

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**February 5, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid/Webex Meeting:
Originating at:
David Rose Board Room
Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
801 West 10th Street, Suite 302
Juneau, Alaska 99801**

Trustees Present:

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

Trust Staff Present:

Mary Wilson
Julee Farley
Allison Biastock
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Valette Keller
Shannon Cochran
Eric Boyer
Heather Phelps
Tina Voelker-Ross
Kelda Barstad
Samantha Ponts

Trust Land Office staff present:

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

Department of Law:

Gene Hickey

Also participating:

Rachel Varella; Jennifer Ridgeway; Charles Brouillette; Martin Lange; Aaron Surma; Krisanne Rice; Beth Rose; Caroline Storm; Marsha Oss; Glenda Kraft; Kari Burrell; Shelley Ebenal; Genevieve Colgrove; Leigh Bolin; Julia Luey; Eric Holle; Tamara Ben-Yosef; Bobby Dorton; Carmen Wenger; Polly Carr; Felicia Nichols; Emma Van Nes; Mina Hancock; Abby Struffert; Alysia Jones; Ashley Oien; Candice Richardson; Charity Carmody; Chuck Seaca; D. Shenee Williams; David Liles; Dawn Paulson; Debbie Penrose Fischer; Delores Long; Dawn Paulson;

Debbie Penrose Fischer; Delores Long; Gwendoline Johnston; Holly Handler; Jacquelyn Pope; Jess Rude; Jessica Plachta; Jodi McLaughlin; Joel Hanson; John Sonin; Kathy Gensel; Laureli Ivanoff; Leone Marx; Lisa Bennett; Lisa Cauble; Lisa DeLaet; Maria Beck; Peter Micciche; Nick Szatkowski; Patrick Reinhart; Rachel Gearhart; Sierra Jimenez; Steph Hopkins; Stephanie Wheeler; Terra Parsly; Tracy Salinas; Twyla Mundy; Phillip Tafs; Teri Tibbetts; Lexi Brown; Kai Edmunds; Karen Purdue; Bryan Brandenburg; Don Habeger; Kim Champney; Travis Welch.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR FISHER called the meeting to order and began with a roll call. He stated that Trustee John Morris was excused for the morning but would join in the afternoon. He asked for any announcements. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ETHICS DISCLOSURE

CHAIR FISHER asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moved to the approval of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 13 and 14, 2024.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of November 13 and 14, 2024, was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

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

MISSION MOMENT

CHAIR FISHER continued to the Mission Moment and asked Heather Phelps to do the introductions.

MS. PHELPS was pleased to present the Alaska Court System's Therapeutic Court overview for the Mission Moment. Alaska Therapeutic Courts provide an alternative to the usual criminal case process for some offenders. She stated that repeat criminal offenders often struggle with mental health problems or drug or alcohol addictions that contribute to recidivism, and these courts enable offenders to address those issues as part of their adjudication process. She continued that Trust beneficiaries are disproportionately represented in the justice system, and that this model leads to better outcomes. The Trust has been funding the coordinated resource project, more commonly known as the Mental Health Courts, since 2024; and the

Juneau Mental Health Court specifically since fiscal year 2009. She introduced Rachel Varella, deputy therapeutic courts program coordinator; Charles Brouillette, an alumni; Jennifer Ridgeway, the Juneau project coordinator; and Michelle Bartley, the director of the therapeutic courts.

MS. VARELLA stated that the mission of the therapeutic court is to divert defendants, get them into the services they need, and hopefully, those services will keep them from having contact with the criminal justice system in the future. She continued that the approach is non-adversarial, with a multidisciplinary therapeutic court team comprised of judges, attorneys, treatment providers and probation officers; all with the same goal. She stated that the main requirements are frequent court hearing check-ins with the judge and the team to check in on progress; random alcohol and drug testing; and a probation officer or case manager assigned to help with case management which oversees supervisions. She moved to the addiction courts with all the participants having an SUD diagnosis and talked about the program requirements. She then showed the different types of offenses seen in the addiction courts in 2024. To participate in the mental health courts, a person has to be a Trust beneficiary with an SSMI diagnosis. An individualized case plan is created with their probation officer, which addresses treatment and public safety. If the mental health court program is completed, the sentence can be reduced or the charge dismissed. She described the three mental health courts in the state of Alaska. She talked about some of their community partners for which they are very grateful, especially the Trust. She asked Charles Brouillette to talk about his experience in therapeutic court.

MR. BROUILLETTE stated that he was a grateful recovering alcohol addict and shared his story of strength, hope, and courage. He believes that life is about perspective, and he used to view the world from the bottom of a bottle. He was running from the feelings of shame and inadequacy of a failing marriage and numbed himself at every opportunity he could. His addiction landed him in jail, and then he traded it for alcoholism because that is socially acceptable. He became a high-functioning alcoholic. He caught his DUI and gave himself the ultimatum: Stop drinking or else. He walked into the program afraid that he could not do it. He learned patience; to be grateful for the opportunities each morning; to set goals, and how to draw a map to achieve those goals. Most of all, he learned to love himself. Since the program, he worked toward and accomplished some of his five-year plans and is currently finishing his occupational endorsement in light construction technology at the University of Alaska Southeast with the hope of designing his own home. He is also working on his 4th Cup Green Belt in Tang Soo Do Karate. He took the peer support specialist class and was goaded towards becoming an Alaska therapeutic court alumni facilitator. He continued that he was told that recovery is a program of attraction rather than promotion, and he never knew what that meant until sobriety, after witnessing people that he cares about suffer alcoholism addiction. He talked about his sister and her struggle, and shared his story called “Dear Alcohol.”

MS. VARELLA stated that Mr. Brouillette now facilitates the alumni groups for current participants in the program in Juneau. It makes a huge difference having someone there, and he is very much appreciated.

MS. RIDGEWAY stated that it is also important for Mr. Brouillette to come to JTC, be there, and have the other current participants see a success, and to see that support right here in the community. It is really helpful when he comes to court.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON thanked Mr. Brouillette for sharing his story.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated appreciation for his story. She has worked with domestic violence victims and has seen the struggles they all went through with substance and alcohol use. She added that it is great to see someone come out on the other side so strong. She thanked Mr. Brouillette.

CHAIR FISHER stated that he was glad to see successful programs, and always wants to support them. He continued to the CEO update.

CEO UPDATE

CEO WILSON thanked Mr. Brouillette for illustrating the power of the story. She stated that she did not have an update since it had only been two weeks since beginning with the Trust. She stated that she is a pediatrician by training, and she grew up in Alaska. Her family moved here during the oil boom, and her dad was a petroleum engineer with ARCO. She graduated from Dimond High in Anchorage; went to college in Colorado; and medical school at the University of Washington with the WWAMI program. She added that she was with the Permanente Medical Group for her career as a practicing pediatrician, and was fortunate to get experience in leadership gradually. Two things that are pertinent to this job was being in charge of the Southern California regional access and service systems, and being passionate about systems of care. She learned a lot about the process and how important it is to make sure to check in with people and see that they are getting what they want. She moved back to Alaska about three years ago. Her family is still in Anchorage. She built a house and had been looking for what to do and how to use her talents. This job opportunity came up, and she is really grateful to the board for putting their trust in her and hoped to do a great job. She stated that the Trust folks are a fabulous group of really dedicated, very knowledgeable people, and she is impressed with the work they do. She continued that she was getting to know the Board of Trustees who are dedicated, strategic, intelligent and ready to go for the state of Alaska. She is excited and honored to be helping with this process and to be especially dedicated to improving the lives of the beneficiaries in Alaska. She thanked the trustees for the opportunity.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON introduced Samantha Ponts, program officer, the newest member of the team. She will be working on the mental health and addiction focus area and crisis work.

MS. PONTs stated that she is a lifelong Alaskan, born in Nome, with her early years there, and later years in Eagle River; with the last nine years in Northern California working on planning and implementing initiatives. Her goal was always to come back to Alaska, and she is excited to be on this team.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON shared that during the Alaska Public Health Association Health Summit that met in January, Eric Boyer was honored with the Dr. Robert Sule Distinguished Support for Service award, which recognizes individuals dedicated to advancing health professional recruitment and retention. She stated that Mr. Boyer is the primary leading the workforce initiatives and has represented the Trust on the Health Workforce Coalition for many years. Work is being done to reconstitute that effort. It is a coalition representative of public and private organizations across the state that focus on trying to address the workforce shortages in Alaska. She congratulated Mr. Boyer, and thanked him for all of his work on the workforce initiatives.

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the trustees had, hot-off-the-presses, the 2024 annual report and accompanying 2024 grant investment report. These are produced annually, and have been dropped off at both the House and Senate chambers to be distributed to members of the Legislature. They are both posted to the Trust home page. The opportunity to put this out to help communicate the work that the Trust is engaged in is always appreciated; helps folks understand the Trust's financial position; how revenue is generated; and how the assets are invested in beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated his congratulations to Mr. Boyer and added that he relies on him for not only the workforce, but for many of the details of the programs we do. He has been serving beneficiaries and serving the members of our state for many years. He welcomed Ms. Ponts to the staff, and also CEO Wilson.

STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATE ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON introduced Marty Lange, the executive director of the Alaska Commission on Aging.

MR. LANGE stated that they are a statutory advisory board, and their mission is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation. The Alaska Commission on Aging advocates for the needs and concerns of older Alaskans to the Governor, the Legislature, congressional delegation, and the general public. We also provide recommendations to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on programs and services to improve the lives of senior Trust beneficiaries. The commission consists of seven public members appointed by the Governor for four-year terms, with all but one requiring to be age 60 or older. There are also four designated seats for the Department of Health, the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, the chair of the Pioneer Home advisory board, and a senior service provider. The staff consists of himself and Yasmin Radbod, the rural outreach coordinator. The program coordinator is vacant, and we are working on filling that. We also take advantage of having three MASST, Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training, participants in the office. It is a sponsored program that helps people to retool and find a place in the workforce again. He then shared some research that the Alaska Commission on Aging recently completed on senior centers. Some of the results of the findings is that senior centers across the state of Alaska are struggling with inadequate funding to maintain current service levels. They are filling the gaps with donations, local fundraising, as well as stepping up efforts to find new grants. They get federal Older Americans Act funding, but that has not kept pace. Around 70 percent of the centers mentioned cutbacks, smaller service windows, or fewer days of meal delivery. At least one third of the senior centers currently have a waitlist for meals or are on the cusp of creating one. He pointed out that Meals on Wheels delivers food, but they also do wellness checks.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if they were experiencing a change in Medicaid reimbursement that is reducing the number of days meals are being delivered to the Medicaid population, or is it a non-Medicaid population.

MR. LANGE replied that it was mostly the NTS and Title III funds. He moved on to the staffing crisis. He continued that not all senior centers offer housing, and the ones that do are

either near capacity or have a waiting list. Housing is an issue affecting all people all across the state. There are also infrastructure needs like vehicles, transportation, facility repairs and replacements. The results of the survey show the need for four things: First, sustainable funding mechanisms for meal services; second, staff recruitment and retention programs; third, capital improvement funding for aging infrastructure; and fourth, expanded housing capacity. The data demonstrates a critical need for increased support to maintain essential services for Alaska's growing senior population. The survey also shows that senior centers are carrying a very heavy burden, which will continue to grow. He stated that this is the bad news, and the hard things, which is really depressing. He added that he did not have any solutions and presented this information to start thinking about how to solve these issues. He thanked Yasmin Radbod and Larry Johnson for their hard work on this research. He stated that they just finished the Senior Snapshot that the Alaska Commission on Aging produces every year. It contains all of the statistics on aging in Alaska, and will be available from the office at the end of next week.

CHAIR FISHER stated appreciation for the presentation, and recognized Patrick Reinhart.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

MR. REINHART stated that the Council would be meeting with the Lieutenant Governor next week at the Governor's house, and invited anyone in the Juneau area next week. He began his presentation with the waitlist numbers as of 1/24/25: 323 individuals; 302 of them are offered the individual supports waiver, which is the waiver to get some basic services while waiting for the more inclusive waiver. He continued that 2,218 people were offered IDD waivers, but even though they get on the waiver, they still have to find people or agencies that can provide the services. There is a struggle, especially in rural and remote communities, in finding people to provide services. He added that there is a five-year plan to kind of eliminate the waitlist and bring it down to zero, if possible. He continued that all of this is funded through Medicaid waivers and his biggest concern is what will happen with Medicaid and supports for people to live at home and in the community. He moved to the 2024 annual report, which is a good snapshot of what the Council did last year. He talked about the ILP program expansion funding and stated they have a bill number; it is the No. 1 priority, and it is time for an increase. The benefits will contribute to the bottom line in the end. He stated that special education services are expensive and difficult to provide in very rural, remote communities. They did a graph and showed that if they catch more children with developmental delays down to 25 percent, they will be able to show a savings in special education costs of \$229,000 per child over their school years, kindergarten until 12th grade. He continued that 25 percent delay is the bottom line where they start including kids with the Infant Learning Program. The cost would be about \$5.7 million, the ILP program budget. That is the infant ILP expansion program and funding eligibility. He stated that their second area is the Special Education Service Agency funding. The Council makes up the majority of the governing board of SESA, an in-statute organization that provides itinerate services to school districts around the state where specialists work with teachers, administrators, and families on how to provide special education services and what they can do to include kids with disabilities in those classrooms more effectively. SESA is on an eight-year renewal cycle, and we are into year 3 of the last renewal. There was an increase in funding, but they are overwhelmed by the number of kids, particularly in the low-incidence disability program. He continued to public and community transit, a perennial issue. HB26 is a bill introduced by Representative Mina last year, and a hearing is expected in a couple of weeks. It is an enabling statute change to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to include developing a plan for public and community transit. He moved to universal changing spaces and the indignity of changing an adult child with a developmental disability on

the floor of bathrooms because there is nothing available. The Council researched and brought forward a draft bill and will be in Juneau next week shopping that draft bill. It basically says that for all public spaces that are renovated around the state or when building for any public space that is provided by a community to ensure that an adult changing table is put in place. He continued to the bill for deaf and hard of hearing, which almost passed last year, about communication acquisition for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and what is the best for the child and the family. It passed the House, but did not pass the Senate. He moved to the two budget issues: they requested a State access and functional needs coordinator, and then deaf navigator program funding. He explained guardianship and then what Medicaid changes were coming out of the Federal government and the impact on their population. He also went through some of the grant requests that they support. He announced that their spring Council meeting would be May 14 and 15 in Anchorage.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked if there were any models they had found that could be either adapted or emulated that would help catching kids earlier with the early intervention.

MR. REINHART replied that they believe the model of the ILP program in the state is pretty darn good, but they have to turn down too many families when they are referred. There is also a very good referral process from the medical community and others across the state to the ILP program.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Reinhart for the presentation.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON brought to the trustees' attention a PowerPoint in the packet from the ABADA and Mental Health Board. Jen Carson is the operations director who is acting as the executive director role for the boards, and was not able to join in person.

CHAIR FISHER called a 15-minute break.

(Break.)

TRUSTEE TRAINING, OPEN MEETINGS ACT

CHAIR FISHER stated that it was really important to make sure the trustees understand following the rules with regard to the Open Meetings Act, particularly with the recent changes to the bylaws which change the committee sizes. It is important for the trustees to review and understand again in the context of the new organizations. He asked Mr. Hickey to begin.

MR. HICKEY stated that the thought process on today's presentation on the Open Meetings Act is more of a refresher rather than a complete foray into the Open Meetings Act. The reason for that was the downsize in the committee membership from an entire board down to three-member committees. That does change the dynamic of what and how many people can get together to talk about certain issues. He continued that everything in the Open Meetings Act flows from the purpose of the Act, which is very liberal with respect to the purpose. The purpose of the Act is to hold all governmental meetings in the open. The basis for that is the Legislature's policy statement that the business of boards and commissions are basically the peoples' business, and the people have a right to be heard and to understand what their government is doing for them. He explained that there are two sections to the law: Section 310 is basically the bones of the law, and 312 is the policy statement regarding what the law is designed to do. He continued that there are presumptions in the Act. The first is all meetings are open. The second presumption is there will only be closed sessions if one of the executive

sessions exceptions applies to that. The third is that materials considered by the governmental body in the meeting need to be provided to the public. The exception are privileged documents or other things considered within executive session, which do not have to be provided to the public. The trustees need to be cognizant that even though a document discussed in executive session may not be required to be provided, it may not mean that it is not a public document for purposes of the Public Records Act, which he explained in detail. He continued that under the Open Meetings Act a meeting just means a gathering of members of a governmental body when three or more members or the majority of the members are present on a matter which they are empowered to consider or have the authority to establish policies or make decisions. The Open Meetings Act requires conducting that meeting openly, with notice to the public, and in compliance with the Act. Because a meeting includes the committees, now it is two voting committee members or more. He explained executive sessions and the law in greater detail. He then spoke about privileges and confidential matters. He noted that when talking about someone where their character or reputation comes up, that person can demand that the meeting be conducted in the open. That is their prerogative. If that request is made, the Board cannot go into executive session and have that discussion before they come out and do it in the public. He then talked about some of the things that the Open Meetings Act does not apply to. He shared a recent opinion that came from the State of Washington. They were asked to look at the issue of whether or not a board member or a staff member breached the executive session by providing information from the executive session to someone that was not a participant in the executive session. The attorney general of Washington came back and said that it was a violation of the Open Meetings Act because the Act specifically requires that information to be kept confidential to the people that were present in the executive session. He continued that they then asked if it was a violation of anything else. The attorney general opinion concluded that it was also a violation of the state Ethics Act. He brought this up because that Act has civil penalties attached to it. It is important that everyone understand that there are potential violations there. He concluded that they are expected to operate in public whenever possible, and when in doubt to ask for legal advice.

CHAIR FISHER stated that the presentation was very helpful, particularly considering the bylaws change. He called a short break.

(Break.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR FISHER stated that the public comment period allows individuals to inform and advise the board of trustees about issues, problems, or concerns. It is not a hearing. He went through the procedures of public comment and added that trustees look forward to hearing each of the public comments. He recognized Karen Purdue, and then Bryan Brandenburg.

MS. PURDUE stated that she is from Fairbanks, Alaska, and is a volunteer board member of the Foundation Health Partners, the hospital system in Fairbanks. She explained that she spent quite a bit of time in 1994 and 1996 helping set up the Mental Health Trust Authority, the actual organization after the settlement, as the Commissioner of Health. She stated that it was an honor to start it, and it has progressed greatly and wonderfully since then. She continued that about 25 years ago, Fairbanks hospital developed adult inpatient capacity for psychiatric care. They took advantage of a statutory framework that the State began called Designated Evaluation and Treatment, DET. Fairbanks still is the strongest DET program. She stated that they do not have any inpatient capacity in Fairbanks for children. It is heartbreaking because children are boarded in the emergency room sometimes for very long times. She was there to

ask the Trust for support, some financial support, which will be significant for the kids in the northern region, not only Fairbanks.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked about their timeframe.

MS. PURDUE replied that the hope is to complete the project by 2026. They were waiting for the last piece of capital money.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Purdue, and recognized Bryan Brandenburg.

MR. BRANDENBURG stated that he is the executive director for Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services. Most people know AARS as Nugen's Ranch, which is the longest-serving treatment facility in the state of Alaska. They have served over 3500 Alaskans, and are a statewide treatment program. He has done this work in human services for 40 years. He talked about his background and experiences, and thanked the Trust for all of the amazing things they have done through the years, especially in Corrections. He continued that they were in the middle of an expansion project and would be coming later to ask for some help. They have 52 inpatient beds in the Mat-Su Valley, and are trying to add 24 more.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Brandenburg, and recognized Don Habeger.

MR. HABEGER stated that he is coalition coordinator for the Juneau Reentry Coalition. He talked about the high recidivism rate number of 67.5 from 2013 and, since the Trust's involvement in justice disability issues those numbers are down to last year's low of 54.32 percent. He congratulated the Trust for the foresight and investment in disability justice. He continued that some of the success is the reentry coalitions' funding and community outreach. Part of the outreach is ensuring that the community gets connected with policymakers to help them understand what reentry success looks like. That message is delivered, in part, through their reentry simulation, which was last year. They had five legislators sign up, and only three were able to make it. There were 52 folks to hear about success and reentry. The invitation was delivered to everyone in the Legislature, and at the bottom was funding partnership, the Trust. He thanked the Trust and is grateful for their involvement.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Habeger, and recognized Kim Champney.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that she is the director of the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities. She welcomed CEO Wilson and looked forward to getting to know her. She continued that the Trust has just had an incredible impact and approved some funds to bring families into Juneau to share their stories with legislators. She had the honor of organizing those funds and talking with families and people who are coming to Juneau in March. They are so grateful for that opportunity. She thanked them for that support. AADD had some Trust funding to build their own capacity, and Ms. Barstad encouraged her to go out and meet with providers in Western Alaska. She shared that meeting and added that group formed a coalition and are working with the community foundation to get some funding. There will be a vision event in Bethel to talk about how to build services in Western Alaska.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Champney, and recognized the caller on line.

MS. OSS stated that she was Marsha Oss in Fairbanks, Alaska. She was justice involved, and spent many years living outside societal norms. She stated that she comes by her lived

experience very honestly. She grew up surrounded by untreated mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic violence, other various forms of abuse and neglect. She was in juvenile detention, foster care, girls' homes, and finally got away but was sold into a human trafficking ring about seven days after leaving her mom's home. At 22, she was incarcerated. At 26, she entered treatment for intravenous drug use, and that changed her life. It was 1988, and her recovery was her responsibility after she completed inpatient treatment. She utilized sponsorship and attended 12-step meetings that taught her about accountability and service work. She spent the past 36 years working full-time and giving back to her community in a variety of volunteer positions. She also completed college during that period of time. She stated that she was a miracle as she represents the true meaning of intersectionality. She thanked the Trust. She continued that, currently, she is the Fairbanks reentry coordinator, and her primary clients have always been justice-involved. She thanked them for their assistance over the past two years as coordinator, and they have been granted a housing grant. She has been able to house over 100 justice-involved individuals with Trust support and housing funds. She added that when her position closes, there is no other resource in Fairbanks to do what she does. Her redacted report for this year would be emailed today with a packet of thank-you letters from all of her clients in Fairbanks.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Oss for sharing her success.

MR. TAFS stated that he was Phillip Tafs, a social worker and a board-certified behavior analyst. He owns a small company in Anchorage called MethodWorks, and provides behavior analytic services across the state. They do a mix of insurance-based services in the clinic and do consultation through the Complex Behavior Collaborative and through contracts with school districts. He thanked the board for a lot of the stuff that happened in the past, which he went through. He added that he was also the president-elect for the Alaska Association for Applied Behavior Analysis. Because of the board, they have been able to grow availability of the service for folks within the state. As of this morning, there are 89 behavior analysts in Alaska. He hopes that they will continue showing their leadership as the system continues needing to be shaped. He also brought attention to the major transition on the TRICARE insurance industry. A new administrator is taking over the system, and it has been a difficult transition. In his company, payments have stopped, and most communication has stopped. He stated that going six weeks without receiving any payment threatens the businesses.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Tafs

MS. TIBBETTS stated that Janice Wiess, the executive director of the Alaska Center for FASD, had a family emergency and asked if she could also present for her. She continued that she is Teri Tibbetts and is the coordinator of the statewide Alaska Reentry Partnership. Her role is to coordinate the eight different reentry coalitions across the state in collaborating on advocacy, as well as for efforts that each is working on. They have a monthly meeting, and it is a collaboration of individuals, organizations, community members, community advocates, public entities, including DOC. She had a folder handout, and in it there is a graph that shows the reduction in recidivism. She talked about the reentry efforts supported by the Trust with funding and supporting policies that impact people with lived experience of incarceration across the providers and all. She stated that she is also the president of the Alaska Center for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. She explained that FASD is a developmental disability that happens prenatally from the use of alcohol. She also talked about a handout called "Nine Core Messages. What Everyone Should Know About Prenatal Alcohol Exposure." She thanked Mike Baldwin for having the wisdom and foresight to put funding towards getting the data that

was needed to show the importance of services and supports for people impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. She thanked them for their time and support.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Tibbetts, and recognized Glenda Kraft, online.

MS. KRAFT stated that she works for SAIL, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, on Prince of Wales Island as an advocate. She introduced Genevieve Colgrove, who received a grant from the Trust.

MS. COLGROVE stated that she lives in Craig. She thanked the trustees for helping her with her dentures. It was terrible and depressing when she did not have them. It was bad.

MS. KRAFT explained that Ms. Colgrove wanted to really say thank you. She looks completely different. She is very pleased because before that she was feeling depressed and did not want to go anywhere. They both expressed their gratitude.

CHAIR FISHER thanked both, and moved to Kari Burrell.

MS. BURRELL stated that she is the chief strategy officer for Foundation Health Partners in Fairbanks. They have submitted to the Trust an application requesting some support with a capital project they are undertaking. She continued that they are currently a provider of inpatient psychiatric services for adults in Interior Alaska that experience tremendous psychiatric needs. It is usually a short-term-stay program. Currently, they do not have a program for children or adolescents. She described what happens in Fairbanks when children and adolescents present in the emergency department. They are also continuing to work with their partnership on developing step-down services with the idea that it should be a very short-term stay at an inpatient unit, and then a step down to another program.

MS. EBENAL stated she is Shelly Ebenal, the CEO for Foundation Health Partners. She thanked the Trust for being a partner in their adolescent behavioral health summits and appreciated all the support. She continued that the purpose of the adolescent behavioral health summits is to bring together all of their nonprofits because there are no for-profit businesses in behavioral health. The goal is to build out the continuum. Their proposal is to build out a four-bed unit. It is four beds because she literally has four windows. For this unit to be sustainable, it has to be put next to the adult unit. She already has the adolescent behavioral health psychiatrics certified to treat them. She has staff that can cross over between the two units. She stated that they can be sustainable, and they are very excited about this project and to partner with the Trust. She thanked the Trust and looked forward to being in Fairbanks for their next meeting.

CHAIR FISHER thanked both, and recognized Leigh Bolin.

MS. BOLIN stated that she is the executive director of the Resource Center for Parents and Children in Fairbanks. She was there to add to the list of folks that are in support of the family resource center project through the Alaska Impact Alliance. They currently are a pilot project for the family resource center project with AIA, and it is immensely successful. They are able to support a position where they can help the people that just show up at the front door. The agency serves families in the context of trying to prevent and intervene on child maltreatment. She continued that they had 321 children impacted because their parents attended the parenting classes, and they are reaching a large amount of people with this family resource center project.

It is not just the ability to provide services; it is the minimal standards through the Alaska Impact Alliance by which they are able to provide quality services across a very large region. The reach is vast, and they do a lot with very little. She stated that this project is impacting direct services to children and families who have experienced abuse and trauma.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Bolin, and recognized Julia Luey.

MS. LUEY stated that she has the incredible privilege of serving as the president and CEO of VOA Alaska. VOA Alaska is a nonprofit behavioral health organization that specializes in therapeutic services and supports for youth, young people, and their families. They have a robust continuum of care that spans from prevention, early intervention, community-based programs. The level of intensity continues to increase with their partial-hospitalization program located in Anchorage. She continued that they are deeply grateful for the Trust's partnership and support over the years of helping to fill critical gaps in the behavioral health system of care and better equipping many with the tools and resources needed to combat the behavioral health crisis in Alaska. She talked about their residential program, ARCH, the Adolescent Residential Center for Health, which is the heart and soul of VOA Alaska. It has been in operation for 40 years and has touched many lives. She added that the funding they are requesting is to integrate a new level of care into ARCH's continuum. The level of care is called ACM, American Society of Addiction Medicine, which provides services for unstable psychiatric conditions and withdrawal management support for youth under the age of 18. This funding would be an essential step forward to improving the behavioral health system of care for youth in Alaska.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Luey, and recognized Eric Holle.

MR. HOLLE stated that he is a 36-year resident in Haines. He understands the fiduciary mandate of the Mental Health Trust and all the programs, which he supports, and thinks that for the Trust to get involved in mining claims around Haines, especially the Palmer Mine Project in the Chilkat Valley, would be a mistake for several reasons. First, it is extremely unlikely to make money for the Trust, and the big plays are pulling out of this project. The current operator, APM, does not have a very great track record. He continued that salmon are a cornerstone of the local economy there, and Chilkat has all five species of wild salmon. The nature of the project, a high-sulfide deposit, will severely impact the salmon with the acid mine drainage. He added that local people have been resisting this project for a long time, and it would not be good to become involved in an enterprise that comes between people and their life support system. He urged them to be careful with this project.

MS. WENGER stated that she is Carmen Wenger, the director of programs for the Alaska Pediatric Partnership. She was excited to bring copies of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Needs Assessment, which the Mental Health Trust helped them to support and provide. She was excited to state that some of the recommendations at the end of the report were already being acted upon. She added that one of the goals of the program is to not only serve to connect families and children to the supports they need, but to use the information gained from those connections to better inform how the system can exist to continually feed that back into creating a better working system. They are seeing that families are finding the service useful.

CHAIR FISHER recognized Bobby Dorton online.

MR. DORTON stated that he was on the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and is also the chair of the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition. He shared his story and experience with the reentry coalition and how he found success. He shared that he began getting a lot of pushback because of his criminal history and started Healing Homes Consultant, LLC. He did a lot of stigma campaigning for the Trust on television. He reached out to some people in Tennessee and went into the schools and talked about the effects of vaping. His presentation concluded with his story mixed with education about the effects of vaping, marijuana and alcohol leading to harder drugs. He got a contract to work in the schools in Tennessee as a consultant. Now he is in Alaska and working with some organizations to help bring peer support into the organizations. He turned his life around and wants to continue to help people. He noted that he was about two weeks out from rolling out two sober living homes in Fairbanks. He has the properties and was looking for the rollout of the properties. It will be 16 beds: eight for women; eight for guys. He also welcomed CEO Wilson and looked forward to meeting her in person.

MR. SURMA stated that he is Aaron Surma. He works with NAMI Juneau and the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, and is a Trust beneficiary. He stated appreciation for all the work they do to improve the systems and talked about some of the important work to benefit beneficiaries that happens outside of formal systems. He continued that the favorite part of his job is doing the peer support specialist training, and he trained close to 50 people as peer support specialists.

CHAIR FISHER recognized Felicia Nichols.

MS. NICHOLS stated that she works with VOA Alaska and spoke in strong support of the Alaska Impact Alliance's continued funding of the UReCares stipend and respite program that is provided through Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Through her work as a family peer support specialist and case manager overseeing the relatives raising relatives program known as Kinship, she has seen a lot of changes occur over the past six years. The Kinship program is where relatives step up to provide care for children in need. These caregivers work tirelessly to provide love, stability, and financial support, yet they often receive little to no assistance from traditional foster care programs. The UReCares program has been a lifeline helping families afford respite care, educational needs, groceries, gas, as well as extracurricular activities. It has been supporting all of these families, different opportunities that these children would otherwise go without. She added that by continuing to invest in the UReCares program, they are investing in stronger families, better outcomes for children, and a more resilient Alaska.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Nichols, and recognized Emma Van Nes.

MS. VAN NES stated that she is the Outdoor Recreation and Community Access, ORCA, director at SAIL. She introduced Alexis Brown and Kai Edmunds. She thanked the Trust for supporting their pilot project, employment through recreation for transition-aged youth. SAIL has been facilitating employment classes in Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Haines, but mainly in the classroom. They found that teaching soft skills in the classroom is really hard, and they put forth the project to facilitate recreation, and to teach soft skills through that. Through recreation, participants learned things like teamwork, empowerment, and healthy communication which are essential for a job. The Trust also supported staff in getting training, which was very helpful. She asked Lexi to share a bit about her involvement with ORCA, which she has participated in since 2017.

MS. BROWN stated that she does a lot of activities like skiing, but she does not ski anymore because she works. She likes ORCA a lot. It helped her get a job at Costco CDS. It helped her learn how to actually talk to people normally, and not just random stuff.

MS. VAN NESS asked Kai Edmunds about ORCA.

MR. EDMUNDS replied that SAIL helped him learn to ski. He did the YEP program where he learned how to maintain trails and did some of the biking they do.

MS. VAN NESS thanked them, and stated appreciation for everything the Trust does.

MS. BIASTOCK thanked them for their testimony and told them they did a great job.

CHAIR FISHER stated that they would extend the public comment period for a little bit.

MS. RICE stated that she was Krisanne Rice and flew from Sitka to testify. She briefly shared her family of four's experience with an eating disorder with her daughter and thanked the Trust for their current support of the Alaska Eating Disorder Association and hoped they would continue supporting them in the future moving forward. She continued that in 2009 her daughter had an eating disorder, anorexia, and almost died. They have lived with this for 16 years. Direct medical costs were \$760,000; out of pocket, \$145,000; total was \$905,000 minimum. Without excellent health insurance, they would be bankrupt and broken. Her daughter is now 31, living in Anchorage, and thriving. She stated that research underpinning eating disorders and evidence-based treatment has flourished since 2009 with early intervention being a must. She continued that she has been involved with Alaska Eating Disorder Association as a volunteer for five years. She would like the Trust to elevate eating disorders as a priority in their work and use their advocacy and financial resources to continue support of AKEDA and other programs as they see fit.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Rice, and recognized Beth Rose.

MS. ROSE asked to split her time with Mina Hancock, who is a student. She stated that she is one of the cofounders of Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance, AKEDA, which started 5.5 years ago. On behalf of their board, she thanked trustees for considering their grant request for doing prevention outreach to youth who are at risk of developing eating disorders and other mental health disorders that often are comorbid with eating disorders. She explained that the grant proposal is to train adults on evidence-based body confidence programs that have been shown to reduce risks for eating disorders, improve self-esteem, and overall mental health. This has become especially important with the rise of social media and all of the youth mental health crises. She continued that they have some agreements to work with schools and youth organizations across the state. Their work is guided by an amazing board of professionals. She thanked the trustees for the support and looked forward to continuing working with them to improve the lives of Trust beneficiaries.

MS. HANCOCK stated that she is Mina Hancock and is a lifelong Alaskan. She did not know that she had an eating disorder until she was admitted to the hospital about three years ago. In her youth and adolescence, she knew that something was off. Her habits were preoccupied, her brain was fogged; her muscles weak; and her body was aching. She was encompassed in a darkness that no light could penetrate. She continued that if her informed primary-care doctor

had not recognized the severity of the situation, she was not sure where she would be today. Her story highlights the crippling lack of education and awareness regarding this destructive condition within Alaska. She added that there was no way to overestimate the change and power AKEDA has brought to the community. They are the first Alaska-based nonprofit to provide a comprehensive place to discover eating-disorder-informed care providers, ED-specific support groups for the individual and their loved ones, and resources that help guide the community to resilience. AKEDA works tirelessly to train professionals around the state on how to recognize, treat, and support those who are struggling. This work is far from done, and she asked the trustees to recognize eating disorders as an under-addressed and major health concern in the state. Please fund this proposal and provide schools with the tools to act quickly to help those who are struggling and to prevent eating disorders in Alaska.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Hancock, and recognized Caroline Storm.

MS. STORM stated that she sits on the board of AKEDA. She is the vice chair, as well as the chair of the advocacy committee. She is in Juneau, up on the hill, advocating for public education funding. She continued that she was proud to sit on this incredibly high-functioning board, and the work they do is very important. She added that 40 years ago she lived with an eating disorder without any support at all. She does not want anyone to have to go through what she went through. The shame, the hiding, and the simple lack of support. She asked the trustees to support AKEDA and their grant request so they can intervene early. She emphasized that the cofounders of AKEDA, Beth and Jenny, have done phenomenal work in just five short years. They built an organization that has tremendous reach and impact to providers, and in providing resources for families who have nowhere else to turn because there is so little information and so few resources to support someone suffering an eating disorder. She thanked the trustees for all the work they do to help people in need.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that one of the things she had been reading about is that boys are starting to exhibit more eating disorders. She asked if the program also addressed that.

MS. STORM replied that everyone is included. There are no treatment centers in the state; they are only out of state. She added that the incidents of men and boys are growing. The incidents among athletes, regardless of gender, is very high.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Storm, and recognized Catherine.

CATHERINE stated that she was a former participant of the Story Bridge program. Story Bridge gave her the tools to express herself authentically. She learned how to organize her thoughts, speak with confidence, and embrace her own voice. It created a space where her classmates could truly listen and understand each other. The experience strengthened her ability to connect with people in meaningful ways that she carries with her to this day. She believes in the importance of expanding this program so more young people can benefit. By supporting this initiative, they are helping students gain lifelong skills that will serve them in school and beyond. Let us ensure more youth in Alaska have the chance to discover the power of their own voices.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Catherine, and recognized Candice Richardson. Ms. Richardson was not online, and he thanked everyone who had commented. He ended the public comment period on the agenda. He stated that if anyone wished to give public comment and had not been

heard, written comments are always welcome and may be submitted to the trustees at any time. He shared the email, fax number, the address, and called a recess.

(Break.)

CHAIR FISHER reconvened the meeting. He stated that they had a long visit at the Capitol, and it was a good meeting with the House Finance Committee. He recognized all of the staff members that participated in the interaction with the legislators in the House. It went well and they did a great job, and justified their jobs. Next on the agenda is the Finance Committee report update. He recognized that Trustee Feige and Trustee Boyles were online, and that Trustee Morris had not yet joined them.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

CFO FARLEY stated that the Finance Committee met on January 8th and was attended by the three committee members, as well as the other trustees. The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Sebastian Vadakumcherry who presented an introduction to the understanding of risk and how it was incorporated into decision-making at APFC. This will be a continuing conversation for the trustees, and we hope to hear from additional staff at APFC in the future. She continued that the next item was Phase 1 of the asset spending study by Callan. The next phase project will be presented at the next Finance Committee in April and will include a review of the Assets Management Policy. The Finance Committee asked Callan to evaluate the spending rate recommendation and will report back at the next meeting. She stated that the first motion that related to the spending rates was tabled. She asked Trustee Halterman to continue.

MOTION: The Finance Committee reviewed the motion of commercial real estate net proceeds. The Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees approve the transfer of commercial real estate net proceeds into the budget reserves. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CFO FARLEY stated that staff recommended that these commercial real estate net proceeds be transferred to budget reserves as this transfer will provide financial strength to the Trust by increasing the reserve coverage ratio to get closer to the 400 percent target previously identified.

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

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

MOTION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees authorize staff and counsel to prepare a request for proposal for a commercial real estate investment manager for all remaining commercial real estate held by the Trust. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

TRUSTEE FEIGE put forward that they have internal assets at both the Trust Authority and the TLO that deal with the commercial real estate portfolio. She asked to not let any potential procurement process that is potentially approved by trustees today to linger; to try to move it along to effectively manage the human and other resources within the two offices.

CFO FARLEY stated that she has had conversations with counsel on this matter. They are developing, but are not to the point of issuing an RFP.

E.D. WARNER agreed with Trustee Feige and thought the human side of this aspect is critical for an organization to consider. This is someone's job, and it is important to move progress along.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments. There being none, he called the vote.

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

CHAIR FISHER asked for anything else for the update. There being nothing, he moved to the Resource Management Committee.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TRUSTEE FEIGE stated that the Resource Management Committee met on January 9, 2025. That was the first meeting under the new governance policy, as we are no longer a committee of the whole. The RMC was pleased to have all the trustees in attendance, and stated appreciation for the discussion. An update from the executive director of the TLO was received, and the committee received two consultations requiring Full Board concurrence to move forward.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that Motion 1 was for a consultation for the disposal of Trust Parcel FM-0835, MHT 9400904.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concurs with the executive director of the Trust Land Office's, TLO, decision to dispose of the Trust parcel FM-0835, approximately 75 acres, through a negotiated sale or subsequent disposal. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

E.D. WARNER stated that this is 96 percent wetland, and it used to be used for a material extraction. She continued that all the material of any use had been extracted. It is 50 percent above the appraised fair market value. The recommendation is to continue to sell this parcel.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments. There being none, he called the vote.

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

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that the consultation for a negotiated oil and gas lease, MHT 9300101, was the next motion.

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the negotiated lease of Trust land parcels S50100, S5010, S50102, S50103, S50135, S50136, S50137, and S50138 near Soldotna to Hilcorp Alaska, LLC., for the exploration and development of oil and gas resources. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

E.D. WARNER stated that this is about a 286-acre parcel that is adjacent to some State subsurface land, a lease that Hilcorp just secured. They are just adding this to their package. There are no unusual risks associated with this oil and gas lease, which are typically mitigated through other departments within DNR for this type of lease. Also used was the standard oil and gas lease that had been vetted through the Department of Law.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments. There being none, he called the vote.

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

TRUSTEE FEIGE concluded the report from the RMC, and the business before the Board today.

CHAIR FISHER stated appreciation for everyone's input and participation in the meeting today. He recessed the meeting until tomorrow morning at 11:30.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board meeting recessed at 3:53 p.m.)