

FY22/23 (2020) and FY23 (2021) Budget Development Stakeholder Meeting Summary Notes

Updated July 2021

Introduction

The Trust's mission is to improve the lives of beneficiaries through advocacy, planning, implementing and funding a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program. Trust beneficiaries include groups of Alaskans experiencing mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcohol or drug addiction, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injuries. The Trust also works in prevention and early intervention services for individuals at risk of becoming beneficiaries.

The Trust develops biannual budgets, and, following trustee approval, submits a budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Governor and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee each September. An essential part of developing the Trust's budget is listening to partner organizations who support and serve Trust beneficiaries across Alaska. One tool used to gather such feedback is direct engagement with partners through stakeholder meetings.

This document is a summary of the many conversations that took place during the stakeholder meetings informing the development of the FY22/23 budget in 2020 and the FY23 budget in 2021. The Trust uses a two-year budgeting cycle. In August 2020 trustees adopted a FY22/23 budget, and will consider the FY23 budget, the second year in that two-year budget cycle, in late summer 2021.

The Trust offers sincere thanks to all partner organizations who participated in these stakeholder meetings. Your experience, expertise, knowledge and recommendations are invaluable in informing Trust budget development and decision making.

For more information about the current budget development process, visit:

<https://alaskamentalthrust.org/alaska-mental-health-trust-authority/fy23-budget-development/>

Purpose of Stakeholder Meetings

As a part of developing the FY 22 and 23 budgets, Trust staff engaged with numerous state partners and more than 100 other organizations and held more than 120 stakeholder meetings with valued partner organizations, using the information gathered to craft budget and policy recommendations for trustees to consider for the FY22/23 budget periods. The organizations engaged during this process all support Trust beneficiaries, and the variety of means by which they do so, and the

In developing the FY 22 and 23 budgets, Trust staff met with more than **130** partner organizations in 2020 and 2021.

different perspectives represented strengthened the process.

In these meetings, Trust staff asked partners to provide input and prioritization of key issues impacting Trust beneficiaries. While specific initiatives were discussed in many of these meetings, the prime purpose of the Trust's stakeholder meetings was to solicit feedback on where to focus Trust funding and efforts in the next two years to help beneficiaries thrive in their communities. Stakeholders were asked to provide input from their respective areas of expertise by looking at the system holistically, not just what impacts a specific beneficiary group.

Though each stakeholder meeting was unique, the list below includes the types of questions asked. This list does not represent all the questions asked.

- What services/projects/initiatives do you identify as priorities for the Trust to serve beneficiaries?
- What investments should the Trust make that will have the greatest positive impact on beneficiaries' lives?
- What investments should the Trust make that will lead to the deinstitutionalization (or prevent the institutionalization) of beneficiaries?
- What is missing from the current continuum of care that will help Trust beneficiaries live independently in their community?
- What needs to change to enhance or improve services offered to Trust beneficiaries?
- Are there promising practices or evidence based practices that the Trust should invest in piloting in Alaska?
- Do we have projects that need formal evaluation in order to be replicated or brought to a statewide scale?

Stakeholders Engaged

From late 2019 through June 2021, Trust program officers met with a multitude of stakeholders as a part of the Trust's budget development. Program staff organized stakeholder meetings around the Trust's established focus and priority areas, these include: Housing and Long-Term Services & Supports, Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment, Disability Justice, Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, Workforce Development, and Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention.

This list represents partner organizations that were engaged as a part of the Trust's FY22/23 (meetings in 2020) and FY 23 (meetings in 2021) budget development process. Some of the organizations listed were engaged multiple times, and/or pertaining to more than one Trust focus/priority area.

- AARP
- Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- AgeNET
- Akeela, Inc.
- Alaska Assoc. of Developmental Disabilities
- Alaska Association of Direct Service Providers
- Alaska Assoc. for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
- Alaska Behavioral Health Association
- Alaska Commission on Aging
- Alaska Children's Trust
- Alaska Court System

- Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
- Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Alaska Department of Public Safety
- Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council
- Alaska Early Childhood Governance Work Group
- Alaska Early Childhood Strategic Planning Sessions
- Alaska Health Care Workforce Coalition
- Alaska Health Education Consortium
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Alaska Justice Information Center
- Alaska Legal Services
- Alaska Mental Health Board
- Alaska Native Justice Center
- Alaska Native Justice Center (Reentry Service Provider)
- Alaska Native Medical Center
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Alaska Police Standards Council
- Alaska Primary Care Association
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association
- Alaska State Troopers
- Alaska Training Cooperative
- All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
- Alzheimer's Resource Assoc.
- AMHB/ABADA Executive Committee
- Anchorage Assembly members
- Anchorage based behavioral health providers
- Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
- Anchorage Fire Department
- Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
- Anchorage Police Department
- ARC of Anchorage
- ASHNA Acute Behavioral Health Improvement Project workgroups
- Assets, Inc.
- Assoc. of Alaska School Boards
- AWAIC
- Beans Café
- Catholic Social Services
- Champney Consulting
- Chickaloon Native Village
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Covenant House
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Workgroup
- COVID-19 Employment Taskforce
- DD Shared Vision Systems Collaborative
- Dementia Action Collaborative
- Denali Family Services
- Division of Public Health (DHSS)
- Direct Service Professional (DSP) Workforce Development Project Team
- Disability Law Center
- Division of Behavioral Health - Children's Mental Health Programs (DHSS)
- Division of Behavioral Health – Recovery and Peer Support Services Program (DHSS)
- Division of Public Health, Section of Women's Children's & Family Health (Title V) (DHSS)
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DOLWD)
- Early Childhood Coordinating Systems Partners
- Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services
- Fairbanks Hospital Foundation
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- Fairbanks Native Association (Reentry Service Provider)
- Fairbanks Police Department
- Frontier Community Services
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE)
- GCDSE Developmental Disabilities Committee
- Hope Community Resources
- Individual Placement & Supports (IPS) Alaska Team Leadership
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health/Consultation Workforce Stakeholders
- Infant Learning Program (DHSS)
- Interagency Coordinating Council (Infant Learning Program)
- Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (Fairbanks Reentry Coalition)
- JAHMI
- JAMHI (Juneau Reentry Coalition)
- Juneau Police Department
- Kawerak Inc.
- Key Campaign

- Knik Tribal Council
- Love INC
- Maniilaq Association
- Mat-Su Behavioral Health Intervention Team
- Mat-Su Crisis Intervention Team Coalition
- Mat-Su Fire Department
- Mat-Su Health Foundation
- Microenterprise Program Lead
- Municipality of Anchorage
- My House Mat-Su
- Native Village of Eklutna
- NeighborWorks (Anchorage Reentry Coalition)
- North Star Behavioral Health System
- Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority
- Norton Sound Health Corp.
- Office of Children’s Services (DHSS)
- Peer Power
- Providence Health Systems
- Public Defender Agency
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Recover Alaska
- Reduce Early Childhood Exclusionary Practices Steering Committee
- Reentry Services Providers
- Restore Incorporated
- Rural Elder Services Network
- Senior and Disabilities Services (DHSS)
- Set Free Alaska
- SHARP Council
- Southcentral Foundation
- Southcentral Foundation (Reentry Service Provider)
- Southcentral Foundation Indigenous Project LAUNCH
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Statewide Therapeutic Courts
- Sunshine Clinic
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- The ARC
- The Web
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- Traumatic & Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council
- Tribal Behavioral Health Directors
- True North Recovery
- Trust beneficiaries
- Turning Point
- UA College of Human Development
- UA Department of Psychology
- UAA
- UAA Center for Human Development
- Valley Charities (Mat-Su Reentry Coalition)
- Volunteers of America
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- 988 Coalition

Stakeholder Discussion Summary

The summaries below represent the many discussion comments recorded by Trust staff during the FY22/23, and FY23 budget development stakeholder meetings. Many themes discussed in 2020 meetings that informed the FY22/23 budget were repeated in 2021 when staff engaged with partners to discuss the FY23 budget.

Prior to being summarized, comments were organized by common themes as they relate to goals in [Strengthening the System: Alaska’s Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan, 2020-2024](#), aka the Comp Plan. The Comp Plan is made up of nine goals, all intended to ensure that Alaskans receive comprehensive prevention, treatment, and support services at the appropriate level of care across the lifespan, leading to meaningful lives in their home communities.

Goal 1: Early Childhood

Programs serving young children promote resiliency, prevent and address trauma, and provide access to early intervention services.

Summary of comments related to Goal 1

Many health and social problems are attributed to and can be predicted by childhood experiences. Stakeholders advocated that a “game changer” for Trust investment would be to focus more strategically and substantially on “upstream” interventions to prevent longer term negative health outcomes that impact Trust beneficiaries. Stakeholders placed an emphasis on promoting evidenced-based practices and expanding universal screening efforts statewide. At present, parents and families lack consistent access to quality navigation and coordination support to readily and meaningfully access the complex system of care for young children diagnosed with disabilities. Improving case management, access, and care coordination will support the social-emotional needs of children and their caregivers.

Themes and concepts related to Goal 1 were discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention priority area, Housing and Long-Term Services & Supports focus area, and the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area.

2021 Update:

During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to this goal. Primarily, this includes the need to move towards upstream prevention strategies. More specifically, this year stakeholders sought additional strategies to further prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences and decrease multigenerational trauma.

Goal 2: Healthcare

Alaskans have access to integrated healthcare options that promote optimal health, wellness, and independence.

Summary of comments related to Goal 2

Stakeholders promoted the idea that Trust beneficiaries should have real access to integrated healthcare options that promote optimal health, wellness, and independence. The importance of continued promotion and flexibility for the expanded use of reimbursable telehealth approaches - similar to what has been available during the COVID-19 pandemic - was emphasized. Feedback also focused on promoting whole person integrated care that supports primary care providers to have co-located behavioral health staff to meet the robust needs of Trust beneficiaries. There is a strong need in Alaska to build infrastructure and service capacity to screen and render quality services for beneficiaries who have traumatic or acquired brain injuries (TABI). Investment in a TABI advisory council and training the workforce about TABI is viewed as a necessary area for Trust support and ongoing investment.

	<p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention priority area, the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area, the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area, and the Disability Justice focus area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to beneficiary health and wellness. Stakeholders continue to support the Comp Plan objective that Medicaid is efficiently managed and adequately resourced. They reported that Alaska’s senior population is continuing to grow, and it is unrealistic to continue to cut the Medicaid budget without seeing many Alaskans go without the services they need.</p>
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Goal 3: Economic and Social Well-Being
Trust beneficiaries have strong economic and social well-being.

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 3 Part 1: Employment</p>	<p>The Trust’s efforts to expand resources and promote successful long-term employment for Trust beneficiaries is still necessary and should be expanded to promote additional evidence-based supported employment interventions. Over the last few years the Trust has focused on stigma reduction campaigns using various media platforms but there’s still work to be done to educate employers about beneficiaries experiencing disabling conditions who are entering the workforce. Stakeholders promoted the need for increased statewide access to individual placement and supports and tailored approaches for beneficiaries seeking employment in rural communities. There is an ongoing emphasis and effort to increase the number of beneficiaries who have access to self-employment and other self-directed opportunities.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Beneficiary Employment and Engagement focus area, the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area, the Disability Justice focus area, the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area, and the Workforce priority area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to the beneficiary employment goal. Unique to 2021 is the lasting impact that COVID 19 continues to negatively impact integrated employment efforts but has simultaneously provided an innovative opportunity for telework and self-employment. Stakeholders highlighted an additional need to enhance skill development specific to supporting technology integration for beneficiaries experiencing disabilities.</p>
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<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 3</p>	<p>Increased timely access to supportive housing to help people with disabilities, as well as additional housing for specific populations such as seniors, single adults, individuals with complex behavioral conditions, and</p>
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<p>Part 2: Housing</p>	<p>returning citizens from correctional environments will aid in ensuring beneficiaries have housing stability and will reduce the use of costlier systems. Stakeholders shared that housing in many rural communities is at a “crisis level” and needs additional support. With many beneficiary serving programs there is also continued need for coordinated housing and case management services which promotes access to and engagement in housing programs. There is always a need for flexibility amongst housing programs and the reduction of administrative burdens for operating them - especially as it relates to data tracking. Lastly, expanding the use of the proven practices such as Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing will both provide housing to homeless beneficiaries and services to aid in housing stability and recovery.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area and the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to our housing goals, especially related to the ongoing need for additional permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs.</p> <p>Unique to 2021 is the additional funding from federal dollars for COVID-19 relief and The American Rescue Plan Act which have greatly supported rent and utility assistance to help those at risk of homelessness. The added funding allowed the State to support emergency shelters, temporary hotel accommodations, and case management outreach services. Stakeholders shared that, even with the new funding opportunities, there are additional needs to support beneficiaries, especially those with complex conditions, in their own apartments. Furthermore, ready to rent programs or housing readiness programs have been shown to be beneficial and would be helpful for beneficiaries. Additional efforts to work alongside landlords using landlord liaisons could lead to greater tenancy for beneficiaries. Lastly, additional strategy, funding, and access is needed to reduce housing barriers for criminal justice involved beneficiaries especially those involved in therapeutic court and reentry programs.</p>
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 3 Part 3: Services for Alaskans Experiencing Developmental Disabilities</p>	<p>Ongoing efforts are needed to engage beneficiaries with development disabilities in their communities by promoting volunteer, recreational, and peer-directed opportunities. There continues to be momentum towards the developmental disability (DD) shared vision of self-directed service delivery and the need for support in this area. In stakeholder discussions an emphasis was placed upon coordination of service delivery, but also coordination between State of Alaska Departments such as the Division of Behavioral Health, Senior and Disability services, etc.</p>

	<p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention <i>Prevention and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse is provided through collaborative, effective, and informed strategies.</i></p>	
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 4 Part 1: Access and Treatment</p>	<p>Alcohol and substance misuse impact every community in Alaska. Stakeholders emphasized the need to build-out the treatment and recovery infrastructure, and to focus on the ancillary community services and supports such as assertive community treatment (ACT) teams, intensive case management services, and mobile crisis responses services to better respond to individuals in their community. There is also a great need and support for behavioral health resources to be offered outside the traditional brick and mortar behavioral health center, and to shift to service delivery into schools, universities, mobile behavioral health units, and both adult and pediatric primary care settings. Throughout stakeholder meetings in all areas there was an ongoing emphasis on the great need for enhanced and readily available care coordination and case management services. Care coordination and case management services must cross service systems to better support a beneficiary who may have one or more co-occurring disabling condition(s). To aid in accessing the right services at the right time, additional resources and planning efforts are needed to focus on universal screening and follow up care to be performed by qualified and credentialed addiction professionals.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Housing and Long -Term Services and Supports focus area, the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area, the Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention priority area, and the Workforce priority area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to access to treatment. Similar to last year there is continued emphasis on integrated care delivery across service settings, and the immediate need for added mobile crisis services for both adults and youth. Stakeholders continue to express a need to increase access to flexible behavioral health supports (clinical, peer and navigation) for families and children, particularly in response to COVID-19 trauma and isolation.</p> <p>Stakeholders are eager to engage around trauma-engaged practices and behavioral health supports in schools. There continues to be advocacy for expansion of funding for increased school and community supports for beneficiary students and families with an ongoing data-driven focus on under-resourced rural school districts. Such expanded funding could support students and families during COVID-19 recovery and beyond.</p>

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 4 Part 2: Recovery and Supports Using Peers</p>	<p>Many stakeholder groups across the focus and priority areas encouraged the ongoing development of peer and recovery-oriented services, including statewide certification and training for peer workers. Community behavioral health partners have expressed interest in further integrating peer services into their service arrays to complement clinical and other types of supports. Additionally, the peer support model of service is integral to the crisis continuum of care expansion work the Trust is currently engaged in. Peer support could also be a supportive model for aiding the criminal justice population in reentry efforts - the Department of Corrections is interested in additional Trust investment in this area. Investing in a credentialed peer support workforce is both a tribal and non-tribal recommended strategy for expanding the workforce.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment focus area, the Beneficiary Employment and Engagement focus area, the Disability Justice focus area, and the Workforce priority area.</p>
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Goal 5: Suicide Prevention
Individuals, families, communities, and governments take ownership to prevent suicides and self-harm in Alaska.

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 5</p>	<p>The expansion of a complete crisis continuum of care to include both mobile crisis services and a crisis call center is evident and necessary. The crisis continuum will promote access to immediate service delivery and will have an emphasis on <i>no wrong door</i> for families and law enforcement seeking immediate assistance for a loved one in crisis. The Trust is on the forefront of facilitating and convening stakeholders to ensure the crisis response system is robust enough to meet the growing needs. The use of the peer model is complimentary to the Trust's goal of helping beneficiaries to gain long term employment and will be integral to the success of a crisis system. As referenced in other stakeholder meetings, the need for a more robust and coordinated case management and care coordination services will require ongoing strategy and investment. Lastly, Stakeholders would like to see funding and support for a gap analysis related to the zero-suicide prevention framework.</p> <p>These themes were discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Disability Justice focus area and the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion's similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to suicide prevention. Most commonly, staff heard about the ongoing need for a comprehensive crisis continuum of care for adults and youth. There is a greater need this year for advocacy around the statutory and regulatory changes that will be necessary to stand up the</p>
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	<p>robust crisis continuum. In addition, crisis response services need to be thoughtfully designed through stakeholder engagement to ensure effective competency to serve diverse populations with unique treatment needs - including individuals with complex behaviors, chronic and serious drug and alcohol use, seniors, and youth, diverse family systems, and those involved in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Unique this year is active engagement in the ongoing implementation of the 988 suicide prevention universal crisis number, and enhancement of the suicide prevention call line to expand capacity to serve as the front door to crisis services statewide.</p> <p>Lastly, Stakeholders expressed the need for a greater focus on technology and innovations to aid in the design of access to intervention (beyond telehealth), including tech applications that can promptly connect individuals to interventions.</p>
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Goal 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans
Alaskans are free from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation.

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 6</p>	<p>State and local public awareness campaigns, training programs, and multi-disciplinary teams are essential strategies for protecting vulnerable beneficiaries. Stakeholders stressed the importance of getting information and resources to beneficiaries/their families before they have contact with the protective service system. They also voiced that investing in provider resources will aid in strengthening families who may have interactions with the protective service system using innovative programs that support the whole family not just the individual family member who entered the system. Provider resources should be expanded to bolster foster parent training and other soft touch points that families and children may be connected to for support. Overall there is ongoing need to focus on additional strategies and investment in the protective service system, especially the child welfare system.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Disability Justice focus area, the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment focus area, and the Workforce priority area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussions similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to protecting vulnerable Alaskans. Stakeholders applaud continued Trust efforts related to the former “Bring the Kids Home” focus area, including ongoing budget commitments to “Keeping the Kids Home” through coordination and enhancement of in-state services for children at risk of out-of-state placement. Stakeholders reported that greater coordination and focus is still needed for these youth to prevent unnecessary out-of-home and out-of-state placements.</p>
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	<p>There was broad interest in serving more young children and beneficiary families earlier (i.e., intensive early intervention for at-risk and OCS involved families) through expanded eligibility and improved outreach not currently funded by other sources.</p>
<p>Goal 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment <i>Trust beneficiaries' behavioral health needs are accurately assessed and met in the least restrictive environment.</i></p>	
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 7</p>	<p>Least restrictive practices in home communities are paramount for Trust beneficiaries to be able to live meaningfully as contributing members of those communities. Receiving services in the least restrictive way preserves existing natural supports and allows for the development of additional supports, making it the desired first choice. Stakeholders discussed and emphasized multiple times that there needs to be expanded eligibility to allow for reimbursable service delivery for those with TABI, Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD) , and any beneficiary who does not meet the waiver level of care but needs services and supports. There is an ongoing need for case management and care coordination to ensure services are accessed and maintained appropriately. Stakeholders are supportive of increased access to assistive technology and home modification programs to promote beneficiaries residing in their home communities. Both formal and informal (family/ friends) direct service providers need respite and support so they can provide the necessary care in the beneficiary's home community without the need for costlier institutional care.</p> <p>There is also a need for more criminal justice diversion programs to help reduce the number of beneficiaries entering or becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system. One supported strategy would be using a mobile crisis response team to decrease the use of law enforcement responses to a behavioral health crisis.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area, and the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment focus area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussions similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to services in the least restrictive environment. There continues to be the need to improve flexibility of long-term services and supports in homes and communities of choice for beneficiaries experiencing Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This includes more flexible and person-directed supports that improve employment opportunities. The long-term service and support service sector has had very little innovation or additional investment over the past several years, with the State of Alaska's focus on budget constraint.</p>

	<p>Unique to this year is the desire that funding from federal dollars for COVID-19 relief and The American Rescue Plan be continued to support agencies providing long term services and supports (LTSS). This funding kept many agencies in business though many had to reduce or pause services based on public health recommendations. The American Rescue Plan Act part of COVID-19 funding identifies a 10% increase in LTSS spending for states. This will allow DHSS to address flat funded services and try new approaches to service delivery and administration to improve the overall service system.</p> <p>The Dementia Action Collaborative was formed to address the lack of adequate medical and long-term services and supports available to this beneficiary group. This collaborative will be meeting on an ongoing basis to improve the services and supports for people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia.</p> <p>Stakeholders engaged in the criminal and juvenile justice areas are seeking an expansion of programs such as the holistic defense project, therapeutic courts, and juvenile diversion programs.</p>
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Goal 8: Services in Institutional Settings
Trust beneficiaries who are in an institutional setting receive the necessary services and recovery supports to return to the community of their choice.

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 8</p>	<p>Trust beneficiaries who are in an institutional setting receive the necessary services and recovery supports to return to the community of their choice. The emphasis from stakeholders was to focus efforts on a beneficiary’s return to his/her community and to ensure beneficiaries across service settings have access to stepdown, transitional, and reentry services. Strengthening the facilitation of a beneficiaries’ return using case management, care coordination, and peer supports is paramount for successful reentry; however, this is lacking in today’s system. The criminal and juvenile justice system is supportive of developing and expanding access to screening and services for beneficiaries with neurobehavioral disorders such as TABI, ADRD, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). For additional screening and services to come to fruition across service settings training for staff and program development will be a necessary and ongoing area of investment. Stakeholders requested that the Trust explore the development of FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) Teams as a strategy to prevent and keep beneficiaries engaged in the justice system out of jail. Stakeholders are also seeking short-term actionable solutions to address the crisis of Title 47 beneficiaries being held in jail, such as alternative options for competency evaluation and restoration, and alternative placement sites while working on longer term system changes such as increasing access and capacity at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.</p>
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	<p>Criminal justice stakeholders are also seeking additional opportunities to provide trainings related to crisis intervention.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the Disability Justice focus area, the Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports focus area, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment focus area, and the Workforce priority area.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion's similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to services in an institutional setting. Comparable to prior years there is an ongoing emphasis around screening beneficiaries in both the juvenile and criminal justice system for neurobehavioral health conditions such as TBI, FASD, and ADRD. Furthermore, the establishment of neurotherapy services within institutional settings is necessary for the treatment and support of those who experience a neuro condition.</p> <p>Stakeholders also advocated for an expansion of training programs related to crisis intervention and behavioral health, and more training specific to peer support.</p> <p>Lastly, stakeholders identified a need for a coordinated statewide reentry website that would promote increased access to services and would improve release planning efforts.</p>
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Goal 9: Workforce, Data, and Funding
The state of Alaska has the workforce capacity, data, and technology systems in place to support the resources and funding of Alaska's Comprehensive Mental Health Program.

<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 9 Part 1: Workforce Shortages</p>	<p>Alaska has a known workforce shortage across many disciplines - especially early childhood, and health/behavioral health-related areas. Without a capable and competent workforce, the continuum of services and care is at risk of not meeting the needs of the most vulnerable Alaskans. Expanding the peer support workforce is a critical piece of building robust community treatment programs and the crisis continuum of care. There is a great need for more highly qualified providers to offer supported employment services across beneficiary categories. Attracting a qualified workforce to Alaska has been boosted by the SHARP program, which has also worked well as a workforce retention effort. Stakeholders report the ongoing need to create a career pathway for direct support staff.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the following focus/priority areas: Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment, Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, Early Childhood Prevention, and Workforce.</p>
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	<p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to workforce shortages. Stakeholders discussed that momentum around standing up a robust crisis continuum could be stalled by a lack of workforce including in stabilization centers, mobile crisis teams, the 988-call line, etc. There is also concern that this new continuum and its corresponding programs has the potential to detract from the workforce in other behavioral health areas that are equally necessary.</p> <p>As with prior years, Stakeholders continue to focus on the ongoing need to for direct service professionals to be both recruited and retained.</p>
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 9 Part 2: Training the Workforce</p>	<p>Advancing the competencies of the healthcare, behavioral health, public health, and criminal justice workforce was an integral theme across all stakeholder meetings. Most stakeholder groups noted that key workforce development strategies include “growing our own” professionals through primary and secondary education, training, loan repayment, recruitment, and retention. Stakeholders were especially supportive of the continuation of programs such as SHARP and the ECHO model, as well as the Alaska Training Cooperative who facilities numerous training opportunities. Credentialing both the direct service provider (DSP) career path and the peer support career pathway was a common theme amongst partners. There was an emphasis on expanded training regarding state expectations around the 1115 waiver and qualified addiction professionals, and the general preparation of behavioral health organizations to thrive in the new system.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the following focus/priority areas: Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment, Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention, Disability Justice, and Workforce.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to training the workforce. As with prior years the SHARP program and the Alaska Training Cooperative continue to stand out as valuable programs.</p> <p>Furthermore, as with prior years, creating a clear career path for direct service providers (DSPs) is important. For example, Ohio created a career path for their high school students in which upon graduation have both a diploma and a DSP certification. This could be replicated at the at university level in Alaska and be a great career option for many. In addition, expanding the DSP Path Academies to regions across the state would be a helpful step.</p> <p>Stakeholders also anticipate the need to diversify how the workforce is trained and recruited through targeted programs that consist of a mix of</p>

	<p>higher education, as well as apprenticeships and training programs - especially in the behavioral health field.</p> <p>Within correctional and juvenile detention settings, a well-trained specialty workforce continues to be necessary and difficult to recruit. Specifically, there is a great need in this service setting for occupational therapist and specialty psychiatric nurses.</p>
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 9 Part 3: Data</p>	<p>Stakeholders are encouraging a culture of data-driven decision-making that includes data sharing, data analysis, and data management to link support services across Alaska. There is support for optimizing infrastructure and policy related to the use of health information technology (HIT)/ health information exchange (HIE) and a belief that data sharing will have a return on investment with the efficiencies it supports. There was also an emphasis on data development and the creation of a statutorily required registry specifically as it relates to TABI.</p> <p>Stakeholders are interested in two possible studies: a study on the number of incarcerated beneficiaries and a gap analysis for the Zero suicide framework.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the following focus/priority areas: Disability Justice, Workforce, Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports, and Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion's similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to data. Unique to 2021 is the need to proactively plan and invest in data collection and evaluation of emerging and enhanced crisis services to determine if services are effective and expected outcomes are realized (i.e., increased connectivity to community-based services, diversion from law enforcement encounters and reduction in emergency room utilization for crisis care).</p> <p>Criminal justice stakeholders also advocated for greater data sharing and transparency between the DOC and other Departments, and stakeholders such as reentry coalitions. Furthermore, stakeholders are seeking a formal evaluation of the reentry coalitions across the state to evaluate outcomes.</p> <p>Lastly, stakeholders would like to see a standard method of gathering data from law enforcement agencies on the use of crisis intervention training (CIT) practices and conducting a formal evaluation of CIT in Alaska.</p>
<p>Summary of comments related to Goal 9 Part 4: Funding</p>	<p>It is important that there are adequate resources and funding committed to meet the goals outlined in Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program (COMP Plan), and to help improve the quality of life of all beneficiaries - especially young children at risk of developing a beneficiary</p>

	<p>condition. A common idea reiterated in several stakeholder groups was the need for “flexible funding” to support programs and services. There was also a discussion of the need for increased, yet sustainable funding to meet the growing population and their individualized needs. Stakeholders reported that behavioral health Medicaid rates need to be evaluated and adjusted to address the true cost of services, and to address parity issues between the healthcare system and behavioral health.</p> <p>Throughout the stakeholder summary there has been ongoing references to the need to invest in intensive case management and care coordination models that link beneficiaries across all care and social determinants of health. Lastly, there was an emphasis on funding/building out the infrastructure around neurobehavioral health conditions specifically beneficiaries with TABI, FASD, and ADRD.</p> <p>This theme was discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the following focus/priority areas: Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports, Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment, and Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention.</p> <p>2021 Update: During 2021 stakeholder discussion’s similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose related to funding. There continues to be a need to develop multiple avenues to sustain operation of crisis services including state funding, private, and foundation funding as well other revenue generating paths like phone user fees. A potential financing mechanism for enhanced crisis services needs to account for non-Medicaid based populations and services.</p> <p>Stakeholders further advocated that the Trust considering funding support for SHARP 3 contracts to attract and retain workforce.</p>
<p><i>Other Themes Discussed</i> <i>(not directly related to the Comp Plan)</i></p>	
<p>Summary of other comments received</p>	<p>Although not specifically referenced in the Comp Plan, stakeholders advocated that the Trust provide more planning and logistical resources to maintain a continuum of care that provides quality services at maximum efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Some stakeholder groups also wanted the Trust to engage in larger policy and governance work through the legislature to elevate and advocate for issues and solutions that impact beneficiaries.</p> <p>Continued support of the advisory boards and the creation of a TABI advisory board was expressed.</p>

Stakeholders advocated for the Trust to continue providing relief/assistance to beneficiary serving organizations around COVID 19 pandemic, including advocacy and funding supports for distance delivered services.

Another supported effort is the Trust's technical assistance funding through contracted services - including assistance with grant writing

These ideas were discussed in stakeholder meetings associated with the following focus/priority areas: Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, Housing and Long-Term Services and Supports, Disability Justice, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and the Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention.

2021 Update:

During 2021 stakeholder discussions similar themes and concepts as the prior year arose. Comparable to last year Stakeholders continue to advocate that the Trust be more engaged with the legislature in advocating for changes to laws and regulations on behalf of beneficiaries and supporting funding for programs that are evidence based.

Stakeholders believe that the Trust should work with state and community partners on legislation and/or policies which will enable criminal justice reentrants to have necessities such as a state ID, Medicaid, and other social service supports before they are released from institutional service settings.

Early intervention and prevention focused stakeholders noted that Trust grant processes and documentation are not oriented towards early intervention and prevention projects. Stakeholders have requested revisiting internal processes and proposal/reporting standards to be more inclusive of upstream work that improves lives of beneficiaries while also reducing the frequency and impact of mental health related disabilities.

Stakeholders emphasized the need to focus on more equitable distribution of resources to address disparities in access to services and supports in rural communities as well as historically underserved demographics.

Stakeholders also requested that the Trust advocate that reimbursement rates for services provided by staff that require higher-level certifications as that will translate to increased wages for credentialed staff making continuing education and credentialing more attractive.

Trust stakeholders working on workforce related issues would appreciate the Trust's support for marketing efforts that will benefit our beneficiary focused workforce.

Lastly, stakeholders reported the pandemic revealed the ongoing need for improved and subsidized internet services in many parts of Alaska.