

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 27, 2022

11:00 a.m.

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

Originating at:

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120

Anchorage, Alaska

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair

Verne' Boerner

Brent Fisher

Chris Cooke

Rhonda Boyles

Kevin Fimon

John Sturgeon

Trust Staff Present:

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

Jimael Johnson

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner

Sarah Morrison

David MacDonald

Also participating:

Beverly Schoonover; Jenny Weisshaupt; Jillian Gellings; Gennifer Moreau-Johnson; Farina Brown; Kenneth Kuykendall; Roger Branson; Stephanie Hopkins; John Lee; Lisa Morley; Myranda Walso; Heather Carpenter; Commissioner Adam Crum; Charlene Tautfest.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and began with the roll call. Trustee Boyles had not arrived yet. There was a quorum. She asked for any announcements. There being none, she moved to the Statutory Adviser Update. She asked if Commissioner Crum was on the line.

MR. WILLIAMS replied that he was scheduled to join at 11:05.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated, for the record, that Trustee Boyles had joined the meeting.

STATUTORY ADVISER UPDATE

COMMISSIONER CRUM thanked the Board and hoped for an in-person meeting soon. He addressed and shared Executive Order 121 which was formally delivered to the Legislature on January 18, 2022, the first day of session. He explained that this executive order restructures the Department to align services to take community- and facility-based services that provide services 24/7 and make them into the Department of Family and Community Services. Including OCS, Juvenile Justice, Alaska Psychiatric Institute and the Pioneer Homes. He continued that on the other side of the house, is the Medicaid services, public health and public assistance, the payments, processes and programs, because they do not touch the patient, and align them into a Department of Health. He added that this was very received in conversations. He stated that the Legislature has 60 days to take action at a concurrent joint session to do a simple majority vote to disprove it, meaning to vote it down. If it is not voted down by March 18th, it will become a law effective on July 1st. The disruption that will occur if passed would be internal because it is the financial management side, which is IT, finance, HR, payroll. He added those were the groups that would have the majority of positions added. There are 10 new positions that would be added, and 10 positions reclassified. This was not a cost-cutting measure, but an appropriate-sized government. There had been numbers of letters of support from different groups around the state received.

(Pause)

MS. CARPENTER stated that the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education sent a support letter, as well as the Commission on Aging and the Pioneer Home Advisory Board. She introduced herself as Heather Carpenter, Health Care Policy Adviser to Commissioner Crum.

COMMISSIONER CRUM apologized for the interruption and stated that work on this will continue. There is a town hall set up with the Alaska Children's Trust in a week and a half. He added that he would still like to hear from leadership from Health and Social Services. He stated that the Executive Order cannot create substantive law change, but points statutes in the correct direction to DOH. He moved to some important things coming forward and talked about two RFIs that would close on January 31st. These would identify needs in the community, ongoing projects, and limitations and payment structure. One was for complex youth, and the other for complex adults.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Commissioner Crum and Heather Carpenter for their insight.

COMMISSIONER CRUM stated excitement on the Crisis Now and the Crisis Stabilization Project. There was a lot of effort in the interim for HB 172. He congratulated Mr. Williams and Ms. Baldwin-Johnson on their new roles. He encouraged any of the trustees with connections with the Legislature to talk about the importance of HB 172 and SB 124. He added that this was a critical aspect for the behavioral health continuum of care and for the public safety across Alaska getting the right level of care.

MS. CARPENTER stated excitement for building on the foundation at the Department with 1115. She continued that 23 services were brought on, with most being Medicaid billable. That also made Crisis Now doable. At this point there is a need for providers to do Crisis Now in a voluntary system. There is also the need for a statute change in case there is someone in need of a Title 47 civil commitment for more options.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN commended the Commissioner and Ms. Carpenter on the phenomenal job they did. She extended her thanks for the presentation and wished them success.

(Lunch break.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order. She stated that next is the opportunity for public comments on the record. She continued that Faith Myers sent in some public comment, which is on Page 133 in the packet. She added that there is one party on the line for public testimony. She talked about the rules and etiquette with regard to public comments. She recognized Lenise Henderson from the Sitka Homeless Coalition.

MS. HENDERSON stated that she was Lenise Henderson from the Sitka Homeless Coalition and appreciated the time to speak. She introduced the Cabin Project that is being worked on. The goal is to build a cabin community of small housing units that help to prevent homelessness in Sitka. She added that she had sent a concept picture and some plans. She stated that in December of 2019 a partnership grant was approved by the Trust for the Sitka Homeless Coalition to lease shelter space in the community for about a dozen chronically homeless Trust beneficiaries. She explained that the coalition had a lot of difficulty and was unable to find a space to lease and has redoubled the efforts in finding a more permanent place for the beneficiaries to live. The coalition had been in contact with the Trust Land Office to identify any Trust land in Sitka that could be used for an authorized campground, cabins or tiny homes. In 2020, the Sitka Homeless Coalition was approved to use the Trust technical assistance contract to work with Agnew::Beck to design a supportive housing project that has cabin-style units and arranged into a small community. She added that the Trust Land Office and the Authority Office, Kelda Barstad and Dave Griffin, remained involved following the progress of the project. Last fall, the Sitka Health Summit identified ending homelessness in Sitka as one of the top priorities and began to work closely with the Sitka Homeless Coalition. The momentum was terrific with a group of 17 to 20 individuals working via Zoom to expand the organization, work on cabin designs, discuss fundraising and grants, raise awareness and brainstorming. The community support fundraising goals have been exceeded. The hope is to continue with the Trust in the future, and she wanted to introduce the project.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Henderson and asked for anyone else to make public comment.

MR. BAILEY stated that he was with the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities. He thanked Mike Abbott, the former CEO, and congratulated Steve Williams, the incoming CEO. He continued that the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities serves about 60 providers to Medicaid home- and community-based services and was grateful for the Mental Health Trust sponsoring and sharing the vision. He talked about the sustainability aspects and thanked the Trust for a grant that helped to sponsor a rate study related to the services and how the methodology, in place for over ten years, was not executed in the way intended to rebase using actual costs and keeping up with the pace of the costs of delivering services. He stated that this would be taking this, in conjunction with Key Coalition, to legislators to make sure that there is a sustainable system for reimbursing the actual cost of providing services to the beneficiaries. He thanked all and would appreciate support in making sure that there is a robust system going forward that does support the beneficiaries.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Bailey and asked for anyone else to give public testimony.

MR. McCARTY stated that he was Representative McCarty and wanted to take a moment to share his great appreciation for the Trust and all that are involved with the Trust. He continued that he would be watching what is going on late at night looking at the archives of the videos of the Trust activities. He added that he was at their disposal to help the beneficiaries throughout the state.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Representative McCarty for weighing in and for the comments. His support was appreciated. She asked for his support for House Bill 172 and Senate Bill 124. She asked for any other individuals interested in presenting public comment. Hearing none, she stated that the public comment period would be kept open because it is noticed to continue until 1:00 o'clock.

FISCAL YEAR '22 AMENDED BUDGET

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Mr. Williams with regard to the fiscal year '22 amended budget conversation.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that this was a request to reallocate \$500,000 of originally approved funds into a new item.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve reallocating \$500,000 in FY22 Authority Grant funds into a new budget line, Anchorage Homeless Solutions, in the housing and home- and community-based services focus area. The Authority Grant funds being reallocated are outlined in the memo provided to the trustees was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

MR. WILLIAMS asked Kelda Barstad to fill in and answer questions.

MS. BARSTAD stated that what had happened to date to the projects in Anchorage is that the

Municipality, as well as a number of private funders, have established a funding collaborative with the Alaska Community Foundation to purchase and begin the operation of shelter projects, and likely in the future, housing projects, so that the Sullivan can be emptied and people currently living there can move into more suitable long-term housing. She stated that this required the intermediate step of creating more shelters prior to individuals moving into longer-term housing. Right now, there is a long-term shelter that will focus on individuals with complex-care needs, which will be a good mission alignment for the Trust. She added that this is in the very early stages of determining who would be occupying that shelter, the referral criteria and what the services would be. That would be located at the Sockeye Inn which was purchased as part of the partnership. An additional property being considered is the Barratt Inn on Spenard, which was identified for workforce housing with a small set-aside for a number of units for permanent supportive housing. The target population for either is unknown at this time.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked, still being in public comment period, if anyone was on line for testimony. There being no one, she moved to any questions on the presentation.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that it was 1:04 and we were past the public comment period. She closed that public comment period and continued that if there was anyone on-line that was not able to give public comment verbally that they could give a written public comment. This could be submitted to the trustees via e-mail at public.comment@mhtrust.org or mailed to 3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. She returned to the agenda and the conversation with regard to the reallocation of the housing funding. She asked for any further comments or questions on the reallocation.

TRUSTEE BOERNER asked about some of the projects that were not fully identified and if there was confidence in their identification. She also appreciated the reminder and clarification. She stated that she would support the motion.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about the “looming deadline date” and when it was.

MS. BARSTAD was not sure of the date and stated that she would check on it.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked about any further comments. There being none, she called the roll-call vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and stated that next are two approvals, one from Providence Permanent Supportive Housing Focus area allocation, and the other, API. She asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$250,000 FY22 Housing Home- and Community-Based Services focus area allocation to Providence Health and Services of Washington for the Providence Alaska House Project. These funds will come from the Supportive Housing Projects budget line in the FY22 budget and increase the total award for the project to \$750,000, was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MR. WILLIAMS asked Ms. Barstad and Mark Fineman to continue.

MS. BARSTAD introduced Mike Fineman, the vice president of development for Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Walter Zisette, the director of development for Providence Supportive Housing, and Nathan Johnson, the regional director of community health investment for Providence in the Alaska region. She continued that this proposal for the Providence Alaska House project was approved by the trustees for \$500,000 and is back due to unforeseen extreme increases in costs for materials, for workforce, for supplies, construction costs, shipping, all of the things that many agencies have seen that caused the capital budgets to increase for construction. She explained that the housing and services offered by the project have not changed. The main change is figuring out how to cover the gap created by the significant increases in construction costs over the past year. She added that this project will house Trust beneficiaries entirely and is important to the Anchorage area to implement permanent supportive housing so that the Trust beneficiaries can move from temporary shelter into a long-term housing situation that supports their needs with a variety of services and supports. She continued that part of the project also focuses on recuperative care and does continue to meet its intent. Another positive is that both Providence and Cook Inlet Housing were willing to offer their expertise after the project is implemented to see how they could help leverage other projects in the state.

MR. ZISETTE stated that he was with Providence Supportive Housing and really had nothing more to add. Ms. Barstad did a great job of summarizing the history and how we got to this point.

A brief discussion ensued.

MS. BARSTAD explained that the gap from the original budget to the current budget was quite considerable, and Cook Inlet Housing was able to raise additional funds so that it was not that large of a gap.

MR. FINEMAN stated that the reasons for the increased costs were primarily due to construction costs. When the previous budget was developed, historical costs were used, and those costs significantly increased. He talked about the additional sources of funds secured to close some of the gaps.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Fisher, no; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Chair Halterman, yes.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the API SHARP program and asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Trust Authority approve a \$255,150 FY22 Partnership Grant to Alaska Psychiatric Institute for the SHARP 3 contract project. These funds will be granted to API through a reimbursable services agreement, RSA, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked Mr. Boyer to introduce this project.

MR. BOYER stated that this was a unique proposal because proposals asking for support grants around SHARP 3 for a specific organization are not typically brought forward. SHARP is an acronym for Supporting Health Care Access Through Loan Repayment Program. It is mirrored and based on the Federal HRSA, Health Resources Services Administration, student loan repayment program. He explained the process involved in this grant. He added that the idea behind SHARP 3 was Senate Bill 93, which was passed unanimously two sessions ago. If these funds for API are approved, the contracts would go through the community process and from there to the Division of Public Health to enact those contracts. He introduced Dr. Robert Long from API, who was on the call.

DR. LONG stated appreciation to everyone, especially Mr. Boyer, for considering this opportunity. He stressed that retention as well as potential hiring are significant issues at API.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation to Dr. Long for his service to the most vulnerable beneficiaries and for the work being done.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order, and stated that Trustee Comments are left on the agenda.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Steve Williams, who wanted to make a couple of comments.

MR. WILLIAMS thanked the trustees, the TLO and the Trust Authority staff for making his first meeting as CEO go smoothly. He stated appreciation for all the contributions and questions that

the trustees asked, and for their support with their suggestions. He also thanked the folks that participated in the meeting, the advisory boards as well as the others who provided additional information related to the approvals that were presented.

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Trustee Boerner.

TRUSTEE BOERNER congratulated the new CEO and the great job he did. She also took a moment and recognized the staff because this is not just a transition for a CEO, but also a transition for them. She thanked them all in this process, and noted that the meeting went very well. She also thanked the new Chair for her presentations before the House and Senate Committees. She continued that those were not easy aspects of their jobs and responsibilities, but both handled with elegance and very worthy of praise. She wrapped up her comments and said thank you.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Boerner and was grateful that Mr. Williams was well prepared. She recognized Trustee Fimon.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated thank you to the immediate past Chair Cooke for all of his leadership and help in getting him started. He congratulated Chair Halterman for becoming the new Chair, and for all of the new positions that came about yesterday. He also congratulated Mr. Williams as the new CEO. He gave staff a big thank you and stated they are the best staff he'd ever seen at any place. He appreciated the presentations and the tour and everything.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated appreciation for everyone's support through all of the changes that were done and added that the meeting went well. He talked about the sharing of information that helped when people contacted him and asked what he did. He could talk about the beneficiaries and how they had been helped. He continued that the tour was great and showed an innovative approach to how beneficiaries were helped. He made a special request and appreciation to the new Chair to slam the hammer down harder so he could hear it.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Allison for the great report. The thing he always harped on was connecting resource development with the beneficiaries, where the money comes from, and she did a great job on that. He thanked Trustee Cooke for his time as the Chair, and for the great job he always did. He stated that Chair Halterman and Mr. Williams did a great job, and he was proud to be on a board where they nailed their presentation to the Senate and the House. He also thanked staff for the great job on preparing the trustees for the meetings.

TRUSTEE COOKE called being on the Board as continuing education with an interesting course of study. What he found interesting and exciting about the Trust was being involved in so many things and so many aspects not only of just functioning as a board and supervising staff, but the details of the things that they all got into; the programs, managing the land, financial matters and having our own money. This is unusual for a government-type board. He congratulated Chair Halterman and Mr. Williams on their performance in their new roles, and making it a seamless transition. He added that he liked the way things were going and congratulated everyone on the work done in various roles. It was a great meeting. Thank you.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she hoped Trustee Cooke would continue and find a high-caliber advisory position because he has so much to give. She also supported Trustee Sturgeon's

request for some information on foster care. She would like some success stories from those kids. She appreciated the grants report and thanked the CEO and the Chair for doing such a great job.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed with many of the comments made and was very grateful that Mr. Williams is in the CEO role. It is a benefit for the Trust that he has the experience that he brought to the table. She thanked Miri for all she did and not missing a thing to make sure everything was prepared. She also stated appreciation for Allison and the work she put into the presentation materials and helping develop the talking points that she read from in the testimony today and yesterday. She continued that it was a conducive work environment and a healthy work environment, and we do quality work with a very vulnerable population, and she was grateful for that. She talked about Trustee Cooke and the difficult shoes she had to fill. He did an amazing job as the Chair. She was sad to see him go. She also thanked the public for comments and appreciated the fact that the Trust did a lot of outreach, collecting information about how to serve beneficiaries and how future needs are deferred was a very challenging thing. She thanked all the Trust staff and the Trust Land Office for all they do, and Mr. Williams for his leadership. She entertained a motion for adjournment.

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN adjourned the meeting.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.)