

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 16, 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
Blain Alfonso

Also participating: Patrick Reinhardt; Bikky Shrestha; Vasily Shportko; Lesley Thompson; Meredith Griggs; Beverly Schoonover; Kathy Craft; Nona Safra; Lucy Cordwell; Eugene Hickey; Jon Haghayeghi; Marty Lange; Michele Girault; Michael Bailey; Kim Champney.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. She noted that John Sturgeon was excused for the morning and would be joining later in the afternoon. There was a quorum to do business, and she asked for any announcements.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she had some intermittent obligations and would text if she had to step away.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that he had another commitment for Thursday morning and asked to be excused from the site visit.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated the Trustee Fisher would not attend the site visit; nor would Trustee Boyles and Trustee Boerner because of joining remotely. She asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the agenda was approved as written. In the packet was a copy of the Guiding Principles, the Trust Mission Statement and the budget process flow charts.

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, she moved to the approval of the minutes of August 24-25, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes of August 24-25, 2022, was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the bylaws were listed on Page 43 for reference by trustees. She moved to the Mission Moment with the TABI Advisory Council and asked Ms. Barstad to do the introductions.

MISSION MOMENT

MS. BARSTAD stated that at the Program & Planning Committee meeting we delved quite deeply into brain injury as a topic. This Mission Moment connects to that presentation. She continued that Lucy Cordwell will, virtually, describe the work of the TABI Advisory Council.

She added that it was a fantastic experience to see that council grow, and that it is made up of about 50 beneficiaries. She introduced Ms. Cordwell to speak briefly about the council and its role in the community.

MS. CORDWELL thanked the trustees for the invitation. She stated that she is the brain injury program coordinator at the UAA Center for Human Development and was lucky to work with the council. She explained that the TABI Advisory Council is the Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council, and we've worked really hard to create and move forward the five-year state plan in Alaska. She introduced Nona Safra, an incredibly valuable member of the advisory council, to speak about her experience.

MS. SAFRA stated that some of them may recognize her because she is on the Alaska Commission on Aging and holds a seat on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, as well as a couple of other things around the state that involve advocacy. She added that that is her joy in life. She told her story about how she got where she was and how the Trust helped her to do that. She is from Homer and thanked all for choosing to serve and make a difference in the lives of Alaskans through the work of the Trust. She stated that she had a brain injury and did not remember ever living without experiencing the impact of her brain injury. Back in the 1950s, the circumstances surrounding it were things that went unspoken and, therefore, undiagnosed. Society was and still is uncomfortable with open discussions about mothers who abuse children. She was first hospitalized when she was a month old; and the second time by eight months. She did not remember them, but there were records and photographs showing facial bruising. By the time she was eight, she was at the doctor for headaches, and then migraines began. The medications left her zombielike at school. Living undiagnosed was the most difficult thing in her life. She remained undiagnosed until she was in her 50s. Her parents referred to her as a drama queen and a klutz, which led to more falls, leading to more concussions. Teachers told her she was not trying hard enough because she could not make sense of what she was reading and transposed numbers. She lacked the vocabulary for the terms that may have helped any professional understand what she was experiencing. She continued that being told that she would always fail, so why try, or that she should have never been born was the beginning of some mental health issues and a real lack of self-esteem. The school district diagnosed her issue as scoliosis and put her in remedial physical education, causing more social awkwardness. She stated that there was no support or acknowledgment of any health issues from either of her parents; and, in fact, they made fun of her difficulties and encouraged her siblings to join in. She added that the physical abuse continued, and her self-esteem had plummeted. She got passing grades at a school for the academically gifted and had daily migraines as she navigated her way through a life of undiagnosed brain injuries. Through her 20s, 30s, and 40s, she got married, finished college, had her children and divorced. She went from just holding jobs to actually having a career in nonprofit management, all while experiencing daily migraines. At one point a nonprofit board member said that her migraines were triggered by aspartame poisoning, which was a game-changer. She avoided aspartame and could go 72 hours without a migraine, then a week, and then a month. It was amazing to have a life without a migraine, but all the other symptoms were still a part of her daily life. She was diagnosed that her issues were caused by obesity. She was told that if she could lose the weight, all of her symptoms would go away. But the symptoms and weight gain continued. She was sent to see some very nice folks like the cardiologist, the endocrinologist, the rheumatologist, the nephrologist and the psychiatrist, who decided that the headaches were nothing more than clinical depression. They gave meds and an extended leave

of absence from work for daily therapy; nine half-day sessions a week for six months, and a paid leave from her executive position to get in touch with her inner feelings. She discovered EMDR, went through anger management, toxic-job counseling, group therapy, and private sessions. All that happened was that her FMLA ran out; she lost her position; but all the symptoms remained the same, and her eyesight got worse. The good thing that happened was being asked to write a chapter in the professional handbook of EMDR and family therapy processes about family abuse. Then she got a new primary-care physician who looked inside her eyes and did not like what he saw and sent her to his personal ophthalmologist who had a new diagnosis. She was finally properly diagnosed. Her spinal fluid did not drain properly and stays in her head, overwhelming her brain, filling her sinus cavities, and it pushed against her optic nerves as well as her ears. She had all the symptoms of a brain tumor without the mass. She was given the option of going on meds or having a shunt put in; she chose the meds. Then, she moved to Alaska, and the cost of the drugs skyrocketed and became prohibitive. The insurance company switched her to the generic, which was not the same, and she lost more of her vision. Her nurse practitioner became her partner in the battle with the insurance company pointing out that the failure of the drug meant blindness or death. She researched a procedure being done at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and with the help of her practitioner, she was accepted into that study. She had a stent placed in the transverse right sinus of her brain and actually got balance, no more tinnitus, and was able to hear the sounds in nature. The game-changing brain surgery gifted her with the opportunity to become an advocate for others with brain injuries; to serve on the Brain Injury Awareness Council; to speak with elected officials and remind them that not all brain injuries were alike. She explained that her injuries were a combination of child abuse, domestic violence, and a medical condition. It is not when someone you know will suffer a brain injury, but who you know that is living with it. She explained how her mini-grant helped her thrive by paying for the rapid prescription changes in her glasses that save her vision. She added that her current grant will pay for the much-needed attention to her teeth which her fixed income would not cover. She stated that she had lived her life knowing that when kindness and goodness are received, that there is an obligation to pass it on. She uses her voice and actions to do advocacy and work with Alaska Mental Health Authority partners, and she is humbled in being a part of the team that works on projects such as the Alaska State Plan for Brain Injury and the 10-Year Map to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Her voice is also heard in Juneau and Washington, D.C., advocating for Alaskans with brain injuries, encouraging legislators to join the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force; to support the TBI state grant program; to support bipartisan legislation for TBI and PTSD law enforcement training. She continued that, as a member of the Alaska Commission on Aging, she also hears from other grant recipients that are the keys to home- and community-based services. People are thrilled that they can stay in their own homes. She added that they are also part of her story as their advocate. She stated that the Alaska Mental Health Trust is a blessing in the lives of many Alaskans who are the beneficiaries. It allowed her to succeed and be able to continue serving this great state.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Safra for sharing her story and added that it took a lot of courage to talk about trauma from early childhood.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if there was an easy mechanism for folks to apply for the grants and if it was understandable.

MS. SAFRA replied that it was tough the first time, but once she understood how to do it it was not difficult. She stated that awareness was the first step, and she suggested that the instructions

be in bullet points. Simplifying the instructions and entering the data on the form would make it easier to send in. Another influence that the Trust had on her life was developing a scholarship for her high school, Philadelphia High School for Girls. They are a seven-member group and are targeting their classmates. They have a Girlfriend Fund, started from publishing and selling a book, that began from what she learned from dealing with the Trust. They have helped 12 of their classmates who needed a one-time boost in order to thrive.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Safra for her public service and for spreading that service to others in other avenues and outlets. She added that she would like to read the book.

MS. SAFRA replied that it is called “Unmute Yourself, Girlfriend,” available online under the editor, Susan Dukow.

STAFF REPORT

CEO WILLIAMS thanked Ms. Safra for coming in and sharing her thoughts. He went through some of the highlights since meeting in October for the committee meetings. He began with a financial update and noted the 7 percent increase approved in FY22. On a year-to-year basis, a 5 percent increase in the payout means that more work can be done to improve the lives of the beneficiaries. That was a positive and was shared because of the volatility that we see because those things come in cycles. He added that they were in a strong position to carry forward with what was presented in terms of the work and to ensure that the work and funds will be available for future beneficiaries. He moved to the financial audit which would be presented in the afternoon. He added that nothing changed since October. He stated appreciation to BDO and the finance and budget staff from both the Trust Authority and the Trust Land Office working through a time-consuming budget process. He moved to the Trust Land Office side and stated that Ms. Warner was back from maternity leave, and it was great to have her back. He thanked Jeff Green for stepping up as the executive director while Ms. Warner was on leave. It was a smooth transition, and the work of the TLO continued moving forward. He stated that the annual Alaska Miners Convention happened down at the Dena’ina Center and Karsten did a great presentation that focused on Icy Bay. He moved to the Trust Land Office land sale which we expect to be a very productive and, hopefully, will exceed expectations. He moved to the program side of the Trust Authority Office. This is the time of the year where the advisory boards and partner professional associations and beneficiaries and advocates start thinking about the upcoming legislative session and what is needed jointly and individually to bring education to new legislators and policymakers. The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, AADD, met in Anchorage to do that, and Trust program staff were part of those conversations. He then focused on the Crisis Now initiative and brought the trustees up to speed on where they were headed. He talked about the RFI, requests for information, for the development of the report that was part of HB 172 that has to be delivered to the Legislature in the fall of 2023. A request for letters of interest from interested parties describing how the work would be carried out was received, and the next step was for the Department staff, the Trust staff and some of the named entities that were part of the steering committee identified in the bill to review what was submitted. Then the information will be reviewed to craft a request for proposals that would provide an application on how to propose to do the work, and to have a contract put in place for the successful entity that applied.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked for an explanation about the urgent-care component.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that was part of the service planned, and it may come online before the 23-hour is opened. The hope is to schedule some time at the Program & Planning Committee meeting in early January for a full update on the status of all those pieces that are moving forward. She explained that the mental health urgent-care element would be important in providing another access point, as well as a bridge for individuals that may have been served in the 23-hour or residential to be able to continue to access supportive care until they are connected with providers in the community.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if there was a target budget developed for each stage of Crisis Now, or was it overall.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON explained that it started with an overall core recommendation that was broken down into a work plan. She stated that it is on target, and we are working within the budget that was approved by the trustees.

CEO WILLIAMS gave a brief update on the SHARP program because a positive milestone happened. They received their fifth iteration of a HRSA grant in the amount of a million dollars a year for three years. The Trust had been a long-time supporter for over the last 14 years. There had been over \$32 million in a mix of Federal, Trust and provider funding that was generated from this one project that created 600 contracts in those 14 years across the state. He added, that was a very positive program that has had enormous effect on the organizations that have those contracts, and the beneficiaries. He shared the finalization of the elections and the transitions that have been happening. Commissioner Adam Crum, from the Department of Health, moved to be the Commissioner of Revenue. The Trust Authority Office operates underneath the Department of Revenue. He continued that Heidi Hedberg is stepping up as the acting commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Al Wall has left the Department of Health and will be working over in Finance. Both Commissioner Crum and Deputy Commissioner Wall did a lot to help move the work with the Trust to make changes that positively impacted beneficiaries. Lesley Thompson, the planner for the Alaska Commission on Aging, is retiring and he wanted to recognize her for the work done for not just senior beneficiaries, but also for the senior population in general. He also acknowledged Diane Kaplan for her leadership over the last 26 years, and would be retiring at the end of December.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there was a site visit at Providence where some deficiencies about patient care were identified. She asked if that would impact the supportive housing project that is being funded for Providence.

MR. WILLIAMS replied that Ella Goss, the CEO of Providence, responded to that and there are no concerns related to the work the Trust is doing with Providence and the Crisis Now initiative.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

MS. BIASTOCK began by acknowledging her colleagues at the Trust Authority and Trust Land Office, with a special thanks to Valette Keller who supports much of the work that she will be reporting. She added that since the May update, the RFP for communications support was completed with a new contractor on board, Brilliant Media Strategies in Anchorage. She briefly offered some updates on the program, including some highlights of the positive earned media through the releases and press contacts. All opportunities are used when engaging with the

media to help audiences understand the role of Trust lands and the benefits of revenues generated from them. She moved to the website which does a lot of different things for a lot of different audiences. The job is to make the site appealing and easy to navigate for all of the different parties. She continued to social media and stated that both a Facebook and Instagram account are still maintained for the Trust Authority. The Trust Land Office has a Facebook business page, as well as a page devoted solely to Trust land sales. She moved to the active media campaigns and began with Stigma which will have some activity picking up in the coming months. Building on the ongoing public education and outreach efforts, this campaign intends to increase the understanding of challenges faced by Trust beneficiaries and to positively change attitudes and behaviors towards them. Next, “About the Trust” campaign intends to communicate the message of the Trust’s role and how Trust lands support Trust beneficiaries. This campaign endeavors to communicate the responsibility to manage the lands in a way that maximizes revenues and why Trust lands supporting the work on behalf of Trust beneficiaries is great, not only for individuals, but also for communities. She went through a few highlights from the program beginning with 988, the new nationwide three-digit dialing code to reach the suicide and crisis lifeline which launched in July, 2022. The next highlight is a video series developed as part of Alaska Public Media Mental Health Content Initiative; a multi-faceted initiative focused on mental health and wellness.

(Video played.)

MS. BIASTOCK then highlighted the Trust Land Office fall land sale marketing done in coordination with the Trust Land Office. She stated that they printed and inserted thousands of copies of the Caregiver Resource Guide into the November issue of the Senior Voice publication. This insertion was timely as November is both Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and Family Caregiver Month. The guide was developed by the Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative, which was funded by the Trust. She transitioned into the Improving Lives Conference update and acknowledged all the work that Valette Keller did in helping bring this conference to fruition. She stated that the Improving Lives Conference idea originated within the Board of Trustees who approved funding for a Trust-sponsored conference focused on beneficiary-related topics. Several meetings were held with several Trust partners to narrow down the topics of interest. The event was promoted in many ways and had a good turnout of almost 350 participants. She went through some of the statistics of attendees, registration scholarships, travel scholarships where folks could have transportation and hotel costs reimbursed. She talked about the geographic dispersal of attendees of the conference, and talked about the keynote presentations and the panel discussion. She then moved to some of the feedback of the attendees. She added that, overwhelmingly, folks would recommend the event. The key takeaways were the positive feedback; meeting the event objectives; finishing under budget; a lot of interest in the scholarships; great attendance at the networking portions of the event. All agreed that a contractor to do this event is a must, and there was great interest in presenting at the conference. She shared some of the great social media activity around the event.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that next on the agenda is the Open Meetings Act training

scheduled from the Department of Law with Gene Hickey.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that this was part of board training, board development, refresher on a couple of different areas generally hit on over the course of the year. The focus this morning is on the Open Meetings Act, and he recognized Gene Hickey.

MR. HICKEY stated that he had been with the Department of Law a little over five years and came from a practice in Pennsylvania. He and his wife moved to Juneau five years ago and a lot of his practice was in representing municipal and state governments, but in the private sector rather than as an employee of the state government. He continued that Alaska's Open Meeting Act is a great act that was condensed into a very small bill. He went through the sections of the Act, specific definitions in the Act, and how it applies. He went through what meetings and what entities were covered by the Act. He noted that the purpose of the Act is contained in Section 312, the most important section of the Act. He continued through his presentation, answering questions as they were presented.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Hickey for the presentation and information. She stated that Trustee Boerner would be leaving the meeting from 11:15 with a plan to return at 2:30. She called a break for lunch.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and moved to the statutory advisory updates.

STATUTORY ADVISORY UPDATES

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

MS. SCHOONOVER stated that the boards met in Fairbanks at the True North Recovery Residential Substance Abuse Facility which is new and amazing and a great program. She shared the boards' legislative priorities and then talked about a few emerging issues related to mental health and substance use issues. She continued that half of the board members of the Mental Health Board either have a mental health diagnosis or their close family members do. On the ABADA, half of the board or their family members have to be either actively using or in recovery from substance or alcohol misuse. They are charged with advising, planning, coordinating behavioral health services and programs. They are statutorily charged with advising the Trust on mental health and substance misuse issues. They advocate for the needs of Alaskans with mental health and substance misuse issues. They also evaluate federal and state laws concerning mental health, alcohol, and other drug and substance misuse, prevention and treatment services. She explained that the board members are appointed by the Governor, and the boards work together and are located in the same office. They have two executive committees, but they work together on consensus in every sense of the word. Their mission is to promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. She stated that the new ABADA Chair is Lee Breinig, and we've had the great opportunity to work with Denali Daniels reviewing the 2022 priority areas. She continued to using education outreach to reduce the stigma of Alaskans living with substance misuse and mental health concerns. She was grateful for the Trust doing a stigma-busting campaign, noting that we want to keep working on that and to keep addressing this with legislators. Another one of the big issues is increasing access to community supports

for justice-involved Alaskans with behavioral health concerns. She went through some of the joint planning activities. She continued to suicide prevention, and stated that they were required to give the Trust recommendations on the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan. She added that the Alaska Work Matters Task Force was an initiative led by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and all of the partner advisory boards are part of this. The final report is out and addresses how to improve and increase employment and employment supports for Alaskans with disabilities. She continued to Crisis Now, and noted that she was a member of the leadership team for Crisis Now. Their board members have been very engaged in this process through regular updates from Trust staff.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved into the Alaska Commission on Aging presentation.

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

MR. HAGHAYEGHI thanked the Trust for the support provided to the Commission on Aging for the personnel that keeps the day-to-day operations running and for the projects like the State Plan for Senior Services that is presently being worked on. He continued that he had been in the position for six months and was still learning. This is the year of the State Plan. He added that they recently lost their planner and have very little institutional knowledge. He stated that the mission for the Commission on Aging has not changed since it was established in statute in 1981. It centers on insuring the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans. He continued though some updates, reviewed some demographic trends, and then talked about some of the listening sessions held in the last year. He then went through some of the data collected and the timelines for the State Plan for Senior Services, FY24-27. He explained the State Plan fulfills the requirements under the Older Americans Act, which has provided Alaska with approximately \$5 million in federal funding over the last five years, which goes towards services for seniors. He asked Mr. Lange to continue.

MR. LANGE stated that he is the new rural outreach coordinator for the Alaska Commission on Aging. He just moved back to Juneau this summer after being gone for 39 years. One of the major motivating factors of the move was to take care of his wife's parents. He spent the last 31 years working for an international nonprofit organization called Wycliffe Bible Translators, and was their vernacular media consultant. He lived in Peru for 8.5 years and then was located in Orlando. The organization's goal was to translate the Bible into every language in the world. He spent a lot of time in villages and working alongside indigenous people. He was very happy to find this job. As the rural outreach coordinator, he looked forward to using the skills he had developed to further the cause of helping the Alaska Commission on Aging help people grow old in place and gracefully.

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and recognized Patrick Reinhardt.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

MR. REINHARDT stated that he was the interim director of the Governor's Council. He pointed out the chairperson and the vice chair of the Governor's Council on the slide. He continued that there was a retreat, a special board meeting in Girdwood to get back to basics and then talked about the selected dates of future meetings in '23. He highlighted the Aging and

Disability Summit that occurred that was supported by the Trust with a lot of good panels. He explained that the council is broken up into committees to do their work. Community Inclusion, Supports and Services Committee covers the areas of the council, and is an important part of who they are. He added that they were working on issues related to environmental modifications and enabling technologies. The system is broken and needs to be fixed. He talked about the importance of direct service professions with not enough workers for what is needed to be done, and turnover is rampant. He noted that there were 423 individuals on the waitlist; 254 are active on the individual-supports waiver, and are basically getting a small number of services while on the waitlist for a full waiver. He moved to the Self-Advocacy Leadership Committee that looks at things on developing other leaders and other advocates of people with developmental disabilities. They provide the governing boards for SESA, which was established in 1986. SESA went through a reauthorization two years ago, and they are good for about seven more years in terms of funding. They always come back as an essential state service, and it basically sunsets every eight years. They are funded through a base student formula funding, similar to other school districts. They have worked on autism-related issues, deaf and hard-of-hearing, vision impairment, emotional disabilities, and multiple disabilities. They essentially support people to help people in school districts in rural and remote areas that do not have big, trained special education departments. They figure out how to provide an educational service to somebody with a significant disability. Many times, it is one-on-one coaching with a teacher or principal or the parents in that community, or all of them together. He shared a video which explained the infant learning program.

(Video played.)

MR. REINHARDT stated that a child had to have basically a 50-percent delay in terms of where their milestones are before they ever receive services, which is a pretty high bar. He added that there was another video which was a commercial about abuse and neglect and what to do for people with disabilities.

CEO WILLIAMS noted that clearly across all three presentations workforce issues were highlighted in one way or another. He asked if the boards' staff and/or the member of boards or councils had looked into and were considering Alaska and the possibility of entering the nursing licensure compact. There was a bill last session that would make it easier for nurses from other states to come to Alaska to work, reducing a lot of licensing requirements in terms of duplicity; not trying to reduce things that would have any impact of safety. He added that the Alaska Health Care, AHAA, was looking into it.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and moved to the Audit & Risk Committee report update.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

MS. HOWARTH stated at the last meeting two items were focused on: One was the risk management plan; and the second item was an interim report from BDO, by Bikky Shrestha and Vasily Shportko. This meeting was the final presentation of the audit. She introduced Bikky

Shrestha and Vasily Shportko to present the fiscal year 2022 financial report and audit.

MR. SHRESTHA stated that he did the interim presentation at the last board meeting. There had not been any significant changes made since, and he went through the report to the board in this meeting. He went through the audit wrap-up document. At this point, the audit of the financial statements were completed. The audit was done in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. He continued that the objective of the audit was to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements were free from material misstatements. Very important was the issue of an unmodified or a clean opinion on the financial statements, and all records and information requested were freely available for inspection. Management cooperation was excellent throughout the whole process. Any significant changes in accounting principles or policies would be disclosed here. For 2022, the provision of GASB 87 was implemented, which required all of the lease assets to be brought into the books. That was the big change in the financial statement this year compared to last year. As far as corrected and uncorrected misstatements, there were no uncorrected misstatements, but there were a couple of corrected misstatements included in the representation letter attached.

CHAIR HALTERMAN reflected that Trustee Boerner rejoined the meeting.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked about the \$8 million adjustment and then the lands adjustment, and asked if they were a result of an internal policy failure.

MS. HOWARTH replied that the \$8 million was an interesting issue. There was a journal entry that was entered twice, and the reporting system generated different starting balances through the process.

MR. SHRESTHA stated that if they were aware of any consultations that management had with other accountants regarding audit matters, it would be noted here. If there were any disagreements with management or any other complicated issues, they would be noted here. At the end of this document was the representation letter that management signed as part of the audit, which is included here.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees accept the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority basic financial statements and government accounting standard auditors' report for the year ended June 30, 2022, was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

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.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Finance Committee update and report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE AND REPORT

MS. HOWARTH continued that at the last meeting the focus was on statutory updates from the managers that manage the financial resources. There was also a quarterly dashboard that did not

include the September Alaska Permanent Fund management reports for the financials. She went through the final third-quarter report.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for a motion.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that this was fully discussed during the Finance Committee meeting in October. The Finance Committee approved it, and it was now coming to the Full Board for approval.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve the Finance Committee’s recommendation to authorize the transfer of \$18,420,500 from the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Budget Reserve Account to the Mental Health Settlement Income account to finance the fiscal year 2023 base disbursement payout calculation; the CFO may fulfill this motion with one lump sum or multiple transfers, was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

MS. WARNER stated that there was one motion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for the motion.

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 dispose of Trust parcel CRM-1138-01 through a negotiated sale or subsequent disposal was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

MS. WARNER explained that this was for the disposal of a 67-acre parcel that is split by the Glacier Highway in Juneau. At this time, there is a negotiated sale at 30 percent above the fair-market value resulting in a sale price of \$1,075,000. Should the board concur with this, the TLO will move forward with a best-interest decision and public notice of that for 30 days.

CHAIR HALTERMAN took the roll-call vote.

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

MS. WARNER stated that it was mentioned that today was the fall competitive land sale bid opening, and the preliminary results show \$2.7 million in revenue. That beat last year by \$1 million. She continued that there were 71 parcels in the auction, and 53 of those sold. The fair-market value for all 71 parcels sat at about \$2.7 million. She explained that the parcels that did not sell will go on the over-the-counter, on the website, and are essentially “Buy it Now.” All of the processes have been completed, and they will be sold with a premium.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that was a great job, and added his appreciation and congratulations for all the work done over at the TLO.

PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Program & Planning Committee update. She noted that this particular request was an item that had been in front of the committee and requires Full Board approval.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that this was reviewed by the Program & Planning Committee, and this recommendation is brought forward to the Full Board. It is to approve fiscal year 2023 Mental Health and Addiction Intervention Focus Area allocation to the Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Incorporated, which is doing business as the Alaska Behavioral Health for the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve the Program & Planning Committee's recommendation to approve the \$801,039 FY2023 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Focus Area allocation to Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Incorporated, doing business as Alaska Behavioral Health, for the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team project; these funds will come from the FY2023 Crisis Continuum of Care budget line, was made by TRUSTEE BOERNER; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

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

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that the report was on page 210 and reflects the summary of the agenda, and the presentations from the October 20 Program & Planning Committee meeting.

TRUST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

CEO WILLIAMS stated that at the committee meetings in October it was requested that staff provide an update on the technical assistance and grant-writing proposal contract. The presentation will be done by Jimael Johnson and Kelda Barstad.

MS. JOHNSON began with a brief history that the contracted services were developed over 14 years ago in response to the recognition that agencies had needs that were best met with really flexible and responsive resources. The contracted services emerged out of the recognized need to be flexible and to have a pool of resources that was ready to be tapped into. The objectives were to increase the agencies' capacities to better serve and to serve more Trust beneficiaries, as well as assisting those agencies to be responsive and supportive of Trust-sponsored initiatives, as well as those initiatives that the State was working on to help build out as a network. She moved to the grant-writing and proposal development contract, beginning with an overview of the services within that contract, talked about the current contractor, and then gave examples of what that contract supported over the last couple of years.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if the funding opportunity is posted anywhere, or if that was just curated for internal use.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that, at this point, it is not posted so that it was publicly

facing. There had been some discussions about that, and it would be something to consider in the future.

A brief discussion ensued.

MS. JOHNSON explained the predevelopment service that helps an agency look at their strategic and organizational capacity, and to do some conceptual planning to prepare for funding opportunities. She stated that the current contractor is Denali Daniels & Associates, which was awarded the contract this fiscal year through a competitive RFP process. This current contract has four optional annual renewals, and we could be working with Denali Daniels & Associates on this contract through FY27, if they so choose.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there are public comments on the agenda and called a break.

(Break.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there was one written record from Faith Meyers which was in the packet. She continued that there were two people online, and recognized Michele Girault online.

MS. GIRAULT stated that she was the president of the board of the Key Coalition of Alaska and also the executive director of Hope Community Resources. She informed the board of the Key Coalition's focused priorities in 2023. There is a Memorandum of Agreement with the Association of Providers which will keep their platform issues focused on the DD shared vision in Alaska state statute. That talks about a system that is flexible for stakeholders, supports professional staff, supports self-determination, and allows people to have a robust life in the community. The system has been in a state of distress, and the pandemic made it worse. The board is well aware of some of those issues. Workforce continues to be a challenge, and some of the systemic issues still need work. She talked about some of the items for rebuilding their system; finding a path for fiscal stability for providers so they would be able to accept new people. She explained that the Key Coalition was made up of a number of groups: Parents, guardians, primary stakeholders, Peer Power of Alaska, the Association of Direct Support Professionals, and AADD. She thanked the trustees for their time.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Girault and recognized Michael Bailey and Kim Champney.

MR. BAILEY stated that he was with the Alaska Association of Developmental Disability Providers, and had been there for a number of years, in partnership with Michele Girault. He came with a heart of gratitude, of thanks to the trustees and staff for supporting the ongoing advancement of the shared vision that was about some system flexibility and remaining person-centered for the beneficiaries. He thanked the Trust for their support in innovation efforts, especially around intentional communities as the workforce changes are experienced, looking at innovative ways where natural supports can blend, and paid supports was the direction of the future. He introduced Kim Champney, who was involved in the provider organization, then served on the AADD as board president and spent six years in her own consulting business. Now she has been successfully recruited back as the executive director, replacing Lizette Stiehr.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that she wanted to come on and recognize the Trust's investment. She continued that she had been in the field for 25 years, and has never seen the service system this fragile. Many beneficiaries with developmental disabilities do not have access to services because of staff shortages. She echoed Mr. Bailey's gratitude. The ability that the Trust provides with products like the rate study and the care coordination evaluation, as well as support at different events, opportunities and outreach, is saving the system. It is the thread holding the people together.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked them and asked for any other members online that would like to give public comment. There not being any, she closed public comment. She stated that written comments are always welcome and may be submitted to the trustees at any time. The comments can also be submitted via e-mail at public.comment@mhtrust.org, faxed to 907-269-7966, or mailed to 3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. She recessed the meeting.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Full Board meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.)