

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

**FULL BOARD MEETING**

**January 26, 2022**

**8:30 a.m.**

**WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference**

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

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**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 Weissaupt; Jillian Gellings; Gennifer Moreau-Johnson; Farina Brown; Kenneth Kuykendall; Roger Branson; Stephanie Hopkins; John Lee; Elana Habib; Field Engle; Aaron Surma; Karlene Kuhn; Sharon Denton; Lisa Morley; Myranda Walso.

## PROCEEDINGS

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and began with the roll call. There was a quorum.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MR. WILLIAMS recommended shortening the lunch period and amending to take the last two items scheduled under approvals and move them to today after the short lunch.

**MOTION:** A motion that the agenda be amended to take the last two items mentioned on pages 120 and 124 of the packet and move them to follow the Program & Planning Committee report in this morning's agenda was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

MR. WILLIAMS noted, for the record, that a written motion was provided and what Trustee Cooke said was fine. He also noted that the recess would be at 1:10 for time for staff to prepare the room so that the trustees could watch the House Finance Committee presentation.

**MOTION:** TRUSTEE FIMON added that the two requests were for Department of Health and Social Services Open Beds request and the change of intent, also DHSS, for Seniors and Disability Services research and capacity improvements, REA project requests to be moved to after lunch; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the Guiding Principles were in the packet, and she asked for any questions or comments with regard to them. There being none, she asked for any ethics disclosures. Hearing none, she moved to the approval of the minutes.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there were a series of minutes to review which would be done individually.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

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

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

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

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes of November 17 and 18, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2021, was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

## **BOARD ELECTIONS**

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the bylaws were included in the packet and asked if there were any questions about them. Hearing none, she moved to the board elections that were because of some vacancies on the leadership team. She entertained motions for the position of Chair.

MR. WILLIAMS stated, for the record, that the officer positions approved today would carry forward to the scheduled annual elections, which come in the early fall.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any nominations for the Chair.

**MOTION:** A motion to nominate Anita Halterman for Chair was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called out three times for nominations for Chair.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for all the support. She moved to the position of Vice Chair, which was currently open.

**MOTION:** A motion to nominate Rhonda Boyles for Vice Chair was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called out three times for nominations for Vice Chair

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

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she was pleased to serve as Vice Chair.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that now with Trustee Boyles serving as Vice Chair, the Secretary position was open. She asked for nominations for Secretary.

**MOTION:** A motion to nominate Brent Fisher for the secretary position was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called out three times for nominations for Secretary.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN concluded the election process and welcomed all in their new respective roles. She stated that with her stepping in the Chair role, it leaves the Finance and Audit Risk positions open. She announced her intent for Brent Fisher to fill the role of Finance Chair, and Kevin Fimon to be in the role of Audit & Risk Chair. She moved to the next agenda item and recognized Eric Boyer.

#### **MISSION MOMENT**

MR. BOYER stated that the Mission Moment will be from NAMI Juneau. NAMI stands for National Alliance for Mental Illness, and NAMI Juneau is a partner organization that gets financial support and funding from the Board. He continued that Aaron Surma is the chief executive officer of the NAMI office, and Sharon Denton is one of the peers and does navigation support in the community. She will talk about how NAMI Juneau played a key role in her own recovery.

MR. SURMA began that NAMI Juneau started as a group of concerned parents in a living room talking about how to support loved ones with mental illness. He talked about some core things done in Juneau, with the biggest one being support groups. He stated that he is the director but is also a Trust beneficiary, and he is at a place in his personal recovery where support groups are invaluable. He continued that they act as one point of entry, and they offer people to relate to others so that they do not feel alone. He added that they have various classes, and the core for

NAMI Juneau is Trust mini grants. He thanked all for the opportunity to provide these grants to people that are so helpful and easy to obtain. He talked about the different levels of staff working at NAMI Juneau, and added that they have 12 to 14 people trained as peer support specialists credentialed by the State, which also has the Indigenous component. It is great to allow people to be who they are in pursuit of this work, and to acknowledge that connection to culture and to be able to express yourself in the world is a key part of mental health. He moved to workforce development and talked about the JobX program, which is a youth and young adults employment program. The final piece of workforce development is trying to get interns in the door as much as possible. That meant having a relationship with UAA's social work program and making sure that the interim advisers know we are here and that we are available. He talked about the importance of partnerships, because of the flexibility to pursue partnerships and to meet with other organizations that pursue similar goals, which becomes the cornerstone of their work. He then talked about youth mental health and "Signs of Suicide" where they go into the high schools and talk to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders, in small groups, about the signs of suicide and warning signs and how to be a good ally. Follow-ups are also done to check on students that are struggling. He thanked the Trust for allowing them the flexibility to figure out what works best for the people served. He also asked them to continue promoting their work along with other grantees. He introduced Sharon Denton.

MS. DENTON stated that she was a 50-year resident of Juneau and a beneficiary of NAMI. She painted her picture of mental illness: That she was active as a peer with NAMI Juneau, facilitating connection groups in person and also on-line for NAMI Alaska. She was on the NAMI Alaska Board and an Alaskan representative on the National Peer Leadership Council. She took and also taught peer-to-peer classes, a grassroots work that has been a volunteer effort. She talked about being healthy and teaching for 23 years, never missing a day of school for being sick. About 14 years ago, she felt depressed, and a few months later her brain literally quit working. She was stressed, but figured she was dealing with it. Then her depression deepened, and she could not do anything. She continued that her family was very supportive, taking her to a psychiatrist and to several counselors. Her husband retired her from teaching, and she lost all sense of purpose. It took three years and many counselors before she got a diagnosis. She added that over 30 drugs were tried, and she was treatment-resistant. Her family insisted on ECT, electric shock therapy. She was not sure that it made a difference and, after 25 treatments, quit due to losing all memory of her daughter's wedding. She stated that once she was prescribed lithium for bipolar disorder, her life began to reach some normalcy. She achieved recovery after finding an advertisement for a NAMI peer-to-peer class and, for the first time, found people like herself. That was when her healing truly began, and she continues to grow through her work with NAMI. She thanked all.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Denton for sharing her story, and stated that it was moving. She stated that it took a lot of courage to share that story. She also thanked Mr. Surma. She asked if the trustees had any questions.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she was impressed with the story about the collaboration and coordination with partners, and how some seed moneys were stretched further through those collaborations and with partners that are connected through the Trust, as well. She continued that it is an important message when even the beneficiaries can help support one another. It is a great message. She thanked Ms. Denton for sharing her experiences.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked both speakers for the courage and ability to bring forward and personalize their experiences. It is important for the trustees to know when working with the partners and programs going forward.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked Mr. Surma if he would quickly give an idea on the academic and professional background of the staff being hired.

MR. SURMA replied that they prioritize most the people who care about the mission, promoting mental health in some way or another. He stated that, for specific openings, a Bachelor's degree or commensurate experience was asked for. He explained that they want to know that the person cares about mental health and had good thoughts about a way to promote mental health; that they care about using partnerships to achieve the goals. He added that they look for specific qualities in an individual, more than specific life or job experience.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked when peer support specialists and peer support trainers are being trained, if that could fold into the mission on Crisis Now. She thanked Ms. Denton for sharing, and Mr. Surma, also. There is a crisis in suicide also, and she thanked them for doing what they do.

MR. SURMA stated that he would love to be part of Crisis Now, and hoped to talk about that at some point.

TRUSTEE COOKE thanked both for their presentations and regretted not being in Juneau to see them in person. The message came through very powerfully. It reminded us that solutions to these issues will not come through some massive undertaking, but through a series of rather endless, small steps, including some of the programs that the Mental Health Trust has fashioned. He complimented Ms. Denton on the detail of her mental health issues and her response to them, and he hoped that she would have many more opportunities to share her experience with others.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked what the most common mini-grant request received from the NAMI population.

MR. SURMA stated that the person who processes the mini-grants is listening, Karlene Kuhn.

MS. KUHN replied that the most common request is for household goods and furnishings. A lot of the people are just stabilizing their housing, moving into independent housing with the help of some other partner agencies. They need help getting settled in, getting stable, so that they can focus on their well-being, their mental health, and prioritizing them to taking care of themselves.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the CEO update.

### **CEO UPDATE**

MR. WILLIAMS began with what had been going on at the Trust and the Trust Land Office since the last meeting. He stated that trustees had requested an updated financial dashboard and Ms. Howarth provided it. He continued that if there were any questions, Ms. Howarth was on-line. He did highlight, at the bottom, that the total resources had increased by roughly \$12

million. The tracking on that will continue, with updates provided on a quarterly basis. He moved to the Trust Authority operations and gave a quick update on the active recruiting for the chief operating officer. The focus of the position is to be responsible for overseeing of the policies, the programs, the planning, and the grant administration that happens in the Trust Authority Office and some other administrative functions of the Trust. He moved to the Trust Land Office and talked about the Skagway Borough approval of a resolution to look into the subdivision development of some parcels of Trust land across from Skagway. There are three to four parcels being looked at. He talked about the commercial real estate properties, the Promontory Point property in Austin.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked for an update on that property and if Texas wanted an option to purchase.

MR. WILLIAMS asked Ms. Warner to reply.

MS. WARNER stated that TxDOT had an option, and still does, to purchase. They are not exercising that option right now.

MR. WILLIAMS highlighted that Katie Vachris' last day with the Land Office staff was last week, and currently staff is in the process of recruiting for that position. He moved to the Legislative updates and stated that the budget committees and subcommittees are beginning their overview presentations to the Legislature. He continued that he and Trustee Halterman will be doing a Trust presentation to the House and the Senate Finance Committees. He moved to the two summits that had Trust involvement both in terms of staff, as well as funding. There was a public health summit, and Travis Welch, who sits on the board of the Alaska Public Health Association, helped develop the agenda and content for that conference. He added that staff did participate in several breakout sections at the conference. He stated that the other summit was held out in the Valley. The Mat-Su Re-entry Coalition held a re-entry three-day summit that was also partially sponsored by the Trust, in partnership with the Mat-Su Health Foundation. He continued that the annual report is out in hard copy and on the website. He asked Ms. Biastock to continue.

MS. BIASTOCK talked about this year's annual report and the grant investment report. She acknowledged and appreciated the work that went into putting these reports together, and all the staff that contributed. She continued that the annual report does many things, including meeting some of the reporting requirements. It is also used as a great opportunity to highlight the work on behalf of Trust beneficiaries; how the Trust's resources are used to meet beneficiary needs; and how the Land Office develops on Trust land to support the mission. She added that it is an opportunity with fiscal reporting to demonstrate the prudent fiscal management. This is the third year that this comprehensive grant investment report has been put together. She thanked Luke Lind and Carrie Predeger from the grant team for the work putting this report together. It lists every grant made in the last fiscal year, with a brief description. It is a wonderful tool that demonstrates the breadth of the grant abilities, and is also an internal resource document. She then gave a brief update on the Stigma Campaign. There is a new PSA currently on TV, on GCI cable, and will be shared via social media, featuring Skylar. Skylar is a Trust beneficiary from the Kenai Peninsula. He is appreciated for being willing to share his story publicly.

(Video shown.)

MR. WILLIAMS concluded his CEO update for the trustees.

CHAIR HALTERMAN shared that she noticed there is a Stigma ad running on video games, which was interesting.

MS. BIASTOCK stated that that is a digital ad that gets served through a variety of websites, and that video game knows if someone is in Alaska. She appreciated that sharing of information.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that he loved the grant investment report because it helps answer the question of what the Trust really does. He also talked about providing some good visuals in terms of what is done with Trust land, how it is developed, how it is used to create jobs, improve the economy, and how it raises money for the Trust fund for the beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE BOYLES liked the grant investment report because it tells and sells the story at a glance.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if any feedback was received from attendees of the conferences.

MR. WILLIAMS replied that both of the summits were virtual, and the grant funds get provided to the organizations that were planning and convening the summit. He was certain that each of those summits had a follow-up survey, and that we would get that information as part of the closeout grant reporting. He stated that there were over 150 registered attendees for each of those summits.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that there has been super favorable impressions and feedback from some folks he knows saying how important they think it is. It is a total positive thing to get more information out to everyone.

TRUSTEE BOERNER complimented the annual report and the other documents. She stated excitement in that the grantee reports had been created, and she loved the fact that it tied back to the Comprehensive Plan and the focus area. She added that she would like to see a bit more about the stewardship and the land resource management strategy because the TLO has done a fantastic job in managing the lands themselves. A big part of what goes into their considerations is that notion of stewardship. She congratulated Mr. Williams on his first CEO report, and stated that it was very well done.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any other comments. There being none, she moved to the Statutory Advisory Update.

#### **STATUTORY ADVISORY UPDATE**

MR. WILLIAMS stated that the executive directors of the advisory boards would be doing a joint presentation focused on legislative budget items, as well as the joint policy advocacy work.

MS. WALSO noted that she was the acting executive director for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. She continued that they would share information on the joint



advocacy priorities and the details on their respective agencies, and legislative outreach activities and programs this year.

MS. MORLEY continued that one of the joint beneficiary board priorities are community-based services which provide essential services by nonprofit networks, and all of the beneficiaries take advantage of the services to keep them in their homes and communities. This is the lowest level of care, and is a safety net for individuals with disabilities. The services include personal care services and respite, mental health treatment and recovery, addiction treatment and recovery, case management, job coaching, employment assistance, peer support, re-entry and transition services, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, day hab, assisted living, counseling. The list went on. She continued that these services are critical and keep individuals in their communities, and helps to reduce institutionalization. She continued through her presentation, and then asked Ms. Walso to continue.

MS. WALSO stated that they continue to emphasize to legislators and policymakers how employment provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute positively to their communities, to pay taxes, and to experience meaningful engagement that reduces isolation and promotes health and well-being.

MS. SCHOONOVER continued that another joint advocacy issue is behavioral health, and they advocate for comprehensive behavioral health services. They focus on a continuum of care that will meet folks with prevention, intervention, community-based services, and that COVID has brought a new emphasis to folks on mental health and substance abuse. There is also concern with suicide prevention and increasing services in rural communities for prevention and intervention. She continued that the 1115 behavioral health waiver is important for that, with a need for behavioral health grants, General Funds to support the staff and workforce needed to implement those services. There is housing and support services with Alaskans and a joint advocacy allowing people to live independently and productively.

MS. WALSO moved to workforce and the services, including health-care professionals. She talked about the significant challenges existing in recruiting and retaining them. Key policy platforms continue to make headway for adequate wages and compensations for direct-care providers.

MS. SCHOONOVER added that their boards and Trust staff meet regularly to plan and talk about the joint advocacy priorities. She pointed out that Chair Halterman joined them for those and encouraged the trustees to join and listen to the process. Also done are advocacy trainings for Trust beneficiaries and providers.

MS. MORLEY stated that the Alaska Commission on Aging developed its priorities in December, and had an advocacy summit in which a facilitator was hired and brought together the partners and Commissioners. Talked about were the main issues from the partners and seniors that were concerning and what needed to move forward: the needs of seniors and services that impact their lives and help them remain healthy and independence in their own communities. She then talked about the aging and disability resource centers that are the way to access services in the community. The Commission also supports the home- and community-based Medicaid waiver programs that are critical to keeping elders in their homes. She moved to the legislative

session and the focus to raise awareness that ADRD is a public health issue. In the next 20 years, the number of Alaskans with ADRD will more than double. The bill is proposing that the State make a commitment to raise awareness and address ADRD as a public health issue. She went through some Commission on Aging updates and stated that Chair Gordon Glaser's term ended. Nona Safra is a caregiver of someone with dementia and serves as the crossover to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and she also sits on the TABI advisory committee. Darlene Supples is the executive director from the Fairbanks Senior Center and was appointed to fill the provider seat. She announced that she would be leaving for personal reasons, with the hope to come back in some capacity after a short sabbatical. A new executive director is being actively recruited.

MR. WILLIAMS commented that the acronym TABI is Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she was sorry to hear that Ms. Morley was leaving and asked if the BOLD infrastructure for the Alzheimer's Act was moving forward within the State of Alaska.

MS. MORLEY replied that, at this time, they are not eligible to apply for those grant funds.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Ms. Morley for her contributions, and stated she was sorry to hear that she was leaving. She asked about the reduced funding from the COVID relief funds and how that would impact the programs.

MS. MORLEY replied that there is quite a bit of remaining COVID funds, and the challenge for the Department is getting those funds out.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Morley for her services, and stated that there was more on this update.

MS. WALSO stated, with regard to the expiring Federal funding, there is an additional infusion of funding expected through the enhanced Federal funding over the next two years. She continued that the Council, after many months with both the DHSS Commissioner's office and the Office of the Governor, has decided to make the proposed restructure and bifurcation of the Department of Health and Social Services into two new standalone departments; one of the key policy recommendations this year. She added that the Council voted through the executive committee to support the reorganization and separation of DHSS into two smaller departments to be better aligned with the size and scope of other departments and agencies. She stated that the second priority that the Council has is the appeal of Alaska Statute 23.10.070. She explained in more detail, and concluded her updates.

MS. SCHOONOVER walked through the legislative priority areas of focus for the Mental Health Board, the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and she went through the process and talked about the board wanting to see more emphasis on increasing and improving behavioral health services in rural communities. A new emphasis is on looking at shared and protective risk factors, and we are working with the partners to understand what those are, and to promote resiliency in Alaska. She continued her presentation, explaining the top concerns in greater detail as she went through. She then went through the bills that the advocacy committee is

asking to work on with legislators or with communities. After the updates, she concluded her presentation.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all for the presentations and asked for any comments or questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE thanked them for the presentations. He liked the bullet-point presentation style which helps to focus on the highlight points and leaves space for elaboration. He asked ABADA people if there have been any studies done or received about the impact of the legalization of marijuana.

MS. SCHOONOVER replied that they met with Director Glenn Klinkhart of the Marijuana Control Office at their last board meeting and asked about the impacts and any studies. She stated that Colorado is working on this, and we are waiting to see what has changed. They also asked SAMHSA to talk about the ballot measure in Oregon that decriminalized drug possession, and the impacts of that. She continued that they meet on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force to identify the challenges and barriers to employment for folks with disabilities, which barriers still remain.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that it was a good presentation and thanked Trustee Cooke for his questions.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that she had attended the legislative conferences which give a good snapshot on what is going on at any point in time and are very current. It is a worthwhile process to listen in periodically to see what is going on. She called for a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and moved to the Resource Management Committee report.

#### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

MR. WILLIAMS stated that there were two approvals coming out of committee, and asked the Chair of the committee to read the first consultation item.

**MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the disposal of the timber in the Hollis area on Trust land on Prince of Wales Island was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.**

MR. WILLIAMS noted, for the record, that these items were taken up and discussed thoroughly in committee and were approved from the committee to the Full Board for approval.

MS. WARNER stated that the Trust Land Office would like to offer approximately 20 million board feet of timber on portions of approximately 1,400 acres of Trust land near Hollis, which was acquired through the land exchange. There are about 880 acres of old-growth timber deemed economic, as well as about 29 acres of young growth of harvestable size. She continued that the timber sale is expected to generate approximately \$2.7 million in revenue in the fiscal

years 2022 through 2027.

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

**MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the Trust Land Office recommendation for the executive director to negotiate disposal through lease or sale of all or parts of Trust parcels F 20212 and F 20213 was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.**

MS. WARNER explained that the proposal is for the TLO to negotiate a fair-market lease or sale of the referenced Trust parcels in whole or in part. The objective is to try and generate revenues from the unimproved portions of the property that would not impact the sobering center and the behavioral health center located adjacent to the vacant land. The belief is that this property would be attractive to commercial users and tenants, and we would like to implement an aggressive marketing plan, creating a broader exposure of opportunity.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any other questions. There being none, she called for the question.

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

MS. WARNER gave a brief update on the land exchange and noted that the exchange has concluded. She walked through a summary and explained why she said “concluded” and not “completed.” She stated that there was only one outstanding deliverable that remains as part of legislation, and that is the cost/share maintenance agreement which is defined as a separate agreement to the costs of road maintenance with respect to the reciprocal easements exchanged. She thanked all the trustees for their support in this endeavor, which is a win for the Trust.

TRUSTEE COOKE recognized and congratulated the TLO staff on a long, difficult, costly, stressful process, and for seeing it to conclusion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that this was an issue that dragged on for a long time and now the public relations campaign over the development of the new land will begin.

TRUSTEE STURGEON also thanked Ms. Warner and Mr. Williams and Senator Murkowski for getting the ball rolling again. He asked for a thank-you be sent to the Senator.

CHAIR HALTERMAN would also like to thank Senator Murkowski’s staff for their work, as well. She asked for any other comments. There being none, she moved to Program & Planning.

## **PROGRAM & PLANNING REPORT**

MR. WILLIAMS stated that there was a written report for the Program & Planning Committee in January for informational purposes. In consultation with Chair Boerner of the Program & Planning Committee, he provided a brief heads-up on the FY24 and FY25 budget recommendations that get presented in July and August.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON provided a brief overview of the process of the budget development, which is a two-year budget for FY24 and FY25. She continued that, beginning in the spring, the development process will culminate in a final trustee authorized budget by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion ensued on developing the budget.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated that he was hit hard by a presentation on the foster care program and the consequences of those youths when they graduate out of the program. He continued that the Trust does preventive work, and he would like to learn about that and make it one of the focus areas, if possible.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed that they are the most vulnerable beneficiaries in looking at the OCS population. These are children that have no voice, and their families often need support. She appreciated the comments on that and continued that it is an area that she gets a lot of feedback on what could be improved. As co-chair of the Anchorage Women's Commission, she learned that in order to get a Title 4E child placement in Alaska is to diagnose them with severe medical conditions that may or may not exist. There is a need to serve those children appropriately, and in a better way, to keep the families together.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that would be a great presentation for the Program & Planning Committee and appreciated Trustee Sturgeon for raising the issue. It would be beneficial to get more information on it.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that those are matters of policy, and the policy should be developed well in advance of the budget.

The discussion continued.

HAIR HALTERMAN called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and recognized Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS brought forward a request to trustees to allocate some funds that have already been approved; FY23 funds located in the Mental Health Addiction Intervention focus area. The funding is under the Crisis Continuum of Care.

**MOTION:** A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$285,000 FY2023 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention focus area allocation to the Department of Health and

Social Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention for the Open Beds project. These funds will come from the FY2023 crisis Continuum of Care budget line and will be awarded as an MHTAAR grant, was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

MR. BOYER stated that this project is currently funded through the Division of Public Health and OSMAAP, the Office of Substance Misuse and Alcohol Addiction Prevention. He explained that Open Beds is a cloud-based platform that is HIPAA-compliant and meets all the qualifications for 42 CFR Part 2, which is maintaining client confidentiality at the highest level as prescribed by the Federal Government.

A question-and-answer discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the next item, the change of intent with the research capacity improvement, InterRAI project.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that these funds have been approved. He continued that the Division encountered some challenges and will not be able to deploy the funds as originally approved.

**MOTION:** A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a change of intent to amend the FY22 and '23 MHTAAR grants originally approved as research and capacity improvements. The InterRAI to be updated to care coordination support. Both the original grantee and the grant amounts will remain as previously approved, was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE COOKE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Division of Senior and Disability Services was hopeful to implement the InterRAI work to adopt new assessments in the future. However, the pandemic devastated the direct services workforce, and the Division needed to pivot and look at ways it could support that workforce. She added that a key element for the home- and community-based services waivers is the care coordinator workforce. That position is necessary for beneficiaries to be able to access home- and community-based services waivers and to maintain quality services and the renewal process to maintain those services over time. She stated that this change of intent is how the Division of Senior and Disability Services will work to support the care coordination workforce. The intent is to hire a liaison position so that care coordination needs can be addressed with a full-time worker. She added that she fully supported this request from Senior and Disability Services to look at ways to bolster the direct services workforce in the home- and community-based service system. She stated that Director John Lee was on-line for any questions specific to the Division.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a recess.

(Full Board of Trustees meeting recessed at 1:10 p.m.)