

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
August 29, 2024
8:30 a.m.**

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

Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman, Chair
Kevin Fimon
Corri Feige
John Morris
Rhonda Boyles
Brent Fisher

Trust Staff Present:

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

Trust Land Office staff present:

Jusdi Warner
Jeff Green
Sarah Morrison
Blain Alfonso
Cole Hendrickson
Mariana Sanchez

Also participating:

Gene Hickey; Jeff Jessee; Kathy Craft; Patrick Reinhart; Jena Grafton; Stephanie Hopkins;
Jonathan Swinton; Mariya Lovishchuk; Michael Burke; Tia Sneath; Brenda Riley; Ann Corbett;
Jann Mylett; Karen Heath.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting to order and asked for any announcements. She stated that Trustee Moran was still excused because of the situation in Ketchikan and added that the entire community was in their prayers as they go through this tragic episode of the landslides. She hoped that the danger would pass and all would be well in Ketchikan. She moved into business and began with approvals.

APPROVALS

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK was pleased to bring forth some grant approvals for trustee consideration. She asked for the motion to be read into the record.

GASTINEAU RECOVERY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$99,000 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to Gastineau Human Services for the Gastineau Recovery Supportive Housing Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

MS. FERGUSON explained that Gastineau Services was seeking funding for predevelopment for recovery housing with 51 units located in Juneau that would serve the Southeast Region. All 51 units would be dedicated to servicing all Trust beneficiaries. Some examples of predevelopment activities may include market study, architectural design, engineering, project management, development, and cost estimation. She stated that predevelopment is crucial for obtaining remaining funds for the capital project. Feasibility studies had been made, and they determined that this project would be self-sustaining for the Trust beneficiaries and residents for the long-term through different avenues such as subsidized housing vouchers and monthly rent from the Trust beneficiaries. She added that Jonathan Swinton, executive director of Gastineau Human Services and Mariya Lovishchuk from the Juneau Housing First collaborative were on the call. She asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked to hear what is known about the pending obligations for securities.

MR. SWINTON replied that they secured \$2 million from the City and Borough of Juneau, and they have a \$5 million request through Senator Murkowski's office, with a lot of confidence in it coming through committees. He continued that they would hear in December on the \$3 million ask made to the Federal Home Loan Bank program, and are working on the goal grant now. They also secured \$100,000 from the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, and \$50,000 from the Juneau Housing Foundation.

MS. FERGUSON added that the intention would be supporting these units and dedicating them to expanding long terms of Recovery Housing to reduce things like individuals experiencing homelessness, preventing individuals cycling through shelters or correctional facilities, and providing new opportunities for Trust beneficiaries currently faced with limited housing options, with the emphasis in recovery through the different supports that Gastineau Human Services provides in the community, as well as other providers.

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

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

CONCUSSION LEGACY FOUNDATION, INC.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$75,000 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to the Concussion Legacy Foundation, Incorporated, for the CLF Patient Services Project/Alaskan Continuation Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Concussion Legacy Foundation is a national organization that has been working with the Brain Injury Council of Alaska and others in Alaska to really round out and improve brain injury services and education. They are an incredible help in lifting up medical practitioner education. Part of the request is to support their CME program, and part of this request is for a needed online support group. The Concussion Legacy Foundation will help to set that up in Alaska, and will be able to train other agencies to maintain that online support group. They have been a critical partner in helping build some of the infrastructure, and it is a pleasure to rely on their national expertise to help Alaska pull together the continuum of care that is critical to build for this group of beneficiaries. She highlighted some of their past projects and added that Michael Burke, director of patient programs, and Tia Sneath, director of development, were online for any additional program questions.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if they were actually creating it. He hoped that if the Trust was helping to build a CME, that may be something that could be used and carried forward.

MS. BARSTAD replied that they are creating this material from scratch, targeting specifically for Alaska's needs; but more broadly to be available nationally. They have a partner with Boston University to create these different educational programs.

MR. BURKE added that the CME does have an AMA and APA joint partnership with Boston University. They would be creating two new scanning courses from scratch for this grant year: one focused on TBI care in the military community, and one focused on behavioral and mental health crisis in relation to TBI or as it may relate to traumatic brain injury. They had previous CMEs created for AMA accreditation, APA accreditation, nursing credentials and social work credentials. They are going to strive with their budget, and with support from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, to include as many of those provider accreditations as possible to incentivize fee participation. This would be free to participants, their credit hours, and would be something that could be created during this grant year. Because they have the ability with Boston University to create this on-demand video, it would last for as long as the best practices included and presented are still legitimate, and could be used for accreditation or credit through BU, or for educational purposes for as long as the status of the medical science is still valid.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked why this was being created.

MR. BURKE replied because of their expertise in concussion, traumatic brain injury, persistent systems, as well as chronic traumatic encephalopathy. There are other organizations and accredited providers sharing education, and sharing with their providers, that come to them at every opportunity. He added that, in this case, some of the nuances that the Concussion Legacy

Foundation and their network of providers and experts that advise, can offer an opportunity here. Their mission is to get the word out, and they are very happy, with AMHTA support, to provide it for free.

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

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

FAIRBANKS HOPELINK LEGACY WARMING CENTER

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$50,000 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to the North Star Community Foundation for the Fairbanks Hopelink Warming Center. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MS. BARSTAD explained that the Fairbanks Hopelink Warming Center, also referred to as “The Warming Center,” provides a warm place for unsheltered single adults in the Fairbanks area to stay overnight. This is targeting homeless individuals who may not be able to meet the requirements of other shelters in the area. She continued that it is identified as a low-barrier shelter, and is very much needed because there are a growing number of homeless Trust beneficiaries who are not able to stop their substance use or have not yet been able to engage in mental health treatment or other treatment needed so that the symptoms are not disruptive to others in the current shelter system. This was started last winter out of the growing need. Being homeless in Fairbanks is not just unfortunate, but is dangerous and life-threatening. This overnight warming shelter serves as a solution for the small population of individuals who are not a good fit for the current shelter system. She added that the warming center was pulled together by a group of activists in the community, and it is amazing to see how it developed over just a few short months. A lot of private funding and donations were pulled together to get it off the ground, and that community support is continuing into this next year. She stated that additional grant funding is necessary to start the program more formally, secure a larger space that can be maintained for individuals consistently throughout the winter, as well as meet the need of everyone in the community that will require this low-barrier source. They are estimating roughly 200 people to be serviced.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked about the funding sources with the fundraising drive and support pending, and if that needed to be raised from outside support services in order to qualify for grants.

MS. BARSTAD replied that she believes that was funding simply to round out the budget. She stated that Brenda Riley, the treasurer of the organization, was online to answer specific financial questions.

MS. RILEY stated that was just additional fundraising to round out the budget.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that he had two concerns about this project. The broad-based community support under funding services listed a single anonymous donor supporting the program for \$100,000. He was curious as to whether or not there is community support for this

warming shelter. Second, the first paragraph reads, “While an overnight warming center is not intended to facilitate connections to services, staff will provide referrals, as requested.” He did not understand why they would intentionally not try to connect people to services.

MS. BARSTAD replied that, in addition to the donor listed on funding sources, this past year Tanana Chief Conference donated space and the City of Fairbanks has been very supportive of the idea, and there is a very active homeless coalition. She continued that this is a new service being embraced by that continuum of care, and the in-kind support had been critical to getting this off the ground last winter. The overnight warming shelter is not stepping away from making referrals, but would just separate it out in the continuum of care from a more traditional shelter service. She added that it was not simply intended to be a service center, but has the potential to grow into one.

MS. RILEY explained that the warming center was open from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and at 7:00 a.m. the guests then go down to the breadline for breakfast. The staffing model is to employ care support specialists and to have a robust staff. They were only able to have two staff on duty at night when there were no stores open. A lot of the guests were able to walk around during the day, go to a store, the library, or other places that were open to stay warm during that time. This addresses the need in the evening where there is absolutely nowhere else to go inside.

A brief discussion continued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. There being none, she called the question.

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

HOSPICE OF ANCHORAGE

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$15,000 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant request to Hospice of Anchorage for the Dementia Care Connection Project. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Hospice of Anchorage serves as a community resource, not just for patients at the end of life, but also for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. They also have a considerable percentage of patients at the end of life with ADRD. Part of the work they had been doing is offering a resource center to families and beneficiaries with dementia so that there was a robust offering of tools and resources. This request was specifically for consumable items to soothe a patient with dementia and continue their productivity in their final months of life. That includes things like robotic pets, music players, fidget blankets, and dementia care toolkits for the family to use when hospice staff are not available. She continued that the Hospice of Anchorage does coordinate with the Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska to maximize the resources available and relies on Alzheimer’s Resource to provide caregiver education and support groups. She added that this grant is primarily focused on those consumable items.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that hospice is prospective payment and kind of a bundled payment that pays for a variety of different things that is all inclusive. He asked for more information.

MS. BARSTAD stated that Ann Corbett, the operations and grants manger, was online and could speak to their payment sources.

MS. CORBETT explained that the community resource center is not just for end of life, but for anyone in the community experiencing need. This particular grant is specific to Alzheimer's and dementia patients or families and caregivers of those patients; not necessarily end-of-life resources. It does not include anything medical. They are just consumable resources to help families and caregivers make connections and give peace to their loved ones they are caring for at end of life. She explained this further and in more detail. She added that it was for any consumer in the Anchorage community who comes to them and says they have this need. Over the past few years, they found that had been most beneficial.

TRUSTEE FISHER stated that he worked in hospice, but it was a number of years ago. He asked if all the patients were included in hospice care and getting reimbursement for hospice care.

MS. CORBETT replied that they did not, and added that Hospice of Anchorage is a nonmedical hospice, and they do not have a longer than six-month end-of-life for anyone to be a client with them. They prefer clients who are considering end-of-life care and think of it as a bridge into hospice for those who are not ready to give up their care. But this resource center is open to every single person in the community, not just their clients, and not just hospice clients. Anyone can access the resource center and can, on a daily basis, receive incontinent supplies and durable medical equipment. This is for everyone in the community experiencing the struggles.

TRUSTEE BOYLES complimented them for addressing the need of the tangible things that are often dropped out of care for dementia patients and not covered any other way. She talked about her experiences with her husband and the final stages of Lewy body and the different needs. She thanked Trustee Fisher for his questions and added that it was an educational opportunity. She thanked Ms. Corbett for starting a step in the right direction for dementia care with tangible items that patients cannot just write a check for over \$140 for a mechanical dog.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed on the comments about this being a population that we could not put a definitive number on, especially in Alaska. There are some unique challenges for this population, and she fully supported hospice and appreciated the requests and the commentary and questions. She asked for any other questions. There being none, she called the question.

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

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK stated that the next three grants on the list were all conference sponsorships.

SPONSORSHIP OF THE 2024 ALL ALASKA PEDIATRIC SYMPOSIUM

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$2,500 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership sponsorship for the 2024 All Alaska Pediatric Symposium. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

MR. BOYER stated that this is a \$2,500 conference sponsorship for the pediatric symposium to be held at the Marriott on November 8th and 9th. It is a partnership with four other hospitals in Alaska and two Outside that were providing funding for this conference. It is a premier event to look at integrated care for pediatric support from fiscal healthcare and mental health. It is a great event and pretty well supported.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that this is a relatively small grant amount and failed to see how this was necessary to beneficiaries or directly impactful to them.

MR. BOYER replied that this looks at the broad-brush spectrum with families across the state trying to raise the bar with providers around the state who have a family with a pediatric issue going forward, just being able to address that, raising their expertise and knowledge around that.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that she was impressed by the funding sources that the hospitals have secured and thought that this was the new grant process for \$2,500.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked if there was an agenda, the speakers for the conference, and what they would speak on, and whether they were addressing issues related to Trust beneficiaries.

MR. BOYER replied that he did not have that and would track that down.

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK stated that, as someone in the process of planning a conference, that may not be available for some time, but she anticipated that an agenda would certainly be forthcoming.

TRUSTEE MORRIS highlighted the fact that the Trust was already listed as a sponsor.

MR. FOUTS stated that she was Aggie Fouts with the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership and was online. She pointed out that the sponsorships listed on the website were actually from last year's conference, the 2023 symposium. This event has been held since 2016. She added that they were still formulating the agenda, which was in the draft phase at this time. She continued that one of the talks is about trauma-informed alternatives in institutional care. They have approach skills training for anxiety-free, evidence-based treatment tools for pediatric providers; they have some keynote speakers; and a panel on the future of pediatrics. It is an evolving agenda, and she would be happy to share it with the Trust when finalized.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. There being none, she called the question.

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

ALASKA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE (AHHA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$2,500 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association for the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Annual Conference. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. FERGUSON stated that this was another conference sponsorship for \$2,500 for AHHA, Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association. They were previously known as ASHNA, representing members of the hospitals, as well as nursing home associations. This will be hosted at the end of September with an anticipated 180 to 190 medical and behavioral health providers. All of the training is from healthcare delivery to administration, and provides a didactic and fundamental service delivery for providers with the goal of increasing their competency and skills so those providers can immediately implement those skills with delivering care to patients. She stated that this is a unique opportunity for healthcare providers to get together and learn about crucial issues that serve the Trust beneficiaries across the state.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that she has attended an AHHA conference and found it to be very informative. She was fully supportive of these kinds of requests.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked if there was a charge to participants to attend the conference.

MS. MYLET replied that there was a registration fee for the conference attendees, with a cap at three members from the same facility. She stated that they were fully registered and sold out with 220 attendees; a huge increase over last year, which was around 185.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that \$2,500 is a message that the Trust supports what they are doing, and is a marketing message, which they may want to think about with some of the small grants.

TRUSTEE MORRIS agreed that the purpose of this would be for marketing, and he stated that AHHA is a politically active organization which represents a number of institutions, including some remarkably profitable hospitals. He could not see how this grant would directly benefit a beneficiary and did not think that it was the type of thing they should entertain.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON highlighted that AHHA has been a really important partner in executing some of the systemwide assessments related to behavioral health needs. Several years ago, the Trust funded some of the acute behavioral health system of care which looked at the pressures of emergency rooms and hospitals for the beneficiaries, which led up to the work around the Crisis Now initiative. She wanted to point out that it was kind of the support of the conference and those themes, and they do actually focus quite a bit on behavioral health as an issue. They have an ongoing, regular committee meeting with different providers in the state looking at behavioral health needs and its intersection with healthcare.

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK noted that it is not uncommon to support conferences with partners and with topics that are pertinent to Trust beneficiaries. There is the component of visibility, and we are making great strides in increasing awareness of who we are and what we do, but there is still a lot of work to do there. She stated that staff could explore some other ways to look at approvals for Trust conferences.

TRUSTEE FIMON was happy for the smaller items to come before the board for discussion. It is good for the public perception and people listening in and knowing that they are aware of all these events. He continued that putting the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority in front of over 200 participants at a conference would not be a negative, and he supports it.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further. There being none, she called the question.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION FAILED. (Trustee Feige, no; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Morris, no; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, no; Chair Halterman, yes.)

ASAGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FUELING OUR FOUNDATION

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approve a \$2,500 Fiscal Year '25 partnership grant to the Alaska State Association for Guardianship and Advocacy for the ASAGA Annual Conference. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

MR. BOYER stated that this was a one-day conference October 4th at the BP Energy Center and is a very low-budget affair because it is put on by volunteers. This Alaska State Association for Guardianship and Advocacy is a volunteer organization that works with the Alaska Court System and public guardians. This is where they bring together the partners with the court system, public guardian, families and advocates and build that sense of community and support for the beneficiaries. They use this money to secure the BP Energy Center, and for one of the speakers. The \$2,500 is just a little over half, and the volunteers put in the rest.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that this was for the beneficiaries and every single line item on the agenda directly impacts beneficiaries. He added that this was a fantastic request for a grant.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked staff if this grant funding would be allocated from the Trust non-focus area partnership budget line, and if the trustees approved that budget.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that the trustees approved that budget as the bucket, and it frequently receives requests for conferences and partnerships and sponsorships as part of that.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for anything further from the trustees. Hearing none, she called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a quick break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order. She moved to the Resource Management Committee report, and recognized Jusdi Warner.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE TRUST AUTHORITY BUILDING OPTIONS SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

E.D. WARNER asked for a motion.

MOTION: Wherein regarding the Trust Authority Building, the TAB, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the eight future TAB management options that were presented by the Trust Land Office at the July 30, 2024, Resource Management Committee Meeting and the Board then directs the TLO to research those options and to provide additional

information about those options to the Board at a later date. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FEIGE; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

E.D. WARNER stated that this was read at the committee, and discussed were eight different options. The committee was interested in hearing about all eight options. That was the direction that was being planned to take. She noted that, from 2017 to most recently, under the governance for the TLO, if the TLO brought an approval to the CEO, they have the authority to not take it to the Board or the committee.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated appreciation for the reminder to the change of process. She asked the trustees for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked if one of the options was that the Trust Authority and the TLO would be in the same offices.

E.D. WARNER replied, yes, that was one of the options.

TRUSTEE FEIGE requested that, as part of the analysis, that some sort of cost/benefit analysis be done so that the trustees could look at total cost against pros and cons of each one. That would give greater clarity when making the final decision.

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to Consultation 3.

CONSULTATION 3 MINERAL LEASE (MHT 9400902)

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the negotiated lease of Trust mineral estate on FM 0909 and FM 0910 on Ester Creek and Willow Creek for the exploration and development of placer gold, as proposed. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FEIGE; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

E.D. WARNER stated that this was in front of the committee and is about 200 acres. It is a \$5,000 annual fee which is pretty standard for this type of operation at this stage. She explained that it is a three-year initial term, and we have to do some work to continue after that three years. Aside from the monetary benefit, a huge benefit to the Land Office and the Trust as a whole for value is their data as provided to the TLO.

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

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to Consultation 4.

CONSULTATION 4

TERM EASEMENT (MHT 9201024)

MOTION: The Resource Management Committee recommends that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the executive director of the Trust Land Office on a decision to issue a term easement on a portion of Trust parcel, SM 1747, as depicted in Exhibit A, attached, for the purpose of fiber optic infrastructure. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FEIGE; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

E.D. WARNER stated that this was also at committee and is about 3.7 acres. It is 30 feet in width, which is very standard for a fiber optic cable going across anyone's land. It was near Point Mackenzie, and under a master utility agreement. That fee had been negotiated far in the past.

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

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

CONSULTATION 5

MINERAL LEASE AMENDMENT (MHT 9400248)

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the decision to amend MHT 9400248, a negotiated mineral lease to include approximately 3,016 additional acres of Trust lands described and attached hereto in Exhibit B surrounding Livengood, expanding to an aggregate of 12,986 acres, more or less, of Trust property. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FEIGE; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

E.D. WARNER explained that this is about a 30 percent increase in their subsurface land estate. It will bring that annual rental up to nearly half a million dollars to the benefit of the Trust. There are about nine years left on that original lease. This is the Livengood area, Tower Hill, and is a long-standing project. The hope is that someday they would make that project economical, and the Trust would reap the reward there.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any comments or questions. Hearing none, she called the question.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the Finance Committee report. There were a couple of motions and issues in front of the committee coming forward for Full Board approval. She began with Motion 1.

MOTION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees ratify the Legislature's Fiscal Year '25 MHTAAR and MHT admin budget amounts as appropriated, and therefore increase its previous Fiscal Year '25 trustee authorization by \$668,500. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

CFO FARLEY stated that the information here was discussed at length at the Finance Committee meeting. She added that if there were any additional questions, she would be happy to answer them.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions from the trustees on this motion. Hearing and seeing none, she called the question.

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

MOTION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees approve the Fiscal Year '26 Trust Authority office MHT agency budget of \$5,306,800. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that there was a great deal of discussion on this item at the committee level, and it was coming forward for Full Board approval. She asked Ms. Farley if she had any additional commentary.

CFO FARLEY replied that she would be happy to answer any additional questions.

CHAIR HALTERMAN seeing none, called the question.

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

MOTION: The Board of Trustees approves the Trust Land Office agency budget for Fiscal Year '26 in the amount of \$5,556,600. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any questions or comments from the trustees. There being none, she called for the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order and stated they were at the point in the

agenda to discuss the Fiscal Year '26-'27 budget and budget deliberations. She asked Ms. Biastock for some brief commentary.

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK stated that they looked forward to a dialogue related to deliberation for the budgets. She emphasized the fantastic work of the team putting forth this document. It is the result of not only a year-around stakeholder engagement, but some very deliberate budget information collection activities that helped inform the recommendations the program team put forth. She turned it over to COO Baldwin-Johnson.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON provided some context for the process for engaging in budget deliberations using two pertinent documents: the budget spreadsheet, and the proposed budget detailed report, which provided the narrative detail for the budget recommendations. She briefly touched on some of the changes from the budget, and then walked section by section through each component of the budget. She referred to yesterday's public testimony and stated that this would be an opportunity for trustees to reflect on that and give staff some direction. She added that if trustees were interested in proposing amendments at any point during the walk-through, they would be moved by motion. She explained that the reason for requesting the motion process was that it would give staff clear direction from trustees on how to proceed with amending the budget. They would work through the entire budget and at the end of discussion would take a pause so final updates could be made for any of the amendments that had been moved and passed, and would reflect those changes. That would then be brought back to trustees, and trustees would take up the motion to approve the budget and call for the question. She began with the spreadsheet and the non-focus area allocation of the budget.

TRUSTEE BOYLES asked to talk about a system assessment.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied and recommended that trustees add a line item that would specify that as a project, and then we could discuss an approach of funding for that.

A discussion ensued on the process.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees direct the administration to research feasibility, projected costs, and scope of a system assessment from the 2025 budget and report back to the Trust as soon as possible. The motion was made by TRUSTEE BOYLES; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

The discussion and commentary continued.

TRUSTEE FIMON called the question.

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

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON asked for any other non-focus area for discussion.

A discussion on mini-grants ensued.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked about the \$2,500 cap and if that should be raised.

The discussion continued.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that the mini-grant program was presented in '25 as a budget placeholder, and there are ways staff wanted to improve that. There are access issues. She continued that there are challenges with having a contract, even though the contractor was doing a very good job. This had been done the same way for a long time, and we are rethinking on how to do it better. Part of that is looking at how to gather inputs from the partners and stakeholders on ways they think this might be done better.

The discussion on mini-grants continued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN added that she thought the mini-grants warranted some additional analysis, and if they are supplanting something that Medicaid might fund. She stated that there may be a need to put some effort towards looking at whether there were deficiencies in other areas to help meet these needs. She recommended looking at this with meaningful, thoughtful reflection on what was being done in those grants so some informed decisions could be made in moving forward.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked about the original intent of this program.

MR. LIND gave a brief history of how the mini-grant program began and developed. He stated that one of the key things was having statements in that other funding sources, Medicaid, private insurance, were exhausted. Staff verified that to the best of their ability, but over time it shifted to gap funding, not available through other funding sources that depend on the current needs of the beneficiaries.

ACTING CEO BIASTOCK stated that in the proposed budget detail report there was a quick snapshot on the aggregate data around that mini-grant program that has some great data.

The discussion continued on the grant money.

MR. REINHART stated that their recommendation was that it had been stale and needs improvement, and the limits need to be increased. He continued that mini-grants are an important incredible value, and they fulfill those gaps in service that cannot be gotten anywhere else.

TRUSTEE FIMON appreciated the dialogue and stated that he was not prepared to make a motion at this time. There is a need to learn a bit more about how it works exactly.

CHAIR HALTERMAN agreed. This would allow staff an opportunity to reflect on the commentary and make recommendations that trustees could support and get behind. It takes years to develop these budgets, and the advisors were engaged the entire time. She looked forward to some future recommendations in this area.

MOTION: A motion that the Board of Trustees approves increasing Fiscal Year '26 funding amount for line item 25, grant-writing technical assistance, by an additional \$100,000. The new line item 25 will be \$300,000, with a corresponding decrease of \$100,000 in line item 13, partnerships/designated grants, which would now have a sum of

\$2,050,000. These changes do not impact the total of Fiscal Year '26 budget. These changes will continue forward through the Fiscal Year '27 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS: seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that this is an exceptional resource for the Trust. It is utilized in a way to expand capacity where they are limited; and because of the number of staff working at the Authority, it helps leverage more dollars into the State. It is targeted towards system change and working with partners to help accomplish priorities and system change for the different beneficiary groups.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that he would like to see some of the money used to advertise the program; a significant amount of it.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked who initiated the requests for grant-writing assistance; and if anyone had ever been declined because there were no funds.

MS. BARSTAD replied that they have not declined anyone because of lack of funding. Sometimes the timing is such that the contractor already had multiple grants in process, and they were unable to add a third. Sometimes the grants were not appropriate for that particular kind of assistance. They do try to insure that they are statewide grants or that there was a sole regional applicant. They do not want to create unfair competition among grantees that may be applying for the same grants.

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

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

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON pointed out that, for FY27, the budget will be revisited in the spring, and further edits and recommendations could be made at that time for FY27. She continued through the non-focus area allocations, which included the coordinated transportation and the essential program equipment. She moved to the mental health and addiction focus area which supports the continuum of care insuring that beneficiaries have access to prevention, early intervention, ongoing community-based care, treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, recovery support across various care settings. It is also where the initiative of improving the crisis system of care for individuals in acute behavioral health crisis resides.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about line 9.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that is the strategy to support expanding capacity. They would work collaboratively with partners across the state looking at expanding beds. She then moved to Disability Justice which focused on reducing Trust beneficiary involvement in the justice system, focusing on reducing recidivism rates, enhancing care for beneficiaries that were justice involved. She brought forth the recommendation of reduction of the General Fund.

A brief discussion ensued.

TRUSTEE FIMON brought up an interest in discussing the second year of the reentry coalitions.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that reentry coalitions have been funded for nine to ten years. And after three years, they were working on finding Federal funding through the Second Chance Act. There were changes in commissioners and administration, and new leadership at the time who decided not to pursue Second Chance Act funding. It was not an option.

The discussion continued.

MOTION: TRUSTEE FIMON proposed that the interpersonal violence prevention for beneficiaries with \$50,000, not from General Funds, but from partnerships for Fiscal Year '26 for now; seconded by TRUSTEE BOYLES.

The discussion on the motion continued.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON clarified that staff recommendation for the \$50,000 was that it would be easier to withhold that from partnerships for the interpersonal violence prevention beneficiaries in '26.

TRUSTEE FIMON called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a lunch break and asked for a working lunch.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked COO Baldwin-Johnson to continue.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that they were still in Disability Justice.

MOTION: TRUSTEE FIMON made a motion for Fiscal Year '27 for lines 34, 35, 36, and 37, all reentry coalition coordinators in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Juneau, and Fairbanks, that those positions be funded at \$60,000 per year from Authority Grants, for a total of \$240,000; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that when staff revisits the budget they would work on refining the budget, bringing that back to the trustees to approve.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the question.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN encouraged the reentry coalition to look for options for other funding sources, and that we would help them.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Beneficiary Employment and Engagement, the area of work focused on improving outcomes and promoting recovery for beneficiaries through integrated, competitive employment and meaningful engagement opportunities.

TRUSTEE FISHER asked for any information on whether they were getting requests for Microenterprise grants that cannot be funded because there was no money.

A discussion ensued.

MOTION: TRUSTEE FIMON made a motion to add \$25,000 to the Microenterprise Fiscal Year '26 proposed amount, moving it up from \$175,000 to \$200,000; and then the Fiscal Year '27 proposed amount, which may not require where those funds were coming from, to move the total to \$225,000; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that under Mental Health and Addiction Intervention, which is the crisis continuum of care line, is a fairly large bucket. They were anticipating the projects that would be coming forward, but do not have a plan for that entire \$4,000,000. The initiative was still carrying forward, but could easily accommodate that recommendation.

MOTION: TRUSTEE FIMON amended the motion to include that the \$25,000 increase for Fiscal Year '26 come from the \$4,000,000 now allocated to crisis continuum of care; seconded by TRUSTEE MORRIS, as amended.

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

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Housing, Home- & Community-Based Services, which concentrates on insuring beneficiaries have access to housing and a continuum of services and supports that maximize independence in their home and their communities. The amendment there was the removal of the matching \$250,000 in General Funds. This is part of the overall effort to be conservative in the General Fund recommendations. Hearing no questions, she moved to Workforce Development.

MR. BOYER talked about the peer support certification which has been a seven-year project in partnership with the Division of Behavioral Health to provide leadership and implementation support as the peer support specialist position was professionalized.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON clarified the highlighted green was a reduction of \$50,000 incremented General Funds.

There was a brief question-and-answer discussion.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to Early Childhood and Youth with a short discussion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked all the advisors and staff for the amount of work done into the

amendments that were made to the budget. There were a lot of behind-the-scene conversations with advisors. Staff has been doing double time to be responsive to the request for adjustments. The budget is reflective of early listening, ongoing listening, and current listening. It is appreciated.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated appreciation for the way the budget was lined; it was very helpful. He also appreciated the trustees and thanked the advisors that helped.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that they needed to pause to adapt the adjustments and update the motion.

CHAIR HALTERMAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN called the meeting back to order, and requested that a trustee read the motion.

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees appropriate MHTAAR, MHT Administration and Authority Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2026 in the amount of \$40,179,500. This consists of \$21,060,200 of MHTAAR, MTA Admin and \$19,119,300 Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed Fiscal Year '26-'27 Budget Recommendations documents prepared for the August 28 and 29, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting, and as amended during the course of those meetings. Included in this motion is a recommendation by the Full Board of Trustees for a State of Alaska appropriation of \$8,939,000 of General Fund/MH funds. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

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

MOTION: A motion that the Full Board of Trustees approve MHTAAR, MHT Administration and Authority Grant funds for Fiscal Year 2027 in the amount of \$38,243,500. This consists of \$20,090,500 of MHTAAR and MHT Administration and \$18,153,000 Authority Grants. These funds are to be used for the programs and activities described in the detailed Fiscal Year '26-'27 Budget Recommendations document prepared for the August 28 and 29, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting, and as amended during the course of those meetings. Included in this motion is a recommendation by the Full Board of Trustees for a State of Alaska appropriation of \$9,166,400 of General Fund/MH funds. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORRIS; seconded by TRUSTEE FEIGE.

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

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that was a lot of work and thanked the trustees and the staff. She moved to the Governance Discussion. She continued that a lot of prep work was done on this,

and trustees have had a lot of time to review the edits recommended by Mr. Hickey.

GOVERNANCE DISCUSSION

MR. HICKEY stated that the plan was to get through the redlines and fix whatever needed to be fixed and then, and if the trustees had any other area to revisit and suggest amendments, to do that. He began the process of reviewing the redlines beginning with the Charter of the Board of Trustees. He then proceeded to the Charter of the Chair of the Board. There was language about eliminating the secretary, but ad hoc committees do not have anyone designated to take minutes of the meetings. His recommendation would be that the committee designate an individual to take minutes, as needed. He continued through and added to the Charter for the Vice Chair a provision that the Vice Chair becomes the spokesman in the event the Chair is not available. There was also additional clarification about the Chair appointing a spokesperson, as needed. There were no changes to the Charter of the Vice Chair or the Charter of the Secretary. He continued through the changes, with discussions and clarifications as he went along. He thanked all for following up on the changes.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any additional comments or questions about the governance process. There being none, she called a break.

(Break.)

BOARD ELECTIONS

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that this was the point in the agenda where they were ready for Board elections. She highlighted a couple of sections under Article 5 that talked about officers and their duties. She opened the Board elections with the first position being for Board Chair. She asked for any nominations.

NOMINATION: TRUSTEE FIMON nominated TRUSTEE BRENT FISHER for the position of Chair; TRUSTEE FISHER accepted the nomination; TRUSTEE BOYLES seconded the nomination.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any other nominations for the position of Chair. She called for any nominations for Chair three times. Hearing no other nominations, she called the vote.

Vote for Chair: Trustee Feige, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Morris, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Halterman, yes.

(Applause.)

CHAIR HALTERMAN moved to the nomination for Vice Chair, and asked for any nominations.

NOMINATION: TRUSTEE FIMON nominated TRUSTEE AGNES MORAN for Vice Chair; TRUSTEE BOYLES seconded the nomination.

CHAIR HALTERMAN stated that she checked with Trustee Moran, and she is willing to serve and to accept the nomination. She asked for any other nominations for Vice Chair three times. Hearing no other nominations, she called the vote.

Vote for Vice Chair: Trustee Feige, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Morris, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Halterman, yes.

CHAIR HALTERMAN congratulated Trustee Moran. She stated that the position of Secretary was open, and called for nominations for Secretary.

NOMINATION: TRUSTEE FEIGE nominated TRUSTEE JOHN MORRIS for Secretary.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any other nominations for Secretary.

NOMINATION: TRUSTEE FIMON nominated TRUSTEE RHONDA BOYLES for Secretary; TRUSTEE FISHER seconded the nomination.

CHAIR HALTERMAN asked for any other nominations for Secretary three times. There being none, she stated that the standing motion was for Rhonda Boyles to serve as Secretary. She called the vote.

Vote for Secretary: Trustee Feige, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Morris, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Chair Halterman, yes.

CHAIR HALTERMAN congratulated Trustee Boyles, and moved to Trustee Comments.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

TRUSTEE FEIGE thanked all the beneficiaries who came and gave comment yesterday. She also thanked the folks engaged in the budget process, staff of the Trust Authority and the TLO that were engaged in developing the budget and then helping and supporting the trustees through this morning's discussion. A special thank you to Trustee Fimon for this morning's terrific discussion. She learned a tremendous amount about how the budget was structured, about how programs are impacted, and about how budget projections in this organization are designed to work. She thanked everyone for coming to the table and being prepared.

TRUSTEE BOYLES thanked the Attorney General's office for leading the trustees through those governance documents. She also apologized because she saw the boss socially and wished for the frame of mind to thank him. She added that it was not the personnel sent, it was the fact of having to go through the governance and not being able to focus on the beneficiaries. She was happy those are done and was especially happy that they heard from beneficiaries or representatives of the beneficiaries yesterday. That is what this is all about.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated regret that he was not able to stay until the end of the public comment period and really appreciated the standing room only. In his year on the Trust, that was the first time he had seen that level of engagement, and he was very happy to see that. He would have liked to have been there to respond to a lot of the comments made. They seemed to fall into the reentry program funding and the advisory boards, which were acted on today. He addressed the commentary on The Arc and the processes with that. He stated that he was the maker of the motion that created a lot of the conversation, and he erred in not reiterating for the public comment section the things discussed as a Board in the Executive Session -- the parts that would be appropriate for the public. A lot of thinking and discussion occurred in the Executive Session. He pointed out that they do not use Executive Sessions simply to protect the reputation of the

Trust, but also external agencies and folks who come before us for funding or a matter of discussion. He continued that the Trust priority is and always has been the beneficiaries. Service organizations are not the priority of the Trust, but are a means to an end. Millions and millions of dollars have been provided in grant funding over the years to various service organizations. Other forms of support in terms of expertise and information, partnerships, introductions are provided in many different ways, but all as a means to help them help beneficiaries. The end point is beneficiaries; not an end point for any particular service organization, no matter how large, esteemed or historic it may be. He stated that The Arc has an unusual lease; it is a perpetual lease. But more importantly, it has a clause that if The Arc was to cease providing services, they were to return the land back to the Trust without the improvements or the buildings on it. It would, at a minimum, create a legal hurdle for continuing operations at that facility with that physical plant. The actual proposal was to buy this property, which, frankly, the Trust already owns, and then lease it back to The Arc for a dollar a year for however many years it was. What does happen, it clears up the odd lease and sets the stage that if further assistance was necessary for The Arc, that it could be done in cooperation with the Department of Health and others, and maintain those services for beneficiaries. He continued that all of those things could and should have been discussed in public at the time it was done. He regretted, as maker of the motion, not relating some of those comments at the time. He added that it would have prevented a lot of heartache and consternation on the part of the stakeholders, and would definitely be done better in the future. He stated that it was a great meeting. A lot of very frank conversation, a lot of work from staff that demonstrated a remarkable flexibility for changing an organization in its 30th year.

TRUSTEE FIMON picked up on a bit of where Trustee Morris spoke. He stated that any lack of information or lack of clarity or maybe even further discussion in the public realm, he wished they had done more. He did not think that what was not done was with any malicious intent. He continued that he took defense to how it was hard to explain the emotion or what was in the hearts when trying to come to a resolve. He stated appreciation for to all the comments that came forth and added they were all heartfelt, honest. The passion and the emotion are important, a reminder that, as trustees know, was a good reminder that the beneficiaries come first. He added that seeing the room as full as it was and to have that much public comment on the screen, to see people come back from an organization they had worked with or worked for many years ago come here and give their three minutes, that spoke volumes to him. He believed that it did to the rest of the trustees, as well. He was happy to hear some good news and his pledge to Arc and all the agencies fearing what was going on with the rate reimbursement. They were heard, and we are not done. He stated that the last two days were very productive; we went through a lot of issues; made changes; and we have the best staff anywhere. He thanked all the staff. He enjoyed seeing the Brain Bus, interaction with the advisors, the good news of Stephanie's position, and all the integration. He was proud to sit on the panel with these trustees, and believes they have the intention of service to the beneficiaries to the best of their abilities. He was thankful to the outgoing chair, it was his honor, and he believed they worked well together. He was proud to be on this Board and hoped to live up to the title.

TRUSTEE FISHER thanked his fellow trustees for the confidence in voting him to be the Chair. He stated that this is a strong Board of Trustees, and it was not just the Chair that made things happen. It is a privilege to serve together with them on the Board of Trustees. He stated appreciation for the number of people that came and shared their comments on a variety of different topics. It was good to see a lot of people sharing their passions and concerns. He was appreciative of the time and effort that Gene Hickey put in working with Chair Halterman;

making changes to governance documents is a huge lift. A lot was accomplished with the fine decisions made of the governance documents which are the foundation on how to get the work done as quickly as possible when everyone understands what the responsibilities are. He stated appreciation for the leadership Chair Halterman provided in making sure that got done. He thanked staff for everything that happened the last two days, and looks forward to working with them in his new role.

CHAIR HALTERMAN thanked staff and all of the public commenters, all the advisors and all of the advocates that came into the room. She talked about the Commissioners that have been instrumental in making some serious recommendations to budget changes for this budget cycle. There was a whole new process that unfolded with a lot of change and direction given to staff. They were completely responsive and appropriate in addressing the changes in a meaningful way, and the meetings moved along despite all the additional requests that came before the trustees. She continued that the Department listened to the conversations on The Arc and were moving quickly and prioritizing so the needs can be addressed in a more meaningful way. That leads to the system change needed to happen across the systems. The Arc is the tip of the iceberg, and all of the agencies are in crisis. She had been given assurances that there were priorities to the rate-setting review, and these populations would be looked at. She appreciated the advisors, the advocacy, the feedback, all the constructive dialogue, the responsiveness. She stated that Katie is a blessing with her ability to digest information in talking to the Commissioners and advisors. She understands their language, and is able to be very responsive, which showed with the budget. She thanked everyone for what they contributed to insure that it was a good process that is working well and aimed to serve the beneficiaries better. She has devoted an entire career to this population. This is a public service, and we are all volunteers. She thanked each for all they had done to make sure they were a successful team. It was an honor to serve, and she was humbled.

(Applause.)

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

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.)