CHAIR COOKE moved to the communications update and recognized Allison Biastock.

## **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

MS. BIASTOCK stated that she is the chief communication officer for the Trust and appreciated this opportunity to provide this update. She acknowledged Valette Keller who supports several of the communications initiatives, and also acknowledged Northwest Strategies, the communications contractor. She moved to the broad communication goals which were developed with a consideration of the Trust's mission, the duties and some past research. The first goal addressed stigma; the second goal has to do with the perception of the Trust and the understanding of the purpose and the work; goal 3 touches on so much of the work, not just communications. This is a unique position in raising awareness of issues pertaining to the Trust beneficiaries. She walked through a few of the key communication tools. She focused on

Meltwater because a million emails are received from them, and they are the media monitoring service. She then continued on to social media and the Trust's Facebook page. She commented on the cover photo, which features Trust beneficiaries. She highlighted the community outreach posts which also feature actual Alaskan beneficiaries or their friends and family members. She added that the Trust Land Office also maintains a Facebook page that is focused on their land sales efforts. She continued to the Instagram page, which is popular among younger followers. The things created for Facebook are cross-posted here. She then moved to the webpage, which is one of the most important communication tools because of all the information there. She briefly covered other communication tools and then covered COVID-19 and the resources available with a designated place on the homepage. She moved to the two current media campaigns and began with the statewide campaign addressing stigma. She stated that the most recent research indicated that there is still significant stigma attached to the beneficiaries, including the beneficiaries that misuse drugs and alcohol or who experience a mental illness. She continued that the targeted audience was to Alaska's general public, with a secondary focus on key decision-makers and influencers. She acknowledged and thanked Corbin and his mom Keri, Anthony, Jennifer, and Betty and her daughter Toni, and Lily. She stated that it is a very big decision to be part of a televised statewide media campaign, and we are grateful that they shared their stories. This campaign was officially launched about a year ago and the total cost of the campaign, which included all the marketing and development, was about \$300,000. She then shared some of the outcomes. She stated that a new campaign in Southeast Alaska was launched recognizing that a good share of the revenue-generating activity on Trust lands is happening in this region of the state. She talked about how all of the ads developed were focused on individual beneficiaries and the organizations that served them. She thanked the beneficiaries serving partners: JAMHI Health and Wellness in Juneau; Community Connections in Ketchikan; and the Southeast Alaska Independent Living, SAIL. She shared a radio ad that was aired that featured John, a beneficiary from Ketchikan.

(The radio ad was played.)

MS. BIASTOCK moved to the FASD prevention efforts. The funding for this effort comes from the Alcohol Treatment and Prevention Fund, which is from alcohol excise taxes in the state, and passed through to the Trust. She continued that the current effort is aimed at the provider community, which research has shown has a tremendous opportunity to impact and screen for FASDs. She added that all the materials developed as part of this effort were done in coordination with providers, ob-gyns, and aspects of the campaign were informed by past research and focus group efforts pertaining to this audience. She talked about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event that was organized by a team of Trust and Trust Land Office staff. It included 20 partner booths and a booth about the Trust. She continued talking about the turnout and added that there was also some media coverage. She moved on and stated that both the stigma and the Southeast effort will continue next year. The plans and budgets are being finalized, and we plan to leverage the existing media that was developed for the stigma campaign and developing some new digital and other content to the video ad. She stated that future research

efforts to gauge perceptions of the Trust, the Trust Land Office and the beneficiaries are contemplated to begin. That data goes a long way to informing the communication efforts and the other work of the Trust.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Biastock, and called a ten-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE reconvened the meeting and did a quick roll call. He asked if there were any questions for Ms. Biastock.

TRUSTEE BOERNER asked if there were any infographics that could highlight the statutorily defined process and if there was a way to communicate to the communities and beneficiaries how the Trust and Trust Land Office have worked to incorporate in that process itself.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that point often comes up if there is a media interview about the statutory requirements. She continued that it is a great recommendation to think about how to incorporate that into some of the more broad communication efforts.

TRUSTEE DERR commented on the great job being done and on the difficulty of finding her way around on the webpage for meetings and trustee business.

MS. BIASTOCK appreciated the comment on the website and stated that it is a work in progress. She welcomed feedback pertaining to some of the usability aspects of the webpage at any time that will make it more user friendly.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN commented that the advertising and the outreach had been very professionally presented. She appreciated all of the social media outreach efforts and added that they are doing a good job.

TRUSTEE McCARTY also appreciated the advertisements and the IT abilities. He asked if the viewers can be differentiated from those in Alaska or all over the world.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that all of the media is targeted in Alaska. There was some special targeting for the Southeast effort, but the stigma campaign was a statewide effort.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that it was a great presentation and asked what percentage of the market or people in Alaska are hit with APR.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that about 95 percent -- thanks to Trust support under the mental health content initiative -- have access to public radio. She added that in Alaska radio is a valuable tool for sharing information.



TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that it was an excellent presentation and was pleased with the use of social media.

CHAIR COOKE asked if there was any coordination between the Trust and the material that is put out by Hope.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that in the most recent effort, there was not a coordination with Hope Community Resources. She stated that she would look to see if they had been one of the organizations that were partnered with in identifying beneficiaries and sharing their stories. She continued that partners are a very important part of the communication effort, and we will continue to work with them, especially in future iterations.

CHAIR COOKE stated that mentioned was direct communication with trustees regarding any suggestions, ideas or comments they may have that pertain to the communications effort. He asked if she is open to direct communications with individual board members.

MR. ABBOTT stated that he would be happy to facilitate conversations around communication over the next couple of months with individual trustees that may include Ms. Biastock and himself. He continued that he would reach out to trustees individually over the next few weeks and identify trustees that would like that opportunity.

CHAIR COOKE stated anything that works out would be fine and suggested even email. He thanked Ms. Biastock for an excellent presentation and moved to the approvals.

MR. ABBOTT suggested starting with a motion and then he would continue.

**MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve the allocation of \$500,000 of unobligated funds to the FY21 Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area. These funds will be added to the Beneficiaries Have Safe Stable Housing with Tenancy Supports strategy was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE DERR.**

MR. ABBOTT stated that this proposal requires two motions to execute. The first would be to take \$500,000 of unobligated funds from the FY21 program. Currently, there is a balance of about \$1.3 million of unobligated funds in FY21. These funds would be put into the focus area for Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports. If approved, Motion No. 2 would award a \$500,000 grant to United Way of Anchorage for the Home for Good project. He called attention to a memo with supplemental information related to this proposal. He thanked the trustees, especially Trustee Boerner, for helping gain insight into the questions from trustees so that the information they would like to see was available in time for consideration during this discussion. He continued that an excellent demonstration of the way the committee process can work was

done at the Program & Planning Committee meeting in April. He suggested that the process is working as intended and that has helped staff to build information that meets the trustees' needs in further considering this proposal. He asked Kelda Barstad to continue.

MS. BARSTAD stated that she is program officer with the Mental Health Trust Authority and covers the focus areas of Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports. The focus area of housing is an important body of work for the beneficiaries and the supplemental materials outline a great deal of information and touch on some brief points. The partner agencies worked very hard developing a majority of the supplemental materials and will be online for questions. She continued that housing improves health outcomes, reduces symptoms for both mental health and addiction; and is a solution for chronic homelessness. The proposed project targets individuals who are chronically homeless and are beneficiaries. She added that the intervention called permanent supportive housing is an effective intervention because it identifies housing for an individual that did not have the opportunity to have their own private space or felt safe for a long time. She added that about 150 people will be helped over three to four years with these funds, and they are all beneficiaries. This specific project also focuses on beneficiaries who have been involved with the Department of Corrections and have exhausted and fallen through all of the services and safety nets. She introduced the partners on the line: Michele Brown, president of United Way of Anchorage, and Nancy Burke, Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator for the Municipality of Anchorage.

CHAIR COOKE recognized Trustee Boerner for further discussion or comments regarding this motion.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked the trustees for the robust discussion that happened during the Program & Planning Committee and the care in which the information was taken. She asked for questions from the other trustees.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated her concern on the amount of money which will only service a few individuals for that period of time. It will be a lengthy process to see how effective and efficient it will be.

TRUSTEE DERR stated she did not have any questions on this motion, but does for the next one.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked staff and all the folks at the Trust that did the research necessary to answer the questions. She stated that she is still skeptical of housing programs and has watched a lot of money dumped into housing and homeless programs with very little success. She added that she was eager to see the Pay for Success model. She continued that she would like to see more medical treatment incorporated into the housing models throughout the state so people can be made whole medically as well as physically.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated appreciation for the effort and concern about the homeless and trying to mitigate helping homeless situations efficiently and effectively. He stated his great concerns and shared some of the depth of the research he did regarding this.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that he was struggling with this and added that it is a very complicated problem with what appears to be a very complicated solution. He agreed with Trustee McCarty in that there are a lot of different demands out there for Trust money and asked if this is something that is going to solve a problem. He stated concern that the Veterans seem to have a much higher percentage of homelessness in Anchorage, and the amount of time they were homeless was the highest. He asked if people knew why the Veterans are affected more than others. He also stated that he did not see the Veterans Administration, or any Veteran organizations, listed as cosponsors to this.

MS. BURKE replied that Veterans tend to have the most comprehensive care system seen, and she would like to look at the data referencing the long stays in homelessness. She stated that the Veteran system tends to have the most responsive and fully funded program in the community. That is quite close to being described as a functional zero where any Veteran is homeless there are generally resources available for them to get supported housing, clinical support services, and case management. She added, that program serves as the basis for a number of housing programs, housing first focuses.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that the 531 days comes from the Homelessness in Anchorage report.

MS. BURKE stated that she would reach out to get more information but could not speak to that at this time. To the question of the absence of the Veterans organization, she replied that the folks that would be served in Home for Good do not have access to the VASH program, which includes all the same elements that are being replicated in Home for Good.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN talked about her experiences with the Veterans Administration not necessarily serving many of the Veterans that were eligible for services. They wound up dumped on Medicaid as beneficiaries that Medicaid served.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated his concerns on this project not being a true collaborative community effort and was not seeing the VA or tribal organizations or other partners. He also talked about his concern of this additional \$500,000 to the project, and if this would be a million dollars given to this project.

MR. ABBOTT explained that the Trust supported the pilot program associated with the Pay for Success project in FY18 for \$500,000. That pilot was deemed to be successful and essentially validated that approach that this program would further implement. That led to the \$500,000 request. He continued that the total funding for this would be a million over a three- to four-year

period, and this funding is for FY21.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that the early numbers from that pilot project did demonstrate how this project met challenging, elite and the most vulnerable in society and beneficiaries.

CHAIR COOKE commented on the trustees' concerns and asked if this approach will help people emerge from homelessness and connect them with services that may support their progress into a more safe and stable living situation.

MS. BARSTAD replied that she had seen permanent supportive housing work across the state where there are permanent supportive housing programs and people had an opportunity to change their lives. People will choose to use fewer substances and drink less when they have safe, stable housing. That evidence was also presented from the Tanana Chiefs' permanent supportive housing, as well as RurAL CAP supportive housing, that people will use fewer substances over time. People will engage more in mental health treatment and medical treatment more over time. In a way, that will complete the goals that they have set for themselves.

TRUSTEE DERR asked if the pilot program shows the results that this should go forward.

MS. BROWN shared some of the preliminary information and stated they have not yet been in a full year of operation. At this point, there has been a 60 percent reduction in shelter stays and a 78 percent reduction in arrests for this population. She stated that both individual improvement, quality of life, harm reduction and personal progress are observed. They are also strongly focused on the community consequences of the failure to serve this population and the high cost to the community. She continued that the initial data is consistent with what has been seen from other projects in a very sharp reduction of use of community services and improvement in either health or mental health outcomes.

CHAIR COOKE stated that he thought the original pilot was to involve 25, and only 19 were mentioned.

MS. BROWN replied that they have been engaged with 36 individuals through the referral system, and sometimes it takes some work getting folks ready to come into the program. She stated that 20 have been housed, and there are about seven getting intensive case management services from the core partners.

CHAIR COOKE asked if there will be capacity in mental health, health and substance abuse treatment services to meet the needs of this increased number of people that may be housed through the Home for Good program; and whether there will be resources to service that population.

MS. BURKE replied that it is encouraging that it seems the State is making progress on

implementing the 1115 behavioral health waiver. When this is opened, it is anticipated that it will be part of the ongoing sustainability strategy for the Home for Good population.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated that he is having too many questions about this and suggested tabling it until some of the questions can be answered.

**MOTION:** A motion to table this was made by TRUSTEE McCARTY; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

CHAIR COOKE called the vote:

*Trustee Boerner, no; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, no; Trustee Halterman, no; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, no. The MOTION FAILED.*

CHAIR COOKE stated there was an underlying motion and asked for further discussion, or if it was ready for the question.

TRUSTEE DERR asked Mr. Abbott for any words of wisdom.

MR. ABBOTT replied that staff clearly recommends approval of this. He stated that staff is more than willing to provide additional information. He continued that a memo went out earlier in advance of the regular packet hoping to gain trustee comments on it and to augment it if there were additional information requests that were necessary for this meeting. He added that, regardless of how this issue is received, if the mechanism is not working for trustees in terms of identifying the information needed in advance of a meeting, please help staff understand how to get that information to you in a timely manner. There is no interest in bringing items forward that do not have the information that trustees want. He stated that this project, nor any of the previous ones, would individually resolve the issue of chronic homelessness in Anchorage, but they clearly make a dramatic impact on the lives of the individuals that are served. He continued that the Trust is not the only funder of this, and he believed that the Trust's role in this is important because the beneficiaries are so clearly impacted by it.

The discussion continued on this project.

CHAIR COOKE called the question:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

CHAIR COOKE moved to the second element of this motion.

**MOTION: A motion to approve a \$500,000 FY21 Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area allocation to the United Way of Anchorage for the Home for Good project was made by TRUSTEE DERR; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.**

TRUSTEE McCARTY asked if this amount of money would be expected for every year of the three-year project.

MR. ABBOTT replied that further funding for this project was not expected at this time. He stated expectation of seeing the results from this project over time without additional Trust funding.

**An addition to the motion stated “United Way of Anchorage for the three-year Home for Good project’ was made by TRUSTEE DERR; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.**

CHAIR COOKE called the question:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

TRUSTEE DERR suggested prevailing on Ms. Burke or one of the other project managers to spotlight the homelessness issue or bring up the historical data in regard to homelessness.

MR. ABBOTT stated that staff would be glad to work with the Chair on Program & Planning to build such a presentation. He added that he could not commit to having this at the July committee meetings because of the budgeting process.

CHAIR COOKE called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE reconvened the meeting and stated that there is another approval submitted for consideration regarding Alaska Public Media. He asked for a motion.

**MOTION: A motion for the Board of Trustees to approve \$125,000 FY2020, Authority Grant to Alaska Public Media for the Mental Health Content Initiative -- Trust funding will come from the FY21 communications budget line -- was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.**

CHAIR COOKE asked why there was FY20 on the first line, and then FY21 on the second.

MR. ABBOTT replied that he had the same question and would get the right language before the

vote. He stated that this proposal would fund the third year of a three-year project initiated in 2018 with Alaska Public Media as a way to increase statewide discussion of mental health and other related Trust issues around the state of Alaska. After working with Alaska Public Media, a local call-in show was converted into a statewide radio call-in show that reaches the entire Alaska Public Media network comprised of 26 radio stations serving around 95 percent of the population around the state. This would conclude the Trust's commitment to this program.

MS. BIASTOCK continued that the purpose is to help Alaskan audiences increase their understanding of some of the challenges faced by the beneficiaries. This has been funded for two years, and staff is recommending this amount for trustee approval for the upcoming fiscal year. The intention of this grant was to expand and increase public affairs coverage of issues related to Trust beneficiaries. It is important to note that public affairs coverage is different from news coverage. She added that the initiative has been a success. She stated that Linda Isaac, the chief development officer for Alaska Public Media, is on-line and asked if she had anything to add.

MS. ISAAC stated that they are thrilled to have the opportunity and that this grant has given the chance to grow the capacity and allowed us to really delve into this very rich topic. She added that content was overdelivered because it was found that it serves the community and that is what they are asking for.

TRUSTEE BOERNER finds this a very valuable source, and reaching out to rural Alaska and providing services out there is something that she highly recommended.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated she wished she had known about the Line One broadcasts sooner.

CHAIR COOKE asked if the broadcasts are archived and could they be accessed.

MS. ISAAC replied that there are two places where they are archived, under the show itself or on the mental health page.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked if there were any numbers on how many people actually listen to the show or what kind of an audience it is.

MS. ISAAC replied that the reach is one thing, and then listenership and connecting through digital is another. There are also ratings measured twice a year through Nielsen. The final annual report states how many are reached. There will also be digital measurement, as well.

CHAIR COOKE called the vote:

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee*

*Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

MR. ABBOTT requested a correction of a typo in the motion. It should read “approve \$125,000 FY21” and “FY21 communications budget line.”

CHAIR COOKE asked if there was a problem with simply correcting a typographical effort.

MS. SMITH-COOLIDGE stated the safe thing would be to restate the motion correctly and then do another vote.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve \$125,000 FY21 Authority Grant to Alaska Public Media for the Mental Health Content Initiative -- Trust funding will come from the FY21 communications budget line -- was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Derr, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).*

CHAIR COOKE moved to the Program & Planning Committee report.

### **PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE BOERNER began with a brief summary of the Program & Planning Committee report and talked about the presentations on shelter and housing interventions for homeless beneficiaries. There was a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Comp Plan update provided, and a discussion on the FY22-23 budget process and focus area overviews. She appreciated Michael Baldwin on his flexibility, and looked forward to that presentation in an upcoming Program & Planning Committee. She stated that the committee approved a \$250,000 FY21 partnership grant with the Fairbanks Rescue Mission for the My Place Housing Project and Fairbanks Rapid Rehousing. She continued that the discussion for the Home for Good project grant application for Anchorage permanent supportive housing was tabled. She concluded her brief summary.

CHAIR COOKE stated that the packet included some of the materials about the focus areas which are building blocks around which the budget is constructed; things emphasized in the budgeting and allocation of the grants process. He asked Steve Williams to continue.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that some of the details were provided at the Program & Planning Committee meeting which explained the process used to develop the FY 22-23 recommendations. He continued that FY22 will be the focus of the two-year budget that will be developed. It will ultimately be approved and then submitted to the Administration and the



Legislature by the trustees for their recommendations for how the State should be spending the General Fund dollars, other dollars, and the appropriations of Trust funds. He added that an FY23 budget will also be developed and will be approved at the August meeting. That budget will be revisited next year. It will be prepared and gone through, but there will be another opportunity to hear presentations, recommendations for any adjustments, either reallocations or increases or new increments. He talked about the focus areas and the process by which the budget recommendations for those focus areas were developed. He went through the process of identifying the places that the Trust could be most effective and to address critical needs of beneficiaries to improve not only the individual beneficiaries, but also the organizations and then the system as a whole. He talked about the history of Alaskans being sent out of state to institutions. Some of those Alaskans did not come back, and some actually perished or died in those institutions in the Lower 48. That was the foundation of the work of the Trust: to provide prevention, early intervention, treatment access across the life span so that beneficiaries do not end up in long-term interventional levels of care as happened historically. He continued explaining how the focus areas came to be and the steps taken to get the budget adopted and presented to the Governor and the Legislature.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that in looking at the six areas of focus that have been dedicated energy and resources, there is a varying level of how it integrates with the overall comp plan. It is building awareness. She thanked the staff for addressing the six questions, as well, with regard to the focus areas.

CHAIR COOKE talked about the Crisis Now model and asked how the focus areas adapt to changing strategies.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that the Crisis Now model had the ability to hit a number of various focus areas looking at recidivism and trying to reduce the number of beneficiaries cycling through the Department of Justice system or staying for extended stays in the emergency department. The Crisis Now model has great potential to have impact on several of the areas.

CHAIR COOKE liked the suggestion of relabeling the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment focus area into a broader term such as Behavioral Health Treatment, because it seems that substance abuse may be a symptom of a behavioral health need.

TRUSTEE BOERNER agreed.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that Katie Baldwin-Johnson has been working on and getting input from the advisory boards and other stakeholders.

A discussion ensued.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that each program officer has their own area of emphasis,

expertise focus area. With that, there tends to be certain stakeholders that engage in the work that are concerned with those issues that have direct experience working with beneficiaries in various capacities and in various settings. She continued that the program officers were engaged in and have been actively reaching out and setting up meetings, discussions and video meetings. That work will continue through June, and that information will be compiled, analyzed and compared to past years' information gathered through the stakeholders' processes. She added, that will be summarized and the information will go into one document which will be available to the trustees and the public. The information will include what folks are identifying as priorities and how the Trust responds to those recommendations and needs. The goal is to be able to bring forward to trustees a draft budget with proposed strategies for discussion at the Program & Planning Committee meeting in July.

CHAIR COOKE asked if the trustees had further matters concerning the focus area materials and the Program & Planning report to raise. There being none, he concluded the discussion. He stated that the final item on the agenda is trustee comments.

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Chair Cooke and Vice Chair Halterman for stepping up and accepting roles of leadership for the Alaska Mental Health Trust. She stated that she was honored to serve with such an engaged group of trustees, and appreciated all the conversation. She recommended and remains interested in attending and meeting with the advisory board of directors, particularly since the joint board, ABADA and Alaska Mental Health Board, have seen some new changeovers. She was also impressed by the Trust staff and thanked them for bringing forth high-quality work and appreciated their commitment to the beneficiaries. She also recommended caution in moving forward with regard to reopening the offices. There is still a high level number of deaths in the country. She reminded management to keep the health and safety of the staff and the members at the highest level.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated she was fine.

TRUSTEE DERR appreciated working with Mike Williams and with Greg Jones and his willingness to come back and share his experiences. She enjoyed the meeting and looked forward to July.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked everyone for the amount of time it took to put everything together and appreciated the conversation.

TRUSTEE DERR asked if there was still a list of the acronyms available to share with all the trustees.

MR. WILLIAMS stated they will do a quick review of it and send it to all the trustees.

MR. ABBOTT stated that he would send out the most recent schedule for the balance of 2020 with his next weekly report.

TRUSTEE McCARTY concurred with what the other trustees said and stated that he was humbled in being part of this team and is trying to work through the existing challenges. He talked about the importance of strategic data collection.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that he had an opportunity to listen to Pat Pitney, head of Legislative Audit, give a presentation on the 2020 and the 2021 budget, which was very sobering. He reported on some of the budget items and added that the lack of State funds will probably put a bigger burden on the Trust. At the next meeting, he would like the board to discuss what may be happening and the impact on the beneficiaries and the Trust's plan. He appreciated the staff and the way they prepare the trustees and how they care about the beneficiaries.

CHAIR COOKE thanked all and appreciated the confidence placed in him by selecting him as the entering chair. He stated that he was impressed with the diligence, preparation, and the focus of the trustees to take this important job seriously. He looked forward to all the meetings becoming more and more substantive. He also thanked the partners for their presentations, and to staff for the materials and the discussion of the materials so trustees can better understand the issues. There being nothing else, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE BOERNER wished Trustee Derr safe travels.

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

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

(Full Board of Trustees meeting concluded at 2:11 pm).