

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

**May 25, 2022
8:30 a.m.**

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

**Originating at:
Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center
Expanded Conference Room
11471 Kenai Spur Highway
Kenai, Alaska**

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Verne' Boerner
Brent Fisher
Chris Cooke
Rhonda Boyles
Kevin Fimon
Agnes Moran
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
Debbie DeLong
Travis Welch
Jimael Johnson

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Sarah Morrison
Jeff Green

Also participating:

Jon Haghayeghi; Patrick Reinhardt; Jon McGee; Rose Figueroa; Mary David; Lesley Thompson;
John Walker; Carrie Predeger; Jillian Gellings; Richard Raines; Jed Rigby; Amanda Faulkner;
Lieutenant Ben Langham; Shari Conner; Tim Navarre; Carmen Wenger; Joyanna Geisler.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. Trustee Boerner was having technical difficulties, but she will be here. She asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION: A motion to approve the agenda was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES;
seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that in the packet was a copy of the Guiding Principles, the Trust Mission Statement and the budget process flow charts. She asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, she moved to the approval of minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR HALTERMAN began with January 6, 2022, minutes.

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes of January 6, 2022, was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES;
seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes of January 26 and 27, 2022, was made by
TRUSTEE FIMON;
seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

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

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes of March 3, 2022, was made by TRUSTEE
STURGEON;
seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the bylaws are on page 45 of the packet, and she asked for any questions about them. There being none, she moved to the staff report and recognized Steve Williams.

STAFF REPORT

CEO WILLIAMS stated that it had been a busy and productions few months. He welcomed Agnes Moran and congratulated both she and Trustee Fimon on their confirmations. He asked Trustee Moran to introduce herself.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she was from Ketchikan and was on the board of First Bank for about 20 years. She had been running Women and Safe Homes for five years, which is a domestic violence/sexual assault comprehensive program in Ketchikan. She continued that she got started working with substance-use-dependent individuals and homeless individuals in Ketchikan. She thought it was ten years ago, but her daughter reminded her that she is a sophomore in college, and that she was in preschool when she started. She added that she was excited to be here and was very appreciative of all the support from staff and the other board members.

CEO WILLIAMS thanked Trustee Moran and introduced Jon Haghayeghi, the new executive director of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Lisa Morley retired in the middle of winter and Jon is stepping in. He asked Jon to introduce himself.

MR. HAGHAYEGHI stated that his background is in economics. He got his doctorate in economics, and most of his training is as an economic consultant. He worked with the State of Alaska and started with the Division of Finance. For the last three years, he served as the Executive Director of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. He added that last week was his first full week with the Commission on Aging.

CEO WILLIAMS then introduced Patrick Reinhart who is joining as the acting interim executive director of the Governor's Council and will be joining the other advisory boards on a presentation later this morning.

MR. REINHART stated that it was good to be there, and to see some familiar faces.

CEO WILLIAMS gave a brief update on the bills that made it through the Legislature for which the Trust, partner boards, other advocates and partners in the community worked hard to provide information and public testimony. He highlighted a few of the bills that he saw as critical bills that made it through the process that have impacts on the beneficiaries. He continued that the recommendation for Trust funding and State General Fund/Mental Health dollars that the board approved last August went through the process largely unchanged. He thanked Chair Halterman for her support and availability during the session.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that it was a very educational opportunity for her to support Mr. Williams on the effort, and it was a much more cohesive experience than in years past.

CEO WILLIAMS moved to the next steps for moving forward with the FY24-25 budget-planning process. The next meeting will be at the end of July, and the focus of the committee meetings will be presenting a draft FY24-25 set of budget recommendations. He congratulated Jusdi Warner for her award for the Top 40 Under 40. There were a couple of folks that were key partners of the Trust and have been for many years that are moving on to different phases of life and different challenges. Lizette Stiehr has been the executive director for the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities and is the epitome of "the glass is half full." She is retiring, and he wanted her work acknowledged and recognized on the record. He moved to Tom Chard, who is currently the CEO of the Alaska Behavioral Health Association, and has been in that role for the last ten years. He is taking on different challenges and will still be advocating in Alaska on behalf of beneficiaries. Jillian Gellings is the co-pilot for Autumn on all of the comp plan work and is in the Department of Health and Social Services. She is leaving the Department and is in Wisconsin. He recognized her for all her hard work. He met Dewayne Harris when he

was working at the Brother Francis Shelter. Dewayne has been providing services for beneficiaries in a variety of roles in the Anchorage community for over 30 years. He has been the executive director of the Consumer Web since 2015. He served on the Alaska Coalition of Homeless, served on the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission and had been an active member in the Fairview Community Council. This is the epitome of serving the beneficiaries at their most vulnerable times. We wish Dewayne happiness in his retirement.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that Trustee Boerner had joined the meeting. She continued that it was bittersweet to see these folks moving on. We are very happy for them, but sad for the beneficiaries to see them leaving. She moved to the Finance Committee report and update.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MS. HOWARTH stated that the Finance Committee met on April 20th, and the primary focus was the quarterly update, financials, and asset management review which looked at the spending capabilities given the asset allocations of those assets that can be controlled at the Trust. The budgets of the commercial real estate and the program-related investments were a primary focus of the meeting. There were five motions that came out: Three of them were related to the commercial real estate and the Program-Related Investments; one of them was related to the asset allocation for the Department of Revenue budget reserves and is related to a timing issue; and the third one is a request that was moved forward from the Finance Committee to the Full Board regarding the Trust Authority Development Account where there is some legacy project funding that we would like to keep as a minimum balance, but then allow a transfer of the remainder to the Permanent Fund for management in the Mental Health Trust Fund.

CEO WILLIAMS stated, for the record, this was on Page 53 of the board packet.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that it was important to remember these issues were discussed in the Finance Committee; and since we are a committee of the whole, we have been exposed to each of the motions. She continued to the motions.

MOTION: The Board of Trustees authorize the incremental building expenditures totaling \$12,291,087 budgeted for the fiscal year 2023 to be paid by the property manager from rents, cash reserve and other income collected from the properties and the Central Facility Fund was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

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

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve funding and instruct the CFO to transfer up to \$31,311 to the third-party property manager as requested by the TLO for operating expenses and capital expenses to the Non-Investment/Program Related Real Estate and REMP Real Estate properties from the Central Facility Fund for the fiscal year 2023, which appropriation shall not lapse, was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

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

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees authorize spending \$265,000 from the Central Facility Fund for fiscal year 2023 independent third-party real estate advisory services was made by TRUSTEE STURGEON; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions about Motion 3.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked to discuss this. He stated that staff did exactly what they were supposed to do. This is required by the Trust Asset Management Policy Statement to have a second opinion on the real estate holdings. He continued that the TLO has done the exact same thing for the last two years, and they have come up with the same exact results. He questioned whether this \$265,000 should be spent if it was already being done by the TLO. He added that this is not a wise use of Trust funds for another study on the real estate holdings.

CEO WILLIAMS explained that for the last four years the Trust has been engaged with Legislative Budget & Audit providing the information that demonstrates what it is that we do, how we do it and that the trustees do it responsibly and with the best interest of the beneficiaries in mind. He added that the contract with Harvest was started three years ago; the original contract was \$380,000, reduced to \$253,000 the second year, and reduced again this year to \$265,000. He went into more detail of the reason the Trust engaged a third-party contractor as it related to the seven commercial real estate properties. This is basically about having a third party as a resource to the Board to be able to provide information on an annual basis on a variety of things related to the commercial real estate assets. He agreed with the statements made about expertise and knowledge, but he also thought that this is something that, at this point in time, is still prudent to be done for a variety of reasons. This is really important for demonstrating the good will of the work of the Board and helps to maintain the focus on what is in the best interest of the beneficiaries, and to not be distracted by some sideline conversation around commercial real estate. Currently in AMPS it states that there be a third-party consultant, and he recommended following through what is currently in policy.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Mr. Williams for that very detailed and excellent explanation. She stated that she still had some concerns that this had been done for two years and the TLO also did this for two years. She understood that the process at the TLO and the consultants are pretty much the same, and the results for the last two years have been the same. She continued that it would not be very hard to defend that the TLO is perfectly capable of doing this because they have done it and came up with the same exact results. The person doing this has 40 years' experience in the real estate business and maybe that is what should be defended. This is an expenditure that is not prudent. She added that, during the time of the Legislative Audit, there was a much different climate and not a lot of reassurance that the legislative picture looked forward, and the exchanges that had occurred were justified at that time. She was not opposed to revisiting given the current communications and reassurances that the Legislature feels much better. The Trust Land Office process is valid, and it can be justified and argued to support.

The discussion continued on the pros and cons of the situation.

MS. HOWARTH explained that the issue with regard to the motion on the floor is related to funding for FY23 for advisory services. Whether or not it is fully spent is a function of how the trustees decide they want to revise the AMPS or not, and that revision will not be before FY23 begins. If this is not funded, then the obligations moving into FY23 would not be paid. She separated the two issues. She added that the AMPS still need to be revised regardless.

CEO WILLIAMS recommended moving forward with this motion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that it was a great discussion and thanked Trustee Sturgeon for raising the issue. It is something to think about. She added that it is the Board's duty to be financially prudent. She called for the question.

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

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees authorize the following asset allocation for budget reserves managed by the State of Alaska Department of Revenue effective July 1, 2022: The allocation of Broad U.S. Equity, target holding 43 percent, with the target range being plus or minus 5 percent; International Equity, target holding being 26 percent, with a target range plus or minus 5 percent; Core U.S. Fixed Income, target holding 30 percent, with a plus or minus target range of 5 percent; and Cash Equivalents, target holding 1 percent, with a target range being minus 1 percent to plus 2 percent was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she had some concerns and had her questions answered by her high-profile stock broker company. She agreed with this and thanked all for their patience regarding her apprehension.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees authorize the chief financial officer to periodically transfer Trust Authority Development Account funds to the Mental Health Trust principal account managed by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, maintaining a minimum balance of \$699,279 until the U.S. Forest Service Land Exchange is permanently closed. Thereafter, the balance may reach zero. This authorization does not lapse, was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked everyone and moved to the Mission Moment.

MISSION MOMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked Ms. Johnson to introduce the program speaker for the Individual Placement and Support Group.

MS. JOHNSON stated that she was pleased to begin the Mission Moment this morning. She introduced Jon McGhee and Rose Figueroa from South Peninsula Behavioral Health in Homer. They would be talking about a partnership with the Division of Behavioral Health around the

supported employment model, IPS, which stands for Individual Placements and Supports. It is an evidence-based practice that supports people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders to find and keep employment in their communities. She continued that Mr. McGhee and his team have been the first -- and to date, the only -- successful program to fully implement this model to scale and fidelity.

MS. MCGHEE thanked all for the invitation and stated that they had been a beneficiary of the Trust and IPS with the Division of Behavioral Health since the inception of the grant in 2017. He suggested the possibility of having a meeting in Homer and promised that he would show them around. He stated that the agency serves the Southern Kenai Peninsula from Ninilchik to Homer, across the Bay, and the Russian villages that surround Homes. There are five individual departments. He is the program manager of adult rehab, and he has a case manager and DSP, peer support. IPS is situated in this program which he oversees. This serves the entire agency. There is a clinical side with a team of therapists and clinicians that do therapy. There is telehealth and telemed. There are child, family and adolescent services that they also work with as far as the transition-aged youth aspect goes. He gave a brief timeline of how the program started and the scoring of how well the program was implemented. He shared a basic outline of beginning to end of IPS starting with the intake and getting to know the client. This is client-centered and based on the desires of the client, and not just sticking them into a job or what is available. Employment also includes education and things to get tools and to equip clients even further for the workforce. Employer supports are also available. He shared some of the benchmarks since they started five years ago. There have been over 60 clients working in the IPS program, and they have a relationship with over 200 employers. He talked about some of the different jobs clients have had. The most important figures include over 10 clients that felt they reached a level of recovery that they were discharged from IPS, from the Center, and they continue to live flourishingly and we still have a connection with them. He added that work is key to recovery. He introduced Rose, one of the original members of the IPS program five years ago.

MS. FIGUEROA stated that she has been a part of Journeys for the past several years, which is the building where the Job Club was. She started working with the Job Club as soon as it opened. She had a number of jobs and talked about some of them. She continued that she had a good experience and has felt like she recovered and is ready to be in the working world. She appreciated all of this a lot. She also received grants through Journeys and received grants to go to the Big Club, a gym, to exercise and to swim. She received taxi vouchers for transportation and sometimes direct transportation. Job Club made it easy to get into a job and showed her how to deal with some of the things that she did not know how to do. She has a food license and had to take a test for it. She also learned CPR. Even though she is disabled, she can acknowledge the fact that she can get up, go to work and have a way to function with the world and be part of that with the skills they provide. Everything that Journeys did for her is very positive, and the Job Club is a very good thing.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Figueroa for sharing her story. It was good to see and hear from beneficiaries of the services that the Trust funds. She asked Mr. McGhee for the No. 1 barrier/issue that he sees for the folks that they are serving.

MR. MCGHEE replied that it would be transportation. There are no public transportation systems in Homer: no buses, and a few expensive taxi services. There is the need to be very strategic in where people are placed so they can actually get to work. It sometimes limits the options.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked both for a very helpful presentation.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that it was a great presentation, and he appreciated the candor on what some of the limitations could be. He complimented Mr. McGhee on the success of the numbers and the program. He told Rose that it was a great presentation, and he appreciated her coming forward and openly explaining how it helped.

MS. FIGUEROA thanked him and added that through the Journeys program she was able to complete school for three different years.

MS. JOHNSON thanked both of them and acknowledged that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is a key component of the IPS model. We have the Kenai Peninsula representative here from DVR who partners with Mr. McGhee and the other programs. She called out to DVR with the Department of Labor.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked both Jon and Rose and stated that employment is so critical for health and mental health. She gave her kudos for the full presentation. She was really honored that the Trust is partnered with IPS. She thanked Rose for her presentation and appreciated getting a broad overview, including sharing the Big Club and having access to exercising and swimming.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated appreciation for Rose's comments, and noted that it was good to know that she was getting comprehensive support through the education, the physical activity and all. She was very impressed by the wide variety of employees because every individual is different, and it shows the efforts of putting the right client in the right position. She thanked them both.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Rose for coming and stated that it was great to see the beneficiaries of some of our programs. He asked Mr. McGhee if the changes in the job market changed in your world.

MR. MCGHEE replied that he still takes the time to find the right match, which he also emphasized to his team.

TRUSTEE BOYLES tried to articulate the emotions experienced when we have these mission moments. She commented to Rose that sometimes a woman is born into blessings in their life that we take for granted. She told Rose that she did it and told her to keep moving forward. She enjoyed her.

MS. FIGUEROA thanked Trustee Boyles. She stated that she does count and sees her blessings and she would move on.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all and called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and recognized Patrick. Reinhart.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES & SPECIAL EDUCATION

MR. REINHART stated that he is the acting director for the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education. He continued that he retired three years ago and came back to help the Council through some issues related to some Federal Government findings about how their Board was constituted under the State statute many years ago. His job was to get the Council back to the Federal law and requirements, and to help move through some of the challenging issues being experienced. He went through the overview and the responsibilities and structure of the Council, as well as staffing, and explained a bit about the DD population. He then highlighted the Peer Power Annual Summit that the Trust has supported for years, and talked about the upcoming June Council meeting. He gave a briefing of their leadership. Heidi Lieb-Williams is the Council chair; Jena Crafton, vice chair. They are self-advocates, people with developmental disabilities themselves. They are supported in these roles and are great leaders. He added that most of the other members on the executive committee are self-advocates, as well. The current council is smaller with several vacancies. He stated that Michael Stevenson just started. Rich Saville works on the special education advisory stuff and the Interagency Coordinated Council. There is a vacant program coordinator 2 position. He noted that they are located in the Atwood Center, Downtown Anchorage. He moved to the number of people with developmental disabilities in the State. There is no specific data, and we go by a national prevalence rate of 1.58 percent of the population should have a developmental disability according to some of the research done. The belief is that the rate is probably much higher in Alaska due to FASD issues. He talked about the goals and the State plan, community inclusion, supports and services. He went through the highlights of the Peer Power Summit that occurred about two weeks ago in Anchorage and talked about the survey of the group afterwards. There were 32 people with developmental disabilities surveyed.

TRUSTEE BOERNER thanked Mr. Reinhart for stepping up and filling in.

TRUSTEE FIMON welcomed Mr. Reinhart back to help and to serve.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Mr. Reinhart for coming out of retirement which shows your dedication. The people of Alaska really appreciate it.

TRUSTEE BOYLES also thanked him. She commented that it sounded like there was a common transportation issue which is not new and applicable statewide.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved on to the next advisory update. She recognized Jon Haghayeghi.

COMMISSION ON AGING

MR. HAGHAYEGHI stated that his first exposure to issues that older Americans face was in 2012 at a conference hosted by Nobel Laureates on economics in Italy. One of the topics was the declining birth rates and how that would impact older Americans. This is a very relevant issue to the State of Alaska. He showed his understanding and appreciation for the importance of work done insuring that the State is able to implement the Older Americans Act and receive those funds to do the best possible for those that cannot provide for themselves so they can lead independent lives. He asked Lesley Thompson for a brief report about the outcomes from the trip to Fairbanks.

MS. THOMPSON stated that she is a planner with the Alaska Commission on Aging. She has been there for about 15 years and her position is funded by the Trust. She continued that the Trust has been so important in terms of funding, support, staff support. Because of some of the

funding, we were able to go to Fairbanks this May. The previous May was in Kenai. We talked about the needs of seniors. Not all seniors are beneficiaries, but there are more beneficiaries than just people with dementia. The people are struggling more with depression, mental health issues because of loneliness, isolation, and there are issues with substance abuse. She thanked the Trust for the support in helping to get around, and the ability to talk to veterans and all of the constituent groups that are 60 and older.

MR. HAGHAYEGHI moved on to the mission of the Commission on Aging, which is to ensure that dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education and interagency cooperation. He continued his presentation explaining as he went through the slides. He talked about dementia and Alzheimer's, and he was excited that House Bill 308 passed which will assist the State with truly understanding the scope of the needs. He talked about the effect of COVID with a lot of people feeling isolated. There was an interesting finding that robotic pets were shown to have positive outcomes.

MS. THOMPSON moved to the listening sessions. She said that there were a number of them, and we kind of got the same information from different areas. The first listening sessions involved food insecurity and how people were sharing with one another the food and supplies they had. Seniors felt like they came together as a community, and are stronger because of COVID and the challenges they had to overcome.

MR. HAGHAYEGHI talked about the workforce shortage that is being dealt with. The challenge is across the state and across the United States. There was an awareness brought to the fact that even if people wanted telehealth, there was the issue of the need for the Internet with no broadband connectivity. Then there was the need for senior housing. He stated that they will continue moving in the same direction with a big emphasis on getting organized and truly understanding the different needs and the different regions across Alaska. There will be more listening sessions, and we will focus on the needs of Rural Alaskans. There is a position funded by the Trust for FY23 that is specifically dedicated to dealing with rural communities. He reiterated that he was brand new and asked for any help, advice that may be useful. He thanked all for their time.

MS. THOMPSON added that she covered about five months as interim executive director and cannot say enough about the Trust staff. They were so helpful. Steve Williams was always right there, and Kelda is loved by the board. She comes to the meetings, engages in the listening sessions and was helpful in the reports needed for supporting seniors. She shared her personal thanks to all the staff and for helping through this transition.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if there was any specific data with regard to the trend of the increasing aging population.

MS. THOMPSON replied that there are all kinds of data. There is a senior snapshot done every year, and we need to get it to folks that have all that kind of data. They worked with the Department of Labor to see who is coming in and who is going out in terms of seniors. Some families are bringing seniors up, and some seniors are coming themselves. It is a combination.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that Fairbanks and Anchorage both have tax reduction obligation programs for seniors. She thanked Mr. Haghayeghi for taking on the responsibilities. She added that so much time is spent dealing with the symptoms and not addressing the problem when it

comes to dementia. She dealt with getting her husband getting diagnosed and plead with the state leadership to look at diagnosing the correct forms of dementia and having doctors and nurses educated to the psychotic medications that will somewhat lessen those symptoms so their patients could be cared for at home. In Alaska, the costs of keeping your loved one home are not possible unless you go on full Medicaid and give up all your assets. She added that Arizona and Florida turned the aging population into an economy. They encouraged doctors and nurses to come in. They built housing. They built housing without steps. The real problem is where is the medical community in diagnosing dementia and advising the caregiver's role in how to care for them.

A discussion ensued.

MR. WALKER stated that he is currently a program manager with Access Alaska, Personal Care Service. Previously, he was the executive director of Soldotna Senior Center when the Alaska Commission on Aging had their meeting last year. He thanked the Commission for that visit and the listening session. There were a lot of difficulties over the last few years. In his current role working with Access Alaska he saw firsthand the lack of VFPs that were faced, and that all the agencies are facing. There is a struggle providing services and providing care for these seniors or folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He thanked the Alaska Commission on Aging for the work they do, for the listening sessions, going out and finding out what is going on advocating for the populations that are served. He thanked the Mental Health Trust Authority for the work and the funding provided for the mini grants, the programs provided.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that Tucson opened a facility specifically directed to frontal temporal dementia. There is a high increase in frontal temporal dementia found often in patients under 60 years old.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

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

MS. JOHNSON began with Mental Health Supports in Alaska Schools. This was highlighted from a project that the Trust has worked on closely with AMHB, ABADA, along with many other partners over the past two years. The intent was to give some information on this project, show the collaboration and give some of the current data, and then the efforts that were related to a report that was recently published that they worked on together. She highlighted the community partnerships; some include contractual arrangements and grant partnerships. The grant partnerships were found to be especially beneficial because of their flexibility. She stated that she was not Beverly Schoonover, but welcomed asking her any questions about her report. The slides are available for additional information about the Board's report.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Johnson and recognized Trustee Moran.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that there is a mental health counselor in the high school, middle school, and also in the elementary schools in Ketchikan. That came out because one of the school teachers on staff was doing prevention work in the school districts. She cautioned to not get heavily into the telehealth and Medicaid portion of that because those are significant barriers. By being located in the school where the kids could just drop in was an entryway to getting them into the help they needed.

MS. JOHNSON thanked Trustee Moran for the comments, which had been echoed in a lot of what was heard from many of the districts.

TRUSTEE BOERNER appreciated the presentation and would like to see the report that was referenced when talking about mental health supports in Alaska schools. Serving on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex trafficking, a theme that came up time and time again is the vulnerability of those with mental health and substance-use disorders, especially with youth being victimized. They are looking for resources and for ways to intervene, work and emphasize prevention. She thanked Trustee Moran for raising the issue of working with tribal behavioral health aides. That may be another resource of thinking about ways to provide more intervention and support both culturally and in just rural Alaska.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Johnson for stepping in and recognized Patrick Reinhart.

MR. REINHART mentioned that provided were copies of the annual report that are very informative. He continued that the next Council meeting is June 1st and 2nd in Anchorage at the Atwood Center. Trustees are welcome to come. There will also be the ability for folks to join that meeting via Zoom.

CHAIR HALTERMAN broke for lunch.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and asked Mr. Williams to introduce the next topic.

AMHR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

MR. WILLIAMS noted that this report is one that is done annually. It is a summary report of 45 grants that were awarded in FY21. MHTAAR grants are the Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts grants that go to State agencies. This would be presented by Carrie Predeger who is part of the grants administration staff and provides technical assistance to the grantees when they have questions about reporting or the development of appropriate performance measures.

MS. PREDEGER reviewed the FY21 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts, MHTAAR, performance summary. She explained that the Trust issues grants from two different fund sources: Authority Grant funds, which go to community organizations around Alaska; and then the MHTAAR, which are funds that go to State agencies for specific operating and capital projects. Currently, they manage 209 active grant projects. 157 of those are Authority Grants, and 52 are the FY22 MHTAAR Grants which will wrap up at the end of September or in October. They began reviewing the FY21 MHTAAR Grants summary that provided the overview of the MHTAAR projects that began July 1, 2020, and ended on June 30, 2021. These 45 grant projects made up for 39.9 percent of funding awarded by the Trust in FY21, and the rest of that, 60 percent, were Authority Grants. Project roll-ups and performance summaries are provided to trustees annually. She noted that projects differ each year in their timing and their scope, and one fiscal year's roll-up is not directly comparable to another fiscal year's roll-up. She stated that in FY21, 45 MHTAAR grants were awarded for a total of \$8,507,800. She went through the categorization by project type and focus areas. All MHTAAR-funded projects are connected to one of the nine goal areas outlined in the Alaska Comprehensive Integrated Mental

Health Program Plan, CIMHP Plan. When grantees complete their annual MHTAAR status report, they are asked to provide the number of unduplicated individuals served in each of the four categories: primary beneficiary; secondary beneficiaries, who are family members and caregivers; then outreach and education; and professionals trained as a result of the project. Those professionals are trained through the workforce development projects. She then looked at Project Impact and Compliance which showed how well the grantees did. She explained as she went through, and then moved to the project impacts and reported direct improvements in quality of life. Are Trust beneficiaries between off as a result of the projects? Out of the 45 projects, ten were categorized as direct service projects. Some of the examples of direct beneficiary improvement were an increase in the number of sober days; engagement with community providers of needed services; applying for benefits; behavioral health treatment; temporary stable housing for individuals who would otherwise be homeless; and through microenterprise grants, funds for costs associated with self-employment. She stated that the staff at the Trust would like to thank the MHTAAR grantees for their dedication to the beneficiaries during an extremely challenging year. Most of the grantees were able to report quality-of-life improvements that support the Trust's need for providing data, and that demonstrated how Trust spending impacts beneficiaries. We are very proud and thankful for all of their hard work.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Predeger and recognized Autumn Vea.

CIMHP PLAN UPDATE

MS. VEA stated that this presentation is part of the regular quarterly Program & Planning update regarding the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan and the Scorecard. This presentation laid the groundwork for updating presentations that demonstrate the CIMHP Plan in action. Her presentation focused on the Alaska Scorecard which was updated in March of 2022. She introduced some new folks on the Scorecard team: Richard Raines, senior research analyst for the health analytics and vital records section at DHSS; Dwayne Duskin, research associate who worked to have the Scorecard updated and published by March. She introduced Jillian Gellings who is leaving, and this would be her last presentation. She stated that the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan is a response to a statutory requirement which is to be coordinated with Federal, State, Regional, Tribal, local and private entities involved in mental health services. The Trust uses this CIMHP Plan to inform its recommendations for expenditures of State General Funds included in the mental health budget bill. The CIMHP Plan bridges the Department and Divisions while serving as the glue to connect reform efforts that encompass all beneficiary groups. She moved to the Alaska Scorecard which has been used since 2008 by policymakers, grant writers, Trust staff to measure the desired outcomes of the CIMHP Plan. The overhaul started with an inventory list that included over 200 potential data indicators, and that Scorecard workgroup set out to prioritize those indicators. All of the Scorecard measures were reformatted using the results-based accountability format. She explained this in greater detail and recognized Jillian Gellings.

MS. GELLINGS walked through the Scorecard and showed a glimpse of the CIMHP Plan goals and objectives and how they align with the Scorecard indicators. It was important to try to find the best population-based indicator for each goal and objective, which was a definite challenge. She continued with a brief tour and overview of the selected indicators for the Alaska Scorecard. She stated that the Scorecard is very valuable and has been downloaded about 1,500 times a year, with the hopes to continue access to it in the years to come.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the approvals.

APPROVALS

MOTION: A motion to approve amending the FY23 budget to address technical changes resulting from the bifurcation of the Department of Health and Social Services and the allocation of FY23 mini-grant funds to the contractor, Information Insights, in the nonfocus area allocation section of the budget was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that this approval is being brought forward to address two primary categories of technical changes in this budget. The first category had to do with the need to update the Department titles to align with the bifurcation of the Department of Health and Social Services into the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services which is effective July 1, 2022. There were approximately 30 technical changes, and they have been reflected through a red strike-through with the corrected title added into the budget.

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

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

MS. BIASTOCK offered a special thanks to Valette Keller, who supported much of what she will be reporting. There is a communications contractor, Northern Strategies, that helps in the development of graphics and other creative content, as well as ad placement and other supports. Their contract is up at the end of this fiscal year, and we are currently in the RFP process to procure the next communications contractor. She went through the communications goals, as well as the beneficiary-related goals, and also the work to increase the understanding of our very unique organization. She pointed out the web page and stated that a new link to both the Trust Authority and the Trust Land Office home pages was added. She stated that Facebook and Instagram accounts are maintained. She continued her slide presentation and then moved to the two active media campaigns. She began with the anti-stigma campaign with a very focused approach on connecting the audience to the beneficiaries as individuals and to increase awareness of the negative impacts stigma can have on them. They opted for beneficiaries sharing in their own voice versus using a script for these ads. She acknowledged and thanked all of those who appeared in the campaign, whether through video or photo assets. It was very brave to be in a statewide media campaign, and we are very appreciative. It was a statewide investment, and she noted that the plan is to use the campaign assets created this year again next year.

(Videos shown.)

MS. BIASTOCK talked about the earned views on YouTube and shared those spots, as well. She moved to the second media campaign that is about Trust lands. That was launched statewide in 2020 to help communicate the message that Trust Lands support Trust beneficiaries. She continued her presentation, explaining as she went through. She shared a 60-second spot, which introduced the initiative and the Crisis Now Model.

(Video shown.)

MS. BIASTOCK was appreciative to the many partners that participated in that effort. She moved to partnerships and stated that occasionally there are grant requests for projects that focus

on communications around beneficiary issues. Two current grants are for the Mental Health Mosaics project and Alaska Public Media's Mental Health Content Initiative. Mosaics is a community-driven multimedia project in Anchorage that uses art, journalism and conversation to foster a deeper understanding of mental health, with a goal of destigmatizing conversations around mental health. They are also helping fund the development of several components of an initiative at Alaska Public Media focused on mental health and wellness, and they are participating in efforts to prepare to stand up the 988 Suicide and Crisis line which will take place across the nation over the summer. She offered a very big thanks to Valette Keller and Michael Baldwin on the Trust staff who are working together to advance this initiative. She asked all to save the dates of September 27th & 28th this fall for the Full Lives Conference.

TRUSTEE BOYLES complimented Ms. Biastock on her comprehensive approach and stated that it was good.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that it was an excellent report, very detailed and she appreciated it.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all and called a break.

(Break.)

COMMUNITY PANEL PRESENTATIONS

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Katie and Travis to introduce this topic.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that planning this board meeting on the Kenai was an opportunity to invite community partners to join us and to listen and hear from their perspectives about the needs, the strengths, the opportunities in their communities; and, specifically, around the crisis response, and the ways the Trust can engage to partner, help improve and identify some of those solutions.

MR. WELCH asked to suspend Robert's Rules for this presentation.

CHAIR HALTERMAN replied that was okay.

MR. WELCH stated that there was to be a panel discussion on Mental Health Crisis Response on the Kenai Peninsula, and we have four partners who serve here joining us. He asked the panel members to introduce themselves.

MS. CONNER stated that she was with Central Peninsula Hospital, Behavioral Health. She is the clinic manager, and their behavioral health program has multiple levels of care for crisis in the emergency department. She continued that the role their agency plays when someone experiences a mental health crisis is that oftentimes people end up in the emergency department and we have mental health clinicians that start that process by evaluating them. If a Title 47 is needed or called, a mental health hold or an alcohol commitment hold, that would be placed, and we work with the Court System on a transfer to an acute facility.

MR. RIGBY stated that he is the behavioral health director for Peninsula Community Health Services. They are a combined Federally-qualified health center and a community behavioral health center. They are a grantee of the Department of Behavioral Health in Alaska. There are a few programs within their facility, and we have several lines of service for a primary care center. He moved to the crisis services in the community, noting that there are many mechanisms

internally that support their patients. They are a referral source for a lot of outside agencies.

MS. FAULKNER stated that she is the executive director at Frontier Community Services. They provide services birth to end of life. In their behavioral health wing, they target children, families, adults and elders that experience mental illness. They also have an FASD diagnostic team, as well as supportive employment. They partner with KPHI to do some oversight in their Crestview supported living housing. They do not do crisis intervention; that is not their role. Most of the people that they work with are dually diagnosed.

LIEUTENANT LANGHAM stated that he is with the Kenai Police Department. He stated appreciation for the Trust being there and listening to what is going on in this community because it is probably representative of a lot of communities in Alaska. Taking the time to be here is important for the Kenai-Soldotna greater area. He continued that he has been with the police department for about 20 years, and has served in numerous roles. Currently, he is the operational manager of the department. He had done everything from responding to crises where people are going through issues, as well as helping to supervise that first-line supervisor, as well as looking at the bigger picture of how it affects the communities.

MR. WELCH asked Lieutenant Langham to share how someone on the Kenai Peninsula experiencing a mental health crisis accesses the crisis system, and what would that experience be like for that individual.

LIEUTENANT LANGHAM replied that they come into contact with folks in crisis in a variety of manners. A lot of that will be dictated by the set of circumstances of where they are. What is the crisis? Is the crisis suicidal? Is it a type of psychosis? Is it mixed with alcohol and drugs, which is two issues going on? He stated that the interaction with law enforcement will look a bit different locally. He stated that their local law enforcement does an outstanding job of assessing with an open mind and being patient and not overstepping bounds of what can and cannot be done. Folks do get frustrated when the police walk away from an obvious situation that does not meet Title 47, but with something still going on. Basically, their role is to respond, assess, decide, and to try to find resources that are the most appropriate for that person.

MS. FAULKNER replied that was a hard one because in order to access the supports you need it has to get pretty messy. The system is more reactive than proactive because those things that often keep people from hitting crisis are very challenging to get on the Peninsula. Transportation and access to a clinician, and medication management are very challenging on the Peninsula. Even case management to help a person just manage the basics of life. She continued that it was very backwards out there, and they may let a crisis play out without trying to Band-Aid it together because the Band-Aid is never enough.

MR. RIGBY went through four different common ways to get people accessing crisis services through the facility. "Cold calls," someone just calls the agency and they were never an established client and they need help. There is an embedded position called a behavioral health consultant, and her position is to provide realtime behavioral health support to the clinic, and she is very flexible. He explained the process. We are fortunate as an agency with a big behavioral health department. The third source is external referrals where there is a lot of interaction with the behavioral health coordinator. It takes a compassionate, systematic approach from all players.

MS. CONNER stated that generally for the hospital and the hospital's behavioral health

department those individuals are brought into the emergency room by local law enforcement families, sometimes by ambulance and just by themselves, especially if they had received services in the past for crisis in the emergency room. They are evaluated by the emergency department medical staff, and the provider looks at them and then calls in the psyche emergency services team to come and evaluate. Once the evaluation is done, a decision as to the type of services needed is made.

MR. WELCH asked the Lieutenant about how much time do officers spend responding to calls where someone is experiencing a mental health crisis.

LIEUTENANT LANGHAM stated that that is not an easy answer. It depends on how the call came in, and if it gets coded that way. Officially, this year, there have been eight folks that were taken by Title 47 or voluntary. He gave a few examples.

MR. WELCH asked Ms. Conner how often do people need that higher level of care and are going to API.

MS. CONNER stated that they need it quite often, and we are doing about 90 evaluations in the emergency department a month. There were 13 holds in April; and of those 13, zero were transferred to an acute facility because there were no beds to transfer them to.

MR. WELCH asked about juveniles.

MR. RIGBY replied that we do an expedited assessment for any minors that were recently hospitalized, seen in the emergency room, had been incarcerated in any way, and meet the target priority population.

MS. FAULKNER stated that they had two mass shootings by 18-year-olds in the last four weeks. Care for the youth is huge, full wraparound support. At Frontier, they try to work with the entire family in a home-based setting. It is very challenging to find clinicians in the community that work with the youth population. If they cannot get the full support needed, they move through the crisis wheel.

MR. RIGBY added that a lot of times if a youth is referred or is in the program with a need for a higher level of care, it is a tremendous amount of time and resource to get that youth admitted to a facility.

MS. CONNER stated that the process to actually get a residential placement for youth is unreal, and we have had youth that ended up in the hospital for months. One youth, a nine-year-old, was in for 80 days.

The panel continued replying to questions and pointing out the need for a better system, showing the need for Crisis Now.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for the time the panel gave to be here and talk to us. She was disheartened to know that so many years were spent bringing the kids home, and we are now heading in the other direction. She was hopeful, and the awareness is there. There are some foundational changes, and some good legislative improvements this year. House Bill 265 did pass and is headed to the Governor's Office for signature. There are a couple of us that serve on a board working to advance telemedicine. We have been involved in that effort since early 2000

with the State of Alaska. There is a good foundation to work on, and we have a lot of insight. Getting input from your experiences down here on the Kenai is helpful. It is imperative to hear from our communities about what is going on in the streets and what you all encounter. It is disheartening to hear that people are spending that much time in a hospital without medical need. There are some brilliant people in the room, and we hope to see some improvements in the future. She thanked each of them for their time and efforts to serve our populations.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that it was important to understand for the beneficiaries, and to try and figure out the places to advocate or convene partners to be able to change the system and improve the access to care. He appreciated everyone coming together, and thanked Travis for putting it together.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON echoed what was said and thanked all for joining. These kinds of conversations are what happened in some of the other communities where partners came together to bring their perspectives on the issue and to be able to discuss that.

MR. WELCH thanked all for participating on the panel, for the information provided, and the dialogue we were able to have.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE BOERNER recognized the incredible stuff at the Trust and thanked all for the planning. She reported that she is getting ready to start her summer institute program, which will be a heavy load, but which is exciting at the same time. She stated that she would be spending time with her husband celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. She thanked all of the presenters and shared her respect to all of the fellow trustees. She welcomed Trustee Moran.

CHAIR HALTERMAN congratulated Trustee Boerner on her anniversary and wished her the best.

TRUSTEE MORAN thanked the Trust staff for all the support and stated she had a lot of learning to do. This was an amazing day: the topics, the folks that came to share. There is a lot to take in, and it will be a great adventure. Thank you.

TRUSTEE FIMON reiterated that the topics and the presentations were incredibly informative, fairly emotional, and very helpful. Staff did a great job in bringing great moments, and we said thanks for the moment with Rose earlier. He offered Happy Anniversary to Trustee Boerner and her husband, and stated his appreciation for everything that everyone does for us.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked staff for the fantastic job. It is an incredible amount of work to put these things together. He appreciated the panel and the Mission Moment. The panel walked the trustees through a world that some of us have never been through. He apologized to the Board about not being there tomorrow. He had made reservations to spend the day with his granddaughter in Montana. Happy 25th Anniversary to Trustee Boerner.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that it was a great day, and he really appreciated all the materials and information provided by staff. It was really well organized. He liked Schedule A, which gave him a better understanding of the program and grants. It was great to get out in the communities outside of Anchorage, and it was good to spend time with the panelists and hear their experiences. That is the foundation to being successful in any new Crisis Now, or for anything

else that could be done. He also enjoyed talking with the individual beneficiaries and learning how they benefit from the programs. Thank you for the experience.

TRUSTEE BOYLES wished Trustee Boerner a Happy Anniversary. She stated that she leaves the Mental Health trustee meetings with an overwhelming sense of how much work has to be done, but gets hope and peace from the fabulous staff. Matching the staff's vision and the leadership, she truly believes that they will change things in Alaska. She thanked Mr. Williams for spending time in the Capital.

CHAIR HALTERMAN repeated a lot of the sentiments that the other trustees made, and noted that she always feels prepared for the meetings. There is a lot of valuable information that goes into the packets. She was glad to be a part of a rural site visit. It is helpful to hear that some of the legislation did get passed. That is the foundation needed to get this Crisis Now process into place. It was comforting to hear the panelists talking about the relationships that have already been built. An amazing job has been done at the Trust, and she thanked all of the staff because it does take all of them to make this happen.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN resumed the meeting and opened it to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN announced that three parties have left the meeting and have excused absences: Trustee Boerner, Trustee Sturgeon and Trustee Boyles. She introduced public comment and noted that there is one written public comment submitted by Faith Meyers which is in the packet, and there are two parties that have signed the public comment sign-in sheet. She recognized Tim Navarre.

MR. NAVARRE welcomed the trustees to the Kenai Peninsula. He stated that he is currently the chair of the Kenai Peninsula Foundation. He explained that it is an affiliate of the Alaska Community Foundation. He is also on the leadership team of the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition. He continued that less than a year ago in June, the City of Soldotna called three or four of them together that had been involved with homelessness. They wanted to work on grants and to try to do something because we had worked on cold-weather shelters. What came out of those meetings was they raised funding themselves through Bridges and other entities. We needed a strategic plan and hired a consultant. We spent \$75,000 -- no money from the cities, the boroughs or anything. They worked on a strategic plan. In the middle of that, a facility became available off North Kenai, about 15 miles from here. The foundation actually went after the funds. They were able to get some of the funds, and the Rasmuson Foundation helped. We found a 5800-square-foot building, 22 beds, 14 bedrooms, showers, washrooms, everything, sheets and pillows, TVs, little refrigerators and got to buy it for \$359,000. Bridges is a nonprofit that is unique to the Kenai Peninsula and the foundation. They made a contract with Love, Inc. to operate the shelter. It opened on December 27th and has been operating fully since then. The strategic plan was completed about January 7th, and they applied to the Mental Health Trust for a homelessness coordinator. Everything was good, and he gave Kelda a lot of credit, and Katie also. He finished his story and hoped that they could find funding for a coordinator. Thank you.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for his comment. Next is Carmen Wenger.

MS. WENGER stated that she is the program director for the Help Me Grow Alaska Program and the Alaska Pediatric Partnership. She expressed her appreciation for the Trust support of the Help Me Grow Alaska program and the Alaska Pediatric Partnership. They had been a recent recipient of a partnership grant which allowed them to increase the distribution of three books that were recently readapted for use in Alaska; and the grant helped cover the printing costs. She had sent copies and hoped they were distributed in the packets. They had not been utilized in Alaska by providers or families because they did not represent the experience of children. They are currently being utilized by over 80 organizations throughout the state as tools to support healthy development and early identification of functional developmental delays and disabilities. Early identification of children can change the life force of both children and families. Tools like this can be a prevention for child abuse and neglect when families have an understanding of what the development trajectory looks like for a child. The second piece of materials also included in the packet were redesigned outreach materials for the Help Me Grow Alaska Program. The grant also supported the design of these materials. The purpose of that was to reflect the extent and age range of the services. They serve prenatally through 26 and we have seen a large increase in service utilization supporting adolescent mental health. The majority of calls are responding to families and children in need of connection to mental health services. With the redesign of the materials, they are more accessible, and families now understand that the service array is meant for them.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Carmen and stated that they had the books. She asked for any other people wanting to give public comment. There were a few people online that had not signed up.

MS. GEISLER welcomed the Trust to the Kenai Peninsula. She continued that she is the director of the Independent Living Center or the ILC. There are offices in Homer, Soldotna and Seward. She thanked the Trust for their financial support throughout the years, for their transportation funding for beneficiaries and others with disabilities. The Trust funds that are contributed are administered by the Department of Transportation via TEAM. ILC started a partnership with the local cab companies in 1997 to provide affordable and accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities. They now have a transportation voucher program in Homer, Seward and Soldotna. The Trust funds contributed were called for purchase of service and that is how they are used. In anticipation of this meeting, she ran some numbers. Homer, for the first three quarters had 194 individuals with disabilities that received 4,900 one-way rides. She went through the other numbers. She stated that these funds are much appreciated, but require a tremendous amount of tracking, reconciling, documenting required by the DOT, which is administratively burdensome. She continued that many more rides could be provided with the same amount of money if this burden was lifted. Additionally, the purchase of service funds must be applied for every year, adding to that administrative burden. This fiscal year did not see any reimbursements from DOT until February. We were waiting for about \$80,000 in reimbursements, which were recovered, but that was a burden for a small nonprofit. She advocated that the Trust funds for transportation be administered differently, if possible, or to look for a different way to administer them. She added that she had expressed her concern to quite a few Trust staff about the amount of administration. To add to the transportation issues, the cab company that provided Medicaid Waiver transportation for over 20 years threw in the towel in November because of losing thousands of dollars each year. She stated that she would be willing to work with some of the trustees or other folks to work out some solutions. She thanked them for their time and for listening.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Joyanna, and asked for anyone else online for public comment. There being none, she ended the public comment period on the agenda. She concluded the public comment period and entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

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

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.)