

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

**PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 22, 2020**

**8:45 a.m.**

**WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference**

**Originating at:**

**3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

---

**Trustees Present:**

Verne' Boerner, Chair

Rhonda Boyles

Chris Cooke

Ken McCarty

John Sturgeon

Annette Gwalthney-Jones

Anita Halterman

**Trust Staff Present:**

Mike Abbott

Steve Williams

Carol Howarth

Miri Smith-Coolidge

Kelda Barstad

Luke Lind

Michael Baldwin

Katie Baldwin-Johnson

Jimael Johnson

Valette Keller

Allison Biastock

Kat Roch

Katie Vachris

Travis Welch

Carrie Predeger

Eric Boyer

**Also participating:**

Beverly Schoonover; Kristin Vandagriff; Becky Carpenter; Sheila Harris; Laura Brooks; John Lee; LaTesia Guinn; Wade Bryson; Scott Ciambor; Gus Marx; Wayne Jensen; Jeannette Lacey; Dr. Heidi Brocious; Mandy Cole; Laraine Derr; Joan O'Keefe; Maria Lovishchuk; Mark Marlow; Brandi Burchett; Christopher Constant; Jon Cochrane; Christine Sheehan; Tommy Glanton; Jason Hahn; Clinton Lasley; Scott York; Sherri von Wolfe.

.

## PROCEEDINGS

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR BOERNER called the meeting to order and welcomed Annette Gwalthney-Jones, the newest trustee. She looked forward to working with her and thanked her for dedicating her time, energy and knowledge to the Trust.

TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES stated that it was an honor to be here.

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the roll call. With all the trustees present, she asked for any announcements. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

### ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any ethics disclosures. Hearing none, she moved to the approval of the minutes. She asked for a motion for the July 28 and 29, 2020, meeting.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the July 28 and 29, 2020, minutes was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any edits, corrections or revisions. There being none, she called the vote.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the first order of business, which was a Department of Corrections update. She recognized Travis Welch.

### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS UPDATE

MR. WELCH introduced Laura Brooks, the current division operations manager for the Department of Corrections, Health and Rehabilitation Services. She has over 20 years working for DOC and is a licensed psychological associate. He talked about her background and stated that her presentation was to provide an update on the expansion remodel of the women's mental health unit at Hiland Mountain, which the Trust and DOC have partnered to effectuate. He thanked Ms. Brooks and the mental health team at DOC for their advocacy and the services they provide to Trust beneficiaries.

MS. BROOKS thanked Mr. Welch for the introduction. She stated that we came a really long way in those 22 years, and we recognize that there is still a long way to go. She began with a

COVID update and gave a background of how the response plan was developed. She continued that the greatest COVID threat to any congregate setting is people coming into that setting who had been out in the community. From the very beginning of the pandemic, outside access to the public was shut down and every employee was screened every single day. Every single offender who walked in the door at booking, at arrest was tested. Then they are quarantined for 14 days because of the infectious period of the illness. Due to the asymptomatics of COVID-19, it was anticipated that more positives would be identified through that process. She added that tests at intake continue and also many of the offenders are tested before going to outside medical procedures, before being transferred to a CBC or housing placements in the community. She stated that more than 7,000 COVID-19 tests have been done on the inmate population, and it is moving right along. She then talked about the challenges in protecting their population from the virus, recognizing that it is a highly vulnerable population. They were taught about the importance of the basics: increased sanitation, given more soap, hand sanitizer, which is usually a no-no because it is alcohol-based. She stated that the biggest threat comes from the outside, the staff and contractors. Programming groups were suspended; community-based services were affected; and all in-person trainings were canceled. She added that travel restrictions out to the rural communities also impacted access to some of the treatment providers. She went into more detail of what was done to protect the inmate population, giving a general idea of the programming that was set up for the inmates in the interim. She also responded to the questions that were asked. She moved on to a background of how this unit came to be. It began when the very first women's psychiatric unit out at Hiland was created. Half of the segregation unit at Hiland Mountain was taken, and this space was created for women with severe psychiatric problems; the acute psychiatric treatment unit for those that are the most ill, those that are acutely suicidal, floridly psychotic, those in the system. It is a really small place which has been in place for 20-plus years. She explained that there is a disparity between men and women's mental health treatment. There is a huge concern in the increased number of mentally ill females that have to be held in segregation. They have to be held outside of Anchorage as they wait for space to open in this unit. She stated that expanding and growing this is into the eighth year of trying to get this project built. There is also real concern about female offenders who experience acute withdrawal because there is no women's infirmary. They are actually placed in a cell in the men's infirmary at the Anchorage correctional complex. She continued that, with the Trust's help, a plan to remodel an existing area at Hiland Mountain to meet the increasing needs of these women was developed. The hope is to be able to provide a much more therapeutic environment and more bed space and an area for dedicated detox for women. They are really looking at developing an integrated treatment model and added that there is a large number of female beneficiaries in the system. This mental health unit will be joined together with a women's infirmary and the medical clinic. She added that this unit will bring together medical/mental health staff and allow the sharing of resources and creating a truly integrated model of care without, at this point, needing more staff. She stated that staff is very excited about this, which will provide a nice, healthy work space because this work is very difficult with the high-needs, high-risk population. This will also give them the opportunity to work together as a team. She shared pictures of where construction is at this point and explained where the different spaces and rooms will be. She added that all is on schedule and patient occupation is expected to be March or April of 2021. She stated that they are beyond grateful for the Trust support of this project, the \$2.24 million that is going toward this project, and also the support and advocacy that the Trust provided when additional funds were requested -- which is making this project happen. She looked forward to having it occupied and having the trustees out to see what all the eight years has finally led to.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Ms. Brooks for providing the background and asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE remembered the tour of the Hiland facility and stated a follow-up tour would be a good thing to see the transformation.

A discussion ensued on the subject.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Ms. Brooks for her presentation and called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute update with Clinton Lasley and Scott York. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to provide the introduction.

### **ALASKA PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE UPDATE**

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON introduced Clinton Lasley, deputy commissioner over Family Community & Integrated Services within the Department of Health and Social Services. She continued that Scott York, chief operating officer over the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, API, which is the only state-operated psychiatric hospital in Alaska, is also present. Mr. York started his role as CEO of API earlier in May and comes to Alaska from North Carolina with more than 35 years of experience in administration and as a CEO over psychiatric hospitals, adolescent treatment facilities, and behavioral health organizations.

MR. LASLEY thanked the Trust for the invitation to provide a presentation which will give a bit of an overview of API and the progress the Division made over the past year. He stated that there was some reorganization this past year, and we have moved API into what is now called Family, Community & Integrated Services which now encompasses four divisions. He continued that it is all of the frontline and direct-service providers, 24-hour facilities which would be the Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Pioneer Homes and the six homes across the state, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute and also provides oversight over the Office of Children's Services and the crucial work that was done across the state. He moved to an update of some of the work that was done specifically with API; the DES/DET coordinator position that was created in July; the census dashboard and a view of what the current census and occupancy is at the hospital; the Wellpath contract, what led to it and the eventual decision to transition out of that. DES/DET coordinator stands for the designated evaluation and stabilization and the designated evaluation and treatment facility. There are four DET facilities across the state and the point of this was to have one centralized point of contact for placement of Title 47 recipients. Ashley Christopherson was moved into that role exclusively starting July 1. She files daily status reports with the courts across the state and tracks all of the Title 47 recipients and placements in the DET facilities. He moved to the dashboard, which is backup. In 2018, the Joint Commission threatened to revoke API's accreditation, and we were on provisional license at the facility. In 2019, we brought Wellpath in, which provided immediate support to the hospitals. Improvements in positions were made, and the contract ended in June 2020. He asked Scott York to continue.

MR. YORK shared some of the key roles that were filled that helped to get some things squared

away and figured out at API. He stated that some of the treatment plans were not individualized per patient and are now very individualized. He continued his overview and the key points that had to get in line as part of the corrective actions. He talked about the COVID impacts and adjustments to operations. The goal was to do what could be done to keep the current patient population and staff safe. The idea was to increase the capacity, and we are doing a lot of things to ensure everyone's safety. Visitation continues via videoconferencing and is done as much as possible. He added that the only time any kind of visitation is allowed is when an assisted living facility needs to interview a patient. They are required to wear the same PPE that is used within the facility, masks and eye covering. He talked about the screening and the testing when admissions come in and that process. He moved to the future of API and talked about the increased bed capacity of 60 and the pressure on staff and the learning curve. The clinical programming in the rehab department is not a solid program, and the team has been figuring it out. He added that it is improving with good reports from the team.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Mr. York and stated that Ms. Baldwin-Johnson had a clarifying question.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON asked if Mr. York would briefly describe the difference between the forensic and civil populations served at API. She also highlighted the partnership the Trust has with DHSS and API, and that the Trust has a nonvoting seat on the API governance board and she currently represents the Trust in that capacity. She stated that the DET/DES coordinating position currently filled by Ashley Christopherson is also supported with Trust funds. All positive steps forward.

MR. YORK stated that the Trust has helped and is in the process of assisting with some items needed due to the COVID situation. He moved to the difference between forensic and civil. Civil is patients that have not committed a crime, but are considered a danger to self, others, or considered gravely disabled. Forensic are folks that have committed a crime and have been sent to API for restoration treatment to help them understand the Court System and how it works.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Mr. York and Mr. Lasley and called a break.

(Break.)

#### **SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES UPDATE**

CHAIR BOERNER welcomed everyone back and stated that the next presentation is the Senior and Disabilities Services update. She asked Kelda Barstad to provide the introduction.

MS. BARSTAD introduced Al Wall, the Deputy Commissioner of Medicaid and Health Policy for the Department of Health and Social Services and then introduced John Lee, the director of Senior and Disabilities Services. She stated that the Trust is a proud partner with Senior and Disabilities Services to implement home- and community-based services across Alaska to support Trust beneficiaries and fellow Alaskans. She turned the meeting over to both.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WALL took a minute to introduce John and specifically said thank you to the Trust for the partnership over the years. He stated that the Department is extremely busy with COVID with a lot of efforts with the facilities and Medicaid to make sure there is accessibility to health care during the pandemic. He continued that the 1135 Waiver, the

Appendix K, all of the regulatory changes or waivers were handled through the Department and continue to monitor that situation going forward. He stated that it was a big year for Senior and Disability Services which Mr. Lee will talk about.

MR. LEE thanked the Trust for the invitation to speak and stated that he has been director for about 14 interesting months. He has a great team and relies on them and on the partnership from the Trust. He began with the process of renewing four of the five waivers which are renewed on a five-year cycle with CMS, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is a big project. Each waiver has 200-plus pages to them, and we are undergoing a lot of work right now. They are getting ready to post the waivers for the public comment period and expect to be submitting the renewals to CMS around the end of February next year. Then, CMS has a 90-day window to do the approvals. There are not many issues with the public comment anticipated and CMS approving the waivers. He then talked about some of the amendments and the public comment periods.

MR. LEE continued that they have contracted with a company called WellSky to build a system called Harmony. It is an electronic system that allows managing the entire life cycle of an individual as services and supports are built around them. He continued that Harmony incorporated and captured the health information about the individual and allows an effective management of the entire life cycle of an individual's programs and supports. He added that this has been effective. The last aspect of the contract was to bring the care coordinators into the system, which is exciting. He then talked about electronic visit verification, EVV, a federal requirement from a law called the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act which mandated states to adopt electronic visit verifications. The deadline for this is the end of this year and Ohio is the only state that has a certified system. Every other state is struggling to get this implemented. He moved to COVID and stated that one of the first focuses was applying for the flexibilities to be able to operate under the pandemic with some flexibilities to be able to make sure that services were being provided.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that public health emergency is slated to end for the state declaration in November and how important it is to have that declaration in place. Given the flexibilities that it allows for increasing access through Telehealth throughout the state and particularly in rural Alaska. The hope is that the Governor will consider extending that declaration, given the importance and the increase in cases across the state.

MR. LEE talked about the Alaska Commission on Aging and stated that it is currently without an executive director. Lesley Thompson has stepped into that role and kept ACOA going forward and is doing a great job. He stated that Michelle Rogers was hired with the additional funding provided for the rural specialists. She made a huge impact and is focused on working in rural Alaska. He continued going through some of the fundings that were provided by the Trust that brought success in managing through the pandemic. He thanked all again.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked both, and called for a break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR BOERNER welcomed everyone back and asked Mr. Abbott to provide a brief overview of the approvals. She asked staff to look at how the public health emergency that is slated to

lapse in November will impact the beneficiaries if it does lapse.

**APPROVALS**  
**AKEELA, INC.**

MR. ABBOTT stated that he will follow up with the trustees in a few days with information related to the state of emergency and its expiration in November. He was also grateful for the chance to introduce the topic of six opportunities for the Trust to make important impacts in four different communities around Alaska, serving Trust beneficiaries in different ways. He continued that four of the projects that funding is recommended for will need a complementary budget amendment to be addressed in November in order to be executed. He added that if the trustees approve the grants today and the subsequent budget items next month, then the unallocated funds for the current year would drop to approximately a million dollars. Two of the six grant requests, Akeela House and the United Social Service project, have funds ready to be used for these purposes already allocated inside the FY21 budget that was adopted more than a year ago. He recommended reading the first motion into the record before the discussion.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for the motion.

**MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$300,000 FY21 Authority Grant to Akeela, Inc. for an expansion of substance abuse treatment beds in their Akeela House facility. These funds will come from the FY21 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Access budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.**

CHAIR BOERNER asked Eric Boyer for an overview.

MR. BOYER stated that his goal was to give an overview of the project and added that there are three staff from Akeela House on the call available to answer specific technical questions. He explained that Akeela House, Inc. has been providing behavioral health treatment services in Alaska since 1974. It is a longstanding organization that provides inpatient and outpatient services in 18 communities around the state. Anchorage and Ketchikan actually offer inpatient substance use treatment beds and are asking for funds to increase bed capacity. The second block of that money would go toward the infrastructure, the remodeling, the rooms, the safety procedures, planning, and the approvals.

CHAIR BOERNER asked if any of the guests have anything they would like to briefly add.

MS. BURCHETT stated that they are very passionate about being able to make sure that every Alaskan that is wrestling with SUD symptomologies have the services they desperately need.

MR. CONSTANT added that this started as soon as the 1115 program was a whisper. Akeela House originally had 40 beds; and the IMD exclusion required that they have only 16 beds, which put a lockdown on the facility. They were one of the first substance use providing organization, under the 1115 waiver, and are happy to keep pushing that forward.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any other questions regarding the motion. There being none, she called the vote.

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

MR. CONSTANT thanked the trustees for making life better for the Trust beneficiaries.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Mr. Constant and appreciated the work being done. Next is the Juneau Cooperative Christian Ministry.

### **JUNEAU COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

**MOTION: A motion that the committee approve \$200,000 FY21 Housing & Long-Term Services & Supports focus area allocation to the Juneau Cooperative Christian Ministry for the New Glory Hall project. This grant is approved pending the approval of an amended FY21 budget at the November board of trustees meeting was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.**

CHAIR BOERNER asked Kelda Barstad to provide an overview.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this request is for the Glory Hall which is an emergency shelter. It is a soup kitchen as well as a resource center for individuals who are homeless in Juneau. She continued that the Glory Hall has been operating since 1982 and provides thousands of meals and safe shelter nights to the community. It provides transportation assistance, laundry, showers, social service referrals, housing searches, and other needs-based assistance. With the onset of COVID, the current location is untenable. They are able to serve a mere fraction of their previous capacity, which was already not adequate for the area. She added that the shelter serves single individuals and a variety of Trust beneficiaries, primarily those who experience a mental illness, addiction, traumatic brain injury and intellectual or developmental disability, although people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias would not be excluded. They are just not commonly served at the shelter. The shelter serves a large percentage of Trust beneficiaries. It also provides an important service within the continuum of care for homeless services that it will continue to provide in a new location. She added that there has been a lot of progress with this project which is a new construction. She stated that the Glory Hall will be located in a social service hub in Juneau next to the United Human Services building. It will create an 11,000-square-foot, two-story building with a capacity of up to 100 with 40 individual emergency shelter spaces for private space available to people that need that space. She continued that this request is specifically for the capital funding for new construction. It already has its operating funds in place which include a mix of the Department of Health and Social Services community initiative matching grant funds, the basic homeless assistance program, and emergency solutions grants administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, private foundation funds, and City and Borough of Juneau funds. The organization also does private fundraising and obtains funds through individual contribution. She stated that on the line is Maria Lovishchuk, executive director of the Glory Hall; Wade Bryson, City and Borough of Juneau Assembly/Chair of the mayor's task force on homelessness; Scott Ciambor, City and Borough chief housing and homeless officer; Gus Marks, chair of the Juneau Coalition to End Homelessness; Wayne Jensen, project architect; Jeannette, director of case management at Bartlett Regional Hospital; Dr. Heidi Brocious, Professor at the University of Alaska; and Mandy Cole, executive director at AWARE.

CHAIR BOERNER opened up to questions from the trustees which involved funding. She



asked Ms. Lovishchuk to respond.

MS. LOVISHCHUK stated that she is the executive director of the Glory Hall and project coordinator for the Juneau Housing First Collaborative. She said that the need for this project is great. She explained that Juneau is currently in the middle of the COVID explosion in the population of individuals experiencing housing and homelessness. There is no possibility in the current building to social-distance for emergency shelter provisions and no provision for day services. She continued that the construction of this new building is being pursued very aggressively, and it will enable service to patrons in the middle of the pandemic as well as when the pandemic is over. She thanked the trustees for their consideration and for all of the support of all of the projects supported in Juneau, including the Glory Hall and the Juneau Housing First Collaborative project.

A detailed discussion ensued on this project.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any other questions that go toward the proposal and the decision-making process. There being none, she called the vote.

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

MS. LOVISHCHUK thanked all very much.

CHAIR BOERNER called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER moved ahead to the next approval.

#### **BETHEL WINTER HOUSE**

**MOTION:** A motion to approve a \$150,000 FY21 Housing & Long-Term Services & Supports focus area allocation to the Bethel Winter House Renovation project. This grant is approved pending the approval of an amended FY21 budget at the November Board of Trustees meeting was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER asked Kelda Barstad to begin the presentation and introduction of representatives from the Bethel Winter House.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Bethel Winter House is a homeless shelter in the City of Bethel. Previously this was a grassroots effort on the part of the community. It was run on volunteer hours, donations, and had a leased space that is no longer available to them. She continued that this request is to remodel a building that has recently been transferred by the City of Bethel. It will need renovation to repair and reconfigure for optimal shelter use. With winter approaching, it is imperative to look at how to support this project. It is a shelter capital request for remodeling that serves homeless individuals in the Bethel area. There is no other shelter available in the area, and it just serves single adults. They serve a wide variety of Trust

beneficiaries. The Bethel Winter House was started several years ago after the community lost a series of homeless individuals that died from exposure for not having a warm place to go. This is a critical part of the housing and homeless service continuum of care that provides short-term housing. They also intend to provide meals out of the building. She stated that this project will improve the continuum of care for housing and homeless services, as well as benefit the community overall in being able to provide a formal space for some of the agencies that currently are not operating in a formal business space or need to expand. It adds the benefit of providing a sustainable income for the organization. She introduced Jon Cochrane, the board president of the Bethel Winter House, and LaTesia Guinn, a consultant that helped develop the proposal.

MR. COCHRANE appreciated the Trust taking this matter under consideration and gave a brief history of Winter House, which is in the eighth year of operation. He stated that COVID and CARES Act funding, along with other funders brought together a unique situation with a lot of support from funders and the City of Bethel, which sold the old senior center, a two-story building, to them for a dollar with the accompanying land provided they had the ability to continue providing these services. They also offered to continue funding certain portions of the operation to include some of the utilities in the building as well as possibly leasing some space for continued city use. He continued that the plan is to have a full-time homeless shelter all year round. It would be great to be able to provide services to these people and to partner with local organizations. They are also looking to partner with Bethel Family Clinic for Behavioral Health Services in the local SQAC to do some case management under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver. He added there is almost \$2 million in funding secured and committed. The Trust funding would help to get that to the \$2.6 million that will make this structure a reality. He thanked all.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE welcomed Ms. Guinn to the meeting and stated that this project proposal is needed and is a great response to a grassroots community effort that started entirely with volunteers addressing a local need and helping the beneficiaries in response to that need.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Trustee Cooke and recognized, for the record, that Trustee Boyle had to leave and was excused for the remainder of the meeting. She also stated appreciation to the Bethel Winter House for their activities and efforts.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN also thanked them for what they do.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any other questions. There being none, she called the vote.

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

## **SEAVIEW COMMUNITY SERVICES**

CHAIR BOERNER stated the next proposal is SeaView Community Services and asked for the motion.

**MOTION:** A motion that the committee approve a \$150,000 FY21 Housing & Long-Term Services & Supports focus area allocation to SeaView Community Services for the Recovery Housing Expansion Project. This grant is approved pending the approval of an amended FY21 budget at the November board of trustees meeting was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER recognized Kelda Barstad for the overview.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this project is the Recovery Housing Expansion Project through SeaView Community Services. It will increase the number of recovery housing beds from 10 to 20 and will help SeaView meet its goals of having a robust continuum of care in the Seward area. One of the more significant barriers to accessing treatment is the lack of bed availability. She continued that one way to ensure that people stay on track with this treatment commitment is to have recovery housing available for people who are ready to make a change so that they have supportive sober housing available to them as they begin their path for recovery while waiting for a treatment bed. This recovery housing is also critical post-treatment as a person transitions back into the community, especially longer inpatient stays. That also means they are transitioning back into employment. She added that this is part of a larger project by SeaView, currently a 10-bed recovery housing facility. The request is to assist with the purchase and minimal remodel of a new facility, a bed and breakfast that can be converted into 20 beds of recovery housing. The existing building would then go to sober living, and the proposed property may be evaluated for identifying a couple of those beds for potential inpatient use at a future time. This is a very straightforward project for purchase and minimal remodel in order to ensure that the bed and breakfast is suitable for recovery housing. This will serve 100 percent Trust beneficiaries. She stated that the primary source of the funding would be a loan that SeaView has already been approved for. The cost of the loan is factored into the sustainability plan to be able to maintain these services. She added that Christine Sheehan, the chief executive officer of SeaView and Tommy Glanton, chief clinical officer of SeaView, are also online.

MS. SHEEHAN thanked the trustees for the opportunity and stated her excitement for this chance to expand this program. She explained that the organization is need-based, and that they are looking at the needs and how to address them. She stated that they have been a mental health and substance use disorder treatment agency close to 50 years, and the 1115 Waiver gave a greater opportunity to be able to expand the continuum of care in the community and to really treat the beneficiaries and do much better there. She added that there are 68 people on a waiting list for ten beds, and this is an opportunity to at least double that number of beds and also convert the current facility into a sober-living facility.

MR. GLANTON stated appreciation for the opportunity to share information and added that the need in the community and across Alaska as a whole is very large. He continued that they have experienced a lot of success and are proud of that and are passionate about continuing it.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for comments or questions, and then called the vote.

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

## **COVENANT HOUSE ALASKA**

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Covenant House Alaska and asked for a motion.

**MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$250,000 FY21 Housing & Long-Term Services & Supports focus area allocation to Covenant House Alaska for the Bridge to Success project. This grant is approved pending the approval of an amended FY21 budget at the November Board of Trustees meeting was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.**

CHAIR BOERNER asked Ms. Barstad to provide the background and introduce the guests.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this proposal is to request funding to support the Bridge to Success program operated by Covenant House Alaska. She explained that it is for transitional housing for homeless youth ages 18 to 24. This project will renovate and expand space at the current Youth Engagement Center in Anchorage. It will create 22 new micro units and provide homeless youth with access to the on-site services that are available through Covenant House Alaska. It includes a wide range of services, including health, behavioral health, employment services, as well as different creative activities and outlets, fitness, and job readiness. She stated that this has been identified as a need by Covenant House of Alaska because they were seeing youth in this age group sometimes age out from their shelter care into Brother Francis or another adult shelter. In order to prevent that, this will create a transitional housing program where youth can stay for a few years to be able to get on their feet, get established, get through schooling or training, get established in a job, and really be able to provide that support through a very transitional period in life. That extra support is valuable for homeless youth who may not have family or friends to consistently rely on to meet those needs. She added that this is part of a larger project for Covenant House Alaska to implement their new strategic plan. This request is just for the transitional housing piece. She stated that the outcomes from the program are substantial, with 90 percent of youth exiting this Bridge to Success program and entering into permanent housing at the end of the transitional housing. She introduced Jason Hahn, the interim chief operating officer of Covenant House Alaska.

CHAIR BOERNER asked if he had anything to add.

MR. HAHN replied that it sounded really good and was very well covered.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation that this provides services for those exiting, in many cases, or are involved with the foster care system. There is a large gap for those that age out of the foster care system, and this provides a critical need resource. She asked for any further comment or questions from the trustees, and then she called the vote.

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

## **UNITED HUMAN SERVICES, SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER**

CHAIR BOERNER asked for a motion.

MOTION: As motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$150,000 FY21 partnership grant to United Human Services of Southeast Alaska, Inc. for the Southeast Community Services Center was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR BOERNER recognized Ms. Barstad.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Southeast Community Services Center is a collaborative approach to providing services in the Juneau area. It will be adjacent to the Glory Hall and within walking distance to the St. Vincent De Paul Senior Housing, as well as Juneau Youth Services. This project looks at a shared-services approach for facilities so nonprofit agencies can increase the percentage of their budget toward services for beneficiaries and community members. There are a handful of agencies that have committed to long-term leases that include: Alaska Legal Services; Disability Law Center; NAMI Juneau; Big Brothers Big Sisters Juneau; United Way, and the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition. Many of those are regular partners with the Trust and serve the beneficiaries. She continued that all categories of beneficiaries will be served in that collaborative set of agencies. She added that this project resulted from a needs assessment that was initiated through the Statewide Independent Living Council. This will create a social services hub when people can save time, money and effort in order to get those basic services as well as other social services that are needed. This is also an Aging and Disability Resource Center that helps navigate people to home- and community-based services throughout the Southeast. She stated that this project has been a long time in the making and definitely has been a journey to put together. There is a widespread excitement about being able to offer this model in Juneau and to offer it to beneficiaries and community members that can benefit from all of these services. She introduced the project managers: Joan O'Keefe, executive director of United Human Services project and also the executive director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Sherry von Wolfe, architect; Laraine Derr, member of the Capital Campaign Committee for the United Human Services project.

CHAIR BOERNER invited them to offer any additional statements to the presentation.

MS. O'KEEFE stated that Ms. Barstad did a great job introducing the project, and we are excited about it. She continued that the Trust was part of this movement a decade ago and sponsored the predevelopment work done to form United Human Services. This model has been proved for the last seven years in a different leased facility.

MS. DERR stated that this has been in the works for several years and is a model that everyone should aspire to. It combines those community services in one area and gets rid of all of the administrative services that seem to be duplicated by everyone. She encouraged the trustees to vote for this.

TRUSTEE COOKE appreciated seeing Ms. Derr continuing her involvement in the community and stated that he liked the concept of one-stop shopping for all the services that the beneficiaries can use. He asked if this funding was to complete the design and site development, and then asked how the building will be built.

MS. O'KEEFE replied that they are trying to jump on this site and utility work and added that there is a funding plan for the balance of the project, which she explained.

A short discussion continued.

CHAIR BOERNER lost contact and TRUSTEE COOKE stepped in and asked for further discussion.

MR. WILLIAMS explained that the Chair lost her connection and is trying to get back on.

The discussion continued.

TRUSTEE COOKE called the question.

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

TRUSTEE COOKE moved to the CEO update.

#### **CEO UPDATE**

MR. ABBOTT ceded his time and stated that a weekly update will be sent this weekend, and he can take care of any updates at that time.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated there were additional documents about the Comprehensive Mental Health Program Plan and the Trust development. He asked if anything further was needed on this.

MR. ABBOTT replied that those were informational items. He added that the budget document was submitted a few days before the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, and we have had conversations with OMB and the Governor's office related to it.

A brief discussion on the budget ensued.

TRUSTEE COOKE turned the meeting back to Chair Boerner who returned online.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that she believed the last proposal was approved by the board and asked to put in her vote as a yes. She opened the floor to trustee comments.

#### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that the trustee comment section of the meeting agenda was added a couple of years ago for the opportunity for the trustees to make comments or requests. He thanked staff for all the work done and stated that a lot of material was covered. He reminded trustees about the need for a Finance Committee Chair and would appreciate recommendations or any interest. He also stressed the need to get all the materials ahead of the meetings instead of the night before. He thanked everyone for a great, well-run meeting and appreciated seeing Ms. Derr again.

TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES stated her excitement with her first real session and that it was great to see organizations that she had worked for and how they evolved. She talked about

her experience of the meeting and her thoughts and agreements on much of the information shared. She asked if recidivism was ever talked about through the programs. She also asked if the board had ever been confronted with a situation where they had to say no.

CHAIR BOERNER replied yes, but it was not common because there is a full vetting process. She added that staff is amazing at going through and putting the Trust priorities forward.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN echoed a lot of the statements that were already made. She thanked Mike, Steve, the staff, Wyn, and all the chairs of all the committees. It is good to get the perspective of staff, and she appreciated the amount of time that it takes to pull together a good, full meeting. She thanked all for their hard work.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Mr. Abbott and the staff for an outstanding job and appreciated putting the packets together and getting everything in on time. It makes the trustees' jobs much easier. He cautioned the trustees on the progressive evaluations of a big project that starts out with a bit of money for initial explorations and then can be like going down a slide of a lot of spending, which is very difficult to reel in or jump off of. Each step is very important and is something that would not hurt reviewing before the next meeting. Staff does a great job, but it will be kind of progressive and more money will be spent than before. He added that he learned a lot and thanked all.

TRUSTEE COOKE added that the bylaws require that the board evaluate the CEO every year, and this is the time of year to do that. He alerted all that he would be sending a letter and some materials. He asked to schedule an executive session during the upcoming Board meeting in November, and the evaluation can be done then. He also thanked everyone.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked all. She added that there were two additional documents in the packet, the Comp Plan update and, in response to discussion in the last Program & Planning Committee on the FY2022 General Fund and Mental Health Recommendations. After reviewing, if there are any questions, please send to her and Mr. Williams.

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

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

(Program & Planning Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)