

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2020

8:30 a.m.

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

Originating at:

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120

Anchorage, Alaska

Trustees Present:

Chris Cooke, Chair

John Sturgeon

Annette Gwaltney-Jones

Ken McCarty

Anita Halterman

Verne' Boerner

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

Kat Roch

Travis Welch

Trust Land Office:

Wyn Menefee

David MacDonald

Sarah Morrison

Marisol Miller

Hollie Chalup

Kate Vachris

Also participating:

Josie Stern; Lisa Morley; Jacqueline Summers; Kim Champney; Jake Carpenter; Amanda Faulkner; Jenny Weissaupt; Jeff Green; Dan Habeger; Beverly Schoonover; Kristin Vandagriff; Sheila Harris; Lesley Thompson; Brenda Moorer; Stuart Goering; Charlene Tautest; Lizette Stiehr; Nona Safra; Corey Gilmore.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. He stated that Trustee Boyles was excused, and added that Trustee Boerner was expected to attend. He moved on and asked for any announcements. He asked Trustee McCarty if the election tally had been finalized.

TRUSTEE McCARTY replied that the tally is not final yet, so there are no election results, but he had a good lead.

CHAIR COOKE stated that Trustee Boerner was present and asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion to approve the agenda was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE McCARTY.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE stated that the Guiding Principles and the Mission Statement are in the packet, and he urged the trustees to review them from time to time. He asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moved to the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approved the minutes of the August 26-27, 2020, meeting was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

ANNOUNCE FINANCE CHAIR

CHAIR COOKE stated that the Finance Committee chair position is vacant because Laraine Derr is no longer on the board. He appointed Trustee Halterman as the Finance chair, doubling her duties with also being chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. He looked forward to Trustee Halterman's leadership at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting in January.

MISSION MOMENT

CHAIR COOKE recognized Eric Boyer to introduce the Mission Moment presenter.

MR. BOYER introduced Kim Champney, who will lead through the Mission Moment. She has a long history of working in the DD field as a direct support provider and a manager. She worked for REACH in Juneau for a number of decades, and over the last several years has been working as a contractor to provide support for projects like this.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she had technical issues and was present.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that she and her teammates were excited to talk about DSP hire. She began by explaining and describing the workforce crisis. It is getting to the point where the lives of beneficiaries are in danger because there are gaps in their care. She talked about DSP, Direct Support Professional, which is an umbrella term that covers a number of people and is really about people that provide day-to-day support to people with disabilities. Some examples are helping to get a person out of bed and do daily life; someone that goes in and checks on a person with mental illness to make sure medication is taken; someone that coaches someone with their job. She continued that the workforce challenges have been building, particularly over the last five years. The economy has changed, and Medicaid reimbursement rates have stayed the same, while the cost of doing business increased. She added that a major study of data was done in 2018, and the turnover of DSPs is very high. The estimated cost in 2018 was \$5 million. The other study estimated that to hire in this role costs about \$5,000, taking into account the recruitment and extensive hiring process. Then the wages are low and often DSPs work multiple jobs and some are actually on public assistance. She explained that when COVID hit, a significant number of people left the field because of not feeling comfortable providing support, especially in group situations. An informal survey of 25 employers in September identified 426 vacant positions. She stated that out of crisis comes innovations, and she introduced Jacqueline Summers to share what was started pre-COVID that led to DSP hire.

MS. SUMMERS stated that she is the managing director of Health TIE, and how the DSP problem was analyzed. Health TIE was launched as a central hub that connects entrepreneurs and changemakers who want to make a difference with organizations that need assistance. She stated that, working with the Trust, three successful pilot projects have launched, which will all help beneficiaries. It has been a collaborative effort with the Trust and the other presenters. People from all channels that want to make a difference are being gathered showing that a difference can be made. She invited the trustees to join the open innovations that are held twice a month.

MS. CHAMPNEY introduced Jake Carpenter to share the details of DSP hire.

MR. CARPENTER stated that, at its core, DSP is a website and app that connects people who want to be DSPs with people who need DSPs. He explained how the app and a website tackled that workforce problem. He spoke about his brother, Ray, who suffers from traumatic brain injury and is a Trust beneficiary. He stated that when there is a disabled family member that requires supports, DSPs are very familiar. In the last 15 years, his brother has had 150 staff members rotate through his daily care. The 426 vacancies represent hundreds of people's lives, jobs, and their ability to be productive members of the community. He continued that many issues were identified, and the biggest issues were the low starting wages and the demanding job. It is hard to get started in the field with a complicated regulatory environment in paying and

billing; an isolating job; and limited opportunities for advancement. He moved on to the app and website and stated that software is good at making things easier by connecting people and simplifying the hiring process; connecting to other DSPs; matching people with new opportunities, new roles as DSPs; and provides instant access to training. He stated that this creates a marketplace, a one-stop shop that allows communities to strengthen themselves and access the resources needed. He continued that 18 months ago, with funding from the Trust, a mobile app and website called DSP Hire was built which allows organizations to post positions, DSPs to apply for those positions, and we will be adding notification services for urgent need notifications.

MS. CHAMPNEY recognized Amanda Faulkner.

MS. FAULKNER stated that she works at Frontier Community services in the Central Kenai Peninsula area. It has been around for 40 years with services provided to individuals from infancy through the end of life. It is a one-stop shop, doing it all. She explained that she has been with Frontier for 20 years and one thing that is always a challenge is the workforce. Currently, Frontier has a 36 percent turnover rate, and it spends about \$160,000 a year onboarding new employees and training, which is very individualized. Quality services are provided, which costs money. The base rate for DSPs is \$16.25, and we offer health insurance, but we still struggle. While classified as rural, Frontier is on a road system. She talked about some of the problems and challenges and how they are handled. She stated that the app allows a provider agency to cast a smaller net to a group of people that are interested in this work and are knowledgeable. The hope is the app will bring a transparent communication between employer/employee that will cut out some of the time, and when expanded will bring about that match.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that Ms. Faulkner is the newly elected president of the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities which is the trade association of service providers for that group. She concluded the presentation and asked for any questions.

CHAIR COOKE thanked them for the very interesting, informative presentations and recognized Trustee Boerner.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated appreciation for the individual experiences. She continued that it was exciting to see the development of the software in streamlining the process, removing some barriers, and she hoped for lowering costs. She believes that the DSPs are the heroes, woefully underpaid, with the need for benefits and health care for themselves.

TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES stated that this was exciting to see and explained that she worked for the Arc of Anchorage and supervised all of the in-home support personnel. She continued that one of the issues was the inconsistent hours working with people wanting benefits or full-time work. She asked if this program allowed for everyone's schedule to be in there; showing remaining availability for full-time hours.

MR. CARPENTER replied that type of functionality is something that is being worked out.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that she worked with Senior Disability Services and saw the

struggles for the beneficiaries not receiving the services needed on a regular basis. She asked how the differences between the agency-based service provider needs versus the consumer-directed service provider needs for those beneficiaries are being addressed.

MS. CHAMPNEY replied that, at this point, the employment was run through agencies that are posting the needs and agencies doing the hiring. She stated that down the road they may be a self-directed model where there is some sort of third-party support for people unable to manage their own staff.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated that it was excellent seeing the use of technology to inform of needs and as a reach-out to those needs. He asked about the lowest age to be able to do DSP services. He also asked for the top three reasons people leave DSP work.

MS. FAULKNER replied that employees will be hired at 18 and, with this app, a definite career ladder for people in this field would show. She stated that the biggest challenge is finding a schedule that matches with the people being served, the DSP and keeping it consistent. The second would be the competition with higher paying jobs out there; and the third is it was not a good fit.

CHAIR COOKE thanked all for their presentations, and moved to the next item which was a legal matter concerning previous actions of the board. He asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion to ratify all actions taken by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board, or by a committee of the Board acting under authority delegated by the Board, between April 7, 2020, and October 1, 2020, as listed in the attached spreadsheet was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE McCARTY.

CHAIR COOKE recognized Stuart Goering from the Department of Law.

MR. GOERING stated that, in reviewing the actions that the Board took during that April to October period, he and the Trust staff did not identify any actions that were even questionable. He continued that there was no reason to believe that there was any infirmity in anything that was done previously. He added that the fact that there was some ambiguity about the status of a trustee, his recommendation was to adopt this motion simply to avoid any possible issue. The most important thing is to acknowledge that the issue exists and then deal with it directly. This was already accomplished by having it on the agenda. He recommended the additional step of actually adopting the motion and ratifying those actions.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR COOKE called the question.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Goering for the guidance, and moved to the Staff Report and CEO Update.

THE STAFF REPORT AND CEO UPDATE

MR. ABBOTT, on behalf of the whole staff, congratulated Ken McCarty on electoral success and looked forward to working with him as he changes hats. He stated that prior to beginning his service with the Legislature, Trustee McCarty will need to step away from his responsibilities as a trustee which would lead to a vacancy in an existing term. He explained that the Governor will have 60 days from the date of resignation to appoint a replacement. That replacement will begin their service immediately, but will be subject to confirmation. He continued that confirmation by the Legislature would likely be during the first regular session of the 32nd Legislature. He added that there are no other trustee terms ending in 2021. He commented that the early January committee meetings will probably need two days, which are January 6th and 7th. He recognized that the Trust Land Office appears to be in the final stages of negotiating a ground lease for the last undeveloped Trust parcel in the U-Med District in Anchorage. The TLO is working with a local developer on a lease arrangement that, within a couple of years, will likely generate about \$300,000 a year of new income for the Trust. He continued his update and stated that the Trust was working on a case-by-case basis with API and other state agencies to identify community partners that could provide services and housing to some of the folks with complex needs and difficult challenges. He then updated how the Trust and staff address COVID-19-related requirements and challenges. He added that they continue to work very productively from remote locations and will continue going forward. He called attention to thank-you notes received that were shared in an email and asked that they be looked at, and concluded his update.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked about the struggle the Care Coordination Network is having in finding secure servers, and they are looking for guidance over those issues.

MR. ABBOTT replied that a considerable amount of effort and resources towards helping agencies improve their telecommunications capability, especially as it relates to being able to support beneficiaries and provide services. He added that it has not been tabulated, and he does not have exact numbers.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that her concern was because most of the care coordinators have broken from agency support, have gone independent and are struggling.

MR. ABBOTT stated that he would be happy to talk further about ideas to support those folks.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIR COOKE stated that the audit was discussed at the committee meeting on October 21 and to follow up there is a proposed motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees accept the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's basic financial statements and government auditing standards auditor's report for the period ending June 30, 2020, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE McCARTY.

MS. HOWARTH explained that, on an annual basis, the Trust Authority's financial statements are audited and are provisionally submitted at the last Audit Committee meeting. She stated that they were completed, consistent with what he was presented, and this is a normal acceptance process. She continued that the reports will be available to be posted on the website for the public to review. They have also been submitted to the State. She added that it was done and submitted on time.

MR. ABBOTT stated that it was a clean audit, first time in about three years. He continued that he was very proud of the work the three key teams did in order to bring this report forward.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, he called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

CHAIR COOKE moved to the Finance Committee Update and asked for clarification with regard to the motions.

MR. ABBOTT replied that there were two motions associated with the first agenda item. Both of the motions were addressed in the Finance Committee in October and were unanimously recommended to support both of them. He explained that both need Board confirmation of the committee recommendation.

MOTIONS: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve setting a target level for Trust Authority Development Account funds at \$1.710 million. A motion that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to transfer TADA funds that exceed the target level to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation for investment to the Trust Fund was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

MR. ABBOTT explained that the motion has the effect of allowing the CFO to take funds that are earned through Trust Land Office activity between now and the end of the fiscal year and maintain a minimum balance in the account of \$1.7 million to pay for existing obligations, and then deposit the balance, which should be in excess of \$10 million accumulated during the year, to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation for investment in the Trust fund.

TRUSTEE McCARTY questioned having collective motions. He stated that it seemed that the motions needed to be addressed one motion at a time.

MR. ABBOTT replied that it was up to the Board, and he did not think that it was a requirement to deal with them separately. He added that he believed handling them as a combined motion would not change their effect on the decision.

A brief discussion and explanation ensued.

TRUSTEE BOERNER had a point-of-order question. The way she understood the motion was that it was not two motions; just continuing on. She heard Trustee McCarty recommend that those two items be separated out. She asked if that would be an amendment to the motion or what is the motion currently on the floor for consideration. She understood that there cannot be two motions on the floor.

CHAIR COOKE ruled that they would be voted separately.

TRUSTEE McCARTY concurred with the point-of-order question and stated the following:

MOTION: An amendment to Motion 1 as presented in the packet and look at it independently and then address the other one as Motion 2 was made by TRUSTEE McCARTY; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

MR. ABBOTT recommended that, for the sake of clarity and that the minutes read relatively clean recommended that the read motions be withdrawn, and a new Motion No. 1 be read in.

MOTION: A motion to withdraw both motions was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE McCARTY. TRUSTEE McCARTY withdrew his amendment.

There being no objection, the MOTIONS were withdrawn.

CHAIR COOKE asked for a single motion for the trustees to consider.

MOTION: The Board of Trustees approve setting the target level for the Trust Authority Development Account funds at \$1.710 million was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE noted that Trustees Sturgeon Boyles were excused. He moved to Motion 2.

MOTION: The Board of Trustees authorizes the chief financial officer to transfer TADA funds that exceed the target level to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation for investment in the Trust Fund was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE moved to a proposed motion regarding the commercial real estate debt that was discussed previously.

MOTION: The Board of Trustees authorizes the chief financial officer to refinance as much of the current commercial real estate debt as prudent in order to reduce debt service requirements and maintain flexibility to allow for future property sales. The chief financial officer may use interest-only debt that allows the Trust to pay down the loan was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES.

MR. ABBOTT explained that the memo was provided to the Finance Committee on September 9, and that motion was adopted by the committee as proposed.

A discussion ensued.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, no; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE came back into session and called the roll. All trustees, except Trustee Boyles, were present. He moved to the Resource Management Committee report.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIR COOKE stated that there are several proposed motions that were recommended to the Full Board for approval from the Resource Management Committee.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with creating a pool of approximately 194 subdivision lots and small- to medium-sized parcels that may be disposed of through the TLO statewide land sale program was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. MENEFEE stated that this consultation was about an inventory of parcels created to be put into the statewide land sale process. This large inventory is expected to earn about \$3 million over about three years. He added that this was to continue with the statewide land sale program that has been done over multiple years. This will refresh the inventory of parcels.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE moved to Consultation Item B, Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc., Kinross.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the decision to issue a negotiated surface lease facilitating the development of a lode gold deposit adjacent to the Fort Knox Mine was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE McCARTY.

MR. MENEFEE stated that this consultation is about expanding the efforts of Fairbanks Gold Mining to move over to the Gil Project. This area already has claims, but this would be giving a surface lease and getting 12 percent of the appraised land value from that surface lease. This project is important to help bring ore into the mill to keep the mill at Fort Knox running.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE moved to Consultation Item C.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the decision to issue a negotiated surface lease to facilitate the expansion of the Fort Knox Mine pit and Gilmore Project was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. MENEFEE stated that this was the second part of some work being done at Fort Knox. This will take some overburden and waste rock from the actual pit at Fort Knox and move that burden to Trust lands. This is a waste-rock storage facility on Trust land.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE moved to Consultation Item D.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the issuance of a negotiated lease for the exploration and development of natural gas resources on Trust lands in the Matanuska-Susitna area was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. MENEFEE stated that this motion is about what was brought up in the committee meeting which was that Gardes approached for a lease to explore for natural gas. There will be a target of coal-bed methane there also. The data collection will be received which will help inform the gas potential on the land and potentially increase the revenues through the royalties.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE concluded the matters referred from the Resource Management Committee. He noted that at the Resource Management Committee meeting on October 21, there were extensive materials, backgrounds and maps and a more detailed discussion of these items. All trustees were participants in that committee meeting. He thanked Mr. Menefee and the TLO staff for the excellent presentation and details provided about these developments. He moved to the Program

& Planning Committee.

PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIR COOKE asked for a proposed motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve the allocation of \$750,000 FY2021 unobligated funds as Authority Grant funds to the current FY2021 budget, January 30, 2020, in the Housing & Long-Term Services and Supports focus area. These funds will be used for the four grants listed in the documents approved at the October 22, 2020, Program & Planning Committee meeting was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

MR. ABBOTT explained that this was the complementary motion to the grant awards that the Program & Planning Committee endorsed in October. Currently, in anticipated FY21 revenue there is approximately \$1.4 million of unobligated funds. This action would take about half of those unallocated funds and specifically place them into a position to fund the four grants that are described in memos that are attached behind in the Board packets.

TRUSTEE BOERNER suggested that the items that are no longer requested motions but were approved by the committee should be listed as approved committee motions, not as requested motions.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

CHAIR COOKE stated that completed the morning agenda. He stated that next is our CEO annual performance evaluations and lunch. He asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

MOTION: A motion that the Board go into Executive Session to perform the annual performance evaluations of the chief executive officer in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c) was made by TRUSTEE McCARTY; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

(Executive Session and lunch from 11:52 a.m. until 1:26 p.m.)

CHAIR COOK stated that it was 1:26, and he resumed the Board of Trustees' meeting for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. He called the roll; Trustee Boyles was excused, and all the other trustees were present. He continued that the Executive Session concluded, and the trustees did not adopt any motions or take any other action during Executive Session. He reported that the evaluation will be continued at a later date to be determined. He moved back into the agenda and apologized to the presenters for the tardiness. He recognized Beverly Schoonover.

PARTNER ADVISORY BOARDS

MS. SCHOONOVER stated that she was the executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

MS. VANDAGRIFF stated that she was the executive director for the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

MS. THOMPSON stated that she was the interim executive director with the Alaska Commission on Aging. She continued that they made a great hire for the executive director; Lisa Morley, who had been running the grant services for Senior and Disability Services. She will take the lead for the commission during this presentation.

MS. MORLEY stated that she was very excited to be working for the Alaska Commission on Aging and partnering with the Mental Health Trust. She continued that she had been working with Senior and Disability Services for the past 19 years and looked forward to working with everyone.

MS. SCHOONOVER stated that the purpose of this joint presentation is to share information on how the Alaska Medicaid program supports Trust beneficiaries. This would be a really good introduction to trustees about Medicaid and the Medicaid support system. She continued that Medicaid is very complicated, and the approach is to give a few basic definitions about Medicaid and then go into services and supports for Trust beneficiaries. She added that some personal stories would be shared. She began with a definition of Medicaid which provides health-care coverage for eligible Alaskans. It was expanded in September 2015 to improve access to health-care services; that was called the Medicaid Expansion. She stated that there are various eligibility requirements for Medicaid, and she gave a brief glance to some of the eligibility groups. She asked Ms. Morley to continue.

MS. MORLEY talked about the financial eligibility standards and requirements for old age and disabled. She explained that if someone met the financial eligibility then they are often eligible for other long-term programs or services where they also have to meet the functional level of care. She stated that Medicare does not pay for long-term care services and supports, but does pay for other medical costs. Medicaid eligibility is determined by the Department of Public Assistance, and the functional eligibility for various programs is determined by those divisions that manage those programs.

MS. SCHOONOVER talked about the Medicaid spending and gave a few more definitions. She stated that Medicaid waivers allow states to offer services that Medicaid does not cover to accomplish certain goals. She went through some examples.

MS. VANDAGRIFF talked about the different Medicaid waivers and added that the most impacted is the developmental disabilities population. The Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision, which continues to be funded by the Trust, is hugely instrumental to the populations and is the lens which is used to look at the service provision of the different waivers. She stated that the beginning of the waiver process starts at the developmental disability eligibility phase. This is somebody experiencing severe chronic disability; mental, physical or both. It is there before

the person reaches the age of 22 and is likely to continue indefinitely for the long-term supports and services aspect. The result is substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major-life activity areas: Self-care, learning, mobility, expressive and receptive language, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency. She explained in great detail. She then moved to stakeholders that look into the wording and the weight of the questions to make sure that the intake process for waiver reflect those stakeholder needs, and the different waivers and processes involved. She stated that the average cost for a waiver is about \$88,000, as opposed to \$214,000 for being in an institution. She then shared a resource that showed the different waiver types and provided a bit more description on what that service entails.

MS. MORLEY reminded everyone that the word “waiver” means actual individuals who meet nursing home level of care. It is a required Medicaid service to provide nursing home level of care in a nursing home or an institution. The individual is basically waiving that requirement so care can be received in their own home, out of an institution. This is the preference of most individuals, and is also a huge cost savings. These services keep individuals independent in their homes. She stated that the waiver services save the State money, provide a very important service, and allow people to receive their services in their own homes and communities. She moved to other Medicaid supports and talked about the Community First Choice program, a Medicaid program. This program is different from the Medicaid waivers because it provides increased training to providers, freedom for individuals, and there is also an additional 6 percent State match that CMS provided as an incentive for states to adopt this new program. She moved to personal care services and went through them, explaining as she went along. She stated that every year individuals who are on the waitlist need to update that information, and the Developmental Disability Resource Connection will help with this. She added that there are six ADRCs throughout the state, and six DDRCs; both can be found on the SDS website.

MS. SCHOONOVER moved to the 1115 Behavioral Health Waiver Services which were created by the Division of Behavioral Health. She explained that this waiver allowed the State to try something out to see if folks with substance-use disorders, co-occurring disorders, mental health could be served, keep the federal participation the same and hopefully just increase services and access to care. She talked about the new waiver services that target substance-use disorders, get folks the treatment when they need it so as not to elevate to institutional care or institutional placements. She also talked about case management with an emphasis in peer-based services and the American Society of Addiction Medication, ASAM, model is a level-of-care tool. She continued with the different target groups and then moved to Crisis Now. There are now billing codes and services available for crisis services: observation, stabilization, short-term crisis care, residential services, and then more services allowed in the 1115 for the adult mental health residential. The services are happening, and as the waiver matures, there will be some pretty amazing data that the Division and the Department will be able to share about the outcomes and the cost savings. She moved to some amazing members that shared their personal stories about how Medicaid impacted and still impacts their lives.

MR. GILMORE stated that the DD Shared Vision is where living the life chosen is talked about. This is a fundamental shift in the way services are delivered because the plan of care is written by a team of people who discuss what should be worked on and then ask the clients what they would like to do. He shared his story of having cerebral palsy and needing help with every

activity of daily living: showering, dressing, eating, even needing help to hug his partner. He explained that it is very challenging. The services are listed as optional, but are really not. It is not optional to live a life. He continued that the people that do this work generally make between \$15 and \$16 an hour. There is a high turnover, and it is difficult to find people, which is why he relocated from Juneau to Anchorage and is away from his partner. He added that his care coordinators are good and have done their best. They said I had to go, had to move, and I had 30 days to do it. He wanted to share what it is like and that it is tough. He thanked all for the opportunity to speak and bring some reality to the presentation and numbers.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Gilmore for his presentation and for helping put a real human face on so many of the things that the Trust deals with and talks about. He asked if there were any other presenters.

MS. SAFRA stated that she was Nona Safra from Homer and may be known from the Commission on Aging, the SILC, the Governor's Council for Disabilities or from her Veterans' projects. She shared her personal journey with Medicaid, waivers and mini-grants as both a caregiver and a person with a brain injury. The person she cares for led an adventurous life in Alaska until the time to retire arrived. Along with it came dementia, diabetes, CLL, and a quad bypass. By 2015, he needed Medicaid to maintain any quality of life. She continued that they learned to balance her brain challenges with his medical issues all while she advocated for vulnerable Alaskans. She was in denial about subtle day-to-day changes which affected her emotionally, physically and her mental health. In turn, that affected the person she cared for. She made the easier choices, and emotional choices, but not the best choices. The person she cared for did not acknowledge his Alzheimer's diagnosis or that his level of competency had changed. He was in denial but tried really hard to be helpful. His going out alone became risky and she finally broke down with the need for a Medicaid waiver. She found a wonderful care coordinator who she could rely on and he would trust. This care coordinator helped navigate the forms, questions, and narratives to apply for waivers. The virtual interviews were challenging as the person she cared for wandered. The folks that worked through the waiver process were rock stars. She added that his waiver became effective six weeks ago, but he has not received any services. Having Medicaid waiver is good, but getting services would be better. She explained that hope lies with the agencies and Trust support. Alzheimer's Resources has a mini-grant that will provide exercise, but she needs to go with him until a same-sex care provider can be arranged. She has a mini-grant from ABIN, also supported by the Trust, because her TABI was undiagnosed for a decade and she now needs a stent placed in her brain. She added that she is slowly going blind, which is partially controlled by a very expensive medicine that is not on her formulary. Also, the vision changes require new glasses several times a year. The high cost of the drugs and glasses overwhelmed her being on a fixed income. She stated that the lessons learned about Medicaid is about how to manage things like technology, like Telehealth, which is awesome. It needs to continue post-COVID because it is a more efficient way to deliver services to Medicaid recipients. She went through some of the different cost savings and sent out a huge thank you to the Trust, the partner advisory boards, and the agencies that assist the beneficiaries. She participates in programs like the brain injury ECHO and the super advocacy training. She thanked the Trust for sponsoring her day, and listening.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Safra and stated that there was one more presenter.

MS. TAUTFEST thanked Nona and Corey and stated that they were awesome. She continued that her name was Charlene Tautfest, and the story is her son's; which has been a 15-year-long journey until today. She explained that he was diagnosed with schizophrenia while attending college in 2006, and he was on her insurance at the time. That insurance covered quite a bit or all of his medical care. Eventually he was on disability, deemed mentally disabled, had to go on Medicaid and is no longer on her insurance. He did not want to go on Medicaid because he did not want government in his life. That was not a political statement, just part of his diagnosis. He was very paranoid of the government. He also wanted to work and lead a meaningful, productive life. She added that the main point of being on Medicaid was his medications, which could cost anywhere from \$1500 to \$2000 a month. There were also constant hospitalizations when one medication did not work, or if he was not compliant with it. She stated that about five years ago providers said there was medication in long-acting form that was one shot per month. It is a very expensive shot, and Medicaid only covered one type of medication, but it was not the one he really needed. He took the shot, and not having to take a pill every day and being compliant helped him do a lot better. Once he was stable, we moved to Anchorage to go through services through DVR, and he was eventually employed. He has his own insurance and still has a \$300 copay for his medication. He is self-sustaining, working, paying his own rent, whereas before he was on every service. She advocates for those employment services for those folks that want to work, and her son was one of them. She thanked the trustees, and stated that she worked best with questions.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Tautfest for another outstanding presentation. He asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked the advisory boards for their presentation and encouraged the trustees, especially the new trustees, to consider attending their board meetings. She stated that she is a big fan of Corey and thanked him for his presentation. He has one of the greatest wits of anyone that she has met. She also thanked Nona and Charlene for their presentations, as well. She continued that it really means a lot to hear their stories in order to understand the individual impacts that we are having.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated appreciation for the testimonies and asked about the Medicaid payment formula.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that this question may not be able to be answered. Provider rates are a whole big issue and another big discussion.

CHAIR COOKE thanked all for the presentations and for sharing the stories.

MS. SCHOONOVER stated that there are Council, Commission, and Board updates that are in the packets.

MS. THOMPSON, from the Commission on Aging, stated that December 1st is a Zoom meeting, she would get the agenda out, and invited all to attend.

CHAIR COOKE called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting back to order and continued to the communications update.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

MS. BIASTOCK stated that she was the Chief Communications Officer at the Trust. She spoke about the communications program in May and is glad for this opportunity for a midyear check-in. She began with a few acknowledgements: Valette Keller who supports several things in the communications program and appreciated her expertise; Northwest Strategies is the communications contractor and bolsters much of this work; she also acknowledged the Trust and TLO staff. She started with the communication goals for the external communications program which were developed considering the mission, duties, past research efforts. The first goal is around stigma, which is a longstanding goal of the Trust. Goal No. 2 deals with perception of the Trust and understanding the purpose of the work. Goal 3 touches on much of the work at the Trust, not just communications. She went through some of the communications tools and talked about the external communications program. She emphasized some highlights on some of the points. Earned media is press that mentions the Trust or can mention things that are important to the beneficiaries; she talked about press releases. She went through some of the graphics and then moved to the media monitoring service through Meltwater. She highlighted the web page which underwent a significant upgrade in 2018 and now jointly houses content about the Authority and the Land Office. This is one of the most important communications tools. She then highlighted social media which continues to be an important communication tool. The Trust has a Facebook page and an Instagram page. Currently, there are 5,500 followers on the Facebook page with an anticipated increase during the upcoming media campaign efforts. She added that Facebook is a busy medium, and we do track the engagement on the posts which continue to perform at a higher rate than the industry average. She then talked about community presentations and gave an example of a COVID adaptation, which was a great success with a decent turnout. Virtual community meetings are a good opportunity to help organizations across Alaska get to know the Trust a little better. She moved to collaborations with partners on externally facing events will continue to be a very important tool, and she went through some images that represented three great events that were held recently. The Trust had an important role in all of them and provided some information on events. She also highlighted the panel held last week. She moved to the Hearts of Glass where a community panel was held to focus on disability employment. It was held at the end of a period at which the documentary film, Hearts of Glass, about inclusive employment at a hydroponic greenhouse in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was being streamed for free for Alaskans. She stated that it was great to work with the filmmakers and other key partners on sharing these great messages about fully integrated employment. There was a great turnout, and it went very well. She continued to the media campaigns and talked about the Stigma campaign. Paid media campaigns are a very important communications tool, and the most recent research indicates that there is significant stigma attached to the beneficiaries, and we have learned that positively changing perceptions and attitudes faced by the beneficiaries is the key to addressing that stigma. She added that the Stigma media campaign was multimedia that was launched in May of last year. She talked about the cost and stated that the campaign included broadcast and cable TV which is fairly expensive and very effective. She also stated appreciation for the efforts of Anthony; Corbin and his mom, Karli; Lily; Betty; and Jennifer for participating in the campaign and sharing their stories. She moved to the additional media campaign that is planned to be launched in the coming weeks. It

is the Lands campaign and will be statewide featuring a series of ads that communicate the basic message of revenues earned on Trust land that support Trust beneficiaries. These ads need to communicate the idea of the Trust's responsibility to manage the lands in a way that maximizes earnings, and why Trust lands support the work on behalf of beneficiaries is great for the communities. She moved to the print ad for the Lands campaign and explained that the media will be on a statewide level and talked about what is being planned. She asked that the radio spot be played.

(Radio ad played.)

MS. BIASTOCK continued that the Lands campaign is a great segue into the Land Office communications. Some of the efforts include advertising for the recent fall land sale, all being done with a modest budget. She added that they continue to look for opportunities to communicate about the work of the Trust and the Trust Land Office. She moved to the upcoming research project which is intended for early in 2021 with the hope to have results to share at the spring meeting. The purpose of this research effort is to assess Alaskans' current perception of the beneficiaries. She added that the effort is going to primarily focus on stigma. The plan is to work with the contractor who will help develop questions and help conduct that research. The results are to better understand how to maximize Trust resources, to reduce beneficiary stigma. They can help strengthen the internal decision-making in the communication and other efforts to help tailor the messaging to help in the mission and the communication goals. She then briefly touched on advocacy and went through the annual report which is underway for fiscal year '20.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Biastock.

TRUSTEE BOERNER noted a great presentation. She stated that she was particularly curious about the research protocol methods and the steps towards minimizing bias in the design.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that the plan is to work with professionals, and we will endeavor to make sure that the protocols are followed.

TRUSTEE STURGEON commented on the wonderful program, a great presentation and some really good work. He stated interest in seeing the results of some of the programs.

CHAIR COOKE asked if trustees have additional thoughts regarding the communications program, how to communicate about it.

MR. ABBOTT replied to feel free to reach out to Ms. Biastock, and to copy him on the e-mail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR COOKE asked if anyone had signed up for public comment.

MS. SMITH-COOLIDGE replied that she did not have anyone signed up.

CHAIR COOKE stated that there was one written comment in the packet from Faith Myers and Dorrance Collins.

MR. ABBOTT asked if he should read the public comment introductory remarks. There may be people online that will participate.

CHAIR COOKE stated that it would help if the opener was read.

MR. ABBOTT stated that the public comment period allows individuals to inform and advise the Board of Trustees about issues, problems, or concerns. It is not a hearing. Individuals are invited to speak for up to three minutes. A speaker may be granted the latitude to speak longer than the three-minute time limit only by the Chair, or by a motion adopted by the Full Board. Participants addressing issues related to Trust beneficiaries will have priority order. Speakers are not permitted to criticize or attack others, and anyone providing comment should do so in a manner that is respectful of the Board of Trustees and all meeting attendees. The Chair maintains the right to stop public comments that contain inappropriate or inflammatory language or behavior. He added that there is a timer, and the Chair can begin the process.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Abbott for that preliminary statement and understood that no one notified prior to now to take part in public comment. He asked if there was anyone in attendance online who cared to give public comment to the trustees. He asked if there was such an individual to speak up. He stated that it appeared that there was no one wanting to participate in the public-comment portion. If there was nothing further, he closed the public-comment portion of the meeting and returned to Ms. Biastock for any comments or questions about the Communications Update.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE - CONTINUED

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked what role Northwest Strategies plays.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that Northwest Strategies is the communications contractor. Working with them is a great way to leverage the in-house resources to be able to maximize the communications program. They provide support with things like ad development, media placement, some graphic support, and the like.

CHAIR COOKE asked if Ms. Biastock was working on the Medicaid issue with the partner boards.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that the Trust has messaged on Medicaid, and we have worked on it in the advocacy efforts. During the time of Medicaid reform efforts with the State there was active Funding, and we had developed some materials. While the reform effort is no longer funded, it is certainly a topic that is on the mind. Medicaid is a joint priority with the Trust and the partner advisory boards, and messaging is developed around that.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Mr. Abbott for working hard to ensure the safety of staff and thanked staff, who are simply amazing, and she appreciated all the work done throughout this time and all the changes made, as well. She thanked the advisory boards and partners. She counted her blessings in being able to be with her family during this time. At the same time, her heart is heavy with worry on having someone near and dear that is infected. She asked the

public to make the sacrifice of the discomfort of wearing a mask. She stated the need to get the curve down so that the pressure on the hospitals, clinics and the frontline workers is relieved. The good news is that the vaccines coming out are showing a high level of efficacy. In closing, she stated that she is honored to work with her fellow trustees. They are engaged, have a wide breadth and depth of knowledge, and she is thankful to have the opportunity to serve and learn from them. She added that the heroes are the Trust beneficiaries, and the personal stories today meant a lot to her.

TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES thanked everyone for the really great presentations. She also thanked everyone for bearing with and being patient as she continues to learn about this incredible Trust and all the good works being done for the beneficiaries. She is excited to see what it can continue to do and accomplish in the years to come. Again, great presentations, great information, which is very much appreciated.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN echoed some of the same sentiments that the other trustees have stated. She thanked staff and especially appreciated the spotlight on the beneficiaries. The most meaningful part of any of the discussions is to hear from the populations that are served. She thanked the staff for all the work done into pulling these meetings together. She thanked Allison for hanging in there during the technical difficulties and appreciated the fact that this is stressful on all of us in having to do meetings this way. She was relieved to get to participate today because the doctor was not letting her leave her house. The fact of doing this telephonically enabled her to be a participant, as she is recovering from surgery. She thanked everyone for all the information. It was a valuable meeting. She stated that she caught many of the spotlights and they are working. This will help in the long run and will serve well for many decisions that will be made in the future.

TRUSTEE McCARTY stated great appreciation for the staff and for all the people and workers that are out there helping the beneficiaries. A constant theme is the passion for the beneficiaries and how to help them function in a manner that has the least intrusion. He talked about the opportunities with technology and the collection of data is spanning the spectrums of different things in an objective manner. He moved to the stigma of mental health, and he wants to change that stigma and encouraged changing the stigma of treatment. He talked about his tradition of pie giving and wished all a great Thanksgiving.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that he did not have much to add. Everyone complimented the staff, and Mr. Abbott did a great job preparing for this meeting. He knows how difficult it is to get the Board packets ready and on time and thanked the staff for that. He enjoyed Allison's presentation and would like to see more of the beneficiaries come and talk, which helps understand why we are doing this. He asked for more of those presentations, and thanked all.

CHAIR COOKE underscored all the comments that were made, especially Trustee Sturgeon's point on the mission moments being the highlight of the meeting. He also thanked staff and all the presenters. He stated that, individually, the trustees should continue the efforts to follow best practices for limiting contact and wearing masks and the other steps recommended to lowering the chance of exposure. Part of the Trust messaging should be to encourage people to get vaccinated when that time comes. The Trust has an interest in the health and well-being of the beneficiaries and also the entire public, especially for something that is easily transmitted. There

is a need to be out in front on this whole community education and responsibility effort. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was approved. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee McCarty, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes).

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.)