



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Governor's Council on Disabilities
and Special Education

550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1220
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: 907.269.8990
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

April 22, 2024, 2024

Board of Trustees
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Dear Chair Halterman and Trustees,

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) fully supports The ARC's request for financial assistance so they can continue to provide services to Trust beneficiaries while waiting for an expected IRS payment of nearly \$2 million dollars. This letter is a second urgent request from the Council for the Trust to vote in favor of assisting The ARC.

The Council recognizes that the changes in leadership at the ARC and the results of extensive technical assistance by Agnew-Beck and the State having produced a robust business plan that can succeed with short term support from the Trust. The Trust is the one entity, whose only purpose is to support our beneficiaries, who can jump in and help quickly.

Without your support, we are genuinely concerned for the beneficiaries, particularly the dozens of individuals who are medically fragile and need intensive 24 hour a day supports. If The ARC closes its doors, after nearly 70 years of service, it will be the State of Alaska who will have to respond as best they can, and none of the options are very good. Hospitals, nursing homes, out of state placements—all are more expensive and do not lead us down the path of the DD vision to thrive in the community with as much independence as possible. Helping The ARC through this transition fits perfectly within your duties and mission to provide leadership in the advocacy, planning, implementing, and funding of services and programs for Trust beneficiaries.

Thank you for reconsidering this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jena Crafton".

Jena Crafton,
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Reinhart".

Patrick Reinhart,
Executive Director

cc. Steve Williams, CEO, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Ian Casey, CEO, The ARC of Anchorage