

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

January 25, 2023

11:30 a.m.

WebEx Videoconference/Teleconference

Originating at:

**Elizabeth Peratovich Hall
320 West Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801**

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Verne' Boerner (Virtual)
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
Travis Welch
Jimael Johnson
Carrie Predeger

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Jeff Green

Also participating: Patrick Reinhardt; Beverly Schoonover; Jon Haghayeghi; Heidi Lieb-Williams; Brenda Moore; Mary David; Thomas Norris; Don Habeger; Michele Girault; Barb Rath; Hannah Ashenfelter; Lee Breinig; Dr. Robert Sewell.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and asked for any announcements. She began with a roll call and stated that there was a quorum. There being no announcements, she moved into the Alaska SHARP program and asked CEO Williams to do the introductions.

ALASKA SHARP PROGRAM

CEO WILLIAMS stated that Robert Sewell had been on the phone telephonically several times talking about what was being done related to workforce and SHARP. He added that the success of SHARP was a big piece of Robert Sewell's legacy. He asked Eric Boyer to continue.

MR. BOYER introduced Dr. Robert Sewell stating that he worked with the Division of Public Health. SHARP is a very successful program which continues expanding and also highlights the importance of the partnerships with the State of Alaska, through the Department of Health, the Trust and the community partners, tribal and nontribal. He continued that this partnership extends beyond the border of the state because the Health Resources Services Administration, HRSA, is the federal organization that helps to sustain and push this program to help with the health care workforce. He added that the partnership between the Trust and the Division of Public Health has been the critical juggernaut that has made this program what it is today.

DR. SEWELL stated that he was honored to be here and went through some of the high points related to the health care workforce issue. He continued that, each year, they were required to submit an annual report to the Trust, which was in your in-box. There was also a file of the LOGIC model which was important in a number of things, and he went through five themes. He stated that when talking about SHARP, to please do not lead with the loan repayment program. SHARP is about increasing access to health care by advancing the health care workforce. The next strategy is a way to focus on enhancing recruitment and retention through the use of financial inducements: Support for Service. He talked about some of the different tactics for Support for Service. He stated that SHARP is an interagency effort to produce the practitioners needed. The SHARP Council is the oversight body that was ensconced in state statute; it is the law. He continued through his presentation, explaining as he went along. He talked about the tiers that were part of AS 18.29 and said that they were ways to chop up the entire health care service system into a level of potential and benefit. He moved to results and focused on the people who came and stayed.

Dr. Adam McMahona is a physician in Haines and lives there with his family. After longevity, he talked about the contracts. There were 612 contracts in four different categories which continue to expand: Admin, behavioral health, dental, and medical. By the end of next month, there should be around 635. He thanked the Trust and concluded his presentation.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Dr. Sewell and asked for any questions or comments from the trustees.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked if any studies or surveys were done on what would attract someone besides the money, and what would make them stay.

DR. SEWELL replied that the Prism Survey results that were shown were a part of a very

extensive collection of queries about these people, their lives, their families, and the community. He stated that he would get some of the results to the trustees. He also talked about retention.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked Dr. Sewell for the presentation and stated that he was an employer in the healthcare field. Because recruiting is a challenge to Alaska, we do some of our own training of the technical sleep technologists in collaboration with colleges that provide the academic training and provide the technical training. He continued that when he moved to Alaska, he and his family found the people very friendly and welcoming. He added that one of the things in recruiting is the cost of living. People are wary about whether they could live on what they would be paid. He asked if he was ever involved with anyone with regard to those issues as far as retention is concerned.

DR. SEWELL replied that he was a community booster and was on the Douglas Plan Steering Committee. Each year he bankrolls and helps set up the Fritz Creek Block Party for Douglas, and he does this every summer. He believes in community, and some communities have a lot to offer to newcomers. SHARP is only one part of a set of strategies to help people come and stay. He talked about some examples and replied that he did not have an answer; just a bunch of thoughts and worries.

TRUSTEE BOERNER commented that she has long been a fan of SHARP and the benefits of it in Alaska overall. The discussion was pertinent when looking at the FASFA and the financial aid applications, and not considered is the fact that Alaskans are often maintaining a home plus paying expenses where they are, which is her current situation. Having a program like this for those investing time in those fields is very powerful and does great things for the state.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all for the comments and called for a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and asked Travis Welch to continue with the Re-entry Simulation Orientation.

RE-ENTRY SIMULATION ORIENTATION

MR. WELCH briefly touched on re-entry and some of what the Trust does as far as the partnerships when it comes to re-entry. He continued into the re-entry simulation and the importance of providing someone with the services and supports that were needed so they could successfully re-enter society, whether it was probation, the involvement with the court system, or if they just had flat time and were released back to society so they do not recidivate back to the Department of Corrections. He continued that the Trust partnered with the Department of Corrections with just under a million dollars in the FY24 budget. DOC is a valuable partner in providing these services. He moved to the re-entry simulation and explained that each would receive a little folder with their story. It will give a name, the tools you have, the supports you have, and gives what is needed to be done, where to go while on probation. It would be role-playing. A key point is that an important part of re-entry is having an ID. That ID gives the opportunity to get documents needed to get a job and things like that. That ID is a key part in being able to obtain the services needed to be successful throughout the re-entry experience. The re-entry simulation would be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Juneau Arts and Cultural Center. He

asked for any questions.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that Trustee Boerner would not be joining and asked her for any comments.

TRUSTEE BOERNER stated that she had been through it and that it is a worthwhile process.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed that it is a realistic process, and we get to witness the opportunity to try to get back on their feet, and she highly recommended everybody to participate if they have the opportunity.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if there was an extra layer added if there was a substance-use disorder or a mental health problem.

MR. WELCH replied that was part of this, and it is very realistic. The goal is to try to create an environment that is as real as it could possibly be. There are time limits that represent days or weeks, and there is a certain amount of time to complete the to-do list. It is made to be as realistic as possible. He noted that it is open to the community, and a number of members of the Legislature have been invited to participate.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked how other states compare with Alaska, and if Alaska is doing a good job. She asked if this would give the trustees some tools to help the Department of Corrections should we be in that position.

MR. WELCH replied that as far as recidivism rates go, they were high. As far as comparing them to other states, there is a lot that goes into that because different states define recidivism differently, which he explained. He stated that Alaska has a unified system, so pretrial and sentenced people are in the same facility. There are only a handful of unified systems in the country, and Alaska is one. He talked about the APIC program, which is a very valuable program for Trust beneficiaries because that ensures that the most acute re-entrants have supports and services to include housing, behavioral health services. It would ensure that they have what they need to stay out of Corrections as long as they possibly can.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any further questions. There being none, she moved to Trustee Comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

CHAIR HALTERMAN acknowledged Trustee Boerner and that this may be her last official meeting with the board, although there may be some work sessions in which she could be involved. She stated that Trustee Boerner was terming off of the board and not reapplying to continuing on. She continued that she was sad to see her go, but was excited for the new opportunities she would be facing armed with the knowledge, information and the benefit of having worked with this amazing body. She had made great contributions to the work done and would be sincerely missed. She recognized Trustee Boerner, and then asked Trustee Moran for any comments.

TRUSTEE MORAN thanked Trustee Boerner for all the support she provided and stated that she

was sorry not to be working with her going forward. She continued that it had been an informative two days and asked about a nurses' compact that was talked about at Bartlett and that Alaska did not participate in. The head of nursing seemed to think that would be one way to help attract more talent in the state. She asked for more information on that. She added that she was looking forward to Re-entry.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated appreciation for the Mission Moments and was impressed when people celebrate people. It extended into one of the longest comment periods since he became a trustee, and he was moved by the emotions and feelings expressed there. He also enjoyed the site visit. He stated that it was his pleasure over the last year and a half to work with Trustee Boerner. He continued that her representation from her region and culture was immeasurable and important.

TRUSTEE STURGEON thanked the staff for the great work in putting the meeting together. It was very much appreciated. He agreed with Trustee Fimon that the comments received were very useful, and it was nice to see the results of the Trust efforts as far as how the money was spent. It was invaluable to hear people say how they were helped, and he encouraged that. He stated that Trustee Boerner was going to be missed very, very much. She contributed a lot to the organization, and he hoped to bump into her again. He thanked her for all her hard work and that it was a pleasure to work with her.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that this was his first time being in Juneau as a trustee, and it was nice to be there and in this environment, particularly when everything was in Session. He looked forward to re-entering society. He continued and stated his pleasure in working with Trustee Boerner. Her positive and pleasant disposition and contribution had always been great. He looked forward to seeing her when she gets back to Alaska, maybe in some other capacity.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked staff and stated that she was proud to work with this staff and be a trustee. She thanked Trustee Boerner for always being the calm, clear articulation of information and insights. She continued that the only time in her public service life when she voted against her, she went and hugged her and apologized because that was how much respect she has for her. She added that she would miss her on this board. She kept all on task, and thinking the way we should, even if it was not a comfortable way of thinking in our life. She hoped that they would not miss her completely, and she better come back and visit.

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized CEO Williams.

CEO WILLIAMS shared some thoughts that resonated with the staff at the TAO, as well as the staff at the TLO. He also connected to the public comment heard yesterday as a connection to Trustee Boerner and the stories she shared about her personal life. That is the way we connect to the mission of the Trust. That is the way we try to understand how people walk the paths they walk in, the situations they are in. Her sharing her stories publicly in meetings helped us to understand our work, and he appreciated that. She also shared her expertise from the different lanes she walked in; brought her culture into the conversations in thinking about how to serve all of the beneficiaries from wherever they came from was not only educational but enriching.

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Trustee Boerner.

TRUSTEE BOERNER (Speaking Native Language). First, she thanked the staff for the amount of dedication, work hours, the patience they all put forward that helped enrich her experience. It helped her be prepared and put her best foot forward in the service of the beneficiaries. She thanked each and every one of them for their grace and kindness through all of that. To her peers, her fellow trustees, both current and past, thank you. Each of them were very inspirational passionate and dedicated. She loved the diversity of thought and told Trustee Boyles that she really appreciated that hug. She was all right when people did not agree with her or had a different experience. Having these discussions helped bring those perspectives, and she always felt respected and able to bring forward her thoughts, and she loved learning from each and every one of them. She was impressed with what the advisory boards do with so little. They are mission-driven and genuinely dedicated. She talked about the tribal partners who are a real strength for the work the Trust does. They have done some amazing things with regard to taking holistic approaches, and they are innovative. Their work is the real backbone to the public health of Alaska as a whole, and it was her honor to work for them, with them, and as a trustee. The Department partners at the State and the countless hours that she worked with them were absolutely amazing; dealing with the challenges of fiscal crises and putting forward ideas and looking for ways to address those with resources that we have or having to advocate for more. She added that the Alaska Legislature had been a real hero in some of the challenges faced to keep Alaska's obligation and responsibility to the beneficiaries that are fixed in our Constitution. The beneficiaries are inspirational and strong. The comments and past comments have done much to help the trustees and the public understand. She thanked them for their courage being brave and coming forward. She thanked her family and her tribe for both supporting her and also helping raise her and help her to understand that (speaking Native language) and the responsibility to tribe, and that the tribe is not just one tribe; there are many different tribes in our lives, and her trustee family was also one part of her tribes, as well. The work done by the trustees and staff also made an impact on her family, and she stated a very personal thank you. She was proud of the Comp Plan and hoped that the Alaska State Legislature puts those funds back in there because it helps us measure and know and move the needle and stay accountable; and the State to stay accountable, as well. It helps guide the direction of resources, as well. She talked about Crisis Now which is one of the steps along the way that helps build that infrastructure, and she was happy to see it moving outwards from the urban areas into Rural Alaska. She thanked all for indulging her the time and sent all her love. She was happy to say that Johns Hopkins was supporting her in traveling to Alaska for the 25th Annual Alaska Forum for the Environment. She added that she would be in Alaska the first week of February and hoped to see some of them. Thank you so much.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Boerner for her service and wished her 100 percent success. She was honored to serve with her. She thanked staff that prepared the trustees for these meetings. They were at the point to enter an Executive Session for the CEO performance evaluation.

MOTION: In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board of Trustees to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential information pertaining to the annual performance evaluation of the Trust's chief executive officer. This motion is made pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(b) and AS 44.62.310(c)2. Under applicable law, this discussion

should take place in Executive Session unless the CEO officer requests a public discussion. During the Executive Session, the Board of Trustees may also discuss information related to the CEO that is required to be kept confidential, pursuant to AS 44.62.310(c)3, and that is auxiliary to the chief executive officer annual performance evaluation was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that they had the votes to move into the Executive Session.

(Executive Session from 1:28 p.m. until 6:09 p.m.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated they were back on the record, and were ready to entertain a motion.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated, for the record, that he, his fellow trustees, and members of the Trust Authority returned to the Full Board of Trustees meeting from the Executive Session. During the Executive Session, the Board of Trustees only discussed the items identified in the motion to move into Executive Session. The Board of Trustees did not take any action while in Executive Session other than to give direction to its counsel pursuant to AS 44.62.310(b).

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN adjourned the meeting.

(Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.)