

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 21, 2022
8:30 a.m.
WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

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

Trustees Present:

Verne' Boerner, Chair
Chris Cooke
Brent Fisher
Anita Halterman
John Sturgeon
Kevin Fimon
Rhonda Boyles

Trust Staff Present:

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

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner

Also participating:

Gennifer Moreau-Johnson; Jenny Weisshaupt; Jillian Gellings; Charity Carmody; Kathy Craft; Kenneth Kuykendall; Lisa Hodges; Stephanie Hopkins; Tom McRoberts; Joan O'Keefe; Sarah Chapel; Jayla Milford; Robin Dempsey; David Wright; Director Kim Guay; Deputy Commissioner Clinton Lasley; Nicole Borromeo; Michelle Dewitt.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR BOERNER greeted all in her Native language and introduced herself. She called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. Trustee Boyles was excused. There was a quorum. She asked for any announcements. She shared that she had the honor of sitting on the Governor's Council on Human Sex Trafficking. They had their first meeting, and she thanked Travis Welch who agreed to provide technical support for her while serving on the Council. She reported that the first meeting was introductory and that she will provide updates of subcommittee activities. She moved to the agenda and asked for a motion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CHAIR BOERNER stated that there would be a change in the schedule for the trustees waiting for the Legislative approval process for their hearings, but that would most likely be done without any changes in the order of the agenda. She moved to a roll-call vote.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of the Program & Planning Committee meeting of January 6, 2022, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

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

CHAIR BOERNER continued to the CEO update.

CEO UPDATE

MR. WILLIAMS reported that they are recruiting for the senior program officer's position and he hoped to fill that position in the next few weeks. The information on the job description and the application process can be found on the website. He moved to the FY23 budget and the legislative budget process. He stated that the anticipation is that the Senate Finance Committee may start taking up amendments on the budget bills. Depending on how that goes will drive the other conversations around the operating budget. He added that the current version also accounts for forward funding education, as well as some funding for the statutory budget reserve. He stated that there were no significant differences from what trustees recommended, which was a huge positive. He noted that the capital budget had not been released. He continued to the

Chair's role on the Governor's Task Force related to Human Sex Trafficking and talked about Trustee Halterman on the Governor's People First Initiative, the Council on Homelessness. Kelda Barstad is supporting Trustee Halterman on that task force. The Council is scheduled to come up with draft recommendations by the fall, which is on track. He added that Trustee Halterman is also on the Governor's Council on Opioid Remediation, which is supported by Katie Baldwin. There is an ongoing effort with the Division of Public Health on how the State can move forward with its plan for opioid remediation, and we will continue to provide updates. He moved to the implementation of the Crisis Now model, which is moving forward. He stated that there is a hearing in front of House Finance where they would be taking public testimony. He complimented and stated appreciation for the work of the Department in this effort, and would continue keeping the trustees informed. He then moved to the May board meeting planned for Kenai on May 25-26. The plan is to get the bulk of the board business finished on the first day, and we have planned site visits, both programmatic and related to the activities of the Trust Land Office, for the second day. There is also a panel presentation planned from the community to talk about how behavioral health crises are managed or handled on the Kenai Peninsula. He then took the opportunity to thank Deputy Commissioner Tim Lasley, Director Kim Guay and Nicole Borromeo for joining the meeting to help get grounded on where Alaska is with the child foster care system, the child welfare system. He recognized Ms. Baldwin-Johnson for an update on the FY24-25 budget development process.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON gave a brief update on the internal budget development process, which is a very time-intensive, stakeholder-engaging effort. It looks at the needs of the systems, with feedback from the partners and stakeholders that serve all of the beneficiaries, as well as looking at the data and information available internally based on the types of projects funded, how well they were doing, and whether anyone is better off or not. She talked about the process of pulling together the review of the FY22 MHTAAR projects, and the stakeholder survey has been posted. This mechanism is for inviting feedback and input from the partners on priorities, the gaps and opportunities to think about as the '24-'25 budget is developed.

MS. BIASTOCK introduced herself as the Chief Communications Officer for the Mental Health Trust. She said that there would be more about the conference in the future communication program update, and she wanted to give a brief update on some of the work to date. She reminded all that last year the trustees suggested, and staff agreed, that a Trust-sponsored conference would be a great use of Trust resources. There was \$180,000 approved for the conference, and the services of event-planning support had been engaged. She continued that this event was envisioned as an opportunity to be a place to create time, for opportunities to share ideas and data all pertinent to Trust beneficiaries. She added that the prime audience is the Trust-beneficiary-serving partners; and we hope the event will be valuable to the Trust beneficiaries, the policymakers and policy influencers. She went through some of the preparations and then stated that the dates selected for the event were September 27th and 28th. The top floor of the Dena'ina Convention Center was secured for the event, and we have also added a day of preconference workshops. She noted that the conference name will be The Improving Lives Conference, and a logo has been developed. Improving lives aligns and lives in the mission of the Trust, as well as with the Guiding Principles.

MR. WILLIAMS stated appreciation for the trustees' support and enthusiasm for the work that went into this planning. There is still a lot of work to be done. He added that they are on the

path to a successful conference.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked all and moved to the next item on the agenda, Child Welfare and Foster Care in Alaska. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson for some background and context.

CHILD WELFARE AND FOSTER CARE IN ALASKA

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON asked Jimael Johnson to introduce the folks here. She stated that the topic was timely, and we are looking forward to learning more and discussing other thoughts and ideas.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation to Trustee Sturgeon for raising this point and talked about her mother being a foster parent and her own experience of being a primary caregiver. She asked Ms. Johnson to introduce the guests.

MS. JOHNSON stated that she is a program officer with the Trust. She continued that one of her focus areas is children's mental health, early childhood, and everything that encompasses that, which includes the child welfare system and foster care system. She echoed her gratitude for Trustee Sturgeon bringing this to the group, and for the support of the trustees for this conversation. She stated the honor of being joined by the esteemed partners from the State, Deputy Commissioner Lasley and Director Kim Guay. She added that Nicole Borromeo from the Alaska Federation of Natives will also be here. She gave some more background and talked about the objectives for the presentation. She began with a video.

(Video played.)

MS. JOHNSON stated that the video was from the Child Welfare Academy and partners. She turned over the presentation to Deputy Commissioner Lasley of Family, Community and Integrated Services.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LASLEY thanked the trustees for the opportunity to talk about this really important topic of child welfare and the foster care system. He continued that the introduction video set the tone of its importance and how it touches so many lives in the state of Alaska. He talked about the reorganization at the Department of Health and Social Services that will go into effect on July 1. He discussed the challenges, and the hope of what the reorganization would accomplish. He asked Director Guay to continue.

DIRECTOR GUAY started by sharing her appreciation for the opportunity to have this important conversation. She moved to the highlights of the vision and mission of the Office of Children's Services. She stated that it was a reactionary agency; something comes to them, and then they look at what is needed to take care of it. She explained that they do get quite a bit of Federal funding, and some it is allocated for primary prevention. They also put out grants and contracts to different community providers for primary prevention. This is an important area at the Office of Children's Services because the capacity to do a lot of prevention work is not available and we are looking to do some expansion. The Federal Government is urging child welfare agencies to get more into the work of prevention and would also like to expand into that area. She talked about the opportunities for prevention, which is the hotline. She described the procedure for the investigations and the intakes, which are centralized. The hotline system is in

Anchorage. She described the array of services available. She moved to foster care licensing, and talked about the unlicensed relative. She explained that some of the foster parents are relatives, and some of the relatives just choose not to be licensed. She talked about the workings of the foster care system and stated that there are many people involved in the foster care system as far as agency partners such as public defenders, guardians ad litem, all in the best interests of the children. She highlighted that they are highly regulated, and due process is always overseen. They are reviewed by the Federal Government every four to five years, and also report on safety, permanency, and well-being for the foster kids. She noted the five regions that the Office of Children's Services was divided into. She talked about turnover in the front-line staff, with the majority leaving in the first year. Recruiting is continuous, and some of the people applying do not have the qualifications like they used to. She stated that there was a different set of staff called social services associates, who make sure that families have contact with their children. The best time to engage the family is when children are removed. Waiting too long causes things to go adrift. Parents may use it as an opportunity to use more substances. She explained that 80 percent of the cases are due to substance use or misuse. One of the issues was not enough service providers that are timely, and the waitlists are too long. There are Federal timelines to get the children to permanency, which is 15 months. She continued that children experience trauma; and staff also experience terrible trauma. She added that secondary trauma is real, and she talked about a critical incident debriefing because of a threat to kill staff. She talked about the Governor's People First Initiative looking at the foster care system and that she was part of that group.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LASLEY reemphasized that the issues are vast and are not just within the Office of Children's Services. He wanted all to start thinking about well-being in the state of Alaska, and how to start providing services for the parents asking for help because they do not want to lose their children. The vision for the Department is to be able to have the conversations and not be mired down in the day-to-day activities, but to find ways to solve the issues.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON thanked Deputy Commissioner Lasley and Director Guay for the thoughtful presentations, and she believed that this conversation and understanding this is inherently important to making the connection between the Trust doing work with folks that are struggling with addiction, with mental illness, with poor health outcomes, who are bouncing in and out of the juvenile correctional system. That is directly connected to the incubation of these traumas, and compounding traumas in a child's life over time. What is being seen is the impact of this compounding trauma that just builds and builds. It is important for the Trust to understand why people are struggling with addiction to the degree they do.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that she could hear their hearts in the work they are doing for the children, families and their colleagues. Another thought is that the mental health of those trying to help was being affected. She was appreciative of the emphasis on not waiting until individuals were in places of crisis before intervening.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated his shock at all the information shared. He asked about the incredibly low rate of actual investigations.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LASLEY stated that this was one of the challenges with the

bandwidth of what can be investigated and what does not meet the criteria for investigation. One of the things that can be provided is the data, which can also be provided to tribal partners. There is the need to start developing well-being programs in communities.

DIRECTOR GUAY stated that the statute on intakes and what is investigated is broad, and she gave a couple of examples. She continued that there is a regulation that prevents sharing some of the screen-outs without the parents' permission. She talked about going out, investigating, and trying to refer services. Many do not use the services recommended.

CHAIR BOERNER called a ten-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER welcomed Nicole Borromeo and looked forward to her presentation. She gave Trustee Sturgeon an opportunity to put some comments into the record to address now or have staff look for the answers later.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Deputy Commissioner Lasley and Director Guay, and stated that he asked them, during the break, if there was something that the Trust could do on a piece of the big problem. He stated his appreciation if they would help guide us.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked Trustee Sturgeon and asked Ms. Johnson to provide an introduction for Ms. Borromeo.

MS. JOHNSON stated appreciation for the conversation prior to the break and looked forward to it continuing in this section. She stated that this section would focus on more of the upstream opportunities, and it was framed around the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan. The two goals in the Comp Plan most relevant to the work in the child welfare system and the foster care system are goal No. 1 related to early childhood, and the more specific goal No. 6, which is about protecting vulnerable Alaskans. She introduced Nicole Borromeo, executive vice president and general counsel with the Alaska Federation of Natives, and a neutral negotiator on behalf of the Child Welfare Compact.

MS. BORROMEEO stated appreciation for the invitation to talk about the Tribal Child Welfare Compact that has been in place for five years. She began with a video.

(Video played.)

MS. BORROMEEO explained that she is licensed as a lawyer to practice law in Alaska, Washington and Hawaii. She noted that Alaskan Native children are about 15 percent of the State's population, and are 60 percent of the kids in State custody. She continued that the other reason the State experiences retention difficulties within the Office of Children's Services is that it is very stressful work with a high degree of turnover. She explained that the Compact did not originate five years ago, but had been a decades-long labor of love between State, tribal representatives and other invited stakeholders. They began with three goals: to strengthen the State's compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act; to reduce the disproportionality numbers; and then to build and strengthen the working relationships between the tribes and the State. She

continued her presentation, explaining as she went through the slides. She added that it is an exciting time for the Trust to be approaching the Compact parties to talk about working together, because the State is very supportive of prevention, and the tribes have talked about how to work internally for their own assessments to figure out what other stresses families are under. In addition to being on the cutting edge of law and policy, it is a public-private partnership. She went through the long-term goals of the Compact, which is to have Alaska's children and families served as close to home as possible, Native and nonNative alike; overall improving the life outcomes of Alaska's children and their families, particularly within the Alaska Native community.

CHAIR BOERNER stated appreciation for the presentation and providing the background. She asked the trustees for any questions.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Ms. Borromeo for coming. He stated that tribes are doing a great job, and he was curious if the corporations actually got involved in assisting the tribes at all.

MS. BORROMEO replied that the assistance came indirectly through financial contributions. The video that was shown at the beginning was funded through the contributions.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that it was a great presentation and added that it was important for the State and the tribal organizations to work together. It was great to hear about all the things that were done, including the Compact.

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that the Trust planned to sponsor a conference at the end of September called the Improving Lives Conference. This would bring together many groups, individuals and beneficiaries that are interested and involved in providing services to Trust beneficiaries. He invited Ms. Borromeo and her organization to work with staff to see what common interests were shared, and what participation would be appropriate for the upcoming conference.

CHAIR BOERNER noted that Ms. Johnson had a few slides that the trustees may be interested in.

MS. JOHNSON gave an overview of some of the additional opportunities that both complement and rely on the child welfare compacting to become successful. She stated that there are a number of bodies of work happening with a number of partners, and she highlighted Alaska Impact Alliance; the State Infant Learning Program; and ASHNHA, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, looking at data around what was happening and for better understanding.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that provided an encompassing picture from the State's presentations to AFN's and to what the Trust is doing. She asked for any questions. There being none, she expressed gratitude for the incredible presentations. She thanked Deputy Commissioner Lasley and Director Guay for staying for the entire presentations and hoped for continuing conversations. She called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CRISIS NOW UPDATE

CHAIR BOERNER welcomed all back and moved to the Crisis Now Update. She invited Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Eric Boyer and Travis Welch to present.

MR. BOYER noted that part of the process of learning while working with partners at the State level and out in the community was thinking about funding for the new mechanisms in the service array. He added that it is definitely taking some time to do the planning and implementation. He talked about the series of four TV spots that came out and are running through May, and that they were working because beneficiaries and stakeholders are reaching out, and also people who had never heard of the Trust called about services. This is one of the efforts in educating the community about the Trust's role and how we are focused on improving their lives and getting support to community members. He stated that this project was engaged with the Department, the Division of Behavioral Health and the stakeholders for four years, and he went through the model and best practices. He talked about changing the system of care, and how this model is changing the paradigm: to be able to accept anyone with some level of need when they come in the door. It takes the burden off law enforcement not needing correctional centers to be part of the solution, and also takes the burden off emergency departments. He explained that the project was at various stages of Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3, and they want the story to be out of how it is developing. He added that Agnew::Beck is the project manager statewide for this initiative, and their work is amazing. The call center, Alaska Care Line, is the national suicide prevention lifeline, and he explained how it was doing. He then talked about Open Beds, which is the access and referral network; the mobile crisis team is part of the network. This is an evolving system. Legislation is critical, and it fully implements no wrong door so that law enforcement has more options than just the emergency room or jail.

MR. WILLIAMS stated that the partnership with the Department and Heather Carpenter is getting the legislation through to process. He also acknowledged the Department of Public Safety, and Commissioner Cockrell provided invited testimony at each of the hearings. He continued that public testimony was heard from NAMI, Emergency Room Doctors' Association, individual emergency room doctors, as well as the Disability Law Center and others.

MR. BOYER stated the need to really promote the framework. He continued that the purpose is the impact to the partners. He added that the financial program sustainability conversations at the commissioner level, Governor level, legislative, the partners, Rasmuson, Mat-Su Health Foundation continue on.

CHAIR BOERNER called a five-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR BOERNER moved into the approval section and stated that the first item is the Crisis Now Project Management Contract Funds.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommended that the Trust approve \$200,000 of fiscal year '22 Mental Health & Addiction Intervention focus area, Crisis

Now Initiative funding, for a one-year contract renewal on the Crisis Now Initiative project, management contract services provided by Agnew::Beck Consulting, Inc. was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that this was an approval and not a recommendation to the Full Board. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to provide the background.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON pointed out that there were five approvals on the docket. She stated that the order of the approvals was intentional beginning with the request for the contract funds. This would enable a third-year renewal to work with Agnew::Beck as the primary project management entity on this initiative.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked who Agnew::Beck reported to.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that, for this contract specifically, she is the contract manager and Agnew::Beck reported to her. She monitored their progress on the work plan, the deliverables, the timelines and also the cost. She stated that there would be value in the future to consider a joint presentation to help articulate the complexity of the work and progress that is happening.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that was a good suggestion.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the next item, the United Human Services of Southeast Alaska – Teal Street Center.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee moved approval of a \$300,000 fiscal year '22 partnership grant to United Human Services of Southeast Alaska for the Teal Street Center Phase 3 project was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR BOERNER recognized Kelda Barstad.

MS. BARSTAD noted that online were Joan O'Keefe, executive director of United Human Services of Southeast Alaska, as well as Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center; and Sarah Chapel, the campaign coordinator for Teal Street Center. She explained that the Teal Street Center project came before trustees a couple of years ago when it was still in the planning phases. It is an innovative and collaborative project that brought together the creation of a nonprofit facility so that multiple nonprofit agencies could come together under that roof for reduced rent. It benefits those providers by reducing the administrative overhead and the work done to obtain and maintain facilities. So, the amount of money spent on direct services for beneficiaries is increased. A wide variety of services that people can obtain on the Teal Street

Center and St. Vincent de Paul will be a core part of service availability for the community.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked for the meaning of the acronym Pre-ETS.

MS. O'KEEFE replied that Pre-ETS is through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and it helps youth in transition from being a youth to being an adult.

TRUSTEE FISHER reviewed the funding sources and stated substantial other funding for this project and asked when it will be secured.

MS. O'KEEFE replied that the City and Borough of Juneau helped leverage \$1.1 million early on, and then with the price escalation, they introduced 1.3 million additional dollars, which will be voted on next Monday.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to Nome's Housing First Project.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee moved the approval of \$375,000 for fiscal year '23 Home & Community Based Services focus area allocation to the Nome Community Center for Nome's Housing First Project, Homeplate, LLC, was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR BOERNER recognized Kelda Barstad.

MS. BARSTAD stated that Nome Community Center embarked on building a new building for the permanent supportive housing project Homeplate. Homeplate would be Nome's first permanent Supportive housing project, and it had been in a planning process for a long time. It was exciting to see it get through the predevelopment stage and be in a place where majority funding and construction could begin. She explained that permanent supportive housing is an evidence-based intervention and provides a combination of long-term housing that is subsidized, and supportive services are offered and tailored to the individual. This project would transform homeless services and housing for individuals in Nome, and it will serve about half of the individuals that have been identified as qualifying for this service.

A brief discussion ensued.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Bethel Community Services Foundation – Bethel Permanent Supportive Housing Project.

MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee approve a \$375,000 FY23 Home & Community Based Services focus area allocation to Bethel Community Services for the Bethel Permanent Supportive Housing Project was made by TRUSTEE COOKE; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this project was similar to the Nome Project with some key differences. In Bethel this would be the first permanent supportive housing project and would house 20 Trust beneficiaries. It will use the permanent supportive housing model and the Housing First model and would serve 100 percent Trust beneficiaries. This project would have secured funding from AHFC through the goal round of funding. She added that Michelle Dewitt, the executive director from the Bethel Community Service Foundation, and Jayla Milford, the executive director of Bethel Winter House are both online.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked about a timeline for construction and opening.

MS. DEWITT replied that the plan was to install a foundation system this fall/winter and to have construction complete and occupants, tenants in the building by December 2024. She added that there was a good chance that it would be occupancy-ready well in advance of December, 2024.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated concern with the shelter being part of an overnight shelter and a vulnerable population being housed together.

MS. DEWITT stated that this would be very unique for a permanent supportive housing project to co-exist so closely to an emergency shelter. It had not yet been done in the state. She continued that the needs for today and the sustainability needs are being looked at with the understanding that the shared services may not always be needed over the next 20 or so years.

MS. MILFORD noted that currently individuals who stay at the shelter are used as semi-contract workers who help during the evening as needed. She added that it proved to be helpful for the year they had been open.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to the Catholic Social Services Complex Care Shelter and asked for a motion.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommended the approval of \$500,000 fiscal year '22 for Home & Community Based Services focus area allocation to Catholic Social Services for the Complex Care Shelter was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

TRUSTEE COOKE pointed out that this is not a recommendation but an approval, because the \$500,000 is the authorized limit for funding directly from the Program & Planning Committee.

CHAIR BOERNER stated that the court reporter said it was stated as a recommendation and the motion needed to be re-read into the record.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee moved to approve \$500,000 of fiscal year '22 Home & Community Based Services focus area allocation to Catholic Social Services for the Complex Care Shelter was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR BOERNER asked Ms. Barstad to provide some background.

MS. BARSTAD stated that Robin Dempsey, executive director of Catholic Social Services, and David Wright, chief operations officer of Catholic Social Services, were online and available for questions, or to expand upon the details of the project. The Complex Care Shelter is a project that resulted from a complex community discussion on solving homelessness in Anchorage. This project was one of the specific solutions that would impact Trust beneficiaries the most. There are a large number of individuals that are homeless and need a significant amount of follow-up medical care. She explained the project in greater detail. A group of individuals formed the Homeless Leadership Council and engaged in the work to rapidly acquire properties. The Sockeye Inn was purchased and is held by a nonprofit entity. Catholic Social Services obtained the contract to manage and operate the facility so individuals that require additional services and are homeless and need the transition into one of the more complex service systems can be supported before they can take the next step. She recommended this project because it would have a huge impact. The number of beds is 61, and there were 61 individuals, plus the opportunity to double up in some of the rooms, if necessary.

TRUSTEE COOKE asked if the building would continue to be owned by the nonprofit and asked about food.

MS. DEMPSEY replied that the current plan is for Ship Creek Community Assets to continue as the owner of the building. With respect to the meals, there would be contracting to make sure that there are three meals a day provided to the participants that stay in this particular shelter. There are also some small kitchenettes and refrigerators that would be available.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that this was a real bargain for the Trust, and asked if the local Assembly supported this project.

MS. BARSTAD replied that this was one of the projects identified through the negotiated agreement between the Mayor and the Assembly.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if 1915 funds were being leveraged for populations that may be eligible for additional Medicaid funds for assistance with providing things for supporting them to get into stable housing.

MS. DEMPSEY replied that she did not believe they were. She stated that there are more and

more options for Medicaid to assist with housing, but we have not yet taken advantage of some of the available opportunities.

CHAIR BOERNER asked for any further questions. There being none, she called a roll-call vote.

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

CHAIR BOERNER moved to trustee comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE COOKE stated that he had been on the road in his motorhome for about six weeks, which the longest time he had been out from Alaska. He continued that they had experienced the beautiful and wonderful country and the friendly people. He was saddened that much of the housing was poor, the old town centers and downtowns, are dotted with vacant buildings and looking like their best days were behind them. He was surprised by the newest and most modern-looking facilities passed by were hospitals and health centers. He added that the Board continues doing a great job, and he thoroughly enjoyed his participation on the Mental Health Trust Authority Board. He appreciated all the efforts that staff consistently made to make the meetings informative, substantive and productive. Thank you.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked the staff for everything they do and providing everything that is needed. He stated that there were some incredible presentations and he enjoyed them.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked all and staff for doing a great job. He stated appreciation for all the preparatory work from both staff and outside contractors for all their help.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked Chair Boerner for running a very good meeting and thanked staff for all the material they put together. He stated that there were some great presentations, and he hoped that the Trust could help to try and solve some of the foster care problems.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked staff and stated that she walked away with a lot of information and actually gained a lot of new insights. She continued that one of the things that resonated with her was that most of the children in placement are under the age of five years old. She added that she would like to see community supports in place to keep families together. She thanked Chair Boerner for running a great meeting and thanked everyone.

CHAIR BOERNER thanked all for their flexibility and making adjustments. She asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Cooke, yes;

*Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes;
Chair Boerner, yes.)*

(Program & Planning Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:00 o'clock p.m.)