

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 25, 2022

8:30 a.m.

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

Originating at:

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99508**

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Verne' Boerner
Brent Fisher
Rhonda Boyles
Kevin Fimon
Agnes Moran
John Sturgeon

Trust Staff Present:

Steve Williams
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Carol Howarth
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kelda Barstad
Michael Baldwin
Eric Boyer
Valette Keller
Autumn Vea
Allison Biastock
Kat Roch
Luke Lind
Debbie DeLong
Travis Welch
Jimael Johnson
Carrie Predeger

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner

Also participating: Patrick Reinhardt; Lesley Thompson; Meridith Griggs; Charity Carmody; Beverly Schoonover; Jennifer Smerud; Lisa Cauble; Kara Thrasher-Livingston; Don Habeger; Amanda Metivier; Angel Gonzales; Adam Crum; Kim Kovol; Erin O'Boyle; Genia Demetriades; Chris Cooke.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and began with the roll call. There was a quorum to do business. She asked for any announcements.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she was currently checked in for a flight to Baltimore for some of her classes. She asked to be excused from the return call at 3:15.

CHAIR HALTERMAN excused Trustee Boerner.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that after the site visit, he would not be able to call back. He asked for permission to be excused from that portion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN excused Trustee Fisher. She asked for any other announcements. There being none, she moved to the Trust Authority Revenue forecast and recognized Mr. Williams.

TRUST AUTHORITY REVENUE FORECAST

CEO WILLIAMS stated that a Trust Authority Revenue forecast, an updated budget sheet, and a sheet with motions that relate to that budget spreadsheet were provided. He thanked all for the discussion, conversation related to the memo about the foster care work with the partners, and he also appreciated the staff adapting quickly and modifying the budget for deliberations. He began with Ms. Howarth giving an update on the FY24 and '25 revenue forecast.

CFO. HOWARTH went through the four components that calculate the estimate forecast for revenue, which brings up the proposed budget, which then left an unobligated amount.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the budget was deliberately and intentionally gone through with all the stakeholders and staff in the process. Some Trust funds were left unobligated for any unanticipated event. In order to deploy the funds, staff has to come back to the trustees for approval. He added that the unobligated funds should not be viewed as a resource, but to be held for very specific and immediate purposes. He stated that staff supported the use of unobligated funds to increase the budget by \$800,000 for the strategies related to foster care and child welfare.

A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees appropriate MHTAAR, MHT Admin and Authority Grant Funds for FY2024 in the amount of \$39,192,600. This consists of \$19,469,100 of MHTAAR and MHT Admin and \$19,723,500 of Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed FY2024 through FY2025 budget recommendations document prepared for the August 24 and 25, 2022, Board of Trustees' meeting. Included in this motion is a recommendation by the Full Board of Trustees for a State of Alaska appropriation of \$9,933,000 of General Fund/Mental Health Funds and \$8,100,000 of other funds for FY2024 was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked CEO Williams to begin the discussion.

CEO WILLIAMS turned the meeting over to Ms. Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON began by reflecting on what was done at the Program & Planning Committee. She continued that, in response to yesterday's wishes, the budget before the board includes the increases to the foster care areas and also returned to the areas previously suggested for reduction. She walked through each of the sections and replied to any comments and questions.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked about the specifics of Line 35, optimizing information technology and data analytics, and Lines 36 and 37, developing targeted outcome data and IT application.

MS. BARSTAD explained that section encompassed two projects that were working to inform the practices of Senior and Disability Services with the Department of Health. She continued explaining the specifics.

A brief discussion ensued.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON continued on to the Other Priority Areas; she began with Workforce Development. She asked Eric Boyer to talk about the Alaska Training Cooperative.

MR. BOYER stated that the funding was at full capacity, and we worked with the University and the Training Cooperative to transition that to a process to some General Fund/Mental Health dollars which successfully went through the Legislature and was signed off by the Governor.

A question-and-answer discussion continued.

MR. FISHER asked about the mix of how this money would be used.

MR. BOYER replied that, in this priority area, it was a combination of infrastructure capacity funding for some of the organizations through either the University or the State Department of Health. He continued through and replied to questions as they came up.

The discussion continued.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to the strategy on line 30, Ensure Accurate Identification of Social-Emotional Needs for Children and Their Caregivers.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked about the different strategies recommended on Line 32. She asked how they complimented one another; how they supplanted; and how they all played together.

MS. JOHNSON replied that the Line 32 strategies were focused on school-age children and school systems K through 12. She explained that the difference in the memo, which focused on a younger population for more of the preventative opportunities related to child welfare and foster care. It is specifically going to the Department of Education and Early Development which serve children from pre-K through 12th grade.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to the strategy to reduce instances and impact of Adverse

Childhood Experiences, otherwise known as ACEs. She continued through the budget and answered questions.

The discussion continued with clarifications and comments from the trustees.

CEO WILLIAMS talked about the six changes and began with Treatment Access and Recovery Supports which was on Page 4, Row 12.

MOTION: A motion to reduce the current proposed budget by \$100,000 for the Treatment Access and Recovery Support was made by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated there was a motion on the floor and asked for a second.

Hearing none, the motion failed for lack of a second.

CEO WILLIAMS moved to Row 25, Page 4, Child and Youth Crisis Response System of Care and Technical Assistance, those \$200,000 of Authority Grant funds were added back into the budget based on yesterday's conversation.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any motions to make any adjustments in this particular program area.

MOTION: A motion to reduce Child and Youth Crisis Response System and Care and Technical Assistance budget line item by \$200,000 was made by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated there was a motion on the floor and asked for a second.

Hearing none, the motion failed for lack of a second.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the next item was on Page 6, Row 36. The project title was Addressing Comorbid Health and Addiction Issues Prominent within Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill Populations. It was an MHTAAR grant to the Department of Corrections for \$150,000.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions or adjustments.

MOTION: A motion to reduce the addressing Comorbid Health and Addiction Issues Prominent with Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill Populations by \$150,000 was made by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated there was a motion on the floor and asked for a second.

Hearing none, the motion failed for lack of a second.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the next item is on the same page in the Disability Justice focus area. It is Row 47, Reentry Transition Supports. The original amount of \$300,000 in Authority Grant was restored.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any discussion, questions, comments or amendments in this area. There were none.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the next item is in the Housing and Home- and Community-Based Services focus area on Page 8, Row 18. \$100,000 of Authority Grant funds for supportive housing projects was added, which brought the total back to the original amount of \$750,000.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions or recommendations in this area.

MOTION: A motion to reduce the supportive housing project budget line item by \$100,000 was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked that staff to explain again what this is all about and what the consequences would be.

MS. BARSTAD explained that this line item focused on supportive housing projects and, typically, supports up and coming capital projects, but may also support services for supportive housing. These projects require both the housing units and supportive services to be considered a supportive housing project.

A discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called for a ten-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called everyone back to their seats and stated that there was one more item to get through. She recognized CEO Williams.

CEO WILLIAMS drew the trustees' attention to Page 9, Row 14, under workforce development. Row 14 is the Alaska Center for Rural Health and Workforce where \$150,000 MHTAAR funds were added back in for this project.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if there was a motion to make any adjustments.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Center for Rural Health and Workforce area line item be reduced by \$150,000 was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated support for restoring the \$150,000. Workforce is a definite issue in Alaska urban areas and is extremely challenging in rural areas. She continued that she could not ethically cut this when the Trust has the funds to support it.

A discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved back to the original motion over the revised budget, which was the replacement memo that was supplied this morning. She recognized Trustee Moran.

MOTION: A motion to amend the budget for Line 37 on Page 10, Foster Care and Child Welfare System Improvements by removing the \$400,000 was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she was uncomfortable putting this great of an investment into an organization that does not even have a 501(c)(3).

CEO WILLIAMS clarified that this has been referred to as a bucket of money and are Authority Grant funds that are not designated to any organization. He stated that currently this organization would not be able to be funded because it is not a nonprofit.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that this was educational, and discussion was helpful. She restated that motion and called the vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that it was a good discussion and moved back to the memo that was presented. She continued that before she called for the question she asked for any other questions or comments regarding the budget. She did a roll-call vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the fiscal year '24 budget moved forward as modified.

CEO WILLIAMS thanked the trustees for the support of the budget and for the conversation and the dialogue that happened. It demonstrated the interest of the trustees in these areas; the interest of the beneficiaries; the concerns that people have of understanding how we are most effectively and directly going to meet the needs of beneficiaries, which is beneficial for him as the CEO. He added that it was also beneficial to all the staff and for the public to understand and hear what is being done and why.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked CEO Williams and said it was 10 minutes to lunch. She asked to break early.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that lunch was early, and we're to be on the bus at 12:00 and at the facility by 12:30.

After discussion, it was decided to continue on to fiscal year '25.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated concern on talking about a \$39 million budget and doing it in about 10 minutes.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the Trust operates a two-year budget cycle, and we have to produce a second-year budget. He explained that these are placeholder numbers and placeholder projects. The amount of money could be more than \$39 million by the time this is reviewed next year, and it could be less. The trustees will walk through the entire budget again next spring and summer.

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees appropriate MHTAAR and MHT Admin and Authority Grant funds for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of \$39,000,000. This consists of \$19,247,400 of MHTAAR and MHT Admin, and \$19,753,500 for Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed FY24-'25 budget recommendations document prepared for the August 24-25, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. Included in this motion is a recommendation for the Full Board of Trustees for a State of Alaska appropriation of \$9,499,100 of GF/MH funds and \$8,100,000 of other funds for fiscal year 2025 was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if the trustees were ready for the question or wanted to have a comment.

TRUSTEE STURGEON recommended that, since the numbers were close, to focus on areas that were different between the two budgets.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that her plan was to focus on change. She began with the mini-grants on Page 2. There is a reduction which is the true cost of administering the contract and there were no other changes on the page. She moved to Page 3, the nonfocus area allocations, Capital Requests. There are no budgeted dollars in FY25.

MS. BARSTAD explained that deferred maintenance and essential program equipment are projects that in the past have flip-flopped. One is funded one year, and the other is funded the subsequent year.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Row 56, the Trust Conference, and stated that there was an increase in the amount from \$30,000 in FY24 to proposed \$150,000.

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the total between '24 and '25 for the Trust Conference is \$180,000, which is the same amount that was approved for the current conference being planned. Since this

is the first one, they were in the process of determining what the real budget for putting together a conference would be.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Page 4, Row 24, Access and Referral Network. The reduction for '25 is intended with a recommendation for a GF/MH increment to support that. She continued to Page 5, Line 12, Public Guardian Position, OCS Transition had a slight adjustment for FY25.

CEO WILLIAMS pointed out in Row 24 the proposal was to transition Trust funding for the Juneau Mental Health Court to State General Fund/Mental Health dollars.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Page 6, Row 34 where there was an increment of \$200,000 for an occupational therapist in DJJ youth facilities. She stated that Row 35, Addressing Comorbid Health Addiction Issues, Prominent within Severe and Persistent Mentally Ill Populations, this is a position, and the adjustment reflected a slight increase.

MR. WELCH talked about the current discussions with the Department of Corrections on moving the funding on Line 44 from the Trust budget into their General Fund budget through the GF/MH recommendations. The discussions were still ongoing.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON continued to Page 7, Beneficiary Employment and Engagement and explained it was a beneficiary employment conference that worked with the Governor's Council and other partners anticipating that FY25 would be the right year to target planning for that and getting it underway. Row 11, IPS Supported Employment, increased from '24 by \$150,000, for a total of a \$300,000 recommendation. Then Row 27, Beneficiary Employment Technical Assistance and planning had a reduction in FY25. That is because there were some additional higher costs anticipated in '24, and once established the costs will reduce. She then moved to Page 8, Housing and Home- and Community-Based Services which had no recommended changes. Page 9, other priority areas, Row 9, the Alaska Training Cooperative had a slight reduction in MHTAAR with a corresponding increase recommendation for GF/MH.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that she missed the increment of \$85,000 on Page 2, Line 45, Beneficiary ACES Data Collection, a new strategy that is a data collection that looks at adverse childhood experiences. It is a survey that is being worked on with partners in planning for '25.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson for the clarification. She moved to Motion No. 2 that was on the table and called the roll-call vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the recommendation passed.

CEO WILLIAMS thanked the trustees for the approval of the FY25 budget and recognized that this conversation will be had again next spring. He talked about the visit to Hiland Mountain and

stated that, because it is a correctional facility, no bags, phones or personal belongings are allowed.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked the trustees for the good dialogue over the budget and stated that this had been one of the most detailed conversations had about the budget. She stated appreciation for the questions, the amendments and the dialogue.

(Lunch break, and the Trustees had a site visit to Hiland Mountain Correctional Facility.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there were two points of order to finish up the business. She continued that there was a motion before moving to trustee comments, the final agenda item.

MOTION: A motion requesting the CEO, in concert with the Chair of the Finance Committee, work with the TLO, the CFO, and Harvest Capital to review the CRE Investment properties and develop recommendations for the management process of any or all CRE investment properties was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked, for the purpose of discussion, if there were any questions or discussions with regard to the motion.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that a lot of time was spend on the CRE investments in the last few meetings, and she felt the need to have a more concise, cohesive approach to articulating what should or should not be done relative to the commercial real estate investments.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he would need a good, compelling reason to sell anything that was beyond fear/speculation. He welcomed the discussion and hoped to have continued discussion. He believed that there were things on both sides to be brought forward so a more informed decision could be made. He continued that the market conditions were so whipsawing that by the time the decision, made 14 months prior, was executed, there would be questions on whether it was the right time to sell. He stated appreciation for this being brought up.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that she did text Trustee Fisher a copy of the motion before it was read, and he is aware because this will impact his committee and it would be a work effort he would have to undertake. She added that she would brief him on the outcome at the end of the meeting.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that, being the new person, it would be valuable to go through the process for education. She continued that she has heard very differing positions just in the short time she was here.

CEO WILLIAMS acknowledged Ms. Warner and her leadership in talking about this which will help provide some clarity and direction in working with the Finance Committee Chair and staff to come back with something that would provide options for the trustees to consider.

MS. WARNER shared appreciation for the idea of the continued conversation, and she looked forward to coming up with some options for trustees to consider.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further from the trustees. There being none, she called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked everyone and moved to the Trustee Comment Period.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked the trustees for working so well together. She continued that they all had different opinions and different backgrounds and will not always agree, but she truly respects the Trust. There is a full component, and she is enjoying it.

TRUSTEE STURGEON echoed the words of Trustee Boyles. He stated that it was a good experience with some good discussion that ended with a good product. He stated that it was obvious the kind of job staff did not only in preparing the packet but also in their recommendations. He stated his appreciation for all the hard work done in putting all this together.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked his fellow trustees, especially the ones doing the remote, for staying involved and coming forward with their ideas. He stated that even though they each come from different places, the end product is not that much different. He continued that they are unified and innovative. He added that the whole idea is to do their fiduciary duty and help the beneficiaries and carry forward the mission. He is proud of always feeling that was what was being done. He thanked the Chair and the CEO for the great leadership throughout the two days and stated appreciation for the tour. He also thanked staff for a very productive meeting.

CEO WILLIAMS thanked the Board for the dialogue, the conversation, the thoughtful consideration of the budget that was presented, and for challenging staff with the questions they had. It means that staff makes sure that they are understood and also helps them gain more insight and information on direction and policy. He also thanked the staff, both the TLO and the Trust Authority Office, who were involved in the meeting and for doing the work to prepare the budget. The last thing, for the record, was that the budget that they all approved, while presented by the staff, was work that extended out beyond the offices. There was input from the community providers, from the State partners, from beneficiaries that presented a set of recommendations beyond staff experience and beyond what was seen as necessarily the needs.

CHAIR HALTERMAN entertained a motion.

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN adjourned the meeting.

(AMHTA Full Board meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.)