

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID/WEBEX
August 29 2023
8:30 a.m.**

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

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Brent Fisher
Kevin Fimon
Agnes Moran
John Sturgeon
John Morris
Rhonda Boyles

Trust Staff Present:

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

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Jeff Green
Sarah Morrison
Blain Alfonso
Ashley Oien
Heather Weatherall
Cole Hendrickson

Also participating:

John Springsteen; Stephanie Hopkins; Stephanie Wheeler; Patrick Reinhart; Jon Haghayeghi;
Commissioner Kim Koval; Commissioner Heidi Hedberg; Brent Moore; Marty Lang; Don

Habeger; Jenny Weisshaupt; Charlene Tautfest; Diane Fielden; Representative Justin Ruffridge; Leah Van Kirk; Julie Bussman; Lisa Cauble; Brenda Moore; Charity Lee; Alex Eissler; Sara Clark; Desiree Scott; Jenna Crafton; Robert Tasso; Steph Kings.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the Full Board meeting to order and began with a roll call. She stated that there was a quorum to do business and asked for any announcements. There being none, she moved to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any objections to the approval of the agenda or any amendments that were necessary. Hearing none, since all trustees were in the room, she considered the agenda approved.

REVIEW OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Guiding Principles in the packet and asked if there were any questions about them. Seeing and hearing none, she moved into the ethics disclosures.

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if there were any ethics disclosures.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that on Page 4 of the budget there was a grant to DVSA, victim transition supports, and she was a bit confused on who that was going to because the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is a State agency through Department of Public Safety. The network, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, is a membership program which is a member of ANDVSA. She receives funding from CDVSA, but that is all through a competitive grant process.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson or Mr. Williams to verify.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON asked Travis Welch the question.

MR. WELCH stated that the recommendation for this project was for there to be funding provided to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse to be able to support their member agencies which are a number of shelters that provide supports and services for women who were victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, as well as children. The child advocacy centers provide support services for juveniles, children for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and other violent crimes. They would be able to provide that funding to those agencies so they could support the people as they transition from receiving services in the shelter to being able to have housing and supports outside of the shelter. The transitional funding is for them to receive those services.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she was a member of that organization and was not sure if that qualified as a conflict. She asked if it needs to be pulled out separately from the budget discussions, and she would recuse herself.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that they would call that out specifically for her so that she could recuse herself from that discussion and then the subsequent action. He asked, for clarification, if they were Authority Grant funds going to the network and how the funds would be made available to member agencies.

MR. WELCH replied that this is Authority Grant funding provided to the network. He continued that the network has the mechanisms to provide support for their member agencies on a case-by-case basis for specific individuals receiving services, and they follow that same process within the network. He added that it is to serve individual people, and not a specific program.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Moran and asked for any other ethics disclosures. Hearing and seeing none, she moved to approval of the minutes, and asked for a motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes from the May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that the current bylaws were included in the packet as a reference for trustees.

MISSION MOMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Mission Moment and asked Jimael Johnson to introduce the folks from Volunteers of America.

MS. JOHNSON was pleased to introduce this morning's Mission Moment. She continued that they had representatives from the Volunteers of America-Alaska Kinship Program. She explained that kinship care is considered one of the best options for families whose children were not able to be cared for by their biological parents. She tied this back to the Trust mission and some of the previous conversations about children in foster care. Families that have generational trauma and experience a disruption that requires some child welfare interventions are a high priority. She added that this Mission Moment is an opportunity to highlight some of the work that the Trust has already been engaged with, and to add some more information and some personal experiences from some of the beneficiary families. She introduced Sara Clark, the vice president of programs with Volunteers of America; Desiree Scott, the Kinship program manager; and Alex Eissler, a Kinship care provider.

MS. SCOTT explained that the Kinship program provides support services to relative caregivers throughout Alaska who are raising their relative children. Those are some informal custody arrangements, and also formal custody arrangements where the child was removed from the home by OCS. She continued that their goal is simply to provide support for the caregivers to be

able to continue raising the children in their homes. They are provided anything from case management to weekly support groups for families. There are also some educational workshops, additional parenting classes, and then navigating that child through the welfare system. She added that they also have a mental health clinician on board who specializes in kinship care navigating OCS, working with youth with some trauma. She asked Alex Eissler to continue.

MR. EISSLER stated that on August 1, 2019, he received a call from his wife about 4:00 saying that there were four kids that needed a home. At the time, they had a three-year-old and a two-year-old of their own in the home. Now, they have bio kids and foster kids. The foster kids are one, three, five, and six and all live together. He continued that one of the things that we appreciate about Volunteers of America is that we do not have bio kids and foster kids with them; we just have children. There are so many programs that delineate and only support the foster kids. Volunteers of America integrates their kids together as one unit, and we get seen as a family. It is important for their foster kids to get to do what the biological kids do and vice versa. Volunteers of America always provides support for them with groups. Often, we are invited to events where they may be training, and we have to bring six kids with us. It is a lot with all six kids under the age of ten. It takes time to coordinate the kids. One of us spends half of the time in the hallway and gets one half of a presentation, and the other gets the other half. Volunteers of America always provides support staff so that both of us can attend the meeting together as a unit. He added that many times they fall off a lot of schedules because of doctors' appointments, the court case, and work. Ms. Scott and her team always reach out and ask what they could do to bring them back out. They do not often ask what we need; they just provide. He talked about the phenomenal job they did during COVID and transitioning. He could not thank them enough for all of the work they do with us and with all of their support people. We have other family members that also have services through them. He stated that generational trauma is the problem in Alaska for a lot of these kids. His wife's parents were not raised well, and she was in the system. Not all of her family members made it out of the system, and they are having children that are being taken care of. There are at least three generations of generational trauma in their family, and the goal is to break that with the services provided by the Trust and VOA. He thanked them for the great job and for supporting them. Going from two to six children was not an easy task.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Eissler and stated appreciation for the sharing of his story. She thanked him for opening up his home to the children that they took in. She asked for any questions from the board.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that it was a great story and that he had explained a bit about what was kind of going on with his wife's family. That kind of speaks to why you made that call and added the four. It is not an easy transition, but it is pretty straightforward. He asked if he had been able to carry that forward to other community members that may be faced with that same decision. The Trust is possibly looking into expanding and looking more into the foster care program. As someone who is living it, had he sensed the chance of enhancing not breaking up families.

MR. EISSLER replied, in talking about youth in need, they do advocate that there is a position for everyone to be foster parents. There is an ability to take a kid into their home or helping the foster care kids between 18 and 21 that have not aged out of the system and still need good support models. He stated that they try to advocate that everyone who cannot be foster

parents to be part of the system by becoming CASAs. There are lots of roles within the system. He continued that it is difficult to access those programs. Just becoming a foster parent is not an easy task. He and his wife did it because she grew up in the system and we decided to give back. He added that most adults in Alaska do not understand how easy it is to become a foster parent and the impact they can make with that. They tell parents and everyone that these kids are in schools with your kids; they are in the streets with your kids. You can either embrace them or not. Regardless, they will be part of the community, and it is important for us all to participate. He stated that it is about community outreach, and there are about 3,000 kids in Alaska in foster homes. He urged the State to do a better job. We have had seven social workers in four years, and no one truly knows their children other than he and his wife. He added that most people do not recognize how many children are in need in Alaska today and just assume the system is working and all are being taken care of. Until they become a part of it, they do not realize the devastation caused by generational trauma.

TRUSTEE MORAN thanked them for the work they do. She stated that, in one of the lawsuits against the State's foster care system, they greatly detail the difficulties of kinship placement. She asked if they had been experiencing those same difficulties with getting kinship homes approved for placement.

MS. SCOTT replied that they had seen quite a bit of some difficulty with families going through the licensure process and just again navigating that system. She added that the turnover of staff did not help. She stated that there are supports in the community that are not necessarily tapped into for families. It is just getting referrals over to programs that are able to support these families as they navigate through the child welfare system and tapping into some more local nonprofits and taking some of that work off of OCS.

MS. CLARK added that some of the challenges that the program has worked with families on and with OCS is just often with kinship care as the emergency placements. Families do not know in advance that they will be contacted and asked to care for sometimes very young children, infants. There are some real logistical and practical challenges of rapidly becoming the caregiver of a child with special needs. It can cause a lot of stress for that entire family unit. In addition, because of the nature of emergency placement, is the tricky legal barriers that kinship caregivers experience when taking care of a child. She stated that the financial barriers are real. It can be a pretty complicated system to navigate for families in a time of incredible stress.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that they could use a half day in-service type education on OCS and agencies like Kinship. She asked if there were other agencies like Kinship.

MS. CLARK replied that there was a very loose network at this time, and she was not aware of very many agencies.

MR. EISSLER agreed and added that one of the hardest parts was just navigating who could help. OCS does not have a list. He stated that they got their kids on August 1st, and OCS did not take custody until August 14th. There was a 14-day period where there were no legal documents. He continued that they had a one-page paper saying they had an out-of-home placement with the children. It was very hard to find programs that could help navigate through the system.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked Trustee John Sturgeon for having the vision to put Trust money

with OCS. She asked for some more information on how that helped, and if they need to do it in the future.

MS. JOHNSON replied that it was one year ago that the conversation was held, and it was extended from earlier in the summer. The funding that was approved last year just came online in July, and we had about a month and a half or so to actually start working those projects. She reported that there are not a lot of outcomes to talk about, but there is a lot of planning and development since those funds were discussed.

CHAIR HALTERMAN talked about her background and work with these populations and remembered that there is a need for more therapeutic foster homes. She asked if they found that was still a crisis, that there are not enough special-needs homes to meet the children with complex needs.

MR. EISSLER stated, for full disclosure, that he is a Denali Family Services therapeutic foster parent and is part of one of those agencies. He added that they actively recruit all the time. He continued that there are State regulations on a number of children in the homes, capped at six, which is good and negative. He stated that there is a long list of referrals sitting on Denali Family Services' list looking for therapeutic homes. All of their families are at capacity or they cannot take a child due to behavioral issues. He added that most people would argue that the vast majority of foster kids should be in therapeutic homes.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for the work they do and thanked them for sharing what they are up to.

MS. CLARK thanked them for the opportunity to be there to talk about the families they serve.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked the panelists for the Mission Moment and stated that they wanted nothing but success for all of them and for the children. She recognized CEO Williams.

STAFF REPORT - CEO UPDATE

CEO WILLIAMS introduced Jena Crafton, the Chair for the Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities, and thanked her for the bread she baked to share. He appreciated the bread and her for being there to listen to the discussion today. He also announced that the elevator was being worked on. He stated, as some of the business and updates he provided, that the TAO building had been broken into and there is an ongoing investigation. He added that no one was injured, and there were items stolen. He would provide updates to the trustees as they were appropriate and became available. He moved to the external financial audit that was currently underway. The Audit & Risk Committee heard a presentation from BDO, and are currently in the interim audit phase of the work. That should be wrapping up in the next week or so. Then, the actual audit work will begin with the ultimate end at the November board meeting to accept the financial audit. He talked about the Trust Land Office and their fall land sale which is being worked on, which will begin in September and run through the middle of November. It will be public-noticed with a list of parcels as it has been done in the past.

MS. WARNER stated that it was just confirmed that it will begin on September 13 and go through November 13, and will be published.

CEO WILLIAMS shared a picture of Chair Halterman, Trustee Fisher, himself and many others at Providence for the groundbreaking of their crisis stabilization, crisis residential center. He added that it was a nice event. He continued that Trustee Halterman asked for a quick update on the opioid settlement funds. He stated that he and Ms. Baldwin-Johnson met with Director Lindsey Kato of Public Health who will be overseeing and managing the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation, GACOR, and also oversees a steering committee that will be underneath GACOR. They are charged with developing the guidelines, the structures, the eligibility and granting of funds from the opioid settlement to organizations based on the criteria setup. He added that the steering committee was made up of folks from DBH, Public Health, OSMAP, the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction and Prevention. The Alaska Native Board and Trust Authority will be sitting on that; and Janie Ferguson is the Trust staff representative. To answer Trustee Fimon's question about the Trust role in that, it is related to how to structure and get funds, and to inform how funds should be put out on the street. Trustee Halterman sits on the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation, and she will remain in that seat. This has been overseen by Commissioner Hedberg and will transition to Director Kato going forward. He will keep the trustees updated on that. He briefly talked about being deep in planning for the rural outreach trip, which is going to be to the Y-K region, with Bethel being the launch pad. He acknowledged the Rasmuson Foundation that met in July and did a host of funding approvals. He recognized Mike Baldwin for his 15-year anniversary here at the Trust working for the State, and Allison Biastock for working ten years for the State. They are really great, great professional colleagues, and they do so much in terms of improving the lives of beneficiaries and carrying out the mission.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Steve and moved to the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the comp plan. She asked for a motion.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT COMP PLAN

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approves the attached Memorandum of Agreement, MOA, between the Trust, the Department of Health, the Department of Family & Community Services, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and the Alaska Commission on Aging, to formalize a collaborative structure reviewing, updating, and monitoring the State's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan, Comp Plan, and affirms the CEO's authorization to sign on behalf of the Trust. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN turned it over to CEO Williams for discussion.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that Page 64 is the memo with the motion that outlines the MOA. The actual MOA starts on Page 66, and he provided a high-level overview of it. He explained that the MOA establishes a formal structure for the Department of Health, the Department of Family Community Services, the Trust and the advisory boards to do the work they are currently doing related to the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan. They are at the tail end of strengthening the system five-year plan, and this MOA will help to structure the work going forward, not only to revisit the current plan, update it, but to then implement and monitor it. He continued through his high-level overview and answered questions as he went through it.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked if the motion was to authorize CEO Williams to sign the

Memorandum of Agreement and not the Comp Plan product in the end.

CEO WILLIAMS replied that is correct.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the statutory advisers for updates, and recognized Ms. Baldwin-Johnson.

STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATE

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON introduced the executive directors of the statutory advisory boards. She began with Patrick Reinhart, the executive director of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education; she recognized Stephanie Hopkins and Charity Lee with the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Mental Health Board, and who also represents the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. She asked Patrick Reinhart to introduce his guests.

MR. REINHART stated that he has had 23 years with the State of Alaska, in one capacity or another. He introduced their new chair, Jena Crafton, and also Robert Tasso who is their health and social services planner 3. He added that they would jointly present. He asked Ms. Crafton to tell a little bit about herself and why she is the chair.

MS. CRAFTON stated that she is Jena Crafton and used to live on a sailboat for 16 years. She had been sailing for seven years and started navigating with her parents and siblings. She is the chair for the Governor's Council and is excited because she is the first intellectual disability chair of the Governor's Council. She thanked the Trust for having them because we cannot do it without you. She continued that she is working at CHD, Center for Human Development, her new job.

MR. TASSO stated that, at the end of this month, he will be with the Governor's Council about six months.

MR. REINHART stated that Jena sailed around the world for seven years and that was where she got a lot of her education with her family. He encouraged all to ask her at the break about some very cool stories that she has meeting people of many different cultures. He continued that Sabrina Richmond of Juneau is the vice chair, and five new council members have been recently appointed by the Governor. He added that the Council is almost full with 24 people, still with a need for a couple of self-advocates. He asked Mr. Tasso to continue.

MR. TASSO stated that there were a lot of events coming up in the fall. On September 5th, there is the Alternatives to Guardianship Work Group. September 8th, the FASD film, "The 8 Keys," will be shown at Bear Tooth Theater. They worked on getting a Governor proclamation to declare FASD awareness for September 9th, and it will be presented at the film. September 24 to 27 is National Transportation in Indian Country Conference in Anchorage. He continued that October is big for the Council with the next big meeting on the 9th and 10th. On October 13th

there is the BEST Employment Symposium which will be at Fairview Rec Center. The Aging & Disability Summit in Anchorage is the 11th and 12th, and November to December is the Reducing Recidivism Conference. He added that they reached out to Senator Murkowski and the other two members of our congressional delegation to attend the Council meeting, and we do not yet have confirmation.

MR. REINHART invited the trustees to attend their meetings. He asked Mr. Tasso to talk about the pride celebration events.

MR. TASSO reported that there was a great attendance and great weather for D P in Anchorage. It was a family event. Events also happened down on the Kenai, as well, and he wanted special credit to go to Ric Nelson with Peer Power, their new executive director, and Maggie Winston who helped the Soldotna event get going. The event was supported in part by the Trust and Peer Power, and even had Andrew Kurka, Paralympian from the Valley, speak at both events. It was a great success.

MR. REINHART thanked the Trust for their support and talked about Disability Pride, always in July because it relates to the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and this was the 33rd year for that. He talked about the signing of SB 57 in Palmer on July 29, and the bill itself. He continued through some of the committee updates, with employment being one of the most important ones. He thanked them for the grant-writing support received through the Trust contractor, and they could not have done it without Denali Daniels & Associates. It was a tough deadline to meet, but they met it.

MR. TASSO talked about the three committees that were essentially goals. One of them was the Community Inclusion Supports & Services Committee, and he is the current staff facilitator. He talked about a letter of support to Senator Murkowski's office about her co-sponsoring or reintroducing the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Respect Act of '23, along with Senator Klobuchar. This is an issue of importance in Alaska, and we are grateful to have that letter of support from the Council and all the members.

MR. REINHART continued through the presentation and recognized Direct Services Professional week, September 10th through the 16th.

MS. CRAFTON talked about self-advocacy and leaders, and talked about Wesley Witherspoon, the chair of the Governor's Council in California. They would be meeting tomorrow. She invited anyone that would like to could come.

MR. REINHART showed the new "I Have Rights" video that stars some people in the room.

(Video shown.)

MR. TASSO mentioned that the "I Have Rights" presentation was in Florida, and he, Jena, and one of the other staff members went. Jena was asked to be a facilitator for another panel, and there was a lot of interest from other state councils about our council and what we do in Alaska.

MS. CRAFTON stated that they had a great time in Florida, but Alaskans do not like the heat, and she kind of melted. It was a good conference, and she liked mingling with everyone from

different states to see what they do. It turned out good.

MR. REINHART continued through the presentation, explaining as he went along. He asked Mr. Tasso to give a quick update on a Federal issue.

MR. TASSO stated that there was support for supporting family caregivers at the executive order level coming out of the White House. That will be monitored continually so that, overall, it will improve services and supports for families.

CHAIR HALTERMAN congratulated Ms. Crafton on her chair assignment and thanked her for the blueberry bread. It was wonderful. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to introduce the next panelists.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON apologized to Jon Haghayeghi for forgetting to introduce him before. She stated that Mr. Haghayeghi is the executive director of Alaska Commission on Aging and added that he also had Marty Lange online with him.

MR. HAGHAYEGHI thanked the Trust for all of their support. It is because of this support that they were able to accomplish the goals they set out and through that support they were able to have staff and pursue all of their endeavors. He stated appreciation for the support of the Trust in their role and supporting the joint advisory. He congratulated Marty Lange for being with the Commission for about a year. He started out as the rural outreach coordinator and successfully reclassified that position, and he is a Program Coordinator 2. That allowed them to expand the scope of responsibility within the Commission with regard to some of the future endeavors, including a statewide initiative to reach communities using new forms of media. He added that there are plans for producing podcasts that will be distributed through radio programs across the state, and he is happy to have such a brilliant, reliable, culturally sensitive, and eager teammate to get out in the communities and improve the lives of seniors. When he last spoke to the trustees, they were in the final stages of the State plan which was submitted in a timely manner on June 30th with signatures from the Department of Health Commissioner, as well as the Governor. He stated that they received feedback from ACL and were incorporating those edits, which will be back to ACL by the end of the week. He continued that the plan will be implemented on October 1, 2023. The goal for the future is how to track the State plan outcomes, which is a specific part of Mr. Lange's role. He emphasized the assistance and teamwork they have within the office. The work that Mr. Lange has been producing has been phenomenal. The plan is to produce their first ten podcasts, which will go on to radio stations across the state. The goal is to improve the ability in reaching seniors in the corner pockets of the state. He stated that the mission of the Alaska Commission on Aging is to insure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them in leading useful and meaningful lives through planning, efficacy, education, and interagency. We do not mean just the ones that live in the city; but also the ones that live in the remote communities. He went through the outreach report. The trip was made to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges of aging in rural and remote Alaska. They came away with three distinct observations: One was the need to understand rural and remote community life; the second being the importance of hub communities; and third, just some insights on the senior center and the infrastructure there. He discussed each of the three observations. He pointed out that the Elders are held in high respect, and are taken care of by the community. He also talked about the challenges of living in the rural community.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated appreciation and complimented for Mr. Haghayeghi on the style of his presentation.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she was curious about a standardized approach for data collection because it is difficult to find standardized approaches that reflect the environment.

MR. HAGHAYEGHI replied that it was not fully developed, and we do have a set of about ten categories of items that were identified for the purposes of the Barrow trip. We will have to continue to develop what this standard framework will be, but the motivation is that just surveying is not enough, and there is a need to actually take the initiative to draw some of their own conclusions about where there may be gaps in services. He added that it is an evolving project.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Haghayeghi and stated her appreciation for the presentation. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to move to the next introduction.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON introduced Steph Hopkins and Charity Lee, and looked forward to their presentation.

MS. HOPKINS stated that she is the acting executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Board, Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. She continued that she was joined by Charity Lee, who helps with planning with the boards. Their chair, Brenda Moore, of AMHB was also online. She added that the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse are in charge of the planning and coordinating of behavioral health services that are funded by the State of Alaska. Additionally, they are the federally designated planning council for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration block grant. The joint mission of the boards is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, and productive Alaskans. She stated that they were in the middle of the first round of interviews for the ED position. Once there is an ED on board, she gets to return to the advocacy coordinator position for the boards, and the joint advocacy effort with the Trust. She continued that the planning team is fully staffed with Jenny Weissaupt, who has been on the board since 2019; and Charity joined earlier this year. The admin is Kevin Holian, and there is a current vacancy in the support staff. They are waiting for a permanent ED to make determinations on how to utilize that position to best engage with the consumers. She stated there were open seats on both boards; two beneficiary seats on ABADA, and two consumer seats on AMHB. They are also seeking an attorney for AMHB, and a physician, per our statutes, for ABADA. Folks that are interested can go to the Boards and Commissions page and note which board they are interested in on the general application. She then shared an update on the data for suicide in Alaska and the FY25 budget.

MS. LEE shared an estimation of the recently released 2022 suicide mortality data. She continued that there was a decrease in the suicide mortality rate in Alaska; and, more noteworthy, the U.S. rate went up. Another thing of note was that while the suicide mortality data in 2022 showed a decrease, they did not see the same decrease in the morbidity data. She talked about this in more detail and moved through the variables examined.

MS. HOPKINS thanked the Trust for their considerations with the FY25 budget and for their continued support of the Alaska Training Cooperative. The Training Cooperative was a critical factor in the shared goal of ensuring that Alaskans with behavioral health conditions have access to the community-based care that they need. The core funding provided through the Trust dollars and the advocacy the Trust does for General Fund dollars allows the Training Cooperative to provide specialized, high quality, affordable trainings to folks in small communities, which ensure that folks across Alaska have access to trained professionals, whether they are in Anchorage or Utqiagvik. The Training Cooperative trains at every level of an organization which creates a foundation for folks that are entering the field, either as a career choice or because of the expanded reimbursement for family members who are now providing services. It also grows that capacity all the way up to the leadership level. One of the programs offered is a three-day intensive, front-line leadership institute where the workers get to develop skills in mentoring, retention, recruitment, and other management-level skills that probably work harder with more hands-on practical experience from their previous position. The core funding supported by the Trust allows the Training Cooperative to be flexible and responsive to the rapidly changing environments. In addition to their successful online pivot during COVID, they had been front and center in the movement around peer support. She thanked the trustees for the upcoming budget increment that was set aside for the Direct Service Support Professional Training and certification pilot program. She went through the staff updates. She stated that the time of transition has been a stress test for the internal operations and, as staff, they took that as an opportunity to shore up the policies and procedures in the hope that everything would be organized and lead to a seamless onboarding of the new ED.

MS. LEE went back to the other two variables looked at with the 2022 suicide mortality data and explained them in greater detail. She summarized the mortality data, and then continued to the morbidity data, and the decrease in the overall suicide mortality rate for Alaska. She noted, with this data, that they saw an increase in male suicide attempts in February through April of 2022.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that she was listening to the radio and one of her observations was the veteran suicide hotline number was presented, and it was not the 988 number. It appeared that the Veteran's Administration was still using their number, and she asked if there was any effort to have them start using 988.

MR. BOYER replied that, currently, with 988 and the national lifeline number when they are called there is an option to call to dial into the Veterans. Anything outside of that needs to have a check. He had not heard that there was another line being offered.

MS. BIASTOCK added that she was looking at the Veterans Crisis Line national website and it does say dial 988 and then press 1. There is a special option for 988 specific for Veterans. The VA is very engaged in suicide prevention.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all, and called a 15-minute break.

(Break.)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and turned the floor over to Jusdi

Warner.

MS. WARNER asked for the motion to be read into the record.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves the proposed action to fund the Statewide Subdivision Development Program from the Trust Land Office Development Account, TLODA, with \$3 million. These funds do not lapse. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. WARNER stated that this had been discussed at the Resource Management Committee extensively. She continued that this request is for \$3 million over the course of five years to continue the Subdivision Development Program at the Trust Land Office. They presented a statewide program. The initial phases will be in the Mat-Su Borough. Revenues will be coming in through the cost recovery process in about 18 to 48 months.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked for clarity on the last five words, “these funds do not lapse.” Does that mean the funds never lapse?

MS. WARNER replied yes.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the next motion.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves the proposed action to fund the Mineral Potential Evaluation Program from the Trust Land Office Development Account, TLODA, with \$1.5 million. These funds do not lapse. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. WARNER stated that this request was heard at the Resource Management Committee and is \$1.5 million over the next five years. The trustees were presented with a plan over that five years, about \$300,000, plus or minus, per year, to conduct this program. She explained that this program was some reconnaissance soil sampling to start to see if there is value in the subsurface property that the Trust owns. The focus will be on the parcels that are adjacent to areas that are already proven prospects. She concluded that this project will be overseen by the TLO chief geologist, and will be adhering to industry standards that are required in the U.S.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated they were ready for the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the next motion.

TRUSTEE MORRIS recused himself from the discussion and vote on this motion. He added that it was out of an abundance of caution because he sits on the advisory board for the Salvation Army.

CHAIR HALTERMAN recused Trustee Morris from this vote.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves the annual lease rent of \$15,701.48 with a 10 percent rent increase every five years for a 25-year ground lease of Tract 1-A, according to the plat of Tracts 1-A and 4-A Community Park Alaska Subdivision/Trust Parcel SM-1520, in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Salvation Army. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

MS. WARNER reminded the trustees that this was here today because the lease for the Salvation Army that had been in existence for 55 years is expiring this October. If the Board decides to move forward on this, the next steps belong to the Trust Land Office where a best-interest decision will be issued, and that will go out to public notice for 30 days. After that ends, the public comments, if any, will be reviewed, and the process will go from there. Usually, the best-interest decision is affirmed. If the Trust decides that it is in the best interest of the Trust to issue this lease, the lease will be negotiated with the terms of the motion. Going back a few years, this was also in front of trustees for the Community Park Loop Master Plan, and that was the intent that was decided at that time. She asked Mr. Boyer if he had any additional information about the programmatic side of this.

MR. BOYER stated that the programmatic with the Salvation Army is still in discussions, and they are fully planning for the future to continue to provide services to Trust beneficiaries. It looks good from this end.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked if there is a building on the property, and if it was mortgaged.

MS. WARNER replied that there is a building on it, and it was paid for. She thought there may be plans to do some significant improvements to that building, and those protections will be in the lease by the Trust Land Office. Those negotiations will continue, and it will be protected.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the discussion on the Finance Committee Report and Update. She asked for a trustee to read Motion 1.

MOTION 1: The Board of Trustees approves adopting the Asset Management Policy

Statement, AMPS, changes as indicated in the attached redline version. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized Kat Roch.

MS. ROCH stated that this motion is adopting, via AMPS, revisions that were discussed at the July committee meeting. Those changes, to summarize, are a lot of technical edits changing the title from Program-Related Investments to Program-Related Real Estate; revision to the reference target index benchmark from the MPI property index to the NCREIF property sector return; also revisions to the statutory references to reflect the bifurcation of the Department of Health and Social Services into the two departments that the state has now, the Department of Health and the Department of Family Community Services. It also removed the references to having an independent real estate adviser.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions. There being none, she called the roll-call vote.

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

MOTION 2: The Board of Trustees approves the ratification of the Legislature's FY2024 MHTAAR and MHT Admin budget amounts as appropriated, and therefore increase the previous FY2024 trustee authorization by \$99,200. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. ROCH stated that this motion was to approve the legislatively appropriated amounts increasing the FY2024 trustee approved budget by the \$99,200. This increase is primarily due to increases in salary, health insurance, and PERS benefits.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions. She called the question.

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

MOTION 3: The Board of Trustees approves the Fiscal Year 2024 Trust Authority Office MHT agency budget of \$4,819,908. The motion made by TRUSTEE FIMON; the motion was seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

MS. ROCH stated, as discussed in the July committee meetings, the Trust Authority's agency budget was approximately an 84 percent increase between FY24 and FY25. Discussed were the various drivers behind that 4 percent increase.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions, and then called the vote.

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

MOTION 4: The Board of Trustees approves the Trust Land Office agency budget for FY24 in the amount of \$5,155,000. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FISHER; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

MS. ROCH stated, similar to the Trust Authority budget, in July, the Trust Land Office's agency budget was discussed about the approximate 2 percent increase in the Land Office's budget for FY25 over FY24.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions. There being none, she called the question.

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

BOARD MOTION TRACKING

CHAIR HALTERMAN recognized CEO Williams to introduce this topic.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that there was no action requested or needed from the trustees. There had been discussions about how to make sure the trustees understand motions that have been passed either by the current Board or a previous Board that affect the policy actions that either the trustees need to take, or the staff needs to take in terms of the ongoing operations of the Trust. He continued to a list of 18 motions that had been taken by the Board that were currently active. They were motions that were approved by the Board of Trustees which establish current Trust policy, not bound by time, and upon which administrative, financial, or operating decisions are made by the trustees, the Trust Authority Office, or the Trust Land Office staff. He explained how they determined the motions to look at with the 18 being policy-grounding motions and not specific actions that were one time. He added that the motions made today and passed will be captured, tracked and then reviewed with the secretary. He continued that the initial work to establish the tool was developed, and then we met with Trustee Fisher to walk through and explain what the thinking was behind that. He approved or was happy with what staff did, and we will continue to meet with the secretary following these committee and Board meetings when we have the final motions from verbatims and can add them. He explained that if one of the 18 were to change, it will be noted, and then staff would make sure that the trustees had the updated version of a policy action that they took so they could reference back to it, if needed. He added that if there was a requested action of the trustees upon which one of these policy actions had been taken, staff will include that as the backup documentation. It will say something similar like seen previously today as an action previously taken by the trustees.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if there was any sort of implementation date or anything that gives an assurance that they were all found and had confirmed that they were implemented or resolved.

CEO WILLIAMS noted that there is backup documentation related to each of those. For example, we have the MOA with the Department of Natural Resources.

TRUSTEE MORAN suggested one more column with the implementation date for assurance that it actually happened on that date.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for that feedback, and that it was a good observation. She hoped for recommendations over time if people see ways to improve this.

CEO WILLIAMS added that these motions were also found in the committee or board meeting minutes that were approved at each of the meetings. Underneath that is a bit of the description of the dialogue that happened around any particular motion. Those are part of the public record and on the Website. He stated that this is a great tool to help the trustees have one place to look at which will be provided and updated. He continued that it was a lot of work with over 1,000 motions. Every motion, whether it passed, failed, adjournments, recessed was tracked in a spreadsheet. These 18 set policy.

TRUSTEE FIMON commented that he viewed this as an ongoing living document that the word of governance was spoken in. The trustees need to know where the motions came from and need to know a history and why with access to it as the Board evolves yearly. He was happy for it.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that the time spent was well worth it. It was an investment, and will be a great resource.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked staff for taking on this monumental task and stated appreciation for the amount of work it took. She asked for any further comments or questions about the motion tracking. She stated the need for FY2025 for both of those motions instead of Fiscal Year '24. She asked Trustee Fimon to read Motion 3.

MOTION 3: The Board of Trustees approves the Fiscal Year 2025 Trust Authority Office MHT agency budget of \$4,819,908. This motion replaced the Motion 3 that was made earlier. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

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

MOTION 4: The Board of Trustees approves the Trust Land Office agency budget for fiscal year '25 in the amount of \$5,155,000. This motion replaces Motion 4 made earlier today. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked staff for catching that and called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that this was the time set aside for public comment and noted that there was some written public comment in the packet from Faith Myers and Dorrance Collins. She read into the record the public comment period for today's Full Board meeting is from 12:15

until 12:45. The public comment period allows individuals to inform and advise the Board of Trustees about issues, problems, or concerns. It is not a hearing. Individuals are invited to speak up to three minutes. A speaker may be granted the latitude to speak longer than the three-minute time limit only by the Chair or by a motion adopted by the Full Board of Trustees. Participants addressing issues related to Trust beneficiaries will have priority order. Speakers are not permitted to criticize or attack others. Anyone providing comment should do so in a manner that is respectful of the Board of Trustees and all meeting attendees. The Chair maintains the right to stop public comment that contains inappropriate or inflammatory language or behavior. She continued that she did not have anyone signed in on the list and called out for folks online in case someone had called in that wants to give public testimony. She recognized Don Habeger.

MR. HABEGER stated, for the record, that he was Don Habeger, a coalition coordinator for the Juneau Reentry Coalition. He added that it was a pleasure to provide testimony today. He gave an update to the trustees about the Juneau Reentry Coalition's goals and objectives for FY24. In the process, at the beginning of each fiscal year, they look back and look ahead at the issues to see what the reentry community may benefit from through involvement of a community coalition. For FY24, they came up with four goals and objectives including assets to digital technology for an opportunity for those inside contemplating release and working on their release plans so they are better prepared as they come into the communities. He continued, in relation to community, they would like to expand, enrich in any community group that offers a service, that offers any kind of programming that may benefit going inside and working with those before release. That was item No. 2. No. 3 was peer support, and we have specific projects being looked at, i.e., Alaska Project Rebound. Last, a perennial issue, which is reentry housing; just finding affordable, safe, and secure reentry housing in any manner possible; a perennial goal of the Reentry Coalition.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Habeger, and stated appreciation for the feedback. She asked if there were any other members of the public that would like to give public comment online. She asked one more time, and then suggested moving on.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that it had only been open for five minutes. He suggested taking a recess and coming back at 12:30.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that they would wait a few minutes.

(Pause.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that they were in the midst of a public comment period and asked if there was anyone new online. There being no one, she closed the public comment. She continued that written comments are always welcome and may be submitted to trustees at any time via e-mail at public.comment@MHTrust.org; by fax at 907-269-7966; or by mail to 3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99508. She moved to the FY25 Budget deliberations, and recognized CEO Williams.

FY25 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

CEO WILLIAMS stated that he would give a bit of introduction. He continued that Trustee Moran had something related to the ethics disclosure.

TRUSTEE MORAN disclosed a potential conflict of interest she may have regarding the \$200,000 grant to Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, ANDVSA, and sought the advice of the Department of Law on this issue. She advised the Department of Law that she was employed by Women in Safe Homes, WISH, which is a member of ANDVSA. She was not on the board of the ANDVSA. Because of WISH's membership in ANDVSA, she was concerned about having a conflict of interest. The Department of Law had advised her that no such conflict of interest exists, and that she was free to discuss and deliberate on this grant and the FY2025 budget. She understood that WISH would not be permitted to apply for or receive any funds provided by AMHTA to ANDVSA in this \$200,000 grant.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Moran and entertained a motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees appropriate MHTAAR, Mental Health Trust Admin and Authority Grant funds for Fiscal Year 2025 in the amount of \$39,614,700. This consists of \$20,172,700 of MHTAAR and Mental Health Trust Admin, and \$19,442,000 of Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed Fiscal Year 2025 budget recommendations document prepared for the August 29 and August 30, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. Included in this motion is a recommendation by the Full Board of Trustees for a State of Alaska appropriation of \$10,737,400 General Fund/Mental Health Funds, and \$8,100,000 of other funds for Fiscal Year 2025. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE FISHER.

CEO WILLIAMS began with a high-level overview of how they got this budget for trustees' consideration. This FY25 budget is the second year of the two-year budget. Last August the trustees approved the FY24 budget and then approved an FY25 budget with the understanding that it was a two-year-out budget and would be reviewed this spring and summer and then representing that budget with any recommended changes and discussion from the trustees. He asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to continue.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON began with a brief reorientation to what was on the spreadsheets and documents available as resources. Included is the FY25 unallocated funding summary total and by focus priority area. This was a request to have additional resources to make sure that it is very clear as trustees deliberated about the budget. They also have the FY25 budget draft, proposed budget, which is the same document looked at in the Program & Planning Committee except for some minor technical edits for the sake of making it a tighter document. She added that no changes to the budget increments that were discussed at the last Program & Planning meeting were done. She went through, explaining and answering questions as she went along.

TRUSTEE STURGEON asked about the Wall Street Journal article, and if we had enough money to do a really good job, plus sending workers into dangerous situations. He asked to see if we were going down that same path and if we have enough money to do a good job.

MR. BOYER replied that Trustee Sturgeon asked a good question. He continued that it is valuable to see how things are going at the national level and it is helpful to have all of those different perspectives. He talked about how driven it is in the state in moving into the Crisis Now continuum, and really listening to the dispatch center directors. They are really concerned about liability and putting people in harm's way, and they worked with the chief clinical officer

at Alaska Behavioral Health, who runs outpatient and residential services in Anchorage and Fairbanks. They thoroughly looked at other states' best practices around those decisions, and worked on that for the better part of a year. He added that he had three takeaways from that article: They had trouble getting enough clinicians to staff the teams; funding was an issue; and then there was some ambiguity around when to send in those clinicians. He talked about the benefits and took time to think through some of the processes and how they were being approached. Also, looking at how to keep refining that process.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that Alaska is unique. We have a tribal infrastructure that many states envy. There is the ability to deploy our resources differently. One of her observations with Crisis Now and the complications with sending out law enforcement was they were limited in the amount of information that they have available about people. When doing a response, they are doing a criminal kind of response. When it comes to solutions, they have to be tailored uniquely because the programs are unique. They were all tailored very specifically to the states' unique needs. It was insightful, and she thanked him for sharing it.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON continued with her overview, explaining as she went through.

CEO WILLIAMS followed up from the July Program & Planning Committee. Trustee Morris asked if there was any place funding could be increased for reentry services focused on housing and the Trust beneficiaries. Travis Welch went back and met with folks that coordinated around reentry, where needs could be met, and where there were communities that may be having some of the needs, but some additional funding could be helpful. He asked Mr. Welch to give an update.

MR. WELCH stated that he had numerous meetings with various stakeholders ranging from the Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Health, to the Department of Corrections, Partners for Reentry Center, outreach and coalition coordinators and other stakeholders such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. He continued that the simple answer is for more funding, more supports would be beneficial to reentrants of Trust beneficiaries returning to their communities after incarceration, and expanding the reach of the resources currently provided. Mentioned was the possibility of a GF/MH recommendation from trustees to the Governor and to the Legislature to provide this support. In identifying the appropriate agency to receive that funding, the Alaska Housing & Finance Corporation came up as the best agency that would have the reach statewide to be able to benefit the most Trust beneficiaries throughout the state, and not just one community. He looked at the different current programs and talked about DOC Discharge Incentive Grants. This was the current partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections, and AHFC to provide transitional supports for housing to Trust beneficiaries returning to their communities. He talked about the available MHTAAR funding and augmenting that to \$500,000. That would be enough for AHFC to work with their various partners to get that funding into different communities such as Fairbanks, Southeast Alaska, the Mat-Su and other areas, and would be the best return on investment.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked if that money going through AHFC was real transitional housing money.

MR. WELCH replied yes, it goes to Partners Reentry Center who is the fiscal agent primarily focused in Anchorage.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked for clarification on the amount for funding.

CEO WILLIAMS replied that the \$200,000 would stay in that row, and then \$500,000 would be added to the row above.

TRUSTEE MORRIS clarified that his question was in regard to a particular program that was mentioned. It was reported that there was a particular program for reentrants who were also beneficiaries that had a dramatically lower recidivism rate. He stated that he was still not clear which program it is, and was particularly interested in identifying that and others like it in all the other different focus areas that can be latched onto rather than broad strokes recommending the State give more money to another program with disappointing results.

MR. WELCH stated appreciation for Trustee Morris' comments. He continued that the project that he spoke about in the last meeting was specifically the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition. The great results that they see with their investment of the Trust funding is also seen through various programs throughout the state. He went through a few examples and some statistics.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that he had not reached out to anyone in Mat-Su. He continued that he had three parts: First he asked for an e-mail that rewords those statistics to have something to hang onto; if there are other similarly successful programs, he would like emails about those also; lastly, is that program very similar or identical to what they asked for recommendations to the Governor for \$500,000, or were they unrelated but were thought to be productive.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she had a motion.

MOTION: A motion that, because the proof the recidivism rate is lower than the statewide rates when we provide housing for our beneficiaries under certain conditions, the Board of Trustees of AMHTA approve the General Fund/Mental Health recommendation included in this budget for \$500,000 to line 47, Page 6, DOC Discharge Incentive Grants. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

TRUSTEE STURGEON stated, point of order; that there could only be one motion on the floor at a time.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed that there was an ongoing motion, and would table Trustee Boyles' motion for a while.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked if an amendment to the motion could be made

CHAIR HALTERMAN replied that they had to wait until the budget motion was finalized.

TRUSTEE STURGEON advised that when they go for the vote would be the time to ask for a friendly amendment.

CHAIR HALTERMAN had Ms. Baldwin-Johnson continue through her budget overview.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON continued through, explaining and answering questions as they

came up. She concluded her presentation.

STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the statutory advisor update from the partners with the Department of Health and the Department of Family Community Services.

CEO WILLIAMS clarified for the trustees that they had just walked through the initial budget. It will be revisited and then voted on. The reason it was interrupted was because both commissioners had just this time in their busy schedules to come and meet with us.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG stated that she is the Commissioner for the Department of Health and stated appreciation for accommodating their schedules. She began with the Governor's Healthy Families Initiative which focuses on the first three pillars which is Healthy Beginning, which really focuses on the early intervention, the very beginning years; the second is improving access to behavioral health and health care; and the third is around healthy communities. All of the work that the Department is engaging in really supports one or more of those three pillars. The budget you just went through links into the healthy beginnings, improving access, or healthy communities. She added that they dovetail nicely together and stated appreciation for that partnership. She stated that, specifically within the Department of Health, there are four major arcs of effort they engage in, and she thanked the trustees for the partnership. She continued that the first was around complex care and those individuals that leverage services for more than one Division within the Department of Health. She moved to the second big focus area which is around childcare. There had been a statewide conversation for the need for workforce within behavioral health, but some were not able to work because they have children and no access to childcare. The Governor signed an administrative order to create a task force on childcare which she is chairing. There have been a lot of conversations around what the landscape of childcare in Alaska is, really focusing in on background checks, and she talked about how to handle some of the licensing issues. Then, there are a lot of conversations exploring around health-related social needs. She wanted to recognize that there were other waivers that were 1915, and many states are embracing many of these waivers to address the health-related social needs. In an individual's healthcare, 80 percent was made up outside of the medical care that they receive. It was education, transportation, access to health care, housing, food. They have been having a robust conversation really exploring what the needs are in Alaska. We are looking for the gaps and centering around care coordination, housing, and food as a medicine; access to nutritious foods and food security.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL stated that she is the Commissioner for the Department of Family Community Services. As a refresher, the four divisions under the Department are OCS, API, DJJ, and APH or Pioneer Homes. She thanked the trustees for the continuing support from the Trust. They see more acute needs, especially in the complex-care work. She announced that they have a deputy director onboarding in a few weeks, and they are very excited about this. She continued that there was a recent editorial board op-ed in the ADN. We heard a lot of comments; we produced an op-ed, and they did finally print it. Very good feedback was received from the community partners on it, and she asked the trustees to read it if they had not yet read it. She emphasized that the past few weeks had a lot of Federal partners visiting, and we just went through compacting last week. It was fascinating to have Federal partners in there nearly every day. She talked about a government-to-government-to-government meeting where the fellow partners were sent out to see how they could experience what was dealt with from a

frontline perspective. They had an incredible experience. It was very humbling. The hope is they will take that back as we push for changes and modifications to how the Federal Government applies rules and such to some of these programs that we have to stick to. She added that they did have some priorities coming down the pipe in regard to child welfare, and would be looking at some exploratory things with the DOJ.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Commissioner Kovol and stated that she read the op-ed, and it was awesome. A great job responding to the feedback that had been misinforming the public about what was going on with API. She appreciated the effort and setting them straight. It was informative. She encouraged all to read it.

TRUSTEE BOYLES talked about the resurgence of COVID and stated that the children suffered through it more than anyone. A lot of headway with the children was lost because they were out of school. She asked if either of them could respond to how this was being looked at, and if there was a task force assigned for the State of Alaska.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that everyone's lives were impacted, and she knows that her two children were impacted. She thought that all kids were impacted at different levels, and it is in building the resiliency that will help the kids move forward. She talked about the ongoing conversations on what was working, inviting schools to the table, and having conversations about what the schools were seeing and how to partner with them. She added that there were some after-action reports, and the final one has not yet been publicized.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL stated, from the facilities standpoint, they continue to promote and practice safety, health, and hand-washing, and if folks are inclined to wear a mask, they are encouraged to do that.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked both the commissioners. He stated that Commissioner Kovol mentioned that OCS was underneath you and asked if there was any good news there. Is there some progress in getting it further staffed? He asked for an update.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL replied that they continue to struggle with staffing in the rural areas. The biggest component is the lack of housing for the professionals and their families. They could keep up their LOAs where someone is sent out one week on, one week off. It is not preferred. We want someone in the community. But frankly, we are not able to find adequate housing for the workers. It is not only the worker, but it is also the spouse who is looking for work. As for kinship, they still work closely with the tribal partners and also with the nonequal partners in regard to looking for those family placements and best/first priority. They are in the middle of an audit, and one of the staff said that we were exceeding Federal standards in regard to that preferred placement. Progress is being made on one end, and there are still continued challenges on the other side.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that Commissioner Hedberg had mentioned access to care and gaps. He asked if there were any areas in healthcare in Alaska where there was a surplus with too many providers. He asked if there was a surplus of psychiatrists, pediatricians, social workers.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that she would love to have that problem, but we have not found a surplus of any healthcare providers.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked if they should continue to be focusing on doing things to incentivize and increase the supply of healthcare providers.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG agreed and stated that the apprenticeships had started to take off, and they had been looking at other apprenticeship models in other states. She thought that they should lean into apprenticeships gaining that job experience and having the stepping stones to start with a certificate and then moving up to associates, bachelor's, master's, whatever it was. Having that growth in the workforce is imperative. She acknowledged that the Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation reached out to all the commissioners and asked about the workforce gaps and about the communities because of housing. She added that the loan reimbursement program, SHARP, was increasing.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL stated they were working very closely with the partners at the University to revamp how to bring in the practical placement, master's level, and bachelor's level students. OCS is revisiting and will be implementing stipends for these students. That had gone away years ago, and we will bring that back. We will then also look at how to also reimburse and support the staff who are the mentors. The other exciting piece is looking at doing that whole model and replicating it possibly through the different departments so that we could be on a unified system.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if State training dollars were being leveraged to retain the workforce.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL replied, yes, all under SHARP-3.

CEO WILLIAMS thanked both the Commissioners and staff in both Departments. He continued that it is an incredible amount of partnership that happens between all the State partners, our community and tribal health partners, to make the funding or just talking about being effective and developing the ability to be deployed in ways that meet the Trust beneficiaries' needs.

COMMISSIONER HEDGERG stated appreciation for the partnership and thanked all.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL stated that as the parent of an adult child who is a beneficiary, she appreciates the work that the Trust does and that you entrust to so many folks. She shared her son's personal experience with a risk of losing his housing. The work you all do is very important because one 23-year-old young man is being very successful because of all of you. She thanked the trustees.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for that kind of feedback. She thanked them both for their time and appreciated seeing and hearing them. She called a break.

(Break.)

FY25 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

CHAIR HALTERMAN resumed the work on the budget discussion and recognized Ms. Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that the walk-through concluded, and we are back to the motion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there was a motion on the floor and asked for any further discussion about the motion.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked about the IPS supported Employment Implementation and the amount of the reduction.

MS. JOHNSON replied that the IPS, Individual Placement and Supports, supports an employment model that is an evidence-based practice for people experiencing mental illness and substance-use disorders. It is an initiative for economic behavioral health, specifically for those beneficiary populations. The recommended amount of \$250,000 reflects the anticipated amount of funding to award startup grants for agencies to implement those services. She reiterated the proposal that the Division of Behavioral Health has funding dedicated to continuation of those services and has anticipated that in spring of 2024 there will be a competitive round of funding to expand the services further.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. She noted for the record that John Sturgeon had rejoined the meeting. She asked for any other questions from the trustees about the budget deliberations. The motion was in front of them. She asked the maker of the motion, Trustee Fimon, and the second, Trustee Fisher, if they would entertain a friendly amendment.

TRUSTEE FIMON agreed.

TRUSTEE FISHER agreed.

MOTION AMENDMENT: TRUSTEE BOYLES respectfully asked the maker of the motion on the budget approval that was on the floor, TRUSTEE FIMON, and the second, TRUSTEE FISHER, to accept a friendly amendment to the existing motion on the floor. Because of the proof that providing housing to certain beneficiaries produces a lower recidivism rate than presently experienced by the State of Alaska, the Board of Trustees of the AMHTA recommends that we increase Page 6, Column AG, T, U and AH, which is the MHTAAR/MHT Admin and AG to \$200,000, and that included in the budget, Page 6, Line 47, DOC Discharge Incentive Grant in General Fund/Mental Health to \$200,000. The motion was seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions or comments about this friendly amendment.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she worked with wonderful, brilliant board members. They feel that if the contribution was increased it would say to the Governor that we would like to see him match it. She thought it would have a better chance of being approved than just a straight request.

TRUSTEE FIMON spoke to clarity and wanted to say to the Administration that they were doubling the money because we feel that we have a program that works. He asked them to match and join us in this program, and put up \$200,000.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Fimon, and asked for any further comments or questions.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that Trustee Fimon convinced him to vote yes on it. His intention was to vote no simply because the differences on where the funding was going versus the original are successful and significant to him.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked if there had been any discussion about increasing the Administration's proposed budget.

MR. WELCH replied that there has not been any conversation with the Governor's Office. This is one way in which we do that; we open that conversation and make this proposal. It is a way as a Trust coming to the Governor and saying, "This is what we recommend."

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that Mr. Welch shared this important information, and it was part of a question that was raised by a trustee. He asked if there was a reason that it was not brought up previously when looking at the budget and committee.

CEO WILLIAMS restated that these were budget recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature to consider. There was no increase to the budget because he has not even released his proposed budget. Then, to answer the second question, we looked at the budget as presented during the July Program & Planning Committee and talked about paying attention to what was put forward as GF/MH recommendations within the context of the fiscal environment of the State. He continued to explain in detail how this worked.

CHAIR HALTERMAN added that, in the past, GF recommendations were made that were not well received by the Administration. This Administration has actually written the Board about some of those requests in the past and asked to have an ongoing dialogue with us. She continued that there is a process and a place to have the conversation with the Administration before it gets to the Legislature, if the Administration so chooses to raise questions about the increased expenditure. She did not foresee that it would be an issue.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that this was the first step in the budget process, and there are always conversations.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she would not support this primarily because she was not convinced that this was not a duplicate of programs. She would rather have resolution on that prior to allocating more funding towards it.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for that feedback and hoped that, if it does, we would hear back about that.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that it was just the idea that this was how we should initiate and put the discussion out there. This is the opportunity that we get to have. All the comments up and down on all sides were good, regardless of how the vote turns out.

A discussion on the motion and the amended motion ensued, and whether it should be read from the beginning.

CEO WILLIAMS stated that, for clarity in the record, it should be restated.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a brief break to clarify.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated they were ready with the amended motion, and would have it read in its entirety.

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees appropriate MHTAAR, MHT Admin and Authority Grant funds for Fiscal Year 2025 in the amount of \$39,714,700. This consists of \$20,272,700 of MHTAAR and MHT Admin, and \$19,442,000 of Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed Fiscal Year 2025 budget recommendations document prepared for the August 29-30, 2023, Board of Trustees for State of Alaska appropriation of \$10,937,400 of General Fund/MH funds and \$8,100,000 of other funds for Fiscal 2025.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated there was a motion; it was amended; and there was a second on the amendment. It was a matter of reading a clean motion for trustees to see before casting their votes. The question is: Are there any questions or is there any debate about the modified amended budget motion? Seeing and hearing none, we are ready for the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that they had an increased budget.

TRUSTEE FISHER commended staff for preparing the financial documents in a way that leads to transparency of the unallocated funds both in the spreadsheets and in the summary that was attached. He continued that there was a lot of really good information in the summary, and that it is important for the trustees to understand. He thanked staff for making sure that they were here for this board meeting, including the additional summary pages with everything there, because it is extremely helpful and very viable to us as trustees.

CHAIR HALTERMAN seconded that comment. She stated that this had been a very transparent budget discussion and the additional clarity that was granted in those reports was helpful. She appreciated that effort. Unless there was anything further, they were in recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.)