

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

November 17&18, 2021

8:30 a.m.

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

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

Trustees Present:

Chris Cooke, Chair
Verne' Boerner
Brent Fisher
Anita Halterman
Rhonda Boyles
Kevin Fimon

Trust Staff Present:

Mike Abbott
Steve Williams
Eric Boyer
Carol Howarth
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kelda Barstad
Michael Baldwin
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Valette Keller
Autumn Vea
Allison Biastock
Kat Roch
Luke Lind
Carrie Predeger

Trust Land Office staff present:

Sarah Morrison
Katie Vachris

Also participating:

Beverly Schoonover; Brenda Moore; Jenny Weisshaupt; Jillian Gellings; Josephine Stern;
Lizette Stiehr; Myranda Walso; Mariya Lovishchuk; Andrew Revere; Sara Chapell; Bruce van
Dusen.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. Trustee Boerner would be late, and Trustee Sturgeon was excused. There was a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAIR COOKE asked for any announcements. There being none, he moved to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CHAIR COOKE asked for any additions, corrections, changes to the agenda. He stated that a space was made for an Executive Session at the end of today and tomorrow dealing with the CEO transition issue. He asked for a motion for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: A motion that the Board approve the agenda was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR COOKE asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moved to approval of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR COOKE asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2021, and August 25-26, 2021.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of August 25-26, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

MISSION MOMENT

MR. ABBOTT stated that Steve Williams would introduce the Mission Moment.

MR. WILLIAMS continued that the individuals that will speak are probably the most passionate, mission-driven Trust beneficiary advocates, not only in Juneau, but in the Southeast. He continued that Mariya Lovishchuk is the executive director of the Glory Hall, which the Trust

has partnered with since 2006. A capital grant was recently provided for their new facility. Sara Chapell serves a dual role, as the development director of SAIL, and she also raises funds for the new Teal Center which recently had their groundbreaking. He welcomed both and asked them to continue.

MS. CHAPPELL thanked all for the invitation and talked about the location of the Teal Street Campus and the context of how the Trust helped to get to this point. She showed the location of the Teal Street Campus which includes the Glory Hall Shelter and the future social services at Teal Street Center. It is centrally located in Juneau, next to St. Vincent de Paul. The neighborhood includes transitional housing units, senior housing, Juneau Youth Services, Tlingit and Haida, Head Start and Urgent Care. She talked about the site plan and the grant received from the Trust to United Human Services for predevelopment and technical assistance. That helped develop the pro forma and the funding plan. SAIL and Glory Hall purchased the property together and will subdivide it. She added that Phase II of construction is contracted to begin on Monday.

MS. LOVISHCHUK thanked all and stated that Mr. Andrew Revere was also here for the Mission Moment. She began her presentation with a slide of the new Glory Hall facility, which was completed in large part due to the Trust and amazing staff, Katie Baldwin-Johnson and Kelda Barstad. The new Glory Hall is 100 percent accessible, and she explained that each unit has a bed, a small storage trunk to store documents, a window and a door that can close for rest, privacy and security for belongings. She stated that the facility came at a very appropriate time. There is an increase in the number of folks seeking services, and the facility has the ability to provide dignified and safe emergency shelter. She continued that in addition to the 43 little units, there is overflow space with bunk beds. There is also a commercial kitchen, a day room -- which also serves as a dining room, a day room and meeting space. She added that the patrons have access to medical and case management services. The outcomes are great. For example, 100 percent of the patrons are vaccinated now. She expressed gratitude on being here, and to the Trust for the continuing partnership. She asked Mr. Revere to say a few words.

MR. REVERE spoke about the dignity which was extremely important to him and is based on the private rooms. He stated that he is in an IOP, and their meetings are Zoom-based. That cannot be done from a bunk-bed situation, and the private room is perfect for that. He continued that he has seen and taken advantage of all the various services. There is a staff of dedicated and compassionate people that do everything from housing and job-finding, along with the paperwork. He added that since he came here, he has gotten a job and taken advantage of many services, medical and otherwise. The facility is conducive to people who are ready to move on. He will be finding permanent housing soon, and considers himself a success story because he is ready to move on.

MS LOVISHCHUK mentioned another great project that the Trust has been instrumental in supporting. The Juneau Housing First Collaborative facility, which is 64 units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless adults with co-occurring disorders. This facility would not have happened if not for the Trust. She described the facility, and shared pictures of the grand opening of the Glory Hall, as well as the groundbreaking for the Teal Street Center.

MS. CHAPPELL walked through the rest of the slide presentation, explaining them as she went

along.

MS. LOVISHCHUK quoted from Joan O'Keefe, the executive director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living, that there was no way that the Glory Hall could have been purchased without the partnership with SAIL and the ongoing strong relationship with the Trust. Together, the services can be delivered and make a real difference in people's lives. She thanked the Trust again.

MS. CHAPELL completely agreed. But without the Glory Hall, Teal Street Center would be just a building with some nonprofits. In partnership with the Glory Hall, it is a campus that will serve all of Southeast Alaska.

CHAIR COOKE thanked them for the presentation and added that the trustees are always impressed with the collaborative efforts that folks in Juneau make to try to coordinate services and programs for the beneficiaries. This development is an example of the success that working together can produce. He then asked each trustee for any questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked them for what they do and stated appreciation for the services that are being provided. She asked about the other major funding sources that are being tapped into for the entire campus.

MS. CHAPELL replied that Rasmussen has funded both Glory Hall and the Teal Street Center. She continued that Murdock Charitable Trust had funded the Glory Hall, and Teal Street Center has a request in to them. She added that the City and Borough of Juneau has been very supportive of both projects.

MS. LOVISHCHUK stated that some of the other funders for the Glory Hall and Housing First included Premier Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alaska, and a tremendous amount of money was raised from the community, local foundations and other private foundations.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated appreciation for the presentation and loved the idea of having agencies joining under one roof to service beneficiaries and other clients. She suggested that at the January meeting in Juneau a quick tour of all of this would be nice.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked the ladies for the informative and enlightening presentation. He asked for a follow-up to see how things work out through the transition.

MS. LOVISHCHUK replied that they are following up and shared the numbers because they are so incredible. One of the features of the new facility is a secure entry, knowing who comes into the building, and having a file for them. This helps to track progress or lack of progress, and to keep updates.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked them for the presentation and added that the pictures gave a true sense of what is being done and what the money is going to. He stated appreciation for the collaborative nature in which the nonprofits are working together to be most effective in providing services to those in need. It is a great way to make sure the resources are used in a more effective manner. He asked who actually owns the Teal Center.

MS. CHAPELL replied that SAIL and Glory Hall bought the property together. It will be subdivided into two pieces and split 50/50 once everything is ready to go. She continued that SAIL is partnering with United Human Services in bringing Teal Street Center to fruition. She added that United Human Services will be the nonprofit owner of the project. UHS is coordinating the fundraising, and SAIL, as a tenant, has contributed the price of the property for its contribution to the project.

A brief discussion continued.

MR. WILLIAMS thanked them for their presentation and also to Mr. Revere for sharing his story. It added the human element to the programs and services that were described.

CHAIR COOKE also thanked them for the presentation and, more importantly, for the work done every day to serve and help beneficiaries in Juneau and Southeast Alaska. He moved to the staff report.

STAFF REPORT

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she was present on the call.

CHAIR COOKE welcomed her and recognized Mr. Abbott.

MR. ABBOTT stated that the first phase of refinancing of the commercial real estate assets was completed. Three of the six existing mortgages were refinanced on favorable terms. That should bring a \$400,000-a-year improvement in the net income that the Trust receives from those properties. There would be opportunities in coming years to refinance the three remaining loans.

CHAIR COOKE asked for an update at the upcoming January committee meetings.

MR. ABBOTT moved to the audit and stated that that would be discussed in more detail later. On the Legislative Audit there is no new news, which is a good thing. He then highlighted the work going on with the Municipality of Anchorage regarding the implementation related to an enhanced emergency medicine response, paramedic response to psychiatric crimes in the community. He added that was a very positive outcome for Trust beneficiaries. He talked more about the program and noted that no Trust funds had been requested to date by the Municipality to work on this. This is highly likely to change in that the Trust will be asked to support mobile crisis team implementation in Anchorage at some point, and that request would be welcomed. He continued with a brief update on the work in support of the Governor's requests. He moved to the opportunity for a site visit to Maricopa County in Arizona to see how one community has fully implemented the Crisis Now model that we are driving towards here in Alaska. He stated that there are five trustees available for that trip and site visit. The tentative plan would be for the trip to take place on December 13th-15th. He fully expected the trustees to be impressed with what they will see and that it will help to visualize what is possible in Alaska. He handed off to Steve Williams to do a bit of recognition for an important leader and an important provider.

MR. WILLIAMS recognized Bruce van Dusen, who has been the executive director for the Polaris Clubhouse in Juneau for the past eight years. He is getting ready to retire, and we felt

that it was important to bring this to the attention of the trustees for a few different reasons. The Polaris Clubhouse is open to the beneficiaries to drop in, to have a safe place to be, to be able to engage with each other and with the staff on a voluntary basis, help to be connected to services, to focus on employment, and just generally have relationships that are supportive and positive. He continued that Mr. van Dusen embodies all of that and that he had the pleasure of knowing him for eight years. Dropping in at the Polaris House unannounced the environment is just warm and the people there are engaged, appreciative and welcoming. Mr. van Dusen led the Polaris Clubhouse to be accredited by the International Clubhouses Accreditation Group, and it is the only clubhouse in Alaska with that accreditation. He described the structured intensive review which was accomplished and maintained. He thanked Mr. van Dusen on behalf of the Trust staff, the trustees, and all the beneficiaries for his support, and for being an integral part of the Juneau community for the last eight years. The program is not a facility or a program of services, but it is a place for the people.

MR. VAN DUSEN thanked Mr. Williams for the kind words and stated appreciation in working with the Trust. He continued that it was a pleasure to have the support and to work in enriching the lives of the Trust beneficiaries. He thanked all.

MR. ABBOTT stated that the Polaris Clubhouse was one of the original programs that falls underneath the focus area of beneficiary employment and engagement. The clubhouse has been funded for many years as an operational endeavor.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any questions or comments.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. van Dusen and stated that it was interesting to hear about the clubhouse and summarizing everything done over the eight years of service. He completed the staff report portion of the agenda and moved to the next item.

TRUSTEE TRAINING RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

MR. ABBOTT stated that as part of the response to the first Legislative Audit, there was a commitment to doing regular refresher training related to several topics, one of which was the Open Meetings Act and its requirements related to the Mental Health Trust. The Department of Law has agreed to help with this training. He introduced Gene Hickey, Assistant Attorney General, who will be supporting the Trust on a number of issues going forward, and to help get the refresher training on the Open Meetings Act.

MR. HICKEY thanked the trustees for the opportunity and also thanked the Board and Trust for all the fine work done for the beneficiaries. He gave a short overview of his background and experience, and then moved to the Open Meetings Act. He stated that one of the interesting things about the Open Meetings Act in Alaska is it is much more stringent than what it was in Pennsylvania. It is good to see that the Alaska version dates back to 1959 and has been amended to enhance its effects and help those who the Government boards and commissions serve. He went through some of the basics and then moved to some of the nuances. He stated that everyone in Alaska refers to the Open Meetings Act as the OMA. It has only three statutory sections and is a pretty short act for the impact that it has with respect to what it provides for the

citizens and residents of the State of Alaska. It is broken down into meetings, what constitutes meetings and who is required to have meetings. He talked a bit about the legalese of the exceptions, the exclusions, and the executive sessions. He then moved to violations and penalties and what would happen if there was an actual violation of the Act. He continued that it was beneficial for everyone to understand the Act through the purpose of the Act, and to read the provisions with the understanding of what that purpose is. He continued through his presentation, explaining as he went through the sections. He added that the Legislature made it abundantly clear that this Act should be construed narrowly to effectuate the policy stated. He explained in more detail. He stated that there was an exception in the Act: courts and the Legislature meetings are not included and are not covered by the Open Meetings Act. There are separate provisions for the Legislature and for the courts with respect to conducting meetings with regard to the court's hearings.

A discussion, with questions and answers, ensued.

MR. HICKEY explained what constituted a meeting and the amount of time needed for public notice. He moved to the Executive Session section and talked about what can be discussed at a meeting in Executive Session. The first requirement is to convene a public meeting first. Then there would be a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the matters that are permitted to be discussed under the Open Meetings Act. It requires a majority vote of the Board, and the subject of the Executive Session needs to be clearly and specifically described. He continued that it is important that an action cannot be taken in the Executive Session. He went through the matters that could be discussed during the Executive Session. Coming out of Executive Session, the meeting recommences and vote, if necessary, to what action the Board deemed appropriate to take at that time. He then moved to the consequences of failing to comply with the Open Meetings Act, and what the sanctions would be.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Hickey for the presentation and asked if the trustees had any questions.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked for a copy of this, and thanked Mr. Hickey.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked Mr. Hickey for the presentation.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that his questions were answered and stated appreciation for the presentation.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN had no questions at this time, and thanked Mr. Hickey.

CHAIR COOKE called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE stated that the meeting was back in session, and continued to the Audit & Risk Committee report.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that there was a requested motion. She continued that the Audit & Risk Committee met on October 20, 2021, with all trustees present.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees accept the Mental Health Trust Authority's basic financial statements and government accounting standards audit report for the year ending June 30, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CHAIR COOKE noted, for the record, that the basic financial statements and government auditing standards, auditor's report for the year ending June 30, 2021, was in the packet.

MS. HOWARTH stated that she was the chief financial officer of the Trust. In October, Michelle Kiese and Bikky Shrestha of BDO presented the audit findings, which was an unmodified report. That meant that the Trust financial statements were accepted as stated. The current audited financial statement is the final, which was also submitted to the State. The question is to accept the audited financial statements for public posting. She continued that when it has been accepted, Chief Communications Officer Allison Biastock would post it on the Trust website.

CHAIR COOKE called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

CHAIR COOKE stated that the motion passed, so the auditor's report was accepted and could be distributed.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Howarth for the amount of work she put into the audit. She was very responsive and was pleased to see that the auditors spoke so highly of the professionalism that was demonstrated for the Trust.

MS. HOWARTH thanked Trustee Halterman and recognized that there was a big team behind the audit. At the Trust Land Office there was Sarah Morrison and Katie Vachris, and they have a team that provided an enormous amount of support to the auditors. At the Trust Authority she recognized Kat Roch, Valette Keller, Miri Smith-Coolidge, as well as Debbie Delong, Lucas Lind and Carrie Predeger. She added that without this team the work done would not have been able to be done.

CHAIR COOKE moved to the Finance Committee Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that there were three requested motions.

MOTION: A motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees to authorize the transfer of \$26,510,300 from the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Budget Reserve Account to

the Mental Health Settlement Income Account to fund the fiscal year 2022 annual payout disbursement calculation. The CFO may execute this motion with one lump sum or with multiple transfers, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN explained that this is a yearly disbursement that is gone through as a matter of formality and has been discussed at previous meetings. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote on the motion was done.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

MOTION: A motion to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve setting a target level for the Trust Authority's Development Account funds at \$1,009,500 was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

MOTION: A motion to recommend that the Board of Trustees authorize the chief financial officer to periodically transfer TADA funds that exceed the target level for the Mental Health Trust principal account managed by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CHAIR COOKE stated that this matter was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting a month ago and the pertinent materials were in the packet. He asked for any questions or comments. There being none, he called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN concluded her report.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any questions or comments before the lunch break.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he would be away from his desk during lunch and public comment and may be tardy for the first statutory advisory update in case there were any quorum issues.

CHAIR COOKE called the lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR COOKE resumed the meeting and began with a roll call. Trustee Fimon would be late.

He continued that there was a quorum and moved to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR COOKE asked if anyone signed up, and there was one person. He stated that the public comment period allowed individuals to inform and advise the Board of Trustees about issues, problems or concerns and is not a hearing. He went through the rules of testifying. He continued that the Chair maintains the right to stop public comment that contain inappropriate or inflammatory language or behavior. He asked who signed up.

MS. SMITH-COOLIDGE called Lizette Stiehr with AADD.

MS. STIEHR introduced herself and stated appreciation for this opportunity. She continued that she serves as the executive director for the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, AADD. This is Alaska's trade association, 60 members strong, of providers that serve and support the beneficiaries that experience intellectual and developmental disabilities across the state from Ketchikan to Kotzebue. She then talked about the impact that the Trust has had on this association. She talked about the difference the annual grant funds made for the association, the field, providers, and the beneficiaries. The funds allowed leaders in the field to attend national conferences and provide very powerful national speakers virtually. The trainings and the feedback from them have been outstanding. She stated a profound thank you for the annual grant and support. She acknowledged how fortunate we are to have an Alaska Mental Health Trust dedicated to the beneficiaries, strong leadership, and high-quality program officers that strengthen the association to help providers support the flexible services that support a meaningful life for each beneficiary.

CHAIR COOKE stated appreciation for the work that the Association on Developmental Disabilities does. Folks with developmental disabilities and their families are one of the beneficiary groups and one of the priorities when requests are considered for grants and other actions the Trust may take.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked Ms. Stiehr, and added that she would be an awesome executive director to work for.

CHAIR COOKE noted, for the record, that there are no other persons signed up to provide public comment at this time. He added that there was written comment for two individuals that are in the packet and should be part of the record of this meeting, from Faith Myers and Tonya Fowler. There being nothing further, he closed Public Comment. He moved to the presentation by the Alaska Mental Health Board and ABADA.

ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AND ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

MS. SCHOONOVER stated that she was the executive director of the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Alaska Mental Health Board. These are citizen-based advisory boards that advise the Governor, Legislature, State agencies and the Trust about the needs of Alaskans who have substance misuse and mental health concerns; and the boards work together to promote healthy, independent and productive Alaskans. She thanked all. She gave an update on recently released reduced suicide data from 2020. She added that she is also the director of

the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. She gets assistance that helps her analyze the data presented every year by the Division of Public Health, Health Analytics and Vital Records. She shared this updated 2020 data because of the concerns about COVID and COVID-19 impacting suicide rates. There was a very slight decrease in deaths by suicide in 2020 compared to 2019. She went through this part of her presentation, explaining as she went along. She stated that it is difficult to talk and hear about suicide. The good news is that there is a huge army of dedicated Alaskans working on suicide prevention activities, trainings and services, and a lot is happening at the state and local levels. She added that the Trust has stepped up over the last couple years with staff time and resources to address suicide. Suicide impacts every category of Trust beneficiaries, and she thanked the Trust for that support. She talked about the things that are happening in the state right now beginning with the Zero Suicide Initiative, the Alaska Careline, 988. She noted that the 1-800 number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline will go to 988. This initiative will save lives. She asked for any questions or comments.

CHAIR COOKE went through the trustees individually for any questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Schoonover for the presentation and asked for more information on the Bartlett facility.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that they were building a crisis residential center and they have had the groundbreaking. It is a part of the Crisis Now continuum.

TRUSTEE BOERNER expressed her gratitude and appreciated not just looking at the surface data, but delving deeper into the issues with regards to suicide and looking for ways to solve it.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that it was a sad subject, and she was happy the Trust is involved with suicide prevention.

TRUSTEE FISHER had no questions and thanked her for the presentation.

CHAIR COOKE stated appreciation for the statistics for Alaskan suicide which is Alaska-specific, and he would be interested to have a comparative figure where Alaska is compared to other states or nationwide. He was curious as to whether there was an ability to dig into these statistics and identify significant underlying factors, such as alcohol or other substance use or abuse and mental health factors.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that the information is analyzed by health statistics, and we looked at things like being intoxicated at the time of the suicide; if they had been receiving mental health treatment; and had previously received mental health or substance use treatment. She stated that data for 2020 is not out yet, and we will update once the totals are available.

A brief discussion ensued.

MS. SCHOONOVER moved on to the upcoming Legislative session and talked about some things that are being watched and then talked about the meeting dates. She stated that the advocacy priorities were established by the Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee, which has not yet met about this next session. She continued that the boards are interested in advocating for

increased access to treatments and support; are very concerned about the impacts of alcohol on Alaskans; and want to reduce alcohol consumption. She talked about some of the other issues that the boards were also interested in. She moved to the board meeting dates that were just set and invited the trustees to attend the meeting in Juneau on February 1 – 3, 2022. She thanked the trustees for all they do, and added that it was a pleasure to work with them and staff.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Schoonover for the informative presentation and asked the trustees for any comments or questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN had no questions.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that the Behavioral Health Program in Fairbanks is hard-working and very effective and impressive. She asked about the biggest challenge they have.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that the folks from Fairbanks stated that their biggest issue is that they were unable to find licensed prescribers to update medicine.

CHAIR COOKE stated that Alaska had legalized marijuana and asked if there were any studies on its impact.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that the board chairs and other board members had asked the same question and invited Director Klinkhart from the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office to the last board meeting to talk about the impacts seen since legalization and where the taxes, the funding is going. She continued that most states with legalized marijuana are looking at long-term studies. She added that because marijuana is still a controlled substance with the Federal Government, Federal research funding for marijuana is not allowed to be used.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Schoonover and stated that next on the agenda is a statutory adviser update from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. He introduced and recognized Myranda Walso, the acting executive director.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

MS. WALSO thanked Chair Cooke for the invitation and stated that she has been serving as the acting executive director for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education for just over a month following the departure of Kristen Vandagriff. She thanked the staff who provided background information on previous presentations and helped in developing this report. She also thanked the other advisory board executive directors who graciously offered their experience and advice. She stated that the mission of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education is to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities. She gave a brief history on the Council's beginnings and talked about the services provided in great detail. She recognized an exceptional member of council leadership, Vice Chair Jenna Crafton, whose dedication, charisma and leadership brought national recognition. Ms. Crafton was inducted into the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities National Self-Advocate Leadership Circle and was also selected as the winner of the April Dunn Start Your Journey Award. She added that her achievements and excellence were recognized during a large national awards ceremony held virtually this summer. She talked about the current interim staffing structure of the Council and provided an overview of the estimated Alaskan

developmental disability population. She stated that one of the challenges faced was lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence and distribution of individuals experiencing developmental disabilities within Alaska. She continued that the five-year plan was completed, and a new plan was stated on October 1st, and then talked about the goals, objectives, and then the new plan. She went through her presentation, explaining as she went along. She concluded her presentation and asked for any questions.

CHAIR COOKE asked the trustees for any comments or questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Walso for the helpful, informative presentation. She asked about the Work Matters Task Force.

A discussion ensued.

MS. WALSO stated that the next Council meeting would be January 31 - February 1, 2022, and is available to the public. The links to the Zoom and agenda are available through the online public notice system. She welcomed the trustees to attend.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Ms. Walso for stepping up and filling in this important role. She stated that she had attended the board meeting and encouraged the other trustees to participate and attend.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated amazement at how much was accomplished as an acting director. She requested a cheat sheet of available acronyms.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked Ms. Walso for the presentation and appreciated the information and her work.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked about the representative that goes to the Governor's Council meetings.

MR. WILLIAMS replied that the representative is Jamal Johnson, the program officer. He explained that each of the program officers are assigned to one of the advisory boards to be the liaison from staff to their staff.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Walso for her presentation and welcomed her to her new role. He also stated appreciation for her preparation and her presentation on behalf of the Council. He called for the afternoon break.

(Break.)

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting back in session and recognized Lisa Morley with the Alaska Commission on Aging.

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

MS. MORLEY introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Aging and began with a little background. She stated that the Commission basically represents older Alaskans ages 60 and over, and advocate, advise and provide recommendations to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for programs and services to improve the lives of senior Trust beneficiaries. She gave an overview and explained that her position was fairly new. She explained that the Commission represents seniors by partnering with multiple organizations. The Commission was initially created as part of the Older Americans Act which is the foundation and framework for senior services. Every state receives Older Americans Act funding, and together with the Department of Health and Social Services are the state unit on aging. She continued that her presentation will focus on Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Alaska is a young state, and the state population has not increased much over the years, but the senior population has increased. As a result, there is not a very robust network of services for seniors, and particularly seniors with dementia. She added that there are about 8500 estimated people in Alaska that have Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. She gave an update on the dementia collaborative, which is being partnered with the Trust and other senior providers. There are three Alzheimer's disease program initiative grants that have been awarded and are conducting evidence-based pilot projects, and ways to improve services for individuals, their caregivers, and training for dementia providers. She began with the dementia collaborative workgroup that developed the 10-year road map for dementia services. She talked about the goals and added that this plan was approved last year. The huge priority is establishing a dementia-capable workforce. She talked about the grants funded through the Administration for Community Living, which are called the Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative. She described the grants and their intentions in detail.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Morley for the informative presentation and asked the trustees for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that she had no questions.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated appreciation for the presentation and added that the Commission has an amazing challenge because the population is aging and growing. She recognized the challenges that the Commission on Aging is helping the Trust address.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that this was a part of her heart and her life and asked to meet with Ms. Morley in Juneau to talk. She continued that there are resources in other states that could help get this situation a bit better under control. She added that there are some missing points and could help with resources or education and systems.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated appreciation for the informative and compete presentation. He asked if there was anything in the state in place to help train the workforce and people needed to deal with the demand of this population going forward.

MS. MORLEY replied that there were some systems in place. The Alaska Training Cooperative does have some dementia training, as does Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. Looking at building a dementia-capable workforce, coming up with the standards so that a person is trained to a certain extent to deal with the population.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked Ms. Morley for her presentation and asked if it was known how many seniors with dementia in Alaska do not have family members to help them.

MS. MORLEY replied that was a tough one because there are many independent spirits that live alone. The question is how those individuals could be identified. She added that maybe an estimate could be found on that.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Morley for her presentation and stated appreciation for the work she did with the Commission on Aging. He moved on to the communications update and recognized Alison Biastock.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

MS. BIASTOCK stated that she was the Chief Communications Officer for the Trust and appreciated the opportunity to provide an update on the communications program. She thanked and acknowledged staff at the Trust and the Trust Land Office as a great team. She also offered a special thank-you to Valette who actively engaged in everything on what was covered today. She continued that one of her duties is to inform both the public and policymakers about what the beneficiaries need as far as supports and services to help them thrive in their home communities. She added that Trust resources are used to help increase awareness around some of the challenges the beneficiaries face and to reduce the stigma the beneficiaries experience. They also work to increase the understanding of this very unique organization. She noted that there has been some progress as far as increasing awareness of who the Trust is. She talked about the variety of tools used to communicate the good work being done, which also helps maintain relevance and to be effective. She talked about some of the key tools and then offered some highlights on recent activity. One key tool is earned media, which is exposure gained from methods other than paid advertising. She noted that they always work to ensure or urge coverage to include information about the purpose of Trust lands and the responsibility to generate revenues to support Trust beneficiaries. When providing a communications update, she always mentions the web page. Websites are essential for information-sharing. She touched on social media, and we maintain both a Facebook and Instagram account. Since her May update, 220 new Facebook followers and over 100 new Instagram followers have been gained. She continued her presentation, explaining as she went through. She added that the video was posted to the web page with a new web banner on the home page to draw attention to it.

(Video played.)

MS. BIASTOCK talked about a tool that is in the works is another sponsored content effort around the crisis work. This time with Alaska News Source, formally known as KTUU or Channel 2 in Anchorage. This initiative will create four custom video vignettes that will be aired on NBC and CBS affiliates in Alaska population centers with the intended result of increasing awareness among stakeholders and the public. She explained this in greater detail with the plan to air them over a 13-week period on network TV, and she talked about the budget.

A brief discussion on public-service funding ensued and then continued with questions and

comments from trustees.

MS. BIASTOCK continued her presentation on the Trust Land Office components of the communications programs and partnering on advertising efforts for Trust land sales and how it progressed. She then talked about two media campaigns which provide some very general information about Trust lands and the Trust, each featuring language about Alaska's unique approach to mental health funding. This would be a multi-media campaign with a statewide audience.

(Ad played.)

MS. BIASTOCK continued her presentation and talked about the different ads. She moved to the 30-second TV spots and the plan to have three beneficiaries featured over the coming months; one person per 30-second spot. The first features Kristin, a beneficiary from Seward Seaview Community Services, a partner and grantee. Kristin is a beneficiary that overcame addiction and now employs those working towards sobriety in her small business. The ad begins running this week.

(Video played.)

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the plan is to use these ads for a few years, and she anticipated devoting communication resources in the next fiscal year to additional media buys for this content. She addressed the work underway for the annual report and grant investment report which is anticipated being done by January of 2022. This report will feature some beneficiary images that were captured on that asset collection trip, as well as some lovely lands imagery. The communications program will also support both Trust priorities and legislative communication, as well as joint advocacy legislative efforts with the partner advisory boards supporting things like messaging and graphic development. She noted that the Mental Health Conference approval process allocated some funds in FY22 in planning and FY23 for executing a Trust-sponsored Mental Health Conference which is slated to occur sometime in the fall of 2022.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Ms. Biastock for her presentation and for the great work done every day.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Biastock for the update, which was very informative.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she loved the palette, the font and tying in both the campaigns and the website. It is a background detail but a very important one that did a great job going towards branding and of building overall awareness. She continued that the Alaska Tribal Health System is very interested in the work of the Trust and there has never been an issue regarding the reference to beneficiaries which has been used in the professional setting when talking provider to provider. She added that it was a great presentation.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked Ms. Biastock for the great work she does, and she believes that a good communications director addressing things right out of the chute like stigma and that the land money goes to beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that the three campaigns are very powerful, and he was impressed with the work and message that comes across.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked Ms. Biastock for her presentation, and he complimented her on the PowerPoint presentation which had a few bullet points and images that helped to understand the topic. It was well done.

CHAIR COOKE agreed with what the other trustees said and that as consumers of media in various ways, seeing something like this gives the feeling that we all have a stake in it and have something valuable to contribute. He stated that the professionally produced vignettes should have something about them not being paid by State funds, by General Funds, and that the Trust is self-supporting.

MS. BIASTOCK thanked the Chair and stated that was a point worth considering because these are always funded through Trust dollars.

CHAIR COOKE stated that completed the agenda. The two other items are trustee comments and an Executive Session. He began the trustee comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN went back to Ms. Walso's presentation and the remarks for a list of acronyms. Unfortunately, the acronyms are not consistent throughout the Department and their advisory boards. She moved to the term "beneficiary" and noted that Medicaid refers to clients that are applying as an applicant or one approved as a beneficiary or a recipient. With regard to the Executive Session, she stated concern about going into it without all the Board members present. She requested to put it off until all the trustees can be present, and we should set another date.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that it was a very rich meeting and expressed her gratitude for Ms. Schoonover and her presentation. She took a moment to just appreciate what an incredible point of privilege it is to serve on the Board and have this opportunity to contribute towards the mental health and towards the beneficiaries of the Trust. With regard to the Executive Session, she had no particular issues and would not be opposed to having the motion and vote on it.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked Trustee Boerner for reminding her that this is an awesome Trust commitment and are all very valuable to the Board and appreciated each one, thank you.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that there were a lot of thank-yous, and he also felt very honored to be on a Board of Trustees with all and was learning a lot. He was thankful for the presenters and the staff that helped set all this up. He added that he was thankful that Mr. Hickey was able to come and looked forward to more on that. He stated that he was open to go into Executive Session.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked everyone for putting together a smooth and valuable meeting, and he appreciated everyone making it a good day.

CHAIR COOKE stated that he was thankful for all the trustees and for all that is put into doing the job as trustees. The trustees of this organization take their job and commitment to the Trust and its mission quite seriously, and it was rewarding to see that every time we meet. He continued that the staff does a terrific job of not only organizing, preparing and presenting, but also finding a good balance of information for us, and the people that share mission moments with us. He added that there were good comments throughout the meeting that were on point and helped to explore some of the content that was presented. He talked about his indication that whenever the group to deal with the opioid crisis meets, that he would be the Trust's representative. He added that setting up a meeting was being worked on, but he had not heard anything. He concluded his comments and stated that the next item on the agenda is an Executive Session. He asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board go into Executive Session regarding personnel matters in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c), was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

After the roll-call vote the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

(Executive Session from 4:55 p.m. until 5:31 p.m.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN called the meeting back and did a roll call. She stated that Chair Cooke exited the meeting and was excused. Trustee Sturgeon was excused for the day. There was a quorum. She recessed the meeting which would resume tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock to continue a brief Executive Session.

(Full Board of Trustees meeting recessed at 5:36 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED

November 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. Trustee Sturgeon was excused. There was a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAIR COOKE asked for any announcements. There being none, he asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

MOTION: A motion for the Board to go into Executive Session regarding personnel matters in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c), was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

After the roll-call vote the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN recommended bringing Valette Keller in to clarify the HR process.

CHAIR COOKE asked for any objections or thoughts from the trustees. The Board moved into Executive Session.

(Executive Session from 10:06 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.)

CHAIR COOKE resumed the meeting and stated that no actions were taken while in the Executive Session. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

After the roll-call vote the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Chair Cooke, yes.)

(Alaska Full Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.)