

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

**SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING**

**April 23, 2020**

**4:50 p.m.**

**WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference**

**Originating at:**

**3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

---

**Trustees Present:**

Chris Cooke, Chair

Rhonda Boyles

John Sturgeon

Ken McCarty

Verne' Boerner

Anita Halterman

Laraine Derr

**Trust Staff Present:**

Mike Abbott

Steve Williams

Carol Howarth

Miri Smith-Coolidge

Kelda Barstad

Luke Lind

Michael Baldwin

Carrie Predeger

Katie Baldwin-Johnson

Jimael Johnson

Valette Keller

Eric Boyer

Autumn Vea

Allison Biastock

Katie Vachris

Kat Roch

**Also participating:**

Anne Applegate; Beverly Schoonover; Kristin Vandagriff.

## PROCEEDINGS

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. He stated he had a quorum and asked for any announcements. There being none, he moved to approval of the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

TRUSTEE BOERNER asked to add the trustee comments.

CHAIR COOKE made that change.

*There being no objection, the MOTION was approved, as amended.*

### ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR COOKE asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he asked Mr. Abbott to move to the additional COVID-19 response funding.

### ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING

MR. ABBOTT asked if someone would make the motion described on Page 27.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve using \$500,000 in FY20 Authority Grant funds to add to the COVID-19 Response Grant Program to assist organizations serving Trust beneficiaries to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The Authority Grant funds for this grant program are outlined below, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE DERR.

MR. ABBOTT stated that this motion reads a lot like the action that the board took in the special board meeting less than three weeks ago. As a result, Trust staff went through the FY20 authorized Authority Grant funds that have been approved for FY20 and identified \$500,000 worth of grants that are not likely to be needed before the end of the fiscal year. Staff recommended that the three grant areas described on Page 4 be reallocated into the pot of money that previously had a million dollars in it for COVID-19 relief for the providers. He continued that, if the trustees support this request, staff will post for applications tomorrow and will begin accepting them. The first review of the applications received will be done, and a final decision made with a chunk of the funds going out a week from Monday. He added that another similar request is not expected before the end of the fiscal year.

CHAIR COOKE asked the trustees for any questions.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she was in support and did not have any questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked about where the reallocated funds will be seen in the future.

MR. ABBOTT replied that for the most part the funds would not be needed in the current fiscal

year.

CHAIR COOKE welcomed Trustee Boyles to the board and invited her to ask any questions or make comments that she may have regarding the motion and the presentations.

TRUSTEE BOYLE stated that she was fine with it.

TRUSTEE DERR also stated that she was fine with it.

TRUSTEE McCARTY asked if beneficiaries were struggling with employment or funding, and if this would have any impact on helping them.

MR. ABBOTT replied that it is not expected to slow down any support for organizations with workforce needs or any beneficiary-related workforce services.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated support for the motion.

CHAIR COOKE stated that he also supported the motion and thanked Mr. Abbott for the presentation. He called the vote.

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

#### **SEALASKA, INC. DONATION**

CHAIR COOKE moved to the next item, which is another motion.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the receipt of \$25,000 from Sealaska, Inc. to be deposited into a single-purpose subaccount of the Mental Health Trust Settlement Income Account and granted by the Trust to Trust beneficiary-serving organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE DERR.

MR. ABBOTT explained that he had received an unsolicited call from a representative of Sealaska stating that Sealaska had plans to donate a million dollars to a variety of entities for the purpose of COVID-19 relief, and they were planning to donate \$25,000 to the Trust for use in support of the beneficiaries. He stated that this does not happen very often, and he did a bit of research to find where the legal authorities lie in this area. It is clear that the Trust can accept other income of this sort and put it to use inside of the Trust settlement income. It is not a lot of money, but does require trustee approval to both receive it and then to authorize expenditure. If approved, the intent would be to add these funds to the \$500,000 that the trustees allocated a few minutes ago and expend it in the same grant-making process.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Abbott, and asked for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that the last of the applications that come in be looked at to make sure that the communities are represented in an equal, fair, and equitable way as possible. The parts of the state with a large population density that received distributions may not be

meeting a proportionate number of beneficiaries, and I would like to see that moving forward.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked if the Trust is considered a 503 (c) or equivalent as far as tax exemption when donating.

MR. ABBOTT replied that the Trust is not a 503 (c). It is a corporation wholly owned by the State of Alaska. For the purposes of donations like this, it would be considered tax deductible. He will research to confirm that.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated, on the record, a word of appreciation to Sealaska for this and for their commitment to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable, and to have this gesture from Sealaska is very meaningful and moving. She also concurred with Trustee Halterman's requests and was in agreement.

CHAIR COOKE stated that he was pleased to see this and thought that the Trust did have the ability to receive grants and donations. He hoped that this money would find an appropriate recipient back in the Sealaska region to carry out beneficiary purposes and serve folks in that particular area. He called the question and did a roll call vote.

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

CHAIR COOKE moved to trustee comments.

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

TRUSTEE BOERNER appreciated this being added to the agenda. She stated that she was heartbroken when Brenda shared about the beneficiary who passed before being able to sign the lease. It is a reminder of the importance to get in there and get the beneficiaries services out as soon as possible to help address some of the issues that may be contributing to premature death. The help is needed and necessary. She also officially welcomed Rhonda Boyles and stated that she was glad to have her join the board of trustees. She thanked Chair Cooke for accepting the responsibility of serving as Chair. She thanked Trustee Sturgeon for helping find the personal protective equipment for the frontline workers and for helping to protect them and the beneficiaries. She thanked Autumn, Steve, Kelda, Katie, Jimael, Travis and Eric and a special thank you to Michael Baldwin. The work done in the remote sense and in this new environment is definitely challenging. She thanked them for their passion. She thanked the presenters today for their flexibility. She congratulated Jillian for welcoming her new baby and thanked all the trustees who have proved to be engaged and mindful stewards of the resources for the beneficiaries. She thanked Mike and Steve for the support in the preparation for her meeting as a whole.

CHAIR COOKE asked Trustee Boyle for any comments or observations.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that Trustee Boerner is one of the most polite and gracious chairpeople, committee coordinators that she has ever sat under, and she did a very good job. She continued that she is proud to be of service with all the trustees. She missed the one-to-one contact and had more interruptions when on a technology-related meeting.

TRUSTEE DERR stated that the Governor's office called and said that they were not looking for someone to replace her at this time. The law says that a trustee serves two full five-year terms, and her first term was not a full term. The law also says that a trustee continues until replaced by someone who has been confirmed by the Legislature. The person who was appointed to replace her withdrew their name, and that allows her to continue. She added that she would be here for the foreseeable future, and had no further comments.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN welcomed Trustee Boyles and she stated that it was a delight going through the confirmation process with her, and she looked forward to getting to know her. She continued that she is delighted that Trustee Derr will stay and would like to get to know her, as well. She wished all a good night and thanked all.

TRUSTEE McCARTY welcomed Trustee Boyles and stated appreciation for Trustee Derr. He stated that hearing they were A-plus in all things was great, and added to keeping an A-plus concept of using means of helping the beneficiaries and not delaying the process. Kudos to the team.

TRUSTEE STURGEON joined everyone else in welcoming Trustee Boyles aboard. He thanked Mr. Abbott and the staff for the great job in preparing and for making the board look good. He also appreciated the work they do. He stated that he had a partner and friend in China and there is a FedEx MD-11 landing in Anchorage on the 29<sup>th</sup> that will be carrying 100,000 face shields, 800,000 pairs of gloves, 200,000 N95 masks, 31,000 coveralls, 1.2 million surgical masks and 26,000 gowns. That is equivalent to about 540 new containers of medical supplies. The people on the frontline will have the equipment they really need for COVID-19. This is welcome news.

CHAIR COOKE echoed everyone's sentiments about the hard work that staff put into both the materials to prepare for the meetings and the presentations. He gave a special acknowledgment to Miri Smith-Coolidge, the coordinator that enabled all to participate in this WebEx meeting. He stated that a lot of material was covered the last two days, and he appreciates the staff's efforts in helping us through that process. He concluded his comments and asked for a motion for adjournment.

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

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

(Special Full Board meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.)