

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

**February 6, 2025  
11:30 a.m.**

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

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**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:**

Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci; Commissioner Kim Kovol; Commissioner Heidi Hedberg.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR FISHER called the meeting to order, and recognized Commissioner Kim Kovol, Department of Family & Community Services.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

COMMISSIONER KOVOL stated that they have made some great gains and have some areas of opportunity. Their partnership with the Department of Health continues to be very strong with constant communication and collaboration. She talked about their four divisions: Pioneer Homes, the psychiatric hospital, Division of Juvenile Justice, and the Office of Children's Services, along with the complex care unit. Pioneer Homes has six locations and provides nursing services, daily living services, meal preparation, housekeeping, addressing dietary and medical needs. 61 percent of the residents have a diagnosis of a dementia-related disease. She invited all trustees, volunteers, members of the public to come and enjoy ice cream on Fridays. The elders love having guests on Fridays. She moved to the psychiatric institute, which is the only State-run hospital in Alaska that provides acute psychiatric care for youth and adults experiencing mental health crises. There are five inpatient units with 80 beds available. They are the only provider that does the comp restoration treatment for individuals found by the Court to be incompetent to stand trial. The Department of Juvenile Justice follows the restorative justice model for the adjudicated youth. She continued that the vast majority of youth are in community services, not in detention. They provide TBI screening, cultural program activities, health services, and neurofeedback therapy. She talked about the Office of Children's Services which is primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of Alaska's youth, especially in cases of child abuse and neglect. They administer the foster care system across all five regions with 21 offices. She moved to the complex care unit, which works closely with the partners at the Department of Health, and they look at how to address the needs of both custodial and noncustodial constituents and moving them into more appropriate settings, so that they are able to get the care they need. They have made some great gains with the talent acquisition team, which is a pilot project. They will make recommendations to the State to see if this could be rolled out in different departments as well. She then talked about the processes and opportunities going on right now. She concluded her update and expressed gratitude for the Trust supporting their initiatives, as well as supporting the extra training and education of staff.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN expressed gratitude for their efforts and the cooperative effort between staff and advisors. She asked about the competency restoration and if that effort was expanding into any other facilities.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL replied that that needs to really be thought about, if there is capacity to go into other facilities. Right now, the bulk of the court-ordered constituents are in DOC care, which makes the most sense.

CHAIR FISHER recognized that Trustee Rhonda Boyles was online.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked the commissioner for her update and stated appreciation for her boldness on trying something from the private sector in the agencies. He asked where they were on that curve.

COMMISSIONER KOVOL replied that her background comes from direct practice and the need

to be in the field to connect with staff and the constituents. She noted that they are experiencing a comeback.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Commissioner Kovol, and recognized Commissioner Heidi Hedberg from Department of Health.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG thanked the trustees for the support they provide to the beneficiaries. She stated that the Department of Health's mission is to promote the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of Alaskans. This partnership has been growing and blossoming over the past few years, and she is excited about the trajectory that it is going. She highlighted that the Department of Family & Community Services, the Trust, and the Department of Health work together. That is strengthening the system, which is the COMP Plan, which was finalized. They have actively been working on the ten core areas with the building out of continuum of care for crisis services. She provided an update on the complex care initiatives which focuses on early intervention with the youth and the work happening in the youth behavioral health roadmap. She talked about the care coordination in the home- and community-based waivers and the five divisions within the Department of Health each focusing in an area. A lot of time was spent developing leadership with conversations leading to the four arcs of effort: increasing access to childcare; strengthening the behavioral health system; transformation of care; and reducing overdoses and suicides. A lot of time has been spent forming the strategies and recommendations that align with the COMP Plan, and now those strategies will begin to be implemented. They are starting to see some traction with the organization of the concepts and the strategies and the funding to implementing them. She talked about how the arcs of effort were progressing. She spoke about House Bill 73, Senate Bill 76 which would introduce a new license type to meet the needs of the individuals with very complex needs. The goal is that through regulation they can build out complex care residential homes to meet the needs of individuals.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Commissioner Hedberg for everything she does and for the updates. He called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR FISHER called the meeting back to order and proceeded to the proposals.

## **APPROVALS**

### **TABLED PROPOSALS**

#### **ALASKA IMPACT ALLIANCE-REIMAGINING CHILD WELFARE PROJECT**

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that they would begin with the tabled proposals from the last board meeting and then move into the focus area and partnership proposals. She continued that staff worked diligently through the verbatims, reconciling the memory of the questions and the discussions to be responsive to the questions and the requests that came up during that time. She asked for the first motion be read.

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$400,000 fiscal year '25 early childhood intervention and prevention Authority Grant allocation to the Alaska Impact Alliance for the fiscal year '25 Reimagining Child Welfare Project. These funds will come from the foster care and child welfare systems improvements line of the fiscal year '25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this motion was presented and discussed at the December 2024 board meeting and tabled with the request for further information on performance and budget for the FY24 grant. She continued that the Board was given supplemental information in the packet, including the FY24 final report, the Authority Grant budget report, and the information related to questions from the November board meeting. She noted that the FY25 proposal aims to focus on three key areas that would have the most direct impact on Trust beneficiaries: No 1, the UReCares stipend and respite program; 2, the Alaska Family Resource Network; and 3, the 907 Navigation App. She added that Dr. Charity Carmody was present to answer any questions from the board.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE MORAN noted that this was put at \$350,000 going forward and the request is for \$400,000 now. She asked for the reason for the \$50,000 jump.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that the FY25 project was \$400,000. The trustees did approve in the FY26 budget a \$350,000 increment, as well as an additional slight reduction in FY27.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS added down to \$250,000 in FY27.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if this was actually a four-year funding proposal with a \$1.4 million total investment on the Trust side of this program. She added that that was one of her issues with this. She continued that was part of her problem with the entire grant making in that it does not add clarity or transparency to the population we serve. She stated that she had serious concerns about the sustainability of this project because it came forward for an initial discussion of doing catalyst funding. She asked what will happen in four years. She stated that she cannot support this grant as written. Going forward there is a need for more transparency going into this whole system.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON shared a few points and stated that part of the reason when strategies are forecasted in the budget where an entity has not been identified with the ability to potentially fulfill the strategy identified, the buckets act like a placeholder, which allows staff to work with stakeholders, to figure out the capacity in the State, and what organization may be able to take on the strategy. The buckets often lead to main items in the budget which is part of the process that occurred with this particular project. She stated that she thought that staff had done their due diligence on this particular project, and were trying to be as responsive to the questions and concerns as possible.

A discussion on the motion continued.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other trustee comments.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he agreed with Trustee Moran on the heartburn of the bucket money. This becomes much bigger. It is not against the Alaska Impact Alliance or any other person for support money. He stated that he would support the motion because it is important to get these funds to where they need to be.

MS. CARMODY stated that Casey Family Programs, which is the largest foundation for child welfare, has come aboard as a funder. They applied for the Lifeline Grant, the federal resource

that most states use to fund relative caregiver grants like we do. They have the budgeted amount in the Alaska Legislature budget through the People's First Initiative funding this. They presented to Rasmuson, which is onboard for potential talks for later. They have also been given a designated TANF person with Casey Family to help us partner with them to get these funds to relative caregivers from TANF dollars instead of from State general operating budgets. This fits squarely within the TANF criteria.

The discussion continued.

TRUSTEE BOYLES stated that no one has a better in-depth understanding of grants than Trustee Moran. She continued that she has some of the same concerns over the whole process with this grant and the appearance of a lack of transparency and clarity. She asked the Alaska Impact Alliance what they were doing in this area, and if it was a substitute for what maybe the State could be doing.

MS. CARMODY replied that she did not know if the State could provide those things. This is a prevention to all of those children being directly in Child Protective Services if their relatives had not stepped up. That is something that the State cannot do unless those families want to become licensed. She added that they also are not subject to all of the same regulations that a State application or website would have. She stated that the goal at the Alaska Impact Alliance is to do things that prevent families from needing OCS intervention, and to prevent kids from entering foster care.

TRUSTEE MORAN clarified that there are a lot of organizations in the state that provide family resource services that are not called a family resource center.

TRUSTEE BOYLES alerted Chair Fisher that this may be an opportunity to the Trust and Alaska Impact Alliance to look at what the State could do better or different to solve this.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that the Alaska Impact Alliance is a collaboration of providers who came together to see what they are doing in the state related to social welfare and what they could come up with. That is the foundation of where Alaska Impact Alliance started.

MS. CARMODY added that the Alaska Impact Alliance started because the State asked them to start it. They were commissioned to do this exact work, which the State could not do themselves.

CHAIR FISHER shared some of his comments and then asked for a vote.

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

CHAIR FISHER stated that the motion passed and thanked all. He moved to the next motion.

#### **JAMHI HEALTH & WELLNESS – SHARP**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve the \$46,000 FY25 partnership grant to JAMHI Health & Wellness, Incorporated, for the SHARP contracts that JAMHI continue project. These funds will come from the partnership designated grants line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

TRUSTEE MORAN thanked staff for the presentation put together for this, as well as the other grant at the Program & Planning Committee meeting. It really helped set the stage for how to move forward with these.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON thanked Trustee Moran.

MR. BOYER stated that by nature of the SHARP program these are three-year grants. When coming forward with these, they will specify where it is a one-, two- or three-year commitment. Generally speaking, it would probably fall into the two-year commitment. This is from JAHMI Health & Wellness, which is the community behavioral health provider in Juneau, and this is the third year. The previous two years had some funding from the Trust that had been approved by the CEO and did not come forward to the board. He added that Deb Percy from JAMHI is on the line. She was listening to the discussion around AIA and that over this last year the multiple licensed clinicians that were funded by the Trust had served almost 200 beneficiaries in 2024, with 77 percent of them falling into that SUD category of treatment. That included individual, group, and emergency crisis response services.

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

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

#### **KODIAK ISLAND HEALTH CENTER – SHARP**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$27,000 FY25 partnership grant to Kodiak Island Healthcare Foundation, doing business as Kodiak Community Health Center, for the KCHC behavioral health provider recruitment. These funds will come from the partnership designated line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MR. BOYER stated that it was a three-year contract through the Division. The Trust would pay 100 percent Year 1, 50 percent Year 2, and then no amount in Year 3. That is a 50/50 split with the Kodiak Community Health Center. That is for one licensed behavioral health clinician in an integrated clinic. He thought it was a great opportunity to consider some of the very rural communities. He continued that was the value of the work that the Division of Public Health staff do with the staff at the Kodiak Community Health Center in their contractual agreement.

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

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

#### **FOCUS AREA AND PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS**

##### **VOA – INVESTING IN THE 3.7 SERVICE MODEL: INNOVATING RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ALASKA’S YOUTH**

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON moved to the focus area and partnership proposals and began with Volunteers of America. Heather Phelps is the program officer; and Julia Ley, the executive director and CEO of Volunteers of America, is available.

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$325,000 FY25 Authority Grant to Volunteers of America Alaska for the investing in the 3.7 service model, integrating residential treatment services for Alaska’s youth project. \$214,000 will come from the FY25 treatment access and recovery supports line of the FY25 budget, and \$111,000 will come from the partnerships designated grant line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MS. PHELPS stated that this was asking for \$325,000 to implement the American Society of Addiction Medicine, ASAM, level 3.7 of care at their Arch residential program. She continued that the ASAM is a medical society that provides guidance on the treatment of substance use disorders in determining the best level of patient care. A 3.7 level of care, residential services, specifically addresses co-occurring disorders with adolescents and withdrawal management or detox. She added that this funding will assist in setting up the first withdrawal management facility in the state for adolescents. This is addressing a very critical gap in service. VOA’s Arch program is a statewide youth facility treating youth with substance use disorders. It currently serves 60 youths annually, all of which are Trust beneficiaries. This project is well supported through other funding sources, including Rasmuson, State grants, and earned revenue from Medicaid and private insurance. The Trust has a robust history of awarding the VOA grant program over the last three years and beyond. This project is recommended for funding as it aligns with the mental health and addiction focus areas and provides withdrawal management, a new service for youth in Alaska.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated appreciation for all the hard work, and thinks it is a great program.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he called the vote.

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

**GASTINEAU HUMAN SERVICES – PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**  
COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that next is Gastineau Human Services permanent supportive housing.

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$350,000 FY25 housing and home- and community-based services focus area allocation to Gastineau Human Services for the Gastineau permanent supportive housing project. These funds will come from the supportive housing projects line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. BARSTAD stated that she was joined by Gastineau Human Services employees Jonathan Swinton, executive director, and Ryan Kauzlarich, finance and administration director. She continued that this investment would support, in a partner capacity, \$300,000 for 51 units of supportive housing dedicated to people in recovery. This addition to the housing continuum care will help to specifically address the needs of people who are ready for recovery, who are engaged in recovery. These units would be available to people as long as they are able to maintain their lease. She added that it is a very unique approach. At Gastineau Human Services, their wide array of services will help them make that transition at whatever point in time the beneficiary would be ready.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about the correct amount for the motion, which seems to be written for a different dollar amount. He corrected the motion.

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approves a \$300,000 FY25 housing and home- and community-based services focus area allocation to Gastineau Human Services for the Gastineau permanent supportive housing project. These funds will come from the supportive housing projects line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any more comments or questions. Hearing none, he called the vote.

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

#### **BEACON HILL – FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM EXPANSION**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$216,000 FY25 Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Authority Grant allocation to Beacon Hill for the family resource center program expansion project. These funds will come from the improved social determinants of health for families and young children, foster care, and child welfare systems improvement lines of the FY25 approved budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this project would focus on two research-informed practices that directly impact children and families. The first is the expansion of the Beacon Hill’s family resource center. The second is called Care Portal, which is an application that connects agency-vetted family needs with local community members who can help fulfill those needs. These practices address social determinants of health, stabilize families, and lead to a reduction in the number of children and families involved in the social welfare system. It has the potential for multigenerational impact as it works with parents who may be Trust beneficiaries and their children. It aligns with Trust focus area strategies and the COMP Plan objectives in early childhood and the youth arena. She added that Kristen Bierman, the executive director of Beacon Hill was online, as well as Dawn Paulson, the family support director, to answer questions.

TRUSTEE MORAN commented that it was not really pertaining directly to this grant, but it seems that we are funding a lot of software development. She stated concern about that, but had no objections to this program.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that the funding was not actually for software development because that has already been developed. This is for actual implementation. They have the community providers that are a part of the system that can all submit vetted family needs. Then, at the same time, developing community response. It is actually a national model.

MS. BIERMA stated that Care Portal is a well-developed technology tool that is used in about 40 other states. It has been around for almost 15 years. It is just beginning to be implemented in Alaska, piloting it in Anchorage and Mat-Su. The 907 Navigation App is like a phonebook



of resources for families to access. Families cannot actually access Care Portal directly; it has to come through an agency that vets them as a family.

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 Fimon, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Moran, yes; Chair Fisher, yes.)*

**AADD – BUILDING A SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE EMPLOYMENT FIRST FOR ALL**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$135,000 FY25 beneficiary employment and engagement focus area allocation to the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities for building a system to achieve employment first for all projects. These funds will come from the evidence-based and promising employment and engagement practices line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this is an opportunity to create a national standard by starting some of this work in Alaska. Building a system to achieve employment first for all is a bit complex, but she explained some of the details and intricacies of the home- and community-based service system and some of the impacts of employment work on that. The purpose of this project is a pilot project that would help to create an employment services leadership pathway and to create state expertise in this work. She continued that this program is part of the University of Alaska Center for Human Development that provides leadership training for graduate students, practicing professionals, individuals with disabilities and family members to improve the health and welfare of infants, children, and adolescents who have or are at risk for autism and other developmental disabilities.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that this is an appropriate catalyst funding grant. It is something that is new and has a potential to have a high payout benefit to the beneficiaries.

CHAIR FISHER stated that it is a great opportunity for the beneficiaries in Alaska. It gives people back their self-worth by helping to make them more self-reliant.

MS. CHAMPNEY stated that she was very excited because we all need workers and there is the value of being valued.

CHAIR FISHER called the vote.

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

CHAIR FISHER called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR FISHER called the meeting to order and moved to the next group.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE – INFANT, CHILD & YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve a \$50,000 FY25 Early Childhood Intervention Prevention Authority Grant allocation to the University of Alaska Anchorage for the Infant Child and Youth Conference. These funds will come from the children’s mental health conference line in the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this funding is for the Infant Child and Youth Conference for FY25. It provides critical training, networking, and collaboration opportunities for 250 behavioral health professionals in Alaska who work with children and families from infancy and early childhood through adolescence and transition-aged youth. It attracts agencies from rural and urban areas. This is the last year it will be put out as a grant. The acting director of the Family Services Training Center, Teagan Pressler, and Lisa Cauble, the director of the Alaska Training Cooperative, are online to answer any questions.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that this is an excellent conference, and she has sent her staff to it multiple years. She stated that she writes it into every one of her federal grants for multiple staff members.

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

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

**JAMHI HEALTH & WELLNESS – REENTRY COALITION REENTRY HOUSING**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approves a \$48,500 FY25 Disability Justice Authority Grant allocation to JAHMI Health & Wellness, Inc., through Juneau Reentry Coalition reentry housing project. These funds will come from the reentry transition supports line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

MS. PHELPS stated that JAHNI is requesting \$48,500 to fund the Juneau Reentry Coalition reentry housing project. The Trust has supported this program for FY21, ‘22 and ‘24. The data from the FY22 project demonstrated that their recidivism rates were significantly lower than those in the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections had a 54 percent recidivism rate, and the people participating in this program had a 24 percent recidivism rate. She continued that the funds were requested through the disability justice reentry transition support line and pointed out that the majority of those funds directly support reentrants. This project is recommended for funding as it aligns with the disability justice focus area and reduces Trust beneficiary involvement in the criminal justice system.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if the Trust was solely supporting this project, and if they are looking at the potential of securing other funders.

MS. PHELPS replied that people with reentry have significant issues when they come out, and she sees that this bucket would continue in the future to support reentry coalitions, to support reentrants who are Trust beneficiaries to receive that housing support.

MR. HABEGER stated that he was the community coalition coordinator for the Juneau Reentry Coalition and added that this is more of a short-term measure. It is the stop gap before a project like Gastineau Human Services, which the coalition has a letter of support for in many of their funding requests to get their project up and going. Those kinds of projects are significantly important to the community and the clients.

CHAIR FISHER asked about the multiple different kinds of reentry housing initiatives and if Mr. Habeger could talk about the different alternatives.

MS. PHELPS replied that there are many different reentry housings out there with a lot just recently starting up, especially in the Anchorage and Mat-Su area. These are people that may be involved in the system and successfully have reentered themselves or they might be church-related. Some people may have a house with four bedrooms and will start a reentry housing project. Those are private with no oversight by the Division of Behavioral Health and the State. The difference is that working with reentry coalitions, they are vetted, have case managers assigned, and have more support.

MR. HABEGER added that one difficult issue is the availability of low-income housing in the communities statewide. The other thing to consider is that many individuals have already burned a few bridges before they are involved in the justice system.

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

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

**ALASKA EATING DISORDERS ALLIANCE – BUILDING BODY CONFIDENT KIDS – YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve an \$89,000 FY25 partnership grant to the Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance for the Building Body Confident Kids Youth Mental Health Prevention Project. These funds will come from the partnerships/designated grants line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN.

MR. BOYER noted that Jess Rude, the executive director of the Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance, was online, along with two of the board members and founders, Beth Rose and Fenny Loudon. He stated that this project is truly a prevention project. It is a partnership between best practice, support of teachers, coaches, adults, volunteers in the community, as well as in schools, working with youth to be able to better understand their bodies. When they see some of the issues around disordered eating, they are able to not only advocate for themselves, but to advocate for each other. Eating disorders are some of the more complicated clinical diagnoses and even clinicians struggle with how to deal with that on the medical and behavioral health side. AKEDA became a nonprofit over five years ago and really jumped in providing competence with best practice clinical training for clinicians around the state. That is to raise their level of competence so they can not only identify and assess eating disorders, but support and treat so that more families can get the support they need and do not have to send their children or young adults out of state to get that level of care. He noted that this is a one-time request.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about the other funding sources.

MS. RUDE replied that they have secured GCI funds in the amount of \$2500. The Rotary is still pending, and there is a commitment from Senator Murkowski about the earmark, although that is in question, given the change in administration. She stated that the request to the Trust is a one-time funding request; seed money to be able to train the trainers. They would be able to train AKEDA staff to be able to keep providing this education to other trainers.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if the funding earmarked from Murkowski did not come through, would they still move forward on this project.

MS. RUDE replied that the earmarked funds would simply complement and expand the education outreach for this program. It is not dependent on AKEDA's ability to create and deliver a strong, effective program funded by the Mental Health Trust Authority.

TRUSTEE MORAN commented on the train-the-trainer model, which has been used very effectively in a lot of other similar programs. It is a very established and effective model in Alaska, especially with some of the transition seen in organizations and schools. She thanked them for bringing this forward.

CHAIR FISHER commented on the real need for this in the state of Alaska. He called the vote.

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approves the following 14 FY25 partnership grants totaling \$530,510, as outlined in the table below, to include: Hope Community Resources, flooring replacement for two assisted living homes, \$50,000; Tundra Women's Coalition, Tundra youth home transitional housing support, \$50,000; Seward Prevent Coalition, youth mental health campaign, \$50,000; Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, Nikiski Shelter of Hope building upgrades, \$50,000; Juneau Housing First Collaborative, development and housing support for \$50,000; Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Alaska Native Heritage Center Elders Program, \$50,000; Seldovia Village Tribe, community healthcare equipment upgrade, \$50,000; Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc., d/b/a/ Mat-Su Senior Services, MSS ADS support, \$50,000; the Alaska Humanities Forum, Story Works, strengthening protective factors through classroom storytelling, \$50,000; Bfit & Well Annex, brain health fitness program, \$40,000; REACH 907, resilience behavior consulting support, \$27,260; Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, Cost of Care: Collaborating on Solutions, \$8,250; Girls on the Run, Southcentral Alaska, Girls on the Run, \$2,500; and the Stone Soup Group, growing connection and cultivating communities, \$2,500. These funds will come from the partnerships/designated grants line of FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated that some of these do not have secured funding yet, and she was concerned about the security of some of these pending sources, given the grant-making changes at the national level. She asked if there was a potential that some of these unsecured

funds may not come through and jeopardize any of these projects. She asked if there were any updates on securing some of the funding.

MS. BIASTOCK replied that would be on a case-by-case basis, and if there were specific questions so that they may be able to get representatives from the requesting agency online who are able to provide an update. She noted that they are monitoring the situation with federal funding.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked about the Seward Prevention Coalition and if this might be something that would be better off spearheaded by the Trust as one of the stigma campaigns and maybe targeting to leverage whatever documentation is created to help address that issue in the Seward Peninsula. It could be something that the Trust could replicate statewide.

MS. PHELPS stated that they are very invested in and have been working on it for a number of years. They see this as their community and want to be responsive to community needs.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if there was the potential to garner whatever they create in that, if it works, to use for Trust efforts.

MS. BIASTOCK replied absolutely, especially if they find that there are certain aspects of that campaign that have been remarkably successful. This is someone local creating messages they think will resonate in their community. It is \$50,000. The Trust does statewide media buys for the anti-stigma campaign. \$50,000 of that would not be directed to any single community in the state because they are really targeting statewide. There is a benefit in it being complementary to our anti-stigma efforts, but not repetitive because it would be localized.

MR. HICKEY stated the inclusion within the grant agreement is a requirement that they cooperate and permit the Trust to use whatever information they gather. He continued, that can be made a condition of the grant agreement and that information becomes usable by the Trust.

MS. PHELPS added that in looking at the proposal, it talks about once the campaign has been completed, implemented, and assessed, they plan to provide it as a resource for other communities in Alaska who are facing the same barriers to utilize.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN wanted the Trust to use it as part of the media campaign and thanked Ms. Phelps for the clarification.

MS. PHELPS stated that they are working with Montana State University's Center for Health and Safety Culture, and there may be some proprietary information that may need to be negotiated. They do want to share what they learn and see this as being groundbreaking and could really help with decreasing stigma for parents of youth that access mental health services.

CHAIR FISHER stated that he was uncomfortable with the grant for Juneau Housing First in that it was too cloudy as to what it was supporting. He was uncomfortable leaving this motion without more discussion and information.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON suggested separating it from the consent agenda and revisiting it after getting through the consent agenda. She moved to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and stated that Emily Edenshaw, the president and CEO, Gregory Stewart, the director of grants,

and Crystalyn Lemieux, senior manager of the programs at Alaska Native Heritage Center were happy to answer any questions.

MS. EDENSHAW introduced herself and stated that she has served as the President and CEO for the last six years and was honored to be there with her team. She stated that they work with a variety of funding sources all across Alaska and the nation. Their Elders Program was borne out of their community and the feedback not only from youth was they wanted more elders at the heritage center and that the elders want us to meet them where they are. The cultural center building is an Elders Program because they are more than a museum and more than a cultural center. She continued that they provide 25 free carving stations for men who struggle with homelessness and substance abuse in Anchorage. They have been doing that for six years, and it is completely funded by the Mellon Foundation. They also have direct relief funding now.

CHAIR FISHER asked who the funding partners were, and why there were no Alaska Native funding partners.

MR. STEWART replied that they partnered with Providence Alaska Foundation to secure funding, as well as the Alaska State Council on the Arts. They have a pending ask with GCI. They use their partners within the Alaska Native community for a variety of resources, and they tend to have an interest in seeing their funds go directly to supporting youth programs. Most of the resources from their indigenous partners throughout the corporate and other resources that exist in that space tend to go to those programs first. The Elders Program is the first time they were doing this particular line of service and this model they developed. It is modeling after the core efforts of the Heritage Center where they bring culture to people throughout the state. They have a variety of partners from within the Alaska Native community. They work with Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Southcentral Foundation, and would likely engage Cook Inlet Tribal Council and a variety of other people within the Southcentral region.

MS. LEMIEUX shared that she had been doing suicide prevention the last seven years and is very familiar with prevention. The people know what she does in the community, and they come to her and ask why they were not focusing on the elders. The real issue is that the elders have experienced so much from boarding schools, and it is just compounded. They need to heal, and part of that healing is for elders and youth to come together. The reason to do this pilot project is to prove why this works. There is research, but until someone sees it, they are just talking. She needs to pitch this to her indigenous community. It is an exciting time to be at the Alaska Native Heritage Center because our president and CEO and director of grants can accomplish in five years things that take 10 to 20 years. In her vision, she sees culture as prevention.

CHAIR FISHER stated appreciation for the explanation. He asked about the Nikiski shelter and if they are beneficiary families.

MS. BARSTAD stated that they identified a total of up to 22 people, potentially, with co-occurring disorders, Trust beneficiaries, using the shelter. They identified as serving people with mental illness and substance use, the two most common beneficiary groups served by shelters in general. Given the amount of the investment and the total amount of the project overall, this is a multi-year deferred maintenance project. She feels that the investment is within proportion of the number of Trust beneficiaries served.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON clarified that the only one removed from the consent agenda was No. 5, the Juneau Housing First Collaborative.

MR. HICKEY stated that a motion is needed that the maker amends to remove that one from the consent motion.

**MOTION:** A motion to amend the motion to remove Item No. 5, and to update the number of FY25 partnerships from 14 to 13, and to update the total dollar amount of the motion from \$530,510 down to \$480, 510. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

MS. BIASTOCK stated that the amendment was adopted, and that the vote on the main motion was needed.

CHAIR FISHER called the vote on the motion, as amended.

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

MS. BIASTOCK asked for the motion for the grant removed from the consent agenda.

**MOTION:** The Board of Trustees approve the \$50,000 FY25 partnership grant to the Juneau Housing First Collaborative with the development support project. These funds will come from the partnership/designated grant line of the FY25 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

CHAIR FISHER stated that he was not comfortable with understanding what the grant was used for, what the consulting project is going to encompass.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this funding is to fund a position for development support partially with a partnership with the Juneau Community Foundation so they have additional expertise to help with applications for funding, developing a funding stack, organizing predevelopment activities, as well as developing operations, plans, and other components that are necessary to apply for both State and Federal funding for a variety of projects that will be targeted for Trust beneficiaries. She continued that it could include and would focus on affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, which is also affordable housing. It is a bit redundant, but there are some specialty niche projects that are within the affordable housing category and new types of projects like the recovery permanent supportive housing. Those are three different types of housing. The regional housing authorities have very limited funding and focus on broad population interventions. To target Trust beneficiaries, there is additional expertise needed to connect that affordable housing to supportive services.

MS. LOVISHCHUK added that the specific projects that are in the pipeline right now is the Gastineau Human Services recovery housing project and then a transitional housing project for youth. The reason why these projects are so difficult to get off the ground is because it takes a lot to educate the Board, to outline the program, to line out the funding sources. These projects are billed in other communities as for-profit, and they charge a substantial developer fee. She

was able to develop this and wants to be able to lend a hand to other organizations to do this. They were able to rehab their old shelter building called Glory Hall.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this project was identified for funding in the FY26 and FY27 budget that had been approved.

CHAIR FISHER stated that he is not in support of a housing-first concept. He asked for any other comments or questions. There being none, he called the question.

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

**MOTION:** A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's Board of Trustees move into Executive Session to discuss issues pertaining to the new CEO's onboarding, including the 2024 legislative audit, commercial real estate, the Palmer mine project request for purchase by the Trust. The Executive Session is permitted by AS 44.62.310(c)(1) and (3) as the matters to be discussed would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Trust and involve matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. The motion was made by TRUSTEE MORAN; seconded by TRUSTEE FIMON.

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

(Executive Session from 3:12 p.m. until 4:31 p.m.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated, for the record, that she, her fellow trustees, members of the Trust Authority are returning to the Full Board of Trustees meeting from the Executive Session. During the Executive Session, the Board of Trustees only discussed the items identified on the motion to move into the Executive Session. The Board of Trustees did not take any action, except to give counsel direction while in Executive Session.

CHAIR FISHER stated that during the Executive Session, an offer from Constantine Mining, LLC, was discussed. They offered the Trust to purchase their mining claim for the Palmer Project. The trustees consulted with TLO and counsel. The trustees directed counsel to notify Constantine Mining that the Trust was not interested in pursuing the purchase of that claim. The Palmer claim means the claim owned by Merrill Palmer. He asked for any comments from the trustees before adjourning.

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked staff for all the support they give. He was happy to get to see some of the local people come in and give input, advocate, and give feedback on programs and funding that we have done. It was good to get some face time with the legislators and to make some points and answer some questions. He appreciated that and his fellow trustees for a lot of hard work.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments. He thanked all who participated, both staff and the guests that came to speak to us. We really appreciate all the participation and especially the organization that went into making this trip to Juneau and with the legislators successful. He asked for a motion to adjourn.



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

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

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.)