

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID/WEBEX**

**July 31, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Originating at:

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

Trustees Present:

Brent Fisher, Vice Chair
Anita Halterman
Corri Feige
Agnes Moran (Virtual)
Kevin Fimon
Rhonda Boyles

Trust Staff Present:

Allison Biastock
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Julee Farley
Michael Baldwin
Eric Boyer
Kat Roch
Carrie Predeger
Luke Lind
Kelda Barstad
Debbie DeLong
Valette Keller
Tina Voelker-Ross
Eliza Muse
Janie Caq'ar Ferguson
Heather Phelps

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Jeff Green
Sarah Morrison
Mariana Sanchez

Also participating:

Gene Hickey; Christopher Orman; Kim Koval; Clinton Lasley; Patrick Reinhart; Maria Smilde; Stephanie Hopkins; Lee Cruise; Charlene Taufest; Kathy Craft; Hazel LeCount; Kim Burnette; Stephanie Wheeler; Carmen Wenger; John Walker; Phillip Toney; Robert Heide; A. Fouts; Jen Harrington; Karly Dickinson; Tracy Singleton; Palona Harbour; Susan Kessler; Sena Gilbert; Marsha Oss; Erik Peterson; Carla Burns; Lance Johnson; Linda Clapp-Demerol; Marsha

Tandeske; Katie Jacques; Marissa Wang; Dr. Dan Hartman; Meg Zaletel; Jacqueline Summers; John Rozzi; Holly Dramis; Jennifer Harrington; Lori Pickett; Becca Kirian; Jasmine Mau-Mukai; Charity Carmody.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

VICE CHAIR FISHER stated that he was asked to chair the committee meeting by Chair Moran, who was attending the meeting remotely. He began with the roll call.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that Trustee Morris had texted her and was excused for a bit.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any other announcements. There being none, he asked for any amendments to the agenda.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN amended the agenda to add an Executive Session for some legal clarification from counsel before beginning today's business.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moved to the approval of the minutes from April 25, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2024, was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

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

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to move into Executive Session.

MOTION: A motion that the Program & Planning Committee enter into Executive Session to discuss grant requirements and to receive legal advice pursuant to the Alaska Open Meetings Act, AS 44.63.310(c)4, as the matters to be discussed during Executive Session involve attorney-client privileged communication protected by law. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

(Executive Session from 9:19 a.m. until 10:02 a.m.)

VICE CHAIR FISHER stated that they were back from Executive Session and invited Gene Hickey, legal counsel, to introduce what had been discussed.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN read the following language into the record: The trustees met in Executive Session with counsel to discuss a recent change in the law concerning sovereign immunity for Native Tribes and its potential impact on the Trust. The Courts have recently expanded the definition of what types of Tribal entities may be entitled to sovereign immunity, and other Federal law pronouncements have expanded the definition. Given those recent changes, the Trust counsel recommended a change to the grant process to include a notice to all prospective grantees that the Trust will now include language requiring all Native entities to agree to waive sovereign immunity; a requirement in the grant agreement setting forth that waiver requirements and the resolution to be signed by the Native entities' boards must be signed, waiving the sovereign immunity as a condition of the receipt of the grant funds.

MR. HICKEY explained that the issue was a recent development and has been seen in several Federal programs, as well. Prior to these changes, it was easy to determine what Native entities were entitled to sovereign immunity. He continued that a recent Supreme Court pronouncement and some of definitional changes in some of the Federal grant programs expanded what types of entities might be entitled to that. He stated that the Law Department's recommendation is to revise the grant agreement so that each grantee is on notice that, in the event sovereign immunity applies or may apply, it is a test determined by the Supreme Court to determine who is and who is not. He stated that it is their recommendation that anytime it may apply, that there be a waiver requirement in the grant agreement waiving sovereign immunity; and that the Native entity that may be entitled or is entitled to that sovereign immunity, waive that via a resolution of the board of that Native entity.

MOTION: A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approve a change in its grant process by requiring a notice to all grant applicants that any entity the Trust determines may be entitled to sovereign immunity is required to waive that immunity as a condition to receive the grant funds, and that the Trust's grant agreement incorporate language requiring a waiver of sovereign immunity, and that the waiver is only effective by a resolution from the Native entity's board. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

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

VICE CHAIR FISHER reiterated that we value the partnerships and the grants that have been given to the Native organizations in the past. Immunity is not a new thing, and it is just that the definition of what a Tribal entity is has changed recently. He added that the adjustments were made according to the legal counsel. He moved to the focus area grant approvals.

AUTHORITY GRANT APPROVALS
FOCUS AREA GRANT APPROVALS
**SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION– FY25 HOUSING & HOME- and COMMUNITY-
BASED SERVICES FOCUS AREA ALLOCATION REQUEST**

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the team had been working incredibly hard in preparing materials and working with partners to bring forth opportunities for Trust investments in the system of care. She continued that they were bringing all approvals to the Board based on recent guidance from counsel. She noted the different format with this list of approvals in that there was a cover memo with a series of motions, and a program officer was prepared to speak to each proposal.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee approves a \$500,000 Housing & Home- and Community-Based Services focus area allocation with Southcentral Foundation for Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury, TABI, Phasic Implementation Plan for the Identification, Intervention, and Enhanced Community Infrastructure Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD noted that Southcentral Foundation did present at the April Program & Planning meeting with a lengthy presentation on the update from the first year, and what is planned for this second year was provided. She stated that this project is a true systems change, and the Southcentral Foundation partners are working to insure that all of the customer-owners that engage with ANMC have the opportunity to get screened, assessed, evaluated and, where indicated, rehabilitated. She added that Katie Jacques, Marissa Wang and Dr. Dan Harman were there to provide a short progress update and the continuing plans.

MS. JACQUES talked about creating a project charter with an improvement and a standard process of how they do improvement and how that is tracked in their healthcare system. She continued through her update and explanation of the project.

DR. HARTMAN explained the evaluation effort and the improvement processes specific to Southcentral Foundation and ANMC processes that require wiring for their system. He stated that the project charter for TABI is in its third version now from 2021, and he provided a copy to look at. They were recently asked to establish a new clinical core business group for rehabilitation services on the campus. He continued that the traumatic and acquired brain injury initiative will be the first multidisciplinary treatment program in the State of Alaska for brain injury.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any further questions. There being none, he called the question.

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

Al-ALASKA PEDIATRIC PARTNERSHIP – FY25 EARLY CHILD INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION ALLOCATION REQUEST

MOTION: The trustees approve a \$50,000 fiscal year '25 Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Authority Grant to the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership for the early childhood governance outreach coordination project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this grant proposal is for early childhood governance outreach coordination, and explained that the funding is to improve coordination and governance of Alaska's programs and services that are targeted for prenatal, infant, and early childhood beneficiaries, which impacts intervention and prevention for early detection of developmental disabilities or behavioral health issues. She continued that these programs cross multiple state divisions with separate systems, funding streams, and decision-making authority, which fragments their work. She noted that the fund source was a specific budget line item in the FY25 budget called Early Childhood Governance Public/Private Partnership. This funding is matching funding that A2P2 received from the new ventures fund, and the total amount of leveraged funds from other sources is \$221,600. This is the last year of match funding for this project.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN was very grateful to see this work moving forward. Identifying youth rather early with issues is the best approach toward trying to resolve these issues, and she thanked them for the work that they do.

VICE CHAIR FISHER called the question.

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

PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPROVALS ANCHORAGE COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

MOTION: A motion that the Trust approve \$100,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for "The Next Step" project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that as part of the "Anchored Home" Community plan, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness is implementing "The Next Step" project. The first phase of this project, housing 150 people in Anchorage from shelter into housing, was just recently finished. This project uses the strategies of housing collaboration, braided funding, landlord incentives, in-home support, and one year of housing assistance to insure that Anchorage residents who were homeless could be stably housed. She continued that this phase shows promise that after six months, 96 percent of individuals have remained stably housed. She added that the intent of this program is for it to be long-term, ongoing housing, and to remain stably housed into the future.

A discussion ensued.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any questions. There being none, he called the question.

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

SULTANA NEW VENTURES, LLC

MOTION: A motion that the Trustees approve \$75,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to Sultana New Ventures, LLC, for the Health TIE project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MR. BOYER gave a brief update on Health TIE, noting that it was funded for a number of years in partnership with the Mat-Su Health Foundation and private entities, and is an innovation healthcare hub. They have that space out in the community where they think about the different entrepreneurial ways to partner with the healthcare industry in looking at telehealth/digital health options. He went through the program, highlighting some of the innovations that helped extend the health force and the overall healthcare efficacy for meeting needs.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN was excited to see the project coming forward.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

MR. BOYER introduced Jacqueline Summers, the executive director of Health TIE.

MS. SUMMERS thanked the trustees for their past support and stated that Health TIE has a very small footprint and is working as a catalyst, introducing new ideas to Alaska and creating partnerships. She stated that she works virtually from a laptop and, with those funds, has made tremendous things happen in the state. She explained that Health TIE came about because of the realization that many Alaskans' social service agencies do not know that entrepreneurs want to solve their problems. She added that she makes those connections, and explained some of her goals.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked Ms. Summers for the work being done, and specifically for what she is doing in dementia.

VICE CHAIR FISHER asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, he called the question.

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

INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON-VIOLENT LIVING

MOTION: A motion that the trustees approve a \$50,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living for the Fairbanks Housing Case Manager project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this project develops a multi-agency shared rapid rehousing program, specifically in Fairbanks. She explained that about four to five years ago the Trust helped start a rapid rehousing project with another agency, which was not able to continue, and created a gap in services for rapid rehousing in the Fairbanks area. After the local coalition met and discussed the topic, the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living decided that they should house it, and this funding provides gap funding. They anticipate a HUD grant in the near future. The program was put together with some continuum-of-care funding and in-kind support from the City of Fairbanks so that it could be restarted. This money will help fill that gap. She added that they did anticipate that the program would be stable in the future through HUD grant and continuum-of-care funds. She stated that the goal of the program is to get individuals stabilized in scattered-site private rentals within 30 to 90 days of entering the program. The Fairbanks housing market has been and continues to be very tight.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, he called the question.

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

NIKISKI SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.

MOTION: A motion that the trustees approve a \$50,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to Nikiski Senior Citizens, Inc. for the Kenai Peninsula Family Caregiver Support Program. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Family Caregiver Support Program helps to provide a variety of services to unpaid caregivers of family and loved ones in the Kenai Peninsula. Their primary population are caregivers who support beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The program overall also serves unpaid family caregivers of seniors with other needs. The services include facilitated support groups, durable medical equipment, assistive technology, information and assistance services, consumable supplies such as incontinent supplies, as well as coordinating respite and other in-home services with the family. She added that this helps to extend the reach of the National Family Care Support Program grant which was received.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked for any questions. There being none, he called the question.

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

VALLEY CHARITIES

MOTION: A motion that trustees approve a \$50,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to Valley Charities for the Durable Medical Equipment Lending Program new location. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Valley Charities Durable Medical Equipment Lending Program is a free community resource for Mat-Su Borough residents who do not have the resources or insurance coverage to purchase durable medical equipment. The Trust helped fund this last year as a startup, and it now needs an expansion because of its success. This medical equipment lending program helps fill in the gap that insurance does not cover, and insures that people have a safe discharge. She had a chance to visit the loan closet and stated that it is a really well-run operation, and added that a lot of people that need this medical equipment are Trust beneficiaries.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the question.

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

HOSPICE OF HOMER

MOTION: A motion that the trustees approve a \$48,080 fiscal year '25 partnership grant with the Hospice of Homer for the Healthy Aging Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD explained that the Hospice of Homer Healthy Aging Project helps engage beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as the aging community, which is identified as age 50 or older. She stated that this is a combination of volunteer support of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as a larger preventive focus to encourage healthy aging in the South Kenai Peninsula region. She continued that they are looking at implementing healthy aging practices and a healthy aging community in the region of the Kenai Peninsula to prevent ADRD, and to also connect volunteers to beneficiaries with ADRD to improve their outcomes and assist their caregivers.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that this is a step in the right direction. She asked if they were reaching out to Medicare for all of the support that they could get, and asked that be passed to those in charge at Hospice in Homer.

MS. BARSTAD replied that Holly Dramis, the executive director of Hospice of Homer, was online.

MS. DRAMIS stated that they actually do not bill any insurance or Medicare or Medicaid. Hospice of Homer has always provided services free of charge. They are a very small staff and are not set up to take on billing at this point. They are looking to grow their volunteer base to fill the caregiver needs that they are seeing in their community.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked about their average daily census, and what was preventing the Medicare billing.

MS. DRAMIS replied that Hospice of Homer is a different hospice than a lot of communities are accustomed to. They do not have a facility, and their clients experience many other complications beyond end of life. There are between 80 and 90 clients on a given day, with

about 70 volunteers helping those clients. Of that group, less than 10 qualify as end of life by the medical standard of being within six months of passing.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER stated that that helped him to understand what they did and the need for the grant. He called the question.

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

ANCHORAGE NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER

MOTION: A motion that the trustees approve a \$48,022 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for the Behavioral Health Assessment project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BIASTOCK asked Program Officer Heather Phelps to explain this partnership grant.

MS. PHELPS explained that she was presenting on behalf of Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center. They want to expand their psychological testing in their behavioral health assessment. This is new for them. They have a clinical psychologist, Sarah Dewane. She stated that this project is unique in that they are a Federal-qualified health center, primary care, working with underprivileged Anchorage individuals. They want to start to expand their behavioral health services. This will be the integration of behavioral health and primary care. She continued that they want to start off with 50 Trust beneficiaries, and this is a one-time request. The majority of the funding will go to purchasing the psychological tests, and they also have some staff requests.

A brief question-and-answer discussion ensued.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the question.

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

ALASKA LITERACY PROGRAM

MOTION: A motion that trustees approve a \$15,000 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to the Alaska Literacy Program for the fiscal year '25 Alaska Literacy program projects. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. BARSTAD explained that this project is a program that helps refugees and other immigrants who have come to the country with children to develop not only their English language skills, but resiliency factors. She stated that refugees all experience incredibly traumatic circumstances, and a vast majority of them have been diagnosed with post-traumatic-stress disorder. She continued that the Family Literacy Program's unique approach is not only approaching the parents, but also the children. She added that this is partner funding. A majority of the funding comes from United Way, the Children's Trust, and the Providence Foundation.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked if there was a cultural component to the family counseling for what is appropriate, positive parenting.

MS. PICKETT replied that there is a culture component that mainly comes into play in the way that groups get together and are able to talk about the issues, and to have an opportunity to learn from each other.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER was interested in the PTSD culture, and learning how to live within a culture that is different from your own. He asked for a copy of the curriculum and asked what other programs they do with them.

MS. PICKETT replied that they are working with a curriculum that was identified by the school district, and there are programs that are usually identified by the parents. It is a responsive community-based style of activities, done with the parents. She stated that there have also been a lot of requests for dental.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Pickett, and called the question.

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

ALASKA EATING DISORDERS ALLIANCE

MOTION: A motion that trustees approve a \$2,500 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to the Alaska Eating Disorder Alliance for the Immersive Eating Disorder Essentials Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. FERGUSON stated that this request is from Alaska Eating Disorder Alliance, AKEDA, and is a one-time funding for hosting a three-day conference in Anchorage, supporting 35 medical providers, outpatient providers, dietitians. It is for conference fees to bring up a national speaker, and an evidence-based nationally recognized Ph.D., Dr. Tara Deliberto. The goal is to enhance the workforce that serve Trust beneficiaries with this really complex behavioral health condition. She explained that eating disorders are very complex with some of the highest mortality rates, secondary to opioid abuse. The unique thing about the three-day conference is the plan to host a training for caregivers which helps to identify loved ones, and support for the primary beneficiaries in recovery, and to help get them the resources they need, which hopefully will impact the recovery outcomes.

A brief discussion ensued.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the question.

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

ALASKA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

MOTION: A motion that the trustees approve a \$2,500 fiscal year '25 partnership grant to the Alaska Children's Alliance for 2024's Alaska Conference on Child Maltreatment. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this funding is for the sponsorship of the Alaska Conference on Child Maltreatment that is scheduled for September 2024. This conference will provide training for up to 300 professionals who work within the area of child abuse. She explained that Alaska has high rates of child abuse, and there are significant overlaps between child abuse and mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. This conference is very relevant and applicable to the Trust beneficiaries. She continued that the Alaska Children's Alliance leveraged \$125,000 in other funds to support this conference.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked if the \$2,500 grant was to fund someone going to the conference or the expenses of the conference that people would be invited to attend.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS replied that it is a sponsorship in part for the expenses, not for the costs for someone to attend.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that she has staff that have attended this conference, and it is an excellent conference.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the question.

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

VICE-CHAIR FISHER concluded the motions, and called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the meeting back to order and stated that the next presentation on the agenda was Mental Health and Addiction Intervention.

FY26/27 TRUSTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION INTERVENTION

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the budget process, which they would cover in more detail before getting to the recommendations, is the process through which staff presents its vision for the Trust for the year ahead. The Trust has an incredible team of experts, and the program team has decades between them of valuable experience in working to address beneficiary challenges and work to improve the system of care. The budget is as unique as the Trust; one that proposes funding through State agencies, nonprofits, service providers, and many others. It is a real-life demonstration of how the Trust works across systems and across the focus areas to use resources to improve beneficiary outcomes. The budget aligns with many of the priorities of the key partners in Alaska who are also engaged in efforts to improve outcomes, and that includes the State of Alaska. She continued that Governor Dunleavy's priorities for the State's budget include the safety of Alaskans and addressing the addiction and opioid crisis. She added that,

through the work of the Trust Land Office, they are also supporting the Governor's goals of access to land and resources and creating an environment for economic growth. She stated that the needs of the beneficiaries are great, as are some of the system level challenges, and the organization can address them all in a year. She began the strategies that represents what staff sees as the best use of the funds. She explained the two-year budget process and pointed out the September 15th date, which is the statutory deadline for submitting the budget to the State.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN talked about a conversation with the Governor regarding leveraging resources to defining a unified opioid budget. During that conversation, she made it clear that the budget addressed many of the issues raised during that call. The only ask was to really look at whether or not the other resources are being leveraged. She asked Ms. Baldwin-Johnson to talk about the conversations that followed the initial prompts.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON prefaced that this budget is still a draft, and this is part of the process. Trust staff is actively working with information on a daily basis to refine the recommendations and be responsive in working with the partners. She added that they would continue engaging in the dialogues around some of the funding and partnerships, both with the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services. Those conversations are going well and are happening on a daily basis.

MS. BIASTOCK moved to the graphic which was a good pictorial representation of how informed the budget development process was and how staff informs the recommendations brought to the trustees. The graphic was to communicate all the factors and information that were considered when putting the document together. She reminded all that the presentation did not include a motion, and that it is a draft budget.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON provided some background and talked about some of the materials used to help inform the staff discussions with various stakeholders that tie to the work and recommendations seen in the priority and focus areas.

MS. FERGUSON stated that she had the privilege of presenting the Trust Authority's Mental Health and Addiction Intervention focus area work, TAMHA. She also presented the draft for the proposed FY25 budget. She continued that there is a large need across Alaska, from Kotzebue to Ketchikan, to support mental health and substance misuse and abuse needs for all Alaskans and Trust beneficiaries. She added that proposed in the budget were strategies and objectives to support Trust beneficiaries in key critical areas such as early intervention, prevention, treatment, recovery, and supporting improvement of the crisis continuum system of care, which ultimately helps to insure that Trust beneficiaries and community members have timely access to care in communities of choice, in the least restrictive setting, where possible. She stated that the ultimate goals with this focus area are to insure access to comprehensive services, treatment, clinical engagement, and improving the recovery system so individuals in a behavioral health crisis have their needs met, and with a timely response. She continued through her presentation, explaining as she went through the slides.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that they were looking at reducing the General Fund ask. She continued that Commissioner Kovol was there and acknowledged that there were some items in this focus area and in some others that were directed to her departments. She continued that they were in conversation with her about making some modifications to those requests, as

well. She added that those would be highlighted.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked about the Zero Suicide Initiative program.

MS. FERGUSON replied that Zero Suicide is a national evidence-based model with five key components of bringing suicide best practices integrating into health statements. It is known that individuals at risk for thoughts of suicide or attempting suicide often engage with their primary-care provider prior to their attempt. It helps build out a better system of care for individuals at risk. This allocation to the Department, the Division of Behavioral Health supports one FTE for Zero Suicide Prevention coordinator and engaging with all types of hospital staff across the state.

DISABILITY JUSTICE

MS. BIASTOCK moved to the Disability Justice focus area, and recognized Trust Program Officer Heather Phelps.

MS. PHELPS stated that this focus area aligns with the Comp Plan and looks at reducing Trust beneficiary involvement in the criminal justice system through diversionary programs, getting prevention programs, working with youth in juvenile justice, and the want to reduce the recidivism rates. She continued that the strategies for FY26 are essentially the same as they were in FY25. She gave a brief refresher on the Sequential Intercept Model that has been around for a few decades through SAMHSA, which looks at how individuals and behavioral health and SED issues enter the criminal justice system, and then moves through the criminal justice system. She explained that in greater detail and continued her presentation.

A discussion ensued.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments or questions. There being none, he moved to the next presentation.

BENEFICIARY EMPLOYMENT & ENGAGEMENT

MS. BIASTOCK moved to the Beneficiary Employment and Engagement focus area and introduced senior Program Officer Eric Boyer to present it to the trustees.

MR. BOYER stated that this focus area is where the melding of some of the other focus area work comes together: all of the things that really support the beneficiaries along that spectrum from developmental disabilities, mental health, to Alzheimer's and related dementias, traumatic brain injury. That is where they are trying to engage the beneficiaries to have the kind of success where they have a job they are suited for, are excited and proud of themselves for doing that, and organizations across the state can support them. He added that it also helps with the technical support needed as an organization to be able to support the beneficiaries in the community. He explained in greater detail, answering questions as he went along.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER thanked all for the presentations, and called a break.

(Break.)

VICE-CHAIR FISHER called the meeting back to order, and continued with Housing and Home- & Community-Based Services, recognizing Ms. Biastock.

HOUSING HOME- & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

MS. BARSTAD stated that within the housing sector there are a variety of different types of housing and services looked at, with the ultimate goal being safe, stable housing. Projects are looked at that are safe and affordable and specific to Trust beneficiaries so that everyone can benefit from affordable housing. The Trust beneficiaries often have additional barriers to the general public in attaining and maintaining that housing. She talked about the work in preventing and ending homelessness. She continued that home- and community-based services are designed for people with a disability to live in a wholly community, whether it prevents institutional care or transitioning out of institutional care. They look at how to help the beneficiaries live in the community, making sure they are integrated in the community, and are able to fully participate in the community of their choice; ideally, in their own home. She added that the services included could be both medical and nonmedical. She continued through, explaining the services and projects and responding to questions as she went along. She moved to the changes and explained the projects that are ending.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked for any questions or comments. There being none, he moved to Workforce Development.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MR. BOYER brought forward some of the ideas around the workforce proposed budget and talked about the presentation last July from Dan Robinson, chief analyst at the Department of Labor. There was a lot of data about the population demographic that had been decreasing for the last ten years. The forecast was that it would not be improving in the coming decade. He talked about engaging the people in the communities of Alaska, and recruiting them to careers in the health workforce, training them in that process, and then retaining them. He continued explaining as he went through his presentation.

A question-and-answer discussion ensued.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, he moved to the two final presentations.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that the biggest change to notice is the title of the priority area. It went from Early Childhood Prevention to Early Childhood and Youth. It shifted because that is the title of the area in the new Comp Plan, and she wanted to mirror that and follow those objectives. That has also carried forth in the new area within the strategies, as well. Done in this area is early screening and detection, intervention/prevention with infants, early childhood, children, families, and youth now. The strategy still captures the intent of the original strategy: to reduce childhood trauma and promote protective factors, as well as train the workforce on trauma-informed care. She stated that her overall strategy in this part of the budget is a balanced approach, and went through it, explaining as she went along. She introduced the ILP statewide equity project, the new program for FY26. The ILP statewide equity project is for rural programs to be able to access specialized screenings for infants and early childhood.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked about funding foster care, which was considerably decreased.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS replied that the Alaska Impact Alliance Project was funded for \$400,000, and was taken out and put in as a line item for the next budget. She explained that in greater detail.

MS. CARMODY, executive director of the Alaska Impact Alliance, stated that the money did make a difference, and they have done family resource centers. She gave a brief update on the programs and the successes.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER stated that John Sturgeon was the trustee that got the Board rethinking on how to focus more funds on improving the foster care program, and he encouraged being innovative in looking for ways to improve the system.

NON-FOCUS AREA ALLOCATIONS

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to the non-focus areas. She explained it at a high level, and then pointed out how those resources are used. She explained that this area of the budget is where funding is authorized to support partial operations of the statutory advisory boards, and then talked about a section of consultative and technical assistance. She continued that those funds are utilized to meet a variety of beneficiary needs around the state on an ongoing basis. She continued through, answering questions as she went along. She also went through the information about awards related to the mini-grant programs. She added that the Comp Plan Data Evaluation supported the data and evaluation and planning team, as well as the work on the Comp Plan. She also talked about some other related private projects.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER asked the trustees for any other questions.

MS. BIASTOCK stated that they were done with each section of the budget, and added that there are some closing guidance and requests for trustees as far as next steps.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that there is a lot of available material to reflect on what was shared today. Staff will continue refining some of the items in the budget, and those conversations will continue. She asked that trustees provide additional feedback, questions, or comments that they would like more information about and to respond to by the 9th of August.

VICE-CHAIR FISHER complimented the staff for all the preparation that was done. There is a lot of detailed material that is well-documented and presented. He stated appreciation for that. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

VICE-CHAIR FISHER thanked everybody, and adjourned the meeting.

(AMHTA Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.)