

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY  
FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
November 19, 2025  
8:30 a.m.**

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

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**Trustees Present:**

Brent Fisher, Chair  
Anita Halterman  
Kevin Fimon  
Agnes Moran  
Corri Feige (virtual)  
Josie Hickel

**Trust Staff Present:**

Mary Wilson  
Allison Biastock  
Katie Baldwin-Johnson  
Shannon Cochran  
Valette Keller  
Julee Farley  
Luke Lind  
Carrie Predeger  
Michael Baldwin  
Eric Boyer  
Kat Roch  
Kelda Barstad  
Tina Voelker-Ross  
Eliza Muse  
Debbie DeLong  
Samantha Ponts  
Heather Phelps

**Trust Land Office staff present:**

Jusdi Warner  
Jeff Green  
Sarah Morrison  
Cole Henderson  
Brittany Williams  
Tracy Salinas  
David MacDonald  
Blain Alfonso

**Also participating:**

Patrick Reinhart; Chelsea Burke; Sabrina Richmond; Kara Bakken-Clemens; Amanda Elder; Krista Schooley; Lisa Sauder; Kermit Wilson; Darrell Brown; Kara Nelson; Tonie Protzman; Bryan Brandenburg; Travis Welch; Bridget Akerly; Kaitlyn Klippert; Don Roberts; Roger Branson; Tamar Ben-Yosef; Heidi Lieb-Williams; Marty Lange; Gene Hickey; Heidi Hedberg; Chris Orman; Kim Champney; Sabrin Richmond; Rashah Chesney.

**PROCEEDINGS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR FISHER called the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board meeting to order and began with a roll call.

E.D. WARNER stated that Trustee Feige was running a few minutes behind and would be on shortly.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

MR. HICKEY stated that there was an amendment to the agenda.

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

**MOTION:** A motion that the Alaska Mental Trust Board of Trustees amend the agenda for the Board's November 19, 2025 meeting as follows:

Delete the discussion of the LLC's dissolution from the Executive Session and put that discussion in the public portion of the meeting immediately following the Executive Session.

And as considering of the following resolutions: A. resolution to dissolve 1111 is Railroad, LLC; B. resolution to dissolve 1973 North Rulon Heights, LLC; C. resolution to dissolve 2066 Cordova, LLC; D. resolution to dissolve 1015 East 6<sup>th</sup> Investment, LLC.

And, second, to add consideration of the resolutions to ratify the purchase and sale agreement for the sale of 2618 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, after the discussion on the dissolution of the LLCs.

The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

**ETHICS DISCLOSURES**

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated April, 2025.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the minutes from the April, 2025, Full Board meeting was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

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

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked the Chair to go back to the ethics disclosures. She disclosed that she attended the Jewish Gala, the Cultural Gala. She continued that she did file an ethics form to reveal that she attended the Alaska Jewish Cultural Gala. She checked with her ethics supervisor, and counsel did verify that it would be acceptable to attend without that being an ethics conflict, with the need it put on the record.

## MISSION MOMENT

CHAIR FISHER stated that the first item on the agenda is the Mission Moment with the Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. He recognized Kelda Barstad to do the introduction.

MS. BARSTAD stated that it was her pleasure to introduce Lisa Sauder, the chief executive officer of the Alzheimer's Resource Alaska. With her, to tell his story as a caregiver of a beneficiary with Alzheimer's, is Darrell Brown.

MS. SAUDER began by acknowledging the great support received from the Trust as one of the five beneficiary areas and gave a quick update on a couple of things with the agency. She talked about the new logo which will refresh and remind Alaskans that for 42 years ARA has been here serving Alaskans that are affected by Alzheimer's-related dementias. She explained that Alaska has the fastest aging population per capita in the United States. Every day they see more people reaching out for assistance, and they are looking at how to do more on a scalable, sustainable basis. One of the things they are looking at is the service delivery model and trying to get their programs out into the community and to places where people are, which may be senior centers, community centers, tribal healthcare facilities and virtually. She continued through her update and was hopeful that the trustees would continue to partner with them and with other community-based organizations that do the work directly with Alaskans here on the ground, to insure quality of life, and keep people at home as long as possible with proper supports. She introduced their board chair, Darrell Brown, who not only used our services, but now serves as board chair.

MR. BROWN told his story of his journey with Alzheimer's, the ARA and the Mental Health Trust Authority. It began with him and his wife pulling up every summer to Alaska. In 2012, he noticed, while playing card games, that his wife had no strategy and could not remember how to play a game. He suggested the need to see a doctor because she was showing some cognitive deficits. In 2014, she was a teacher and having difficulty in her class. They had a mini-assessment which showed that she was having a tough time, and she received a medical release from working at school. Her first question to him was if this meant giving up her dreams of moving to Alaska, because her sister lived here. He promised her that they would build their home and she could have her last days up here. In 2015, they changed their residency to Alaska. He found ARA and was assigned a care coordinator, a care navigator, because they were not on a

Medicaid waiver. It was free of charge. Around 2019, it got to the point where he could not leave her around the house. As they were moving from the old cabin to the new cabin, she had a seizure out on the gravel, and he could not get her up the stairs. He got a hold of the care coordinator and asked what to do; he needed a ramp at the house. He found out about mini-grants. He was provided with funds for about half the cost of the ramp. He had a new house built, but they were not able to afford a washer and dryer. It was getting difficult taking her to a laundromat to sit for an hour and a half. For the next year he applied for a mini-grant and was funded for a washer and dryer. He continued that, after a while, it became difficult to get groceries and to check the mail. He needed someone to come and help, and he got a hold of the care coordinator. They were on private pay. He did not qualify for the Medicaid waiver. The care coordinator gave him some ideas and some resources to call, and he was introduced to Leslie, who came nine hours a week; three hours, three days a week. He stated that this went well for a couple of years, and his wife's condition continued to decline. She had difficulty regulating her temperature and Alaska came in every time someone walked into the front door. He, again, applied for mini-grants three and fourth because building an Arctic entry is expensive, and he needed to keep her healthy. In 2022, she slipped, fell, and broke her hip and had surgery. Giving anesthesia to someone with Alzheimer's always makes the condition worse. Soon she started having seizures, in January 2023. She was already on Hospice as a result of coming out of the hospital from hip surgery in October. She passed away January 25, 2023. She had that seizure in 2019 and was put on an antiseizure medication, and he was warned that she only had six months to live. With the doctor, they experimented with some different therapies, and the care she was able to get at home let her live for another three years when they did not expect her to. That would not have been possible if he had put her in a facility. He added that it was the combination of all the things he talked about that allowed his wife to finish out her time in a home with a husband who loved her, with a sister who came by regularly, with family that were able to be there and stay there regularly. He shared his story to know the impact that the Trust has. It helps keep people at home, and provides for care they need at home.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Brown, and asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that one of the things tossed around on the Board is increasing the level of the mini-grant program. If they were able to do that, she asked what he thought would be a more valid number.

MR. BROWN replied that looking at what the value of the mini-grant was when it first started was \$2500. Look at what that would purchase versus what \$2500 purchases now, which is close to half. He suggested doubling it. He stated that he was lucky because when his wife went on disability, she got half of her salary through the State teacher's retirement system, and he got a decent pension and had some resources. He was really careful about how he spent money, but those big projects started chipping away at those resources quite a bit. He recommended doubling it.

TRUSTEE MORAN followed up with, outside of the mini-grants, what is the highest, greatest value impact of area that the Trust could focus on funding for Alzheimer's.

MR. BROWN replied that they split care coordination into care coordination and care navigators. Care coordination is a service provided for those that have Medicaid waivers. The service they provide now is a care navigator. That was switched so that the care coordinators get

paid by Medicaid. There is no funding source for care navigators. He would like a network of care navigators.

MS. SAUDER added that they are now receiving some funds through the senior in-home rep to the State of Alaska, and it does help cover some of these services. She also talked about resource specialists needed, a person to answer the phones, take the call immediately, to set that appointment with the care navigators.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked Mr. Brown for sharing his story. He stated that he wanted to expand and learn a bit more in the sense of Alzheimer's Resource Alaska.

MS. SAUDER replied that they partner regularly with Alzheimer's Association, a national organization primarily focused on advocacy and finding a cure. They have great online resources that people can access, but they are national. She stated that it is super important to focus on continuing to advocate for additional funding for research to find a cure in our lifetime. There is also the need for boots on the ground in Alaska that are leading support groups that provide art links and forget-me-not courses. The Anchorage Senior Activity Center has their forget-me-not chorus performance at 1:00 p.m., and she encouraged joining that if they could. She added that 100 percent of the funds raised here stay in Alaska and serve Alaskans.

MR. BROWN added that it was the boots-on-the-ground ARA that made the difference.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other questions. He thanked them for coming, stating appreciation for hearing his story and experience with ARA. Before going to the CEO update, he stated the need to approve the August 27-28, 2025, minutes. He asked for a motion.

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the August 27-28, 2025, Full Board meeting minutes was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

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

## **CEO UPDATE**

CEO WILSON stated that the trustees and staff have been working on a strategic plan to guide the next five years. She noted that the document summary is currently on the website for public comment, and asked everyone to take a moment to review it. They are all excited to bring this to life and to use it as a guide to make an impact in the next few years. She continued that they would see the first of standing quarterly data presentations to the Board with the plan to use that data all year long for the next several years. She stated that she was recently honored to be asked to deliver the keynote address to the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership annual meeting. In addition to letting them know about the work done at the Trust, she presented the data set about the state of infant, child, and youth mental health in Alaska; a very challenging topic. She also stated that she was privileged to open the SIM Conference, Sequential Intersect Model, and thanked Trustee Halterman for being there. It is a program that aids keeping Trust beneficiaries or individuals with behavioral health needs out of the justice system and into the care and support that they need. It was really successful. She also gave an update on the TAB building. She continued that the Resource Development Council annual convention was attended by the

TLO staff to engage with leaders across Alaska's resource sectors. The event provided valuable opportunities to highlight the Trust land management priorities and strengthen the relationships with the industry. The TLO also participated in the Alaska Miners' Association convention, connecting with those folks. The Alaska Forest Association meeting was also attended to engage with forestry partners and to discuss sustainable timber practices, market dynamics, and future harvest planning for the Trust. The Alaska Municipal League Conference also shared panel participation by the TLO. She thanked the TLO for all the work they did. She talked about the Catholic Social Services building which will be vacated in 2027. The Trust Authority is working toward future use of the Community Park Loop site following CSS's future departure. The conversations have just started. For policy work, a contractor was hired to assist the staff in reviewing all of the policies referenced in the charters, and either draft or expand on what already existed. There will be more on that. The Trust and the TLO will do a ribbon cutting in December for the Sitka tiny house project that was supported through a grant for planning, and through a below-market lease as small homes were constructed on a Trust parcel. She talked about the new Municipality of Anchorage micro-units tour and then the rural health transformation. She added that the new grants proposal started coming in for the next round, and staff are busy vetting those over the next few weeks. She reminded all that the February Board meeting will be in Anchorage, and we will be planning some Juneau trips to the Legislature.

TRUSTEE HICKEL asked to see a marketing plan for this building for the beneficiary organizations that may have some interest there.

TRUSTEE MORAN stated that it should be a formal marketing plan.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

CHAIR FISHER asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

**MOTION:** A motion that the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority enter Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c) 1 and 3, to discuss the potential sale of the Commercial Drive property in Anchorage and for an update on the legislative audit. The matters to be discussed include matters in which the immediate knowledge of which would have an adverse effect on the Trust finances and matters which, by law, are required to be confidential. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

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

(Executive Session from 9:17 a.m. until 10:07 a.m.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated, for the record, that she and her fellow trustees 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 in the motion to move into Executive Session. The Board of Trustees did not take any action while in the Executive Session other than to give direction to counsel.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Trustee Halterman, and asked her to read the next motion.

**MOTION:** The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves the resolutions to dissolve the Limited Liability Corporation created for the purpose of acquiring and holding the following commercial real estate assets: 1973 North Rulon White, LLC; 1111 Israel Road, LLC; 2600 Cordova, LLC; and 1015 East Sixth Investment, LLC. The Chair of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees will sign these resolutions to dissolve each of the listed entities consistent with the Board's vote. Further, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees authorizes the executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's Land Office as the designated member of the entities to execute certificates of cancellations and any other documents necessary for the dissolution of each of the listed entities. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any discussion.

MR. HICKEY stated that the reason for these dissolutions is that two of the LLCs owned single property investment real estate that the Trust had, and those properties have been sold. There is no longer a need for the LLCs. All of the business affairs of those LLCs have been wound up, taxes were paid, and this is an authorization for the TLO to go ahead and file the notice of cancellation so that the corporate division in Delaware, where these entities were formed, can remove them from the books. The other two properties are LLCs that were created with the intent to put real estate holdings in them. They were never utilized, for whatever reason, and this is cleaning that issue up so they can be removed and are no longer of record, also within the State of Delaware.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if there were any funds left in the two LLCs that were not used, any final accounting or anything.

E.D. WARNER replied not that were found in the records.

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

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

MR. HICKEY suggested entertaining the resolution of the Commercial Drive issue that was added to the agenda.

CHAIR FISHER asked Trustee Hickel to read the motion.

**MOTION:** The resolution of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees to ratify the sale of 2618 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, Alaska; whereas, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is the sole member of 2618 Commercial Drive Investment Group LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; and, whereas, the sole asset held by the company is a commercial property located at 2618 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, Alaska; and, whereas, the manager of the company has determined to sell the property pursuant to a request by a member to dispose of the property; and, whereas,

managers have signed an agreement of sale to sell the property; and, whereas, a condition precedent of the sale of this ratification of the sale by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority ratify the sale of the property on the terms and conditions presented to the Board in the purchase and sale agreement signed by the company on November 17, 2025. Passed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HICKEL; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

CHAIR FISHER called a break.

(Break.)

### **STATUTORY ADVISORS**

CHAIR FISHER called the meeting back in session. He began the statutory advisor presentations with the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, and recognized Kermit Wilson.

### **ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE/ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

MR. WILSON began by acknowledging Ms. Tonie Protzman and Kara Nelson, the board chairs in attendance and online. Their work on the board is invaluable, and he thanked them. Also online is Krista Schooley from Soldotna, the newest member appointed by the Alaska Mental Health Board. He presented the updates, shared some progress and challenges, as well as collaborative efforts that continue to shape their work. He continued through his presentation, explaining and commenting as he went along. He briefly highlighted the board's annual meeting October 14-15, 2025, with the community focus on Kodiak, Alaska. He thanked the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and trustees for the opportunity to provide an update of support. Continued support and engagement are vital to advancing the shared mission of improving mental health services and curbing substance abuse in Alaska. He stated appreciation for their time, attention, and commitment to their guiding efforts.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if the community counselors school program in Kodiak that is driving down suicide rates in that school district is being replicated in other school districts. She asked if Medicaid funds are being utilized to support the efforts, and what could the Trust do to help.

MR. WILSON replied that he was not aware of what other school districts are doing, and he wants to find out because this could be a model program. He added that his program was being funded by Providence, AmeriCorps and by Medicaid funds.

### **ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING**

MR. LANGE stated the he is the executive director, and that the Alaska Commission on Aging is a statutory advisor to the Mental Health Trust Authority. As statutory advisor, he believes that it

is his responsibility to evaluate how seniors are faring in Alaska, and to make the Trust aware of what is happening, especially when it impacts the beneficiaries. He continued that November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness month, and it is a time to bring the public's attention to a disease that affects thousands of Alaskan families. He talked about some of the concrete steps that each person can take to reduce their personal risk. Getting hearing checked and getting hearing aids has the most impact on reducing the risk of Alzheimer's. He talked about all the lifestyle factors that can make a difference. The Alaska Commission on Aging is also concerned about and advocates for all of Alaska's seniors. He talked about the incarcerated population, and the Department of Corrections' concerns about the growing senior population. He moved to dementia and the creative solutions being implemented. He stated that the Alaska Commission on Aging wants to be part of finding solutions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked about any policies for performance necessary to allow a discharge of a patient with dementia to a more appropriate setting in a home- and community-based environment.

MR. WELCH, the director of health and rehabilitation at the Alaska Department of Corrections, replied that they work within the legal system as far as working with the courts, the parole board. Also, the Commissioner does have some fairly broad authority for furlough or electronic monitoring, ankle monitor placement, when appropriate, and when it can be done safely. He stated that one of the bigger issues is the lack of services and service providers who can provide the right level of care for this population.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if the complex care policy changes that the Commissioner is considering for the Department of Health would be helpful for the Department of Corrections in considering this need.

MR. WELCH replied that they have a medical social worker working with the complex care group, but he did not know and would look into it.

TRUSTEE MORAN asked if they had looked at anything that models the California Prison System's long-standing Hospice care program which would use inmates within our system.

MR. WELCH replied that they use personal care attendants that are inmates identified and then trained to provide service for the most vulnerable population. They are individuals in care/custody, living with dementia, Alzheimer's, who are blind or otherwise have disabilities.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if there are incarcerated experiencing Alzheimer's or dementia or some of that behavior that got them incarcerated in the first place.

MR. WELCH replied that officers have mentioned the difficulties when someone who has committed a crime and is living with dementia. They violate their conditions of release, probation as a result of their dementia.

## **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

CHAIR FISHER moved to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and recognized Patrick Reinhart, executive director, and Chelsea Burke, operations manager.

MR. REINHART began by introducing himself, Ms. Burke, and their new chair, Sabrina Richmond, who was online in Juneau. He stated that their update would be all about the data, and he began with the DD waitlist numbers. As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 279 people on the IDD registry, the waitlist. There are currently 2,146 individuals on an IDD waiver. He talked about the health-related disparities found through the behavioral risk factor surveillance system that is run by the Division of Public Health with the State of Alaska. He asked Ms. Burke to talk about the five-year planning survey.

MS. BURKE stated that their State plan data collection was completed. It was done through in-person virtual forums and a survey provided online, over the phone, and paper copies. The five-year plan will run from 2027 through 2031. She continued that it is required by the DD Act and Federal oversight. She explained that at the beginning of the planning cycle they will figure out what will guide the areas of focus for advocacy training at the Trust. She noted that they had at least five in-person forums scheduled for rural areas of Alaska that they were not able to complete due to the travel freeze. She moved to the survey responses and added that they were happy to see that the data is more than what the Federal oversight requires for council membership. She stated that the top four areas of importance, based on the survey, were education and early intervention, healthcare, housing, and community supports. These rankings reflect the extent of community input across Alaska and will help them to formally adopt new State planning goals.

MR. REINHART moved on and talked about education for people with disabilities, comparing the graduation rate between students with disabilities and those without. It is significantly lower for people with disabilities.

MS. BURKE moved to the IDD provider assessment project which is working with 10 provider organizations doing research collection of what the needs are for the direct support workforce. The data collection will complete in December, and that presentation report will occur in April.

MR. REINHART pointed out that employment for people with disabilities both nationally and in Alaska is higher than in the past, not a huge amount, but still a wide disparity between the number of people with disabilities who want to work and do have work. That continues to be an issue, and Alaska is not different than the rest of the country. He talked about the micro-enterprise grants and the cycle they went through with 17 applications; nine were processed, and eight of the nine were approved.

TRUSTEE HICKEL asked about the challenge of workforce availability, and if there was anything tangible that they can do about it.

MR. REINHART replied that one of the things they work on is the idea of people with disabilities are able to do some of these jobs. The idea of people helping each other, kind of the symbiotic caregiving that can occur in the right situations. Those are things that they are interested in pursuing.

CHAIR FISHER thanked both Mr. Reinhart and Ms. Burke, and moved to Public Comment.

#### **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 guidelines and stated that participants addressing issues related to Trust beneficiaries will have priority order.

MS. COCHRAN stated that four groups pre-registered: one in person, and three online. She recognized Bryan Brandenburg, Bridget Akerly, and Kaitlyn Klippert.

MR. BRANDENBURG stated that he is the executive for Alaska Aging Rehabilitation Services, and is here with Ms. Akerly and Ms. Klippert. He continued that the main reason for being here is to give an update on the progress of their expansion project out at Point MacKenzie. He shared a packet which shows some pictures of the progress of the construction, which is beyond what is seen. The last page shows what the completed project will look like. He thanked the Trust for the support, and being there to help provide more service to people who desperately need it. They currently have 26 beds, and will have 52 inpatient beds when this is done.

CHAIR FISHER stated appreciation for the update.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Kara Bakken-Clemens.

MS. BAKKEN-CLEMENS stated that she is a Trust beneficiary and a current educator from Homer, Alaska. She continued that they granted the Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance and awards to support youth mental health through a pilot program called the Building Body Confidence Kit. She thanked them for the investment in Alaska's young people through AKEDA. Building Body Confidence Kits build protective factors for young people by equipping adults with the skills to break down harmful eating habits and replace them with practical confidence-building strategies. She continued that she is a parent of a loved one with an eating disorder, and they have experienced firsthand the difficulty of accessing adequate care for eating disorders in Alaska. She added that eating disorders are complex mental health conditions. She stated that she is a teacher in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and was not surprised by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data published this year that about one-half of Alaska's youth engaged in disorder-eating in 2023. Understanding what contributes to eating disorders and factoring body confidence is critical to create safe, positive spaces for our kids to have the tools to battle social media, diet culture, and all the stressors young people face as they move toward adulthood. Her community needs this because many families are suffering from this disease. She added that AKEDA is the only organization in Alaska addressing eating disorders. She extended her gratitude to the Trust for supporting youth mental health and an organization that is working in so many ways to raise awareness and support Alaskans.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Bakken-Clemens.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Amanda Elder.

MS. ELDER stated that she was representing AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, which was founded to unify the voice of service providers working with individuals that experience developmental disabilities. She talked about how positively the Trust funding has impacted this service population. Trust funding is having a significant impact on a collaboration between providers and Senior and Disability Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. There have been meaningful discussions for about 18 months about

the intersection of individuals that have waivers that support their employment and DVR. She continued that, with national technical assistance, options for change are becoming clearer. That would not have happened without Trust funding. She added that, with Trust support, they are looking at a possible pilot around complex care needs.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Elder for sharing the successes they are having.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Don Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS stated that he is a Trust beneficiary living in Alaska since 1997. He continued that he had been reading the strategic plan and shared his notes preparing for his response. He noted the comment, “our north star guiding this work is that every Trust beneficiary has the purpose and support needed to live with dignity and self-determination across the lifespan,” and corrected that is should be “their lifespan.” He stated that the system failed him miserably and completely. He shared two things about himself. One is that he has an IQ of about 136. The other thing is that he has been studying the concept of wellness and well-being for the past few years. One of the things he got into is self-determination. He found it in conflict with whatever happens in the system. The self and self-determination is the holistic, integrated and authentic individual who is the source of their own motivation, choices, and actions. This is in contrast to a fragmented self that is controlled by external pressures or conflicts. He continued that any attempt he made to be self-governing or autonomous was met by frustration at the systemic level, the agency level, with someone telling him he could not do what he wanted to do. He needed their permission to do it. That is not self-determination; that is abuse. He finds himself noticing less likely to get any services from the State system and under no circumstance would get services from Providence Health systems.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Roberts.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Roger Branson.

MR. BRANSON stated that he is a longtime mental health advocate from about 1987 and appreciated Don Roberts’ comments. He continued that he is working in the homeless camp in Anchorage and is noticing the need to give them good reasons to make good choices. They will individually make their own choices and for their own reasons. When he got caught up in the mental health system in 1987, the doctors decided they were going to medicate him whether he wanted it or not. He continued that it caused a very adverse reaction. The doctors failed to connect with him as an autonomous human being, as an individual with the ability to reason, to make his own choices. He stated appreciation for the Trust Authority for the work they did and continue to do. He talked about the need to meet beneficiaries in the field and treat them as individuals with the ability to make their own choices for their own reasons, and to give them good reasons to make good choices. He stated that he is very appreciative to see the Crisis Now models coming to fruition in Anchorage. He hears good stuff out of Kodiak, and appreciates the work the Trust does.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Mr. Branson.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Tamar Ben-Yosef.

MS. BEN-YOSEF stated that she is the executive for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, A2P2. She mentioned that A2P2 is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization in Alaska and recently hosted their pediatrics symposium with over 100 pediatric professionals. She thanked Dr. Mary Wilson for her presentation on the Mental Health Trust and the work and priorities at the pediatric symposium as the keynote speaker. She added that the information shared was great, and the messages shared on the work the Trust does was impactful. She continued that they were recently awarded a grant from the Trust to support Growing Minds, a new program that is being launched through Help Me Grow, under their Alaska umbrella. She gave a quick update that Growing Minds is officially being launched in January. She also looked forward to seeing all in Juneau for the next Board of Trustees meeting.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Ben-Yosef.

MS. COCHRAN recognized Heidi Lieb-Williams.

MS. LIEB-WILLIAMS stated that she is the former chair of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, a national speaker, and has a booth "Puzzled with Purpose – Autistically Inspired Creations," at the Shining Abilities Craft Fair and the Embracing AK Disabilities expo at the Alaska State Fair, and is the current 2025 Miss Alaska for America Strong ambassador. She continued talking about the Mental Health Trust Authority micro-enterprise grant, the problems that people with disabilities face with achieving access to it, and the solutions to help to actually make changes acquiring the funds to save the very lives the Trust desires to help. She hoped that her passion, frustration and struggles are received as important and valued as to why she is speaking about needs to be taken seriously, action taken and strengthening the community. She talked about her "Puzzled with Purpose" booth trying to inspire others to not give up. She added that solutions lie in the changing of the requirements to apply, people realizing the difficulties surrounding it, and changing perspectives of what a business plan looks like. Success is a result of not giving up. Addressing necessary changes will benefit the lives, and is exactly what the Mental Health Trust Authority stands for.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Ms. Lieb-Williams for her comments and contribution. He asked for anyone else online to testify.

MS. COCHRAN replied no.

CHAIR FISHER stated that it was 12:00 noon and the end of the public comment period on the agenda. He added that written comments are always welcome and may be submitted to the trustees at any time via e-mail at [public.comment@mhtrust.org](mailto:public.comment@mhtrust.org), or via fax or mailed. He concluded the comment period and called for a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE**

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG began her presentation with an update on the Rural Health Transformation funds that was created out of HR 1, which is truly foundational. States are all going to receive funding to transform the healthcare system. The notice of funding announcement was issued on September 16<sup>th</sup>, with an application deadline of November 6. It was seven weeks to submit one application for five years. It was submitted, and CMS is

reviewing the application. The notice of funding award will be received in December. She stated that the heartbeat and core foundation of the application is around the six different initiatives that are organized into three different goals: healthy beginnings, improving access, and healthy communities, which she explained. Once the notice of grant award is received, there is the need to stand up the infrastructure, which means creating the positions, hiring the positions, and a third-party grant administrator to administer the grants out to communities. All of the funds need to be incurred in year 1, with a second year to spend down those funds. She moved to a preview of the proposed activities within each of the initiatives in greater detail. She talked about the meetings coming up and the traveling to communities for face-to-face meetings. There will be regional meetings where everyone will be brought together. She invited the Mental Health Trust to all of the regional meetings. She added that the application, the initiative, FAQs will be posted on their website, which is the best source to have the most updated information on the rural transformation program.

TRUSTEE HICKEL asked how rural was defined for this grant program.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that CMS is using the HRSA definition.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked about the plan to really get care providers involved and engaged so they can come forward with those innovative ideas for the kind of alternative.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that they are meeting with providers in Alaska that responded to the request for information on the application. This was the point of the conversation of how to transition to alternative payment models and if it is financially sustainable.

TRUSTEE FEIGE asked if it was possible to leverage a program in the Lower 48 and to marry it with a program up in Alaska to do that.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied yes.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked what big changes happened about the time this process began, and if the Trust needs to know about anticipating potential funding coming forward because of that.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that in HR 1 that healthcare transformation program came out of changes to Medicaid, and Alaska does not have provider taxes or state-directed payments. The intent behind creation of this fund was acknowledging the other states and changes they will have to go through in leveraging that some help will be needed with the transition. She noted that Alaska is well positioned.

TRUSTEE HICKEL asked about the make-up of the advisory group.

COMMISSIONER HEDBERG replied that there is a representative from the Hospital Association, the Primary Care Association, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and the Alaska Community Foundation.

CHAIR FISHER thanked Commissioner Hedberg for the informative presentation. He moved to the report from the Resource Management Committee.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**CONSULTATION: THE MENTAL HEALTH TRUST 9101419 NEGOTIATED LAND**  
**SALE**

**MOTION:** A motion that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the decision to dispose of a portion of Trust parcel CRM-2284-02 and CRM-2311, through a negotiated sale or subsequent disposal. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

E.D. WARNER stated that this was heard in committee in October, and the 71.61-acre land sale is currently slated to Peak Engineering, LLC. It is frontage property on the highway in Petersburg. The sale price is 50 percent about the fair-market value, which was appraised at \$450,000.

TRUSTEE FEIGE pointed out that, within the RMC report, the approval processes on Motions 1 and 2 will be deferred to the February board meeting. Those are still in the public comment process.

CHAIR FISHER called the vote.

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

**HISTORIC WOLF CREEK BOATWORKS UPDATE**

**MOTION:** A motion that the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority enter Executive Session pursuant to the Alaska Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c)(3), to discuss the Historic Wolf Creek Boatworks property and potential litigation concerning it and the Constantine Mine. The matters to be discussed include information that is protected by the attorney/client privilege, which is confidential by law. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

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

(Executive Session from 1:05 p.m. until 1:48 p.m.)

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN stated, for the record, that she and her fellow trustees 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 in the motion to move into Executive Session. The Board of Trustees did not take any action while in Executive Session other than to give direction to counsel.

CHAIR FISHER recessed the meeting.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board of Trustees meeting recessed at 1:49 p.m.)