

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 21, 2021
8:30 a.m.
WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

Originating at:
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120
Anchorage, Alaska

Trustees Present:

Verne' Boerner, Chair
Rhonda Boyles
John Sturgeon
Brent Fisher
Chris Cooke
Annette Gwalthney-Jones
Anita Halterman

Trust Staff Present:

Mike Abbott
Steve Williams
Carol Howarth
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kelda Barstad
Luke Lind
Michael Baldwin
Carrie Predeger
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Valette Keller
Eric Boyer
Autumn Vea
Travis Welch
Becky Carpenter
Josephine Stern
Michael Miller
Sean O'Quinn

Trust Land Office:

Sarah Morrison
Jusdi Doucet
Katie Vachris

Also participating:

Sheila Harris; Beverly Schoonover; Stephanie Hopkins; Deputy Commissioner Al Wall; Jillian Gellings; Renee Rafferty.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR BOERNER called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. She asked for any announcements. Hearing none, she moved to approval of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion to approve the agenda was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes.)

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any ethics disclosures.

MR. WILLIAMS made a disclosure that on the agenda later the committee will be considering a funding proposal from Bean's Café. He stated that he was a member of the board of directors for Bean's Café. He continued that he had no involvement in the process of the review and the proposal that was put together for consideration of the funding request that will be presented today.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any other disclosures. There being none, she moved to the approval of the minutes for January 6, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the January 6, 2021, minutes was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER called a roll-call vote for approval of the minutes.

After a roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes).

CEO UPDATE

CHAIR BOERNER welcomed Mr. Abbott.

MR. ABBOTT began with an update of an indication of some of the progress on legislation necessary for implementation of the Crisis Now model in Alaska, with more information later in the meeting. He stated that the energy behind this was brought forth by the Trust and Mr. Williams, in particular. The fact that the Trust and the Administration are both supporting this is a great signal to the Legislature that this bill has found a consensus. He continued that, for the Legislature to begin consideration of a Governor's bill with the strong support of the Trust is a great start to this bill's progress. There will be more information before the end of the legislative session. He moved to the quarterly reports which are sent at the end of each quarter

on what has been done in terms of small grant awards and small TLO consultations. The CEO and staff have been delegated by the board some decision-making authority over smaller choices. The report every quarter summarizes the decisions made through that delegated authority. He moved to the community meeting in Yakutat, which is the closest community to Icy Cape. As the timber harvest and the mineral exploration activity continues, there is interest from the community. The meeting was an opportunity to brief the community on some of the grant-making activity in Yakutat. A special effort was made to improve behavioral health work so that the community not only gets the benefit of the resource development, but also the jobs and economic activity that follows. He called attention to some of the great news coverage of recent Trust grant-making and gave some examples of media not just in Anchorage, but around the state that cover the improvement in services for beneficiaries in those communities. He talked about a recent Alaska Supreme Court decision that found in favor of the Governor on a dispute between the Governor and the Legislature related to the confirmation of gubernatorial appointments. He stated this had special interest for Trustees Boyles and Halterman, part of the 90 gubernatorial appointments that were up for confirmation during 2020 but were ultimately not acted upon by the Legislature. The Governor had opined that since the Legislature did not positively reject those appointees, they were still valid appointments. He added that the Supreme Court found in favor of the Governor, and this clarified the Legislature's role in the confirmation process. He expected a confirmation joint session to take place in the future. He continued that he was alerted by the Department of Law that they were considering recusing themselves from supporting the Trust because they faced a potential internal conflict between state agencies. The Governor is representing one position, and the Trust is representing another. He had expressed a significant amount of disappointment in the decision and believed the Department of Law's counsel of the Trust is important not just because of the substance of the counsel, but because the Department of Law is a powerful voice in processes like this. He continued that he had a chance to meet with the Attorney General to communicate the concerns with this decision. The Attorney General confirmed that they would not be changing their position on this and would no longer be able to represent the Trust or counsel the Trust on this subject. He added that he has kept the Chair abreast of the situation, and we have outside counsel that have been kept up to speed on this issue. What will be changed would be relying on the Department of Law as the Trust primary advisor. He continued that the House of Representatives is winding up its consideration of the State operating budget and the State mental health budget. The first draft of the House's version of the two budgets is expected soon, and he is optimistic that the House budget will not include the use of any Trust assets beyond what the trustees recommended. He also believed the Senate is generally disposed to agree with the House on the subject, but is not generally disposed to agree with the House.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that she would like to touch base with Deputy Commissioner Al Wall on the update from the CEO, and opened the floor for any questions.

A brief question-and-answer period ensued.

MR. ABBOTT stated that this was not the first time that outside counsel had to be hired, but it is the first time in a long time that the Department of Law has decided they could not represent the Trust on an issue like this. According to the Attorney General, it is not unique for two State agencies to have two different positions.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Mr. Abbott, and he also asked Ms. Gellings and Ms. Vea for the update on the COMP Plan and Scorecard.

COMP PLAN AND SCORECARD UPDATE

MS. VEA stated that she was an evaluation and planning officer with the Trust, and this presentation is part of the regular quarterly Program Planning update regarding the COMP Plan and the scorecard. She welcomed Deputy Commissioner Al Wall from the Department of Health and Social Services to get started.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WALL stated appreciation for the opportunity to be with the Trust and talk about the COMP Plan. He thanked the leadership team for the COMP Plan and to Autumn Vea and Jillian Gellings for all the work put into this. He added that the final product looks really good, and this will guide us moving forward. One of the things that will be looked at is population-based data that looks at how the outcomes go with the COMP Plan. He continued that this would measure success moving forward, and if the COMP Plan not only is a good document, but also a good guiding way of practicing in the State. He thanked everyone involved.

MS. GELLINGS began with a brief history and overview for everyone. The updated COMP Plan, referred to as Strengthening the System 2020 through 2024, was updated and went live on July 1, 2019. She stated that the plan was the work of the Trust, the advisory boards, the Department leadership, and was coordinated and informed by many State and tribal planning efforts. The COMP Plan also sought robust feedback through targeted stakeholder forums and went through a formal public comment period open to the general public.

MS. VEA moved to the Scorecard which summarizes all 30 indicators. The headlines of each of the sections correspond with the COMP Plan goal sections that were highlighted before. She explained that the Alaska Scorecard is a tool that has been used by policymakers, advocates, grant writers, and Trust staff since 2008 to measure the desired outcomes of the current and previous COMP Plan. These indicators were selected because they demonstrated population health results which were the conditions of well-being for children, adults, families, and communities. The Trust uses that Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan to inform its recommendations for expenditure of State General Funds included in the mental health budget bill. She continued her presentation on the COMP Plan, explaining as she went through it. She then talked about the new Scorecard which serves as a nice summary document of how Alaska population health is compared to the nation. It is an excellent tool to prompt timely data reports in order to get the most recent data. Today, the most recent data on the Scorecard is from March 15, 2021. It is touted as being a timely resource for population health data for that reason. She asked Ms. Gellings to continue.

MS. GELLINGS went through some of the selected indicators for the Alaska Scorecard 2020. She stated that there were 30 indicators and went through a few of them. She emphasized that without the workforce throughout all of Alaska, there would be a struggle to meet all of the goals included in the whole COMP plan. She thanked everyone, the trustees, the leadership team, the

investment of the executive directors for all their hard work and the time committed, their planners and their staff in this project.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation for the presentation and asked the trustees for any questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked if Deputy Commissioner Wall would speak to the extent of the State's commitment to the COMP Plan.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WALL assured the trustees that the commitment to the COMP Plan was a very high priority in the Commissioner's office. It is one of the things that a great deal of time is invested in. He stated that the vast majority of the work is to strengthen work and regulatory oversight for the rest of the provider net in the state.

MR. WILLIAMS added that there is a need to be able to track progress and to track when falling back, which adds to the importance of the COMP Plan.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WALL stated that part of the work that the Training Collaborative does is things like trauma-informed care, which is extremely important to the backbone of the provision of behavioral healthcare and disability care in the state. He went through a few specific examples of how they complement and support each other in that system.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that this a great tool and the discussion continued. She pointed out that there was a comment about other tools that could be used in combination with the Scorecard, such as the Healthy Alaskans 2030 indicator that can also be taken to create that sort of full and broad overall picture. She called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER invited Mr. Williams to present the next agenda item, the FY23 stakeholder budget process overview.

FY23 STAKEHOLDER BUDGET PROCESS OVERVIEW

MR. WILLIAMS began by providing a bit of background and then a preview of the work staff will be doing over the next several months as the FY23 budget, that was approved last year, is reviewed. He stated that it will be amended and then come back before the committee and the full board with a new set of recommendations for consideration and approval. He reviewed the two-year budget process and explained as he went through it. He added that the budget was based on a process that is an informed and collaborative process that involves many stakeholders to help inform the staff when going through the process. He moved to the timeline, which is focused on the budget, and it is important for everyone to understand the level and comprehensiveness of effort, of all that is being done in addition to the other important work of the Trust. The conversations with the advisory board, the partners at the State, out in the community have started. It will culminate with an initial presentation to this committee, and then to the full board for approval in late August.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation for the process explanation which helped to get a base

and understanding for going through it.

MR. WILLIAMS added that the Trust has been engaged in this process for several years in terms of budget development.

MR. ABBOTT continued that he would be making a specific, clear, and direct request to the leadership at the Office of Management and Budget well in advance of any deadlines for submissions of suggestions from State agencies to make sure they are aware of how this process works and how State requests can be resolved, processed and considered.

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Crisis Now update.

CRISIS NOW UPDATE

CHAIR BOERNER introduced Katie Baldwin.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON began the update on the progress being made on the efforts to enhance the crisis system and to work with the communities on implementation of the Crisis Now framework. She stated that great progress was being made on a month-to-month basis. The presentation provided the most recent updates, created space for a discussion with trustee staff, and the partners that have been engaged. Progress was highlighted, and updates on the system-level work that tied back to the core work plan were talked about. The focus was primarily on the two components of the model that were relevant to the proposal that would be brought forth this afternoon. Some time was also spent on mobile crisis intervention, as well as crisis stabilization services. She added that the main purpose is to highlight the breadth and the depth of the engagement with partners and stakeholders in this work, both at a State and a community level.

MR. WELCH continued that after reviewing the crisis continuum of care, a report of recommendations was finished, and the highlighted ones were discussed. He added that many of the recommendations are currently in the mix, being discussed, or are in the planning phase.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that the Trust is the primary funder, and staff has created the backbone structures to work with the Department and partners to get to a place where services are operational and are able to be evaluated, and to know that they are effective, as intended, to operate. She continued that the project management team includes the representatives of the major State departments and divisions that have a stake in helping this effort roll out successfully, and they have been working very closely with staff. There is an intention to establish a contracted support to assist with the data and the metric development as it relates to the services being rolled out in each of the communities. The data that will be looked at will provide opportunities to develop recommendations for who then can implement it or address some challenges that will come up as the services roll out.

MR. BOYER gave a quick update on the need for workforce. The State of Alaska, the Division of Behavioral Health and the Commission for Behavioral Health Certification have been working hard with the new element in the workforce, which is the peer support specialist workforce and, specifically, a certification process. He added that there are folks in the workforce actually going to get certified, and that plays well into the services which roll into the 1115 Medicaid

expansion. He moved to the crisis call center, which is the national lifeline crisis call center based in Fairbanks. It is called Care Line and is part of the ongoing effort with all the partners. This is a key, vital component to the communication and the support and triage to folks that are having a behavioral health crisis. He stated that this is a needed element that will streamline people in the communities, the beneficiaries with getting the level of support needed more quickly. He added that they will be working with Agnew::Beck and hosting a webinar that will include people from Care Line, as well as national experts around dispatch and working with call centers in 911 when interfacing with mobile crisis teams in the community. In the Mat-Su Valley, the project is incorporating a digital platform in an innovative way to contact beneficiaries with behavioral health expertise through smart technology.

MR. WELCH stated that part of looking at services for Rural Alaska that was mentioned was the utilization of technology with the possibility of bridging the gap between some services in Anchorage that are not available in rural communities. He continued to the two bills that the Governor introduced SB124 and HB172, and explained the recommendations that are part of a target approach that will allow for the full implementation of the Crisis Now model in Alaska.

MR. BOYER continued that the whole process and the backdrop is the community planning and crisis consultation. Agnew::Beck is the project manager, and is part of all of the discussions, along with the coordinators, partners, beneficiaries in each of the communities. He added that RI International is the consultant.

MR. WELCH went through the implementation of the Crisis Now framework. He began with an explanation of the process for someone experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

MR. BOYER stated that in 2016 the Surgeon General commissioned the white paper for Crisis Now, which is the framework for the elements discussed in the communities of Alaska. In 2020, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, with the Federal Government, issued this toolkit. A mobile crisis team includes a central dispatch, or a crisis call center like Care Line that dispatches that crisis team to someone that they are already in contact with, and that team is made up of a master's-level clinician and a peer-support specialist. It is important to have certified peer clinicians in those positions, and to have the mechanisms for hiring them.

MR. WELCH moved to the crisis stabilization centers. He explained that these centers are a bit different than the current ones in Alaska. They utilize recliners rather than beds, which give more flexibility in the capacity of these facilities, and they are not held to just being able to take 16 patients at a time. If an additional recliner is needed, it can be rolled in to get that 17th or 18th person help. He continued that any important part of the 23-hour stabilization center is the No Wrong Door. A No Wrong Door facility accepts everyone regardless of how confrontational they may be, or the level of intoxication or other substances in that person's system. He added that another aspect of the 23-hour stabilization centers is the very quick turnaround. The turnaround time or goal for one of these centers is to have the person discharged from a policer officer in under 15 minutes.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON highlighted the opportunity to partner with Providence Health and Services that is referred to in the documents. She explained that they have been contemplating

the issue of needing to address the options available for crisis services for some time. Providence is a large hospital providing a range of services, and they actually have a robust continuum of behavioral health services ranging from outpatient residential to subacute, both addiction and mental health services. She added that Providence has been engaged in the planning process. She went through the FY21 planning based on the work done to date, the plan that will be brought forward this afternoon, and any other anticipated potential projects that are on the horizon that would potentially be appropriate for FY21 funding.

MR. WELCH wrapped up the presentation and stated that, after a lot of time, hard work, planning, meetings, discussing the Crisis Now framework, the Trust will have the opportunity to include funding for the program design for 23-hour and short-term crisis stabilization centers in Anchorage; and also have the opportunity to get funding out in the community of Fairbanks to begin delivering Crisis Now framework services to beneficiaries experiencing a behavioral health crisis in the most efficient, effective, and therapeutic way in the least restrictive and therapeutic environment.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation for taking the time to go through each of these and opened the floor to trustees for their questions.

The discussion ensued with the trustees.

CHAIR BOERNER discussed with the trustees taking a lunch break and continuing afterwards.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR BOERNER called the meeting back to order and called the roll. With all the trustees present, she opened the floor to continue the discussion on Crisis Now.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked if there was any anticipation on this program eventually moving into the private sector.

MR. ABBOTT replied that there was no barrier to entering this service area for any private entity. The question will come down to who is paying for it.

The discussion continued, going through some of the specific points and suggestions.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked the trustees for their participation in the discussion, and moved to the next part of the agenda.

APPROVALS

CHAIR BOERNER stated that Bean's Café needed to present prior to 3:00 p.m., and we may have to shift the list of approvals in order to meet that criterion. She continued that there are five approvals. The first is the City of Fairbanks Crisis Now.

CITY OF FAIRBANKS CRISIS NOW

CHAIR BOERNER asked for the motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$130,400 FY22 Authority Grant to the City of Fairbanks for their Crisis Now coordinator position. The funds will come from the FY22 Mental Health and Addiction, Intervention, Crisis, or Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

CHAIR BOERNER opened the floor for discussion, and turned it over to Ms. Baldwin-Johnson and Mr. Boyer.

MR. BOYER explained that the Crisis Now coordinator is a key position that is being looked at in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Mat-Su. Fairbanks is different because it is actually a position held within the mayor's office at the City of Fairbanks. He added that Mike Sanders, who is currently in a Trust-funded position there as the Housing & Homeless Coordinator and has been working with Kelda Barstad in that role for over three-and-a-half years. That position is slated to phase out June 30th, and, with trustee approval, he would be able to move into the coordinator position July 1. That position is key to coordinating, convening, setting up and evaluating the system of care that is being looked at with the Crisis Now continuum in Fairbanks. Mr. Sanders has a great relationship with all the providers in question. He asked Mr. Sanders to comment.

MR. SANDERS thanked all and stated that Crisis Now is so needed and will be an absolute game changer for Fairbanks. The mayor and the entire city council have been and continue to be strong advocates for Crisis Now. He stated that Crisis Now is something that is well within the wheelhouse of the work that has been done previously, and what we're getting ready to do now.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated her support for this program in Fairbanks and the Trust's responsibility to provide better service with more accountability and more results.

A discussion with questions and support of the motion ensued.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

ALASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the next Crisis Now proposal. She asked for the motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$457,067 FY21 Authority Grant to Alaska Behavioral Health for funding of behavioral health clinicians who will work on mobile crisis teams in Fairbanks. These funds will come from the FY21 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Crisis Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES, seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER asked Mr. Boyer for a brief overview and to open the discussion.

MR. BOYER thanked the trustees for the chance to consider approving funding for mobile crisis

teams and the clinician part of those two-person teams to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. He stated that a well-working mobile crisis team of this model has the ability to stabilize 70 percent of the beneficiaries they respond to in the community. He continued that the needs of the 700 beneficiaries in Fairbanks, the trickle-down impact that it would have on the emergency room, the expense and staffing, the police department, the EMS, community service patrol and getting the right services at the right time will go a long way towards stabilizing some of the workforce. He asked Christine Alvarez, the chief clinical officer, to continue.

MS. ALVAREZ stated that she started her clinical career in mobile crisis and thinks it is so important to respond to the person where they are and not restrict services to specific locations during specific times. The opportunity to doing this mobile crisis team in Fairbanks is incredible. She talked about providing culturally relevant services. Alaska Behavioral Health adheres to the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services national standards for culturally and logistically appropriate services, and for a certified community behavioral health center. She continued that part of that is conducting the NOMS, which is the National Outcome Measures. This measures disparities with a particular population that is being served. It is important to understand, for cultural competence, that it is always a learning and growing process and is an absolute priority.

CHAIR BOERNER opened the floor for questions and discussion.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked if the funding is only provided for the next fiscal year, how would it be self-sustaining after that.

MS. ALVAREZ replied that the actual cost of the budget is projected at approximately \$638,000. \$181,000 will come from the Medicaid dollars. There are also a few other potential options, and we will do everything to pull in additional revenue.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER CRISIS NOW

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the next proposal and asked for the motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve \$350,000 FY21 Authority Grant to the Interior Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC) for funding of Peer Support Specialists who will work on mobile crisis teams in Fairbanks. These funds would come from the FY21 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Crisis Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES.

CHAIR BOERNER opened the discussion and recognized Mr. Boyer.

MR. BOYER stated that this is about The Bridge, which is a peer-run organization within the Interior Center or Alaska Center. He continued that this is an organization that has several years of expertise with peer-support specialists who are out in the community working with re-entrants coming out of the Department of Corrections, working with folks out in homeless camps. He added that they are also a statewide leader providing peer services and peer-support training. They have been partly in support of the Division of Behavioral Health's work with the Commission for Behavioral Health Certification to get peer support specialists certified. He stated that Linda Setterberg is their director and has been instrumental in working with that commission and also the peer support advisory board that has received a mountain of work to the point where this position can be certified within the state. He added that she has a long history of working with the beneficiaries in the City of Fairbanks. This is a critical outreach.

MS. SETTERBERG thanked all and stated that she has been a beneficiary of Trust funds for projects she had done in the City of Fairbanks over the last many years. She stated that she comes into this role as someone with lived experience. Her son has a co-occurring disorder who has been involved in the justice system and at times is a frequent flyer involved with the police. She added that they have been a partner with Alaska Behavioral Health since The Bridge started almost two years ago, and wanted to be part of the peer support movement. They have been in partnership with Alaska Behavioral Health for the last year, working with them to provide peer support services in Fairbanks that are Medicaid-billable. This is a natural partnership, and we would like to see people diverted from incarceration by getting services the first time.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Ms. Setterberg and opened the floor to trustees for comments and questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked why these funds were coming out of the FY21 budget instead of next year's.

MR. ABBOTT replied that typically they are funded in the year they began. In this case, The Bridge grant and the Alaska Behavioral Health were funded in FY21, and the grant for the City of Fairbanks will not start until FY22.

CHAIR BOERNER called the roll for a vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

THE PROVIDENCE ALASKA CRISIS NOW

CHAIR BOERNER moved to The Providence Alaska Crisis Now, and asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$400,000 FY21 Authority Grant to Providence Health & Services Alaska for the Crisis Stabilization Planning & Development project. These funds will come from the FY21 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Crisis Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER recognized Ms. Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON acknowledged that Renee Rafferty, regional director of behavioral health for Providence Health & Services, is here to help describe the project and answer any questions that trustees may have. She stated that Providence has been one of the primarily engaged partners in this work for the last couple of years, and has been part of trying to seek solutions in pulling the partners together in a different way that has not happened in many years. She continued that this application is for Phase 1 which will enable Providence to get the additional capacities needed to address the programmatic aspects, the planning for the program, to do the architectural design estimates for the facility renovations. The primary outcomes of this Phase 1 will be a well-thought-out plan for entering into a partnership for a Phase 2. She added that is specifically for the 23-hour stabilization and some combination of 23-hour stabilization and some combination of 23-hour and short-term stabilization beds.

CHAIR BOERNER opened the floor for questions.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked why Providence is not providing more support for this project.

MS. RAFFERTY replied that while Providence does support this type of work because it will impact the type of care they have, they also see that the investment is equally important for the community. She stated that they have been working with Southcentral Foundation, the Trust, and the other stakeholders within the crisis system to build the foundation for engagement. She continued that they have been part of the core team for development of the mobile crisis team in providing clinical supervision and support for Mike Riley and his team, who are lifting the core team. Now they are only taking internal referrals for behavioral health because they do not have the capacity. They want to continue building the capacity to serve and are really excited about the opportunity to be able to provide this 23- and 24-hour stabilization center. The challenges moving forward financially for this in terms of sustainability are actually nationwide challenges regarding payment restructures. Without this type of collaboration and investment from parties is a challenge.

The discussion with questions and answers continued.

MR. ABBOTT explained what will be acquired through this grant would be Providence's dedicated efforts to the planning and development work for a crisis stabilization operation as required by the embraced model. He continued that it is a complicated project, and the \$400,000 will be part of a collaborative effort to advance this project.

The discussion continued.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she will make a motion to postpone the decision.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that there was a motion on the table and a short point of order ensued.

MOTION: A motion to postpone a decision until the May 26th meeting on this motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that she would like to hear more about what payment methodology reforms are being suggested, and asked if they are working in concert with the Department to address some of those concerns moving forward.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that there was a motion to postpone until the May meeting the current motion on the floor, and it was seconded. She called the roll-call vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Bean's Café proposal.

BEAN'S CAFÉ

CHAIR BOERNER reminded the trustees that Steve Williams disclosed earlier that he is on the board for Bean's Café, but that he did not participate in the development of this proposal. She asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$250,000 FY21 Partnership Grant to Bean's Café for Permanency Navigation + Support and Interim Capital for New Building Project was made by TRUSTEE GWALTHNEY-JONES; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

CHAIR BOERNER asked Ms. Barstad to introduce the proposal and any presentation that may go with it.

MS. BARSTAD stated that she is a program officer with the Mental Health Trust Authority and that it was her pleasure to bring this proposal forward for review and consideration. She continued that this was actually two proposals combined together. There is a need for both programs in the same time period and they were combined into one proposal with two different components. The first component is a permanency navigation program. Bean's Café addresses food security in the Anchorage area and provides hot meals to people experiencing homelessness. She stated that Bean's Café has recently stepped up as a homeless services provider, managing the mass shelter that occupies the Sullivan Arena. As a part of this work, it has also stood up a permanency navigation program that serves not only the residents at that shelter, but also people who are experiencing homelessness throughout Anchorage. This program is very similar to a case management program, but it walks alongside a person experiencing homelessness to address and alleviate barriers to being housed. It has a very specific purpose, although it could mean that the case manager and that individual engage in a variety of different activities, ranging from obtaining an ID all the way up to figuring out an income source to pay for an apartment. She continued that the second portion of this request is to support transitional and intermediate needs relating to a building move. The downtown location has been sold, and they will be remodeling warehouse space that is already owned. She added that they will need financial support in order to complete the remodeling. She asked Lisa Sauder, the executive director of Bean's Café, to provide any supplemental information on the organization or the permanency navigation program.

MS. SAUDER thanked all for the opportunity. She clarified that the building has not closed yet,

and we are in a purchase/sale agreement for it to happen. The anticipation is that it will keep moving forward as expected. She reiterated that there were two different areas that they are asking support for. One is to continue to build out the capacity to provide meal services to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in Anchorage. It will not be just meals for the homeless, but for others, as well. To also help take the burden off some of the partners in terms of providing nutrition services. She added that they do this more efficiently and have been doing it since 1979. Throughout COVID, they evolved to an entirely new model of meal distribution to where they are now doing 2400 meals a day just for adults. There has been a tremendous growth and increasing need. The navigation services have traditionally been provided as sort of a connection to services, and they have varied over the years. This was really modeled after what Covenant House had been doing with the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Project and the incredible outcomes of that project. This would just be a continuation of those services, which are critically important to what comes next after the Sullivan Arena.

CHAIR BOERNER opened the floor to trustees' questions and comments.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated strong support for the proposal.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

CHAIR BOERNER stated congratulations to Bean's and moved to adjournment. She thanked the presenters, the trustees, and staff for extending their time and their efforts. She asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION WAS APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Gwalthney-Jones, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes.)

(Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.)