

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 26, 2021
10:45 a.m.
Teleconference

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

Trustees Present:

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

Trust Staff Present:

Mike Abbott
Steve Williams
Carol Howarth
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kelda Barstad
Luke Lind
Michael Baldwin
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Jimael Johnson
Valette Keller
Eric Boyer
Travis Welch
Allison Biastock
Kat Roch

Trust Land Office staff present:

Wyn Menefee
Sarah Morrison
Jusdi Doucet

Also participating:

Bev Schoonover; Kristin Vandagriff; Lisa Cauble; Lisa Morely; Nathan Johnson; Mark Fineman; Walter Zisette; Jasmin Boyle; Taylor Donovan; Christine Alvarez; James Myers.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR BOERNER introduced herself as the chair for the Program & Planning Committee and welcomed all. She began with a roll call. All trustees were present. She asked for any announcements and moved to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if there will be an opportunity to talk about the Governor's letter.

CHAIR BOERNER replied that Mr. Abbott has a prepared response.

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

APPROVALS

CHAIR BOERNER moved to approvals and welcomed Kelda Barstad and the guests from Providence Alaska House. She asked for a motion to get this started.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$500,000 FY22 Housing and Home & Community-Based Services Focus Area Allocation for the Providence Alaska House Project. These funds will come from the Supportive Housing Projects Budget Line in the FY22 Budget, was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

MR. ABBOTT stated that the reason for meeting in the committee format was because these are grant proposals for consideration that fall within the Program & Planning Committee's authority because they are more than \$100,000 and less than \$500,000.

CHAIR BOERNER asked Ms. Barstad to begin.

MS. BARSTAD stated that there is a shortage of permanent supportive housing. This service serves the chronically homeless -- 100 percent Trust beneficiaries -- who need multiple types of supports, services and housing to not only be safe and have dignity, but also to have success in the goals they have for themselves. She explained that it had been a multi-year search to find providers to put together permanent supportive housing. In this search, while new providers are developing locally, Providence was willing to step into the Alaska market. There have been many meetings, to put this proposal together that addresses that specific need. This complex service looks to build 51 new supportive housing units in Anchorage with the target population of people who are chronically homeless, over the age of 55, and also have physical functioning support needs. She continued that, at the beginning of this month, there were 265 people meeting that criteria in Anchorage. This proposal is for a brand-new building, and is at an appropriate level as a partner for this larger work. She introduced Walter Zisette.

MR. ZISETTE stated that he is the Development Director at Providence Supportive Housing. Providence has been doing supportive housing since 1958. This is their first venture in Alaska, which is exciting; and we wanted to spend as much time as necessary to do it properly. He explained that property operation is one of their most important aspects of the services provided. Providence does development, but they also operate what is developed. He talked about the two types of properties in their portfolio and moved to the other types of projects with the broader objective. He continued that a goal is to reduce the number of homeless hospitalizations in communities that Providence works within. He asked Mark Fineman to continue.

MR. FINEMAN continued that he is Vice President for Development of Cook Inlet Housing Authority. He explained that they were honored when Providence approached them last year and asked if they would be interested in partnering on the PSH project. Cook Inlet Housing has been engaged to help on the development and finance of this project. He added that Providence has the expertise and experience on permanent supportive housing. One of the primary funding sources will be housing tax credits, which was developed through AHFC and their goal program. He stated that they have had 20 years of experience applying for those funds fairly successfully, and they understand the process. He stated appreciation for the Trust's consideration on this project.

MR. ZISETTE continued through the area plan and felt that some interesting work could be done to achieve one of the broader objectives from the community outreach that was done; not just for this project, but to make it a model for future phases and future efforts. He stated that the plan is developing a collaboration where it is not just one entity providing services to all the elderly residents, but a real community of service providers bringing in what they are most competent at and most interested in doing at this property. He pointed out the overall objectives of the plan and talked about the really strong commitment to long-term community partnerships, and he discussed the data.

MS. BARSTAD explained that the data was collected by the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness from participating providers and the Homeless Management Information System.

MR. FINEMAN stated that the prior leadership team engaged as a facilitator to help with the stakeholder engagement property, Michael Fredericks with SALT. He facilitated subgroups into a thoughtful process which resulted in a robust deliverable from SALT that showed the information gained. He talked about the critical success factors and the overarching goals. He continued his presentation, and added the goal to break ground next year.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked about the role that facilities would play.

MR. JOHNSON from Providence replied that right now there is an existing collaborative with Alaska Native Medical Center, Alaska Regional Hospital and Providence where they fund 10 respite beds at the Brother Francis Shelter that is directed at some of these things. Detox is a complex issue because it rises to a higher level of acuity and risk. He continued that this effort would look to expand that capacity and help the individuals that need permanent supportive housing and stabilize them.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any further questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE moved the question.

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

CHAIR BOERNER stated that next on the agenda was the Alaska Behavioral Health Fairbanks Adult Mental Health Residential Treatment proposal. She welcomed Jim Myers, President and CEO for Alaska Behavioral Health, and Christine Alvarez, Chief Clinical Officer for Adult Services for Alaska Behavioral Health, and then asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board approve a \$300,000 fiscal year '22 Mental Health & Addiction Focus Area Allocation to Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc., doing business as Alaska Behavioral Health, for the Fairbanks Adult Mental Health Residential Treatment project. These funds will come from the Treatment Access and Recovery Supports line of the fiscal '22 budget, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE with the qualifier that it is the Planning Committee that the motion goes to approval.

MR. ABBOTT explained the powerful work that AKBH has done around developing a curriculum for peer training and peer support that was presented yesterday. There are several other lines of work that AKBH is involved in. One of them is a very specialized type of service for mental health residential treatment. He stated that this type of treatment is being performed in Anchorage and does not currently exist in Fairbanks, despite the size of the community. He added that staff has been working to help put together a plan for these services to be delivered in Fairbanks proper. He asked Eric Boyer to continue.

MR. BOYER stated that Alaska Behavioral Health is doing a lot of good work. This adult residential service will support beneficiaries who have severe mental illness and is one service that is critical in the spectrum of care. He added that some of the services the State provided for Medicaid sunsetted this year and ended to transition to the 1115 behavioral health waiver. Adult residential was one of those critical services. He continued that Agnew::Beck did an evaluation and found the great need in Anchorage. At the same time, there was a need to look at Fairbanks because that service was not being presented. He added that Alaska Behavioral Health has done a great job of being able to secure this property and purchase it outright, instead of the Trust putting money into that.

MS. ALVAREZ talked about the project, the hope, who will be served, and how it is different from outpatient care. She explained that adult mental health residential treatment is for adults who are at risk while living in the community and had not responded to usual outpatient treatment. Everyone admitted to adult residential health treatment receives individual therapy and group therapy twice a day. Skill-building is used, which gives a lot of support in the structured environment provided. She was excited to be a part of this because it is so significant in providing the right care at the right time.

MR. MYERS added that the 1115 waiver was wonderful and created more of an

opportunity for a much more robust system with multiple levels of care. He stated that all these levels of care are hard to sustain and will take a lot of effort. He continued that the service has the ability to be financially sustainable, but it will take time to get there. We will have to get to 16 beds as a good occupancy rate for that sustainability.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN called for the question.

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

MR. ABBOTT thanked the Committee for the consideration of these grants which were time-sensitive. We are grateful for that accommodation. He added that the expending of the \$800,000 will make significant improvements in facility-based operations for the beneficiaries.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that next on the agenda is adjournment.

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

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

(Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.)