

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
February 1, 2024
11:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting Originating at:
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
320 West Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, Alaska**

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Brent Fisher
Kevin Fimon
John Morris
Rhonda Boyles
John Sturgeon (Virtual)

Trust Staff Present:

Steve Williams
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Michael Baldwin
Allison Biastock
Kelda Barstad
Valette Keller
Carrie Predeger
Debbie Delong
Heather Phelps
Luke Lind
Kat Roch

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Jeff Green
Sarah Morrison
Blain Alfonso
Chandler Long
Heather Weatherall
Karsten Eden
Katie Vachris
Tina Voelker-Ross
Marisol Miller
Pete Mueller

Also participating:

John Springsteen; Diane Fielden; Jeannie Monk; Kathy Craft; Marjie Hamburger; Charlene Tautfest; Steph Kings; Jennifer Motes; Jon Haghayeghi; Charity Lee; Stephanie Hopkins;

Commissioner Kim Kovol; Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci; Deputy Commissioner Clinton Lasley; Leah Van Kirk; Jordan Nigro; Max Blust; Maggie Winston; Mary Katasse: Julia Luey; Carmen Wenger; Kim Champney; Don Habeger; Brenda Stanfill; Becky Kirian.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and began with a roll call. She stated that there was a quorum. She added that Trustee Sturgeon will be joining later, and was excused. She moved to the CEO update, and introduced CEO Williams.

CEO UPDATE

CEO WILLIAMS thanked the trustees and staff for their patience regarding the schedule adjustments, weather, and hotel accommodations. He began by updating the FY25 budget and working with OMB in regard to the GF/MH items not included in the Governor's proposed budget. He will continue tracking and working that through the legislative process. He continued to the annual report and the investment report. He stated that it was a wonderful report and was in a different format than it has been historically. We tried to find a balance between the graphics and narrative. He added that it is a great resource for information or details of the projects when trustees need answers to different questions. He also shared some fact sheets on housing and Crisis Now. His next update was on partner engagement. There were two new program officers on board: Heather Phelps and Tina Voelker-Ross. It is really important for the program officers to start meeting some of the community partners both in focus area work and with the advisory boards. A lot of time was being spent on setting up meetings, doing introductions for those relationships to start being established. That is one piece of partner engagement; and the other piece is that some of the funding partners, the Rasmuson Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, have also been going through some changes within their organizations, both at the CEO level and at the C-suite level. He has been engaging with those folks to ensure that our relationships are maintained, and they grow with the new folks that are part of their organizations. Those are key partnerships for the Trust, and we have a long history of working with them involving the beneficiaries. He continued that the evaluation and planning officer position was filled by Eliza Muse. She will be starting at the Trust toward the end of February. He stated that all the positions are filled, and we have moved through the transitions at various positions within the organization. He stated that he began some outreach which went back to partnership and relationship-building with the CEO from ANCSA Regional Association. That association is made up of the 12 regional for-profit tribal corporations, and follows up on conversations from previous meetings on the opportunities to generate relationships and partnerships with for-profit corporations that have not existed in the past, and how to identify areas of common interest and issues that can address the needs of the beneficiaries. He briefly talked about the continuing work on the governance charters in terms of ideas and recommendations for updates to the charters. Once the charters are revised and updated, the work on the bylaws will be short-order work. He added that the Asset Management Policy Statement is also up for a review, and we will be working with Trustee Morris on that. He continued that the next item was the FY26-27 budget and development. He had connected with Trustee Moran and talked through that process and the direction they were heading, and also got some good feedback on how that would be tailored. The next step would be updating and circulating to the couple hundred partners who completed the survey on the current budget

structure. He will continue to provide updates to the trustees and let them know about the meetings so they could participate if they have the time.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she thought it would be valuable for the trustees to take a look at the survey before sending it out to the partners to see how they will be approached. She also encouraged the trustees, if they had an area of interest or concern, to try to get it into the process.

CEO WILLIAMS looked forward to some of the key dates for folks to have on their calendars. He stated that a Behavioral Health Crisis Response statewide meeting will be convened on May 3rd. It is statewide, in-person and virtual. It will include many of the State, tribal, and community partners. The goal of this is to provide a more detailed update on where they are since 2018, and to start identifying the areas that need continued work to make sure the system is moving without any bumps in the road.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked, in response to the Senator's concerns about expanding this to rural Alaska, were there any plans to provide scholarships for the meeting for some of the partners in rural Alaska.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that those details have not been figured out yet, but it is definitely something that needs to be considered because folks are very interested.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that Senator Hoffman made a couple of comments regarding trustees representing rural Alaska, and we are serving rural Alaska. Those are two different issues. She had observed that we do not get many applications from people living in rural Alaska to serve on our board, and that is a challenge. It is also challenging to put services into rural Alaska, and we need to find new ways to partner with the rural communities. She continued that she thought in the process of reaching out to rural Alaska to encourage grant applications from rural communities, it may be needed to increase the number of trustees in serving from rural Alaska to be able to represent rural communities. Rightfully, we need to serve statewide. She added that it is a challenging assignment, and we have to do better. Different ways to get out there are needed, and we have to reach out to the partners and begin having conversations.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON noted that staff tried to work on that more effectively, and the survey was one avenue. We did have some input from some of the tribal partners on some of the questions as to whether or not that would be helpful. She continued that they also looked at some other innovative ways of engaging some of the partners. For example, GCI does rural suicide prevention grants, and they get more applications than they could possibly fund. Staff determined that they are making connections in communities with some partners that want to do something, but they have not formed those connection relationships. Staff has also reached out to see if there were ways of understanding the needs of those communities better.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that there may be a way to design a grant that may be driven by location over and above the subject, giving the opportunity for those regions to learn how the process works and to learn about it; perhaps suggesting that the best grant idea that comes forward would get one. If nothing else, the knowledge will be shared with them.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she and Trustee Fimon talked to Senator Olson suggesting the

same thing. They got the message. She wondered if the stressfulness of the message from Senator Hoffman was justified. It is very hard to know if the grants benefits were statewide. She understood that the northern part of the state has Internet challenges on a good day. She suggested a bit of different outreach and maybe more compassion in maybe accepting something handwritten would make the issue more realistic. She also talked about looking at the composition of the board and possibly having an unofficial seat that is able to take part in discussion, but not to vote. She suggested looking outside of the box on this, and trying to make the board better, which will make the organization better.

CEO WILLIAMS referred to: “How to engage in rural communities?” How to engage with individuals that represent beneficiaries, whether they be Alaska Native or some other demographic. We will continue improving the outreach and education, and when a seat is known to be coming available, using those networks to try and spread the word. We will also continue to look for different ways of improving that process so that a very robust pool of applications from which a panel could go through the process and submit nominations for consideration. He moved to the Improving Lives Conference and stated that because of the trustees’ support and because of the success of the inaugural conference, we are moving forward to do it again. The planning process has already begun for the fall conference, and we have a contractor on board to support us with logistics and IT stuff; the same contractor that was used in the fall of ’22. He stated that the last thing was the CEI quarterly report which was just finalized and put on today’s agenda. He asked for any questions or comments. He stated that trustees were supposed to have a site visit this afternoon at Bartlett Hospital. Last year this site visit was when it was under construction. Their behavioral health unit that uses the Crisis Now model has been serving adolescents since they opened about a month ago. Unfortunately, because the weather has impacted their staffing, they requested postponing and rescheduling the site visit.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a lunch break.

(Lunch Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and stated that public comment was next on the agenda. The public comment period was from 12:30 until 1:00 o’clock. 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 for up to three minutes and may be granted the latitude to speak more than the 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. The Chair maintains the right to stop the public comment period if it contains inappropriate or inflammatory language or behavior. She first addressed the fact that there was one written comment from Faith Myers and Dorrance Collins in the packet, provided to trustees for their review. She stated that there were five members in the room associated with one of the beneficiary organizations. She introduced Rebecca Kirian with Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance and asked her to begin.

MS. KIRIAN stated that she is a registered dietician and the executive director of the Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance. It is the only nonprofit organization in Alaska Focused on improving the lives of Alaskans impacted by eating disorders. She thanked the trustees for the opportunity to share more about how Alaskans are impacted by these life-threatening illnesses, which are much more common than most people think. Eating disorders is not a new disease, and about

65,000 Alaskans will experience an eating disorder at some point in their life. Eating disorders are the second highest mortality rate among behavioral health conditions, surpassed only by opioid abuse. The high mortality rate is due to the physical impact eating disorder behaviors have on the body, as well as the substantial elevated risk for suicide. Due to shame and stigma, many avoid seeking necessary care. Currently, there is only one contracted Medicaid facility, and it only accepts females ages 13 to 21. If a person is an adolescent male or child under 13 and requires a high level of care, there are no options. These youth do not receive the standard of care that is desperately needed. She continued that the local supply of outpatient eating disorder services is also insufficient for all Alaskans, and the shortage is especially severe for Medicaid beneficiaries. AKEDA prioritizes professional development training designed to expand healthcare capacity to effectively treat eating disorders; but there is still a gap even greater for providers accepting Medicaid. Medicaid beneficiaries are particularly negatively impacted by regulations that cut off coverage for dietitians at age 21. She stated that AKEDA envisions a future where no one has to walk alone; where all Alaskans have access to the appropriate levels of care they need to receive high-quality, culturally appropriate eating disorder care in their home communities. She stated appreciation for the support the Trust has provided to AKEDA so far, and looks forward to working with all in continuing to address this life-threatening issue that affects Trust beneficiaries in need of recognition and care.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if they were seeing an increase in the number of youths.

MS. KIRIAN replied they have, especially since the pandemic. The rates have significantly increased for youth affected by eating disorders.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked if they had a feeling for how many youths and adults are leaving the state to receive care for these issues.

MS. KIRIAN replied that they do not have a hard number. She stated that it was really challenging because some people are not able to access the care.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Kirian, and recognized Brenda Stanfill.

MS. STANFILL stated that she is with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults, and has been there for two-and-a-half years. Prior to that she was the executive director of the Interior for the Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living in Fairbanks for 25 years, and has had a lot of opportunities to engage with the Trust also. She reminded all of the high number of beneficiaries that all of the shelter programs across the state serve. The Alaska Victimization Study that was done showed that one in three of the individuals impacted by domestic violence would have qualified as a Trust beneficiary, and she truly believes that is probably low because that survey is often done by phone. She talked about the program in Fairbanks that is looking at the 75 to 78 percent range of individuals staying in shelters qualifying as Trust beneficiaries. Because of that, they built permanent supportive housing and different things. That is what all of their programs are doing, and they have been recognizing that they are serving a high number. She was proud to say that their shelter network is a screen-in network, and they do everything to make sure that individuals who are Trust beneficiaries could come into the shelter and stay. The staff of these programs work very hard to make sure that the right services and right connections are provided, and that people are housed. She stated appreciation for Trustee Moran talking about the ability to connect with us and having a lot of

connections into the rural areas; 24 regional centers. They all network well, and we look forward to being able to partner with the Trust in whatever way to make this better. She thanked the trustees for recognizing the housing need through the programs. There are additional funds coming into next year's budget. Statewide means that it will be getting out into rural programs, and we can prioritize that.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Stanfill, and recognized Don Habeger.

MR. HABEGER stated that he felt like he was at a legislative hearing. He introduced himself as the Juneau Reentry Coalition coordinator. He pointed out that the joint report to the Legislature from the Department of Health, as well as the Department of Corrections, on Page 2, is a graph that shows the lowest recidivism rate Alaska has yet achieved. It is 54.32 percent, and is heading in the right direction. He then addressed digital technology inside the prison facilities. He stated that one of the things COVID taught all is that community access inside the facilities could be interrupted. During the COVID event, no community member was allowed access into facilities and, therefore, no reentry preplanning was achieved. One of the things that could be done better is having preplanning through safe and secure digital technology. One of the concepts is something as simple as a tablet that folks could use inside their dorms so that they have access to Telehealth, to reentry planning, to additional education. All of those things improve the reentry process. He referenced Statute 33.30.015, the no frills law. It says that the Commissioner of Corrections is prohibited from letting folks inside dormitories to have access to essentially modems, which gives an idea of how old that law is. He continued, that needs to be amended so that safe and secure access with some kind of insulation so someone does not have direct access to the Internet. We have advanced enough to achieve that kind of access to technology inside the facilities. He added that they are going around the Legislature as coalitions asking for a change in this law.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked if there is a piece of legislation that they are currently floating around and, if so, what bill number.

MR. HABEGER replied they were told that one senator and one representative are working on a bill, but we have not seen anything that has dropped.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Mr. Habeger, and asked for anyone in the room to testify. She recognized Kim Champney.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that she is the executive director of the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities. She continued that a year ago she had shared a presentation as part of Mr. Reinhart's report from the Council. The title was "A System in Crisis." A lot has happened since then, which has not changed anything on the ground, but there is a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. The Legislature allocated funding to launch the development of the Intertie, which will allocate services in a different way that should fix some of the issues with the system. There was also a Medicaid increase last legislative session that bumped up the rates a little bit. She added that they were engaged in the RFP process to do that rate study, and wanted to share that. They are really looking at how to support more access to affordable housing, and some people are living in group settings because they could not find affordable, accessible housing. She stated that, with childcare, the workforce is still incredibly short of where it needs to be. With transportation, the more people can get to places independently, the less they rely on

human support and technology. They want to get in a place where they can have self-directed budget authority, participant-directed services, but also not to overwhelm the people at SDS who are trying to fix so many things right now. She stated appreciation for the program officers talking about how to come together in solving this issue. It is an incredibly important part of the safety net.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Champney, and recognized Carmen Wenger.

MS. WENGER stated that she is the director of programs for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership. She continued that one of their programs, Help Me Grow Alaska, received funding from the Mental Health Trust. She was there to thank the trustees for the support of their program and offered them AAPP as a resource for the Trust for data or information on any of the participants they work with. She added that they are seeing increased utilization of the system by the Trust beneficiaries; the large and growing component of those that utilize the Help Me Grow system. She explained that one of the things they do when talking with people as part of strengthening the system of care for children, is advocating for the use of the well-designed plans already in the state for how to make things better, including the Comp Plan. Help Me Grow Alaska is a system that works to improve all three objectives under Goal 1 of the Comp Plan. One of the things the program does is to use data generated by the program to feed back into communities to improve both the program and the system of care. She stated that they had some data about the program over the last year, and will distribute it digitally for all Trust members. She thanked the Trust for the ongoing support. She also talked about a system called Golden Care that was implemented over the last year. It is one of the processes used with families to understand their goals for their family, and to help tailor the service around how they were helped to navigate the system using that frame of mind. It links the families' goals to one of the five protective factors using the Strengthening Families framework, and that helps ensure the longevity of connection to service. It is one of the ways they help families move towards durable connection, and to help reduce the barrier of long-term access to care.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Wenger, and asked for anyone online interested in giving public testimony.

MS. LUEY stated that she is with VOA Alaska and was interested in providing public comment. She continued that she has been a president and CEO of the VOA Alaska. She explained that they are a behavioral health organization with over 40 years' experience specializing in therapeutic services and supports for young Alaskans and their families. At their core, they exist to end the suffering for young people, especially that which was exacerbated by substance use and mental health challenges. The Alaska Mental Health Trust is a vital partner in VOA's efforts. Thanks to the Trust's incredible support and technical assistance, they have implemented new home-based services and expanded critical community-based assessments used in mental health services. Most recently, there were integrated vocational services at the IPS model with the transitional-aged youth. She added that they are deeply grateful for the support of the Trust, and they know the impact of that investment will be felt by beneficiaries for generations. She stated that while great work is being done, help is still needed in combatting the youth mental health crisis in Alaska through statewide attention and investment. Alaskans' current continued care for children, adolescents and families is incredibly fragmented. A United States Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division investigation of the State behavioral health system for children found that there is reasonable cause to believe that the State is violating the

Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to provide appropriate treatment options. Furthermore, the investigation found that Alaskan children experience unnecessarily long stays in in-patient psychiatric and residential psychiatric facilities due to the lack of community-based treatment options. She added that, thanks to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, a comprehensive assessment and report was conducted by the Alaska Healthcare Association. This critical system was picked apart, dissected, and solutions developed with key stakeholders to address this critical gap and the critical issues impacting so many Alaskan children and families. She stated that the report identified specific acts of care, the need to address behavioral health providers and upstream prevention services to prevent suffering later in life. Unfortunately, there has been little or no action on these recommendations. The State of Alaska continues to lead the country in youth suicide. The need is paralyzing, and we must do better. The kids, the next generation, deserves better. With the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority leading the state through Crisis Now implementation, and other incredibly innovative approaches to improving the quality of care for beneficiaries, the hope is that similar attention be given to the system of care that supports the youngest beneficiaries.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Luey, and asked for anyone else online to give public testimony.

MS. WINSTON stated that she lives in Kenai. She thanked all for the opportunity for the public comment. She talked about the importance of self-direction and participant-directed services, and options for individuals with disabilities like herself. She experiences a developmental disability and works closely professionally, and volunteers with people with disabilities. She continued that she would like to see more options for individuals that use home- and community-based services. She added that self-direction for participant-directed services will enable the option of using the Medicaid budget in a way that she could control. She would have the ability to hire whomever she wanted and not have to utilize a provider agency which often takes weeks to get hired. She would also be able to do her own training. She stated that this is really important for individuals that use home- and community-based services. It would also be great for the senior population who are a majority of waiver and Medicaid participants. She asked that the Trust and the Legislature prioritize this issue.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Winston, and asked for anyone else online to give public testimony. Hearing no one, she went back to the room and recognized Mary Katasse.

MS. KATASSE stated that she used to be part of the Juneau FASD Community Board of Directors when it was active. She was also part of the Juneau Community FASD working groups where she would go into the district and support kids with FASD and kids with other disabilities. She added that she is now a board member for the Alaska Center for FASD. She stated that she was here speaking on her own behalf. She is the adopted mother of three children on the spectrum, full siblings, and fourth generation. She has dedicated the last 14 years, since Julian was diagnosed, to learn as much as she could about FASD and how to properly raise him. She recently found something called “Robotripping” which has been here since the 1980s. It is Robitussin cold medicine, and they also use Benadryl and Mucinex. Needing to please for his disability, her 16-year-old started using the Mucinex and Benadryl, and ended up in the hospital a couple of times. She has come to find out that in Juneau it has been quite regular where kids have been hospitalized, and this last time her son was in CCU for several days. This is done easily because these drugs and something called bitters have a high-alcohol content, and they are

on the store shelves. Her son was told to just steal this off the shelves. She continued that she went to the local Fred Meyer and told them what happened and showed them it was on the shelf. The person in charge moved the bitters to the liquor store right then. Her goal is to get them off the shelves, and put them under lock and key. She will be going to the legislators and is looking for support and for people to help her. The first step is what is needed to be done to protect our kids. She added that she had gathered a lot of information and shares it with as many people as possible. This is for all of the kids and all of the people with special needs.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Ms. Katasse for taking in the children and stated that fetal alcohol syndrome is probably one of the most under-diagnosed issues that are experienced in this state. She continued that she had never heard about these particular substances being misused, and hoped that she finds some success. We will be watching the legislative process.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that they had this issue in Ketchikan, and she thought that there was a local ordinance that required that these be put under lock and key. She suggested that Ms. Katasse contact them to get a comparable ordinance that could be walked in front of the Legislature.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked Trustee Moran for sharing that and wished Ms. Katasse well. She asked for anyone else online or in the room that had an interest in giving public testimony. Hearing and seeing none, it was 1:07, and she ended the public comment period on the agenda. She stated that if anyone wished to give public comment and had not yet been heard, written comments are always welcome and may be submitted to the trustees at any time. She called a short break.

(Break.)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and stated that Trustee Sturgeon was on the line to talk about the Resource Management Committee report and update. She asked for a motion.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees directs the TLO to continue to prudently manage the seven commercial real estate properties and return to the Board and recommend disposal of any of those properties when the TLO determines, pursuant to its statutory and regulatory directives, that those disposals will be in the best interests of the Trust and its beneficiaries. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. WARNER stated that this was brought to the Resource Management Committee and now here at the Board. She continued that there are seven commercial real estate properties in the commercial real estate portfolio. The TLO does a wholesale analysis on a regular basis, and if adopted or approved, the TLO hopes to bring a disposal in the near term.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked if the motion would allow addressing each of the real estate properties individually regarding the impacted cash flow, or will we be looking at disposal as a block.

MS. WARNER replied that they are looking at all options. Typically, the current strategy is that one building will be coming up for disposal in the near term.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. There being nothing further, she called the roll.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the next item, and entertained a motion.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves the annual lease rent of \$30,000 for a 30-year lease with a 10 percent rent increase every five years of Lot 1, South Fairbanks Subdivision, according to Plat No. 2007-198 in the Fairbanks recording district, Trust Parcel F1002, in Fairbanks, Alaska, to Tanana Chiefs Conference. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. WARNER reminded all that this was heard at the committee level. This is about 1.84 acres at 650 Younker Court in Fairbanks. It is an 8600-square foot building and is referred to as the Fairbanks Detox Center and operated by the Fairbanks Native Corporation. It is a 30-year lease. As a reminder on this lease, the Trust would be foregoing \$8.3 million potentially as uncompensated income due to the fair-market rent typically being \$317,000. The appraisal came in at about \$2.9 million.

MR. BOYER reminded all that the director of Health Services from Tanana Chiefs Conference co-presented at the October presentation. The Fairbanks Gateway Recovery Detox program is currently operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference. That is who this below-market fair lease deal is extended to. They have been operating that facility there for a lot of years, and it is seen as a real positive support to the community and the continuum. There are not enough of these kinds of services in the state. This is a step to solidify Tanana Chiefs Conference operating that, and having the ability to expand their services through this below-market lease deal.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that this is about a rather large area in the state that the services are being provided for, and not just restricted to just that area. This is about much more than Fairbanks.

MR. BOYER stated when the Interior region is referred to, and where Fairbanks is considered the hub, it involves a total population of well over 100,000 people. The hub it serves, villages in that Interior region, is north of 50 villages. There is a wide network of support that the different organizations, tribal and nontribal, working together provide for the Interior. He added that this is one of those key services, part of an array, that helps keep people in their community of residence, and really gives them that best chance.

CHAIR HALTERMAN explained that this had been in front of the Board in the October committee, in front of the Full Board in November, then public-noticed, and it came back to the Full Board after feedback was received. She asked Mr. Boyer to talk about the process so that

the public understands.

MR. BOYER stated that the Trust owns lands in a lot of regions and areas. This one is property that the Trust owns in the southern part of the Fairbanks region. An opportunity like this supports an organization being able to operate in that facility at less-than-fair-market-value, which allows them to put more resources into the treatment continuum. He continued that it is critical that the general public understands that the Trust Board really has opportunities to not only generate a lot of revenue from Trust lands around the state, but also to use it to support the beneficiaries in a way that really helps with that.

MS. WARNER put together a flow chart that explained the same thing, and she walked through it for clarity. It was shared with the trustees for reference.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. There being nothing further, she called the vote.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN continued to Trustee Comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE STURGEON apologized again for not making the meeting and stated that it sounds like it was a pretty good meeting. He gave his best to everybody.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked staff for everything. In spite of the challenges with accommodations and things, it all went off without a hitch. He also appreciated all the work that went on behind the scenes with staff here and staff in Anchorage, as well. He stated appreciation for being present at the presentations at the House and Senate Finance Committees, and added that that was well done and received by members of both of the committees. Thank you very much and good job.

TRUSTEE MORAN thanked staff for getting this all together and being adaptable to the changes. She stated that one of the things she enjoyed in coming to Juneau is having such excellent public comment. She appreciates the folks that came to speak today, and for those who hung in there online to speak for the public comments. Thank you. You were heard and appreciated. She continued that it was good to hear from Jordan and the work they are doing, and from Max, and understanding someone who walked that path in Alaska and continues walking it; his difficulties, and how he managed to overcome. She also stated appreciation for the comments of the Senate meeting about the rural outreach. It continues to be a struggle, and she is very hopeful and confident that we will be able to move through that and come out with some good ideas on how to contact folks.

TRUSTEE FIMON echoed some of the same comments and sent a big thank you to staff for the accommodations and the changes, and a shout-out to staff back in Anchorage working behind the scenes. He also thanked all for the reports that were very well done, well intentioned, and good information. He stated that the Mission Moment was well received by all. When someone is

coming through a hard thing and brings it forth in the form of music, it will be stuck in his mind for a long time. He added that he was very appreciative of that. At the site visit he was very impressed with the building that the Trust kind of helped partner with, and the offices and how they put it together. The cumulative total of all of the years of experience of the people that are there and speaking; the word “passion” comes out. Once again, he thanked his fellow trustees for the various discussions and insight.

TRUSTEE MORRIS first echoed the thanks to the staff, his fellow trustees, and in particular, he singled out Jeff for some remarkable driving in poor conditions last night with a bunch of VIPs. He also appreciated Kelda making a midnight run to the airport. He thanked the folks who came for the Mission Moment, and for those who came through the weather to make public comments. The comments were heard, and, in one case, read. He stated that one of the unique parts of coming to Juneau was sitting for the legislative hearings and seeing what the partners in the Legislature are thinking about and what is important to them. There was a lot of common ground there that all could work together for the beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE BOYLES echoed all of the compliments of the Mission Moment, which is always a highlight of the meetings. She asked if a two-day date was set for the governance work.

CEO WILLIAMS replied that a date has not been set.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that there were a couple of new items based on what they did, and she knows that everything looked at for change had to be reviewed based on the original settlement and the statutes that govern the structure, composition, the direction, including predetermined focus areas. There is a need to look outside of who and what we are, and for ways to do things better, and more inclusively. There is a need to be receptive to that. She continued that the Trust has gifts in Jusdi, John Sturgeon and Steve, and the TLO is a diamond in the state of Alaska. She formally requested that CEO Williams, utilizing Ms. Warner to help next year, or, in the interim, to make reports to the House and Senate, because what she does is critically important, and it is obvious that they have an interest in the TLO office. She would like to know for sure, statutorily, if the trustees have any flexibility in the composition of this board. The size may not be able to be increased, but we may be able to work through a system of inviting one person to represent the rural and advisory councils at every meeting. She has heard about this same issue of concern for five years. Other than that, she thanked all for the back and forth, and added that Juneau is exciting.

CHAIR HALTERMAN wrapped up by mirroring a lot of the same comments that had been made by her fellow trustees. She thanked the staff for the amount of work that they do and wants to make sure they get recognized for that work that gets done behind the scenes and after hours. She stated appreciation for the Mission Moment, and this particular one really hit home. It was nice to hear a story of success; a beneficiary that made his way through the system and was paying it back through his music. It was very therapeutic. She also appreciated the public comments and all of the people that came to give public comments in Juneau. It is rewarding to hear from the people that they impact. The beneficiary-serving agencies are representative of the populations, and she appreciated the comments. She also stated appreciation for Faith Myers and her partner for always being advocates for the beneficiaries. They have been a voice that is not always heard, but they continue to charge on with their mission, and they never falter. She added that CEO Williams did a great job, as always, and appreciated all of her fellow trustees and the

contributions to the communication. She pointed out some additional documents in the packets: the Audit & Risk Committee report, the Finance Committee report, and the Program & Planning Committee report. There is nothing for discussion because those issues were resolved at the committee level, and are there for reference. She asked for a motion for adjournment.

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN adjourned the meeting and thanked all.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees meeting recessed at 1:51 p.m.)