

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
January 6, 2022
9:15 a.m.
WebEx Videoconference/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
Carrie Predeger
Autumn Vea

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Sarah Morrison
David MacDonald
Marisol Miller
Hollie Chalup
Jeff Green
Becky Carpenter

Also participating:

Bev Schoonover; Stephanie Hopkins; Brenda Moore; Josephine Stern; Jillian Gellings; Heather Carpenter; Gennifer Moreau-Johnson; Sarah Koogle; Travis Greenstreet; Philip Licht; Barb Ruth; Ian Casey; Elizabeth Dickinson; Terese Catrona; Susanna Marchuck.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR BOERNER called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. Trustee Halterman was excused. Chair Boerner asked for any announcements. There being none, she moved to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that Trustee Halterman had arrived.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR BOERNER stated that there were two sets of minutes to approve: August 26, 2021, and October 20, 2021.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of the Program & Planning Committee meeting of August 26, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

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; Chair Boerner, yes.)

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of the Program & Planning Committee meeting of October 20, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

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; Chair Boerner, yes.)

CEO UPDATE

MR. ABBOTT began with an update on the letter received from Governor Dunleavy in August and the requests in it. He continued that, in general, progress was being made on all of them. All five of the initiatives were moving forward, and the Opioid Task Force met once and is underway. The work on the 988 Program, which is the statewide suicide prevention and psychiatric careline, continues. The Trust continues to enhance that service and supports the Crisis Now model. The Trust Land Office sent the Governor the response he requested that identified ten parcels of State land that could be transferred to the Trust in order to develop them more quickly and efficiently. He concluded the CEO report.

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the report on Crisis Now.

CRISIS NOW REPORT

CHAIR BOERNER stated curiosity about hearing how other trustees found their visit to Phoenix. She asked Trustee Cooke if he had received any communication on the Opioid Task Force.

TRUSTEE COOKE replied that he had attended a telephonic meeting of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee where various state officials talked about what the State was doing in response to the opioid crisis and the dimensions of the problem. They also discussed procedural matters for future meetings. He stated that the group will meet periodically, at least once a month. After speaking with Vice Chair Halterman, both from the fact she will be the incoming chair and her personal interest in the topic, she will replace him as a member of the task force. The next meeting is tomorrow, and they will go into more detail about what the legal settlement is, how it will affect Alaska, and what resources may be produced. He added that he had received a nice letter from the Governor thanking him for his service on the Opioid Recovery Task Force.

FY-2023 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ANALYSIS

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Trustee Cooke and moved to the FY-2023 Governor's budget analysis and recognized Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that he would be providing the FY23 budget overview, and the recommendations by the Board of Trustees related to GF/MH increments. He went over the joint advocacy efforts with the advisory boards. He continued to the key legislation that will be tracked over the next session related to the Crisis Now work with the Department of Health and Social Services. He stated that Mr. Abbott did a good job of laying the groundwork of this particular budget process, as well as the recommendations that were forwarded to the Administration and the Legislature. He continued his presentation, explaining and answering questions as he went along. He talked about the Trust and the joint advocacy work as it related to the Legislative session, and the budget policy items that may come up.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Mr. Williams and staff for their preparation on that work and moved to the comp plan update. She recognized Autumn Vea.

COMP PLAN UPDATE

MS. VEA stated that her presentation was part of the regular quarterly Program & Planning update regarding the comp plan. She explained that the presentation would help to lay the groundwork for other presentations and would demonstrate the comp plan in action. She thanked the Trust for the continued partnership with the Department and the advisory board partners that made much of this possible. She introduced Jillian Gellings from the Commissioner's Office, who is returning from maternity leave and will present. She stated that there would be a slight change to the agenda as the Department's Deputy Commissioner Al Wall was not available for the presentation. She added that Heather Carpenter, the healthcare policy advisor in the Commissioner's office, and Gen Moreau, the director of Behavioral Health, would be presenting. She continued that there is a full house of speakers for this presentation that will focus on the more extensive crisis infrastructure and crisis system as the whole. She stated that Alaska's crisis infrastructure is the underlying foundation for the crisis system. These are the facilities, services and installations needed for the community to have the robust crisis system. The crisis system itself is composed of the relationships, the stakeholders, the staff, the legislation, and the regulations necessary to support the comp plan's numerous objectives to build the crisis infrastructure. She continued that Crisis Now is the chosen evidence-based model of care that the Trust, the Department, and the community stakeholders have been working on to implement. It is comprised of a high-tech crisis call center and a 24/7 Mobile Crisis Team. It includes a crisis stabilization program, and the essential principles and practices like the use of peers, utilizing trauma-informed care. She added that the last component of the crisis infrastructure is the sustainability which is needed and includes the braided funding and the long-term strategies necessary for the system to withstand and grow to meet the needs of today and the future. She asked Ms. Gellings to talk more about the comp plan from the Department's perspective.

MS. GELLINGS focused on a number of the 1115 objectives and strategies throughout the comp plan. She highlighted the Department's work on the behavioral health demonstration waiver and crisis stabilization with a few examples. She asked Director Gen Moreau-Johnson to continue.

MS. MOREAU-JOHNSON stated that the Crisis Now initiative is based on the concept of no wrong door in the concept, regardless of insurance status. This a critical area in order to expediently respond to crisis in the community. She continued that the 1115 is a Medicaid program that allows the State of Alaska to draw down Federal funds to support the publicly funded mandated system of care for providers that are enrolled as Medicaid providers and for individuals that are eligible for Medicaid. She explained this more fully as she went through her presentation. She added that specific to the crisis service there are currently 15 agencies that have received departmental approval. They meet eligibility and the criteria. She talked about some Federal funding opportunities that were leveraged to help bridge the implementation over the course of the pandemic, which included CARES funding.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that it was a great presentation and added that it was exciting to see the tools and the work that went into this.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that there are 15 agencies enrolled to provide crisis services in

Alaska. She asked for a sense of who those provider agencies are, and whether they are hospital-based or community-based.

MS. MOREAU-JOHNSON replied that a report with the list of agencies currently approved can be shared. This is where the 1115 is different from Crisis Now. The 1115 is a Medicaid program for crisis stabilization services for Medicaid-eligible providers. She continued that some of those providers have established crisis stabilization centers and short-term crisis residential targeting certain populations depending on the needs in the communities.

TRUSTEE FISHER talked about the higher suicide rates and asked if there was any information that could indicate what the rate in Alaska looked like.

MS. MOREAU-JOHNSON replied that the data was not yet available.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked if there was any downside to the 1115 waiver program for the State of Alaska.

MS. MOREAU-JOHNSON replied that the 1115 waiver is evaluated by, approved by, and renewed by the Federal Government. Negotiation with the Federal Government is a potential downside. The big opportunity is that the 1115 waiver allows the State to innovate as long as the goals of the Medicaid program are met. She stated that she sees this as a winning situation for the State of Alaska due to its uniqueness and because the rules can be amended for the purposes of the state. She recognized Heather Carpenter, who has been involved in 1115 since SB 74.

MS. CARPENTER stated that when Senate Bill 74 was passed in 2016, the 1115 was the one waiver the Legislature told the Department they had to apply for, and she highlighted that it was the biggest game changer. These Medicaid services had to make sure there was a way to bill for it, and that makes that work being done so closely with the Trust possible. She added that there was still a lot of education that needed to happen with legislators and with stakeholders. She stated that the “ancillary services” are critical because they are the foundation for the community-based system. She continued that a robust and strong foundation to the community-based system should mean fewer people going to crisis. It is also critical that those into crisis have the continuum when returning back to the community so that the stability that was achieved to get through that crisis is maintained.

CHAIR BOERNER called a 15-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER called the meeting to order and welcomed Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Eric Boyer, and Travis Welch for the next presentation.

MR. BOYER began talking about Crisis Now and the crisis stabilization system of care and where it is. He showed how the comp plan connects with the work done around crisis stabilization. He talked about the updates on the work progressing in the communities, and some highlights of the proposals for this afternoon. He added that they are also working up

proposals for the January 27th Full Board meeting in Juneau.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON recapped the two-day trip to observe the Crisis Now program in Arizona.

MR. WELCH stated that they were excited about expanding the work to a community not on the road system that would definitely benefit from these services. In Rural Alaska, there are a number of different working groups that are ongoing and discussing issues about how to deliver Crisis Now services to those areas that may not have the same resources as in Anchorage.

MR. ABBOTT continued that most places that have implemented all or part of Crisis Now have a managed care system. Alaska does not have that, which is one of the fundamental challenges in adapting Crisis Now in Alaska. He continued that one of those challenges would be figuring out how to bill private payors.

MR. WELCH talked about the similarities and differences between the Solari system responding to a crisis call in Arizona. He stated that the structure and technology is similar, with the biggest difference being the 911 center and how dispatchers are trained to receive calls.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked all and called for a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR BOERNER reconvened the meeting and moved to the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team. She welcomed Sarah Koogle, Tundra Greenstreet and Christine Alvarez.

FAIRBANKS MOBILE CRISIS TEAM

MR. WELCH introduced Sarah Koogle, who is the Alaska Behavioral Health Director of Fairbanks Adult Services, and Tundra Greenstreet, the Bridge Peer Support Coordinator.

MR. GREENSTREET stated that he was the program service director for the Bridge and had been working with the peers and clinicians for Alaska Behavioral to get this Mobile Crisis Team off the ground in Fairbanks. He explained that it was an amazing partnership, collaboration, and we have already seen some impressive outcomes. The presentation began with a rough timeline of how things have led up to the present. They also continued trainings with Fairbanks' dispatch, which he explained in more detail.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked about the kind of need that UAF is seeing in their current crisis response.

MS. KOOGLE replied that the University has had very in-depth, in-service crisis response, which also services a very small radius outside the campus. She added that they work together to make sure services are not duplicated.

MR. GREENSTREET shared some success stories and stated that the Mobile Crisis Team was able to connect an elderly man with services he needed to make his transition to Fairbanks go

smoothly.

MS. KOOGLE moved to the data and outcomes of what the Mobile Crisis Team in Fairbanks has done. There had been a total of 78 calls with 64 unique individuals served, with the average call time being 25 minutes. She explained that the data can be so specific because the CAD app through the dispatch is used, and they are able to pull all that data out. She added that they have been able to keep individuals in the communities. She closed by thanking the trustees for the opportunity to talk about what Fairbanks has done with the Mobile Crisis Team. We are working together in partnerships to make a difference and changes in the community.

MR. GREENSTREET added that a key part of that success is the collaboration. No one agency in Fairbanks could have done this on their own. Some big strides have been made by reaching out and working together as partners.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that it was exciting to see this getting off the ground and having some great early experiences.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about staffing and working around the University.

MS. KOOGLE replied that being part of Alaska Behavioral Health has given us the opportunity to work closely with the mental health agencies up at UAF, and this is just an extension piece of it.

MR. GREENSTREET stated that there have been opportunities to collaborate on some curriculum development through the University around peer services, and providing training and education on how to do that critical peer support work. He added that one of the most important parts of peer support is that lived experience.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if any proactive work had been done to identify potential crisis response clients before they actually come to a crisis.

MR. GREENSTREET replied that they work to make sure the individuals are getting connected to the resources and the services they need so they do not need to keep calling the police, are less of a burden on the system, and are going to the appropriate resources and providers.

MR. WELCH stated that this is a great collaboration among the partners in Fairbanks, with a lot of trust being built. He continued that the officers of the Fairbanks Police Department are excited about this program, and they have been working with the Mobile Crisis Team. They are feeling more confident in turning the calls over to the Mobile Crisis Team. He added that, as this program continues to build and expand their response area, it is expected that number to increase as these relationships with FPD, the state troopers and all the different entities continue to expand.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked the presenters for a great presentation, and moved to the next agenda item.

FY2022-FY2023 TRUST PROGRAM BUDGET UPDATE

MR. ABBOTT stated that the budget is a big part of the Program & Planning Committee work. He noted that they would spend the rest of the time talking about a variety of different types of grant-making that affects both FY22 and FY23. He added that there would be approximately \$1 million of spending decisions, and he talked about some of those purposes. He also explained that the committee did not have the authority to amend the budget; the Full Board had to do it. He continued that, under approvals, there are three grants that are committee-level approvals.

CHAIR BOERNER called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER reconvened the meeting, and moved to the approvals.

MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$250,000 FY22 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Focus Area Allocation to Set Free Alaska for the recidivism reduction and recovery capital project. Funding from this project will come from the Crisis Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

CHAIR BOERNER clarified that this approval would move through once approved. It is not a recommendation to the Full Board. She recognized Eric Boyer.

MR. BOYER introduced Philip Licht, the CEO of Set Free Alaska.

MR. LICHT thanked all and stated that he was in long-term recovery and had worked with Set Free Alaska for over ten years. He stated that they had been celebrating helping fellow beneficiaries and individuals in the community; families that needed help with substance abuse, mental health and their struggles in life. He stated that Shannon Harris is the peer support manager and has worked for the quarantine program, as well as coordinating with other residential programs, the peer support teams working in outpatient, residential and the recovery residents.

MR. BOYER went through the highlights of the proposal and stated that they are seeking to secure some funding to braid with a lot of other funds to buy and purchase outright the Garden Gate Bed & Breakfast property, which is across the street from the Mat-Su Regional Hospital. He added that they are proposing getting additional money for securing it, and they are already there operating as a lease-to-own operator. He continued that 30 folks can be treated residentially on site, and they do much of their outpatient programming and community-based care.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

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

CHAIR BOERNER stated that next on the approvals list is the Arc of Anchorage.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$216,000 FY22 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Focus Area allocation to the Arc of Anchorage for the 1115 Adult Mental Health Residential 1 & 2 project. Funding for this project will come from the Treatment Access & Recovery Supports budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. BOYER stated that this next proposal is to help the Arc stand up the adult residential services. He continued that, currently, Alaska Behavioral Health operated 30 adult residential beds in Anchorage. The three residences need some capital improvements and are owned outright. He introduced the team at the Arc. Barb Rath is the chief operating officer; Ian Casey is the chief finance officer; Elizabeth Dickinson is in charge of clinical services; Terese Catrona helps with the administrative support around this.

MS. RATH stated that they want to target individuals who are really challenged mentally, emotionally, behaviorally, who often have co-occurring disorders and get caught up in situations and the criminal system, which is not the place for them. She continued that they are interested in being part of the solution for the community.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

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; Chair Boerner, yes.)

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the third approval.

MOTION: A motion to approve a \$197,400 FY22 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Focus area allocation to the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living for the Alaska Careline 988 Infrastructure Development. Funding for this project will come from the Crisis Continuum of Care budget line was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. WELCH stated that Susanna Marchuck was online from the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living. He explained that the project is providing funding to build up capacity both with personnel and infrastructure for Careline to be able to handle the expected increase in call volume once 988 kicks off starting July 1st. He added that this specific request focused on the 988 Project.

CHAIR BOERNER called the vote.

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; Chair Boerner, yes.)

CHAIR BOERNER thanked all for their presentations and moved to trustee comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE BOYLES had no comments.

TRUSTEE COOKE thanked all for conducting a good meeting. He noted the passing of Ed Rasmuson, a founding father of the Rasmuson Foundation, which is the biggest private philanthropic entity in Alaska. He continued that they were often partners of the Trust in projects that were undertaken for the beneficiaries and were very important partners in all the efforts.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked all for orchestrating a very good meeting and stated appreciation for all the presentations and additional information that made the decisions easier.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked all for the presentations, and he appreciated the detail and the answers to all the questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked staff and Chair Boerner for leading a great meeting and stated appreciation for the feedback, which makes the job easier.

TRUSTEE STURGEON also thanked Chair Boerner for a great job and for running a tight meeting. He stated that he did personally know Ed Rasmuson and had gone hunting all over the world with him. Ed always helped anyone having a hard time. He was a very generous, nice person, and always had Alaska first and foremost on his mind.

CHAIR BOERNER appreciated Trustee Sturgeon for sharing his personal experience with Mr. Rasmuson, which means a lot. She thanked the staff and the trustees for being prepared for the meetings, which made facilitating them so much easier. She stated that she felt very privileged and honored to be here with all, and that her heart and thoughts go out to the beneficiaries and partners, wishing them the best for 2022.

MR. ABBOTT stated that this may be his last opportunity to speak in an official capacity and appreciated the chance to do that and the opportunity to share with the trustees and staff and the other stakeholders how much he appreciated all the support, all of the energy, and all the good wishes in the four years that he had the privilege to serve the Trust. He was grateful to the team he worked with, and to the trustees he reported to for all the support to work for and improve the lives of Trust beneficiaries. He was thrilled to have the opportunity, and was leaving with mixed emotions.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation for all the care Mr. Abbott dedicated to the beneficiaries of the Trust. She called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER reconvened and invited Trustee Cooke for comments or a presentation.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that the Trust is blessed with Greg Jones who makes wood bowls and brought one of his specialties for this occasion to present to Mr. Abbott from the trustees. He added that there was a card that should be opened.

MR. ABBOTT read “Mike, you came to the rescue and set the Trust fund on a solid path forward. You deserve thanks from all involved. Go in peace and health and be proud. Greg Jones.”

TRUSTEE COOKE continued that he was able to secure a piece of art created by a Trust beneficiary from the board, with their thanks. He added that Mr. Abbott would be leaving on the 14th, but this will be the last time with the board. He stated that Mr. Abbott did a magnificent job of mastering all the details of a very complex organization and kept all the parts functioning together and going in the same direction. He will be missed. He personally thanked him for everything he did, and wished him well in his next venture or adventure.

CHAIR BOERNER offered the trustees the opportunity to join in the comments.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Abbott for preparing her for this journey in a matter of weeks. She stated that she had never seen a better onboarding process. She continued that he set them all up for success and that she appreciated his contributions to that. She thanked him for his time and added that he would be missed.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that it was a pleasure working with Mr. Abbott and added that one of his best attributes is that he talked loudly. He continued that he had a very distinguished career and wished him the best in all of his new ventures.

TRUSTEE FIMON thought back to the first day he got the call and came in. He appreciated Mr. Abbott’s good sense of humor and candor. There was so much information in the first 30 minutes, and he thought that Mr. Abbott had been there for 25 years. He was amazed at the grasp of his understanding and how he parlayed four years to him and others. He thanked him for all he did for the Trust, the beneficiaries, and for the trustees.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that from the beginning he never felt that he had been left to hang and figure it out himself. He appreciated the time visiting and answering questions that he had and making sure that staff were prepared to answer some of the questions so that the trustees could move forward with some of the decisions that had to be made. He added that he was always impressed with the way Mike communicated and worked with the trustees, as well as in overseeing and leading the staff. He thanked him for the great contribution with the transition.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she would miss Mr. Abbott. She continued that he was one of the most diplomatic directors and leaders that she had the pleasure of working with. She wanted him to know that before she took the position as a trustee, she did some homework on him and the executive director’s position he held. Everything came back positive, even from those who did not politically align with him. She added that he would be missed.

MR. ABBOTT thanked all and stated that his phone number was not changing.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that she started as a trustee not long after Mr. Abbott was hired, and one of the things she appreciated about him was his humility, self-deprecation, and especially the level of knowledge he had. He always recognized his staff and everything was always about the beneficiaries and the partnerships and what was needed to get as much as possible to help the beneficiaries. She also agreed with everything that had been shared by all the other trustees and their observations. It has been an incredible blessing working with him in this capacity. She wished him well on his next endeavors, and where his journey will take him. She entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

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; Chair Boerner, yes.)

CHAIR BOERNER adjourned the meeting.

(Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.)