

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
SPECIAL FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 16, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

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

Trustees Present:

Brent Fisher, Chair
Anita Halterman
Kevin Fimon
Corri Feige
Josie Hickel
John Morris

Trust Staff Present:

Mary Wilson
Allison Biastock
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Shannon Cochran
Valette Keller
Julee Farley
Michael Baldwin
Eric Boyer
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 Hendrickson

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR FISHER called the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Special Full Board meeting to order and began with a roll call. He stated that Trustee Moran is ill and unable to attend today. He moved to the agenda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAIR FISHER asked for any announcements. There being none, he asked for any ethics disclosures. Hearing none, he moved to the first item on the agenda.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – REVIEW FRAMEWORK

MOTION: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees approves and adopts the Trust Strategic Plan, a Strategic Vision to Support Generations of Alaskans, dated December 16, 2025. The motion was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE HICKEL.

CHAIR FISHER stated that the Trust began the new strategy development process this past spring. The development was led by the Board of Trustees and informed by staff at the Trust Authority and the Trust Land Office. As part of the process, we examined how the Trust and the Trust Land Office could most effectively align investments, leadership, and resource stewardship to strengthen Alaska's support of those with mental health and developmental challenges. He continued that there were many changes in technology outcomes data that demonstrated that old ways were not effective for beneficiaries. Understanding that, we sought to create a strategy that honors the Trust mission, as well as the realities facing beneficiaries, providers, and the communities. We also sought strengthening alignment across grant-making and partnerships, insuring that every effort is coordinated, strategic, and focused on outcomes that matter to Alaskans. He added that the core commitments of the plan will help insure that data is used to guide decision-making, working collaboratively with partners towards sustainable improvements, and managing Trust assets with care in the best interest of Trust beneficiaries. He continued that the strategy's priorities create a framework representing the beneficiary continuum of care. These priorities are about how we work with partners to build a system that is proactive, responsive, and reflective of a shared vision for a healthier Alaska. He highlighted the exercise undergone while developing this strategy. It has been informed by the partners, beneficiaries, and interested members of the public who participated in the survey and public comment opportunities. He stated appreciation for everyone who shared their thoughts and feedback, some of which is incorporated into the final document. He acknowledged and gave appreciation to his fellow trustees and all the Trust staff who participated in the process. He continued looking forward to working with Trust staff, partners, and beneficiaries as the strategic vision for the Trust is implemented.

CEO WILSON stated that it was a privilege to be here when this was going on because for people who are very action-oriented, developing a strategy can seem like inaction. She continued that she believes that good work starts with an alignment and agreement around a strategy, which is hard to get to. She shared an African quote that a colleague used to say, “If you want to go quickly, go alone, and if you want to go far, go together.” This is where we want to go, far, and make sure the next 30 years are as effective as possible, and we have to do this together. It took time and investment in building a strategy together, and we have to make sure that the next steps are as effective as they can be.

CHAIR FISHER asked for trustees to discuss their comments, and asked for any questions.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN wanted to know the adjustment made after the final public comment, and asked for a recap of what final changes were made.

CHAIR FISHER replied that there were three changes that were important to be incorporated into the document that reflected specific constituency groups that are beneficiaries that had to do with not just care, but being able to live independently.

CEO WILSON stated that some of it was wording, and the other part was in the fourth group about the difference between stable care and living well in the future. More language was included so that beneficiaries could see it clearly.

TRUSTEE FIMON thanked Commonality and their guidance and help. That was helpful in honing and improving the document. The language was a bit better and more respectful of the beneficiaries, where they are, and how to address the issues of getting treatment as close to home as possible. He asked for some clarity on public testimony and if it is an actual part of what will be accepted as a document, or whether it is an addendum for research.

CHAIR FISHER replied that those comments were to make sure that everyone has that information and those in the public can look at the document and can see the public input given. It is not part of the document. He stated that this will help the public understand what the Trust does. He added that the actual implementation of the communications plan is to help the public understand how this is being implemented through the actual provider organizations throughout the state. He continued explaining the comments and framing of the strategy to work closely with staff, and to make sure that it is an operational document to be sure the strategy is being implemented.

TRUSTEE HICKEL asked about the two comments that were incorporated. One came from someone who worked in developmental disabilities. The comments were that a person does not always seek out treatment for developmental disabilities, so some changes were made to that. Then, there was one other with a very simple word change, a language thing, a better word to use.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN thanked the Chair, CEO and staff for all of the work, including the contractor. It was slow but purposeful, and resulted in a better document and some buy-in, which is critically important.

CHAIR FISHER stated, for the record, that Trustee John Morris joined the meeting.

TRUSTEE MORRIS echoed the thanks of others and stated appreciation for the discussion. It is a good first step down a continued long process to action.

TRUSTEE FIMON echoed thanks to the Chair for leading them through this, and he thought the document is very good.

CHAIR FISHER asked for any other comments or questions regarding the document. 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 Morris, yes; Chair Fisher, yes.)

CHAIR FISHER stated that they had a new strategy for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and thanked everyone for their participation. It had been a long process to get the right partner to help facilitate the process, and we found that in Commonality. He asked CEO Mary Wilson to continue because she will help to operationalize this strategy.

CEO WILSON briefly went through some thoughts about operationalization. She stated that the next phase is starting, and we decided to work with Commonality again to help with an operational document that goes through all of the elements in the strategy to see what needs to change in the way our work is done, what needs to stay the same, what needs to be added that is brand new, and what might need to be taken away. The timing envisioned is working with them until the summer, and then having a good operational document by the next fiscal year, so by July. She continued that this may lead both the TLO and the Trust to reorganize a bit in the way the work is done. That is one of the things to be thoughtful about in going forward. She added that staff is very open and excited about that.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that staff is very excited about the steps and thanked the trustees for moving this plan along. There will be more in the weeds, it will have timelines, changes to work flows likely impacting the budget planning process, as well as assessing the internal capacity and work flows to support implementation of the plan. Staff will identify how to support that internal capacity to manage and evaluate the efforts to insure that there is the right capacity to do it well.

CCO BIASTOCK stated that she was excited to be where they are with the plan. Later they will be launching a new landing page linked directly to the home page about the strategic plan. We will be adding an announcement to the website, as well. We have developed a snazzy new graphic that we believe helps to illustrate how the plans, priorities, and commitments intersect the commitment of supporting the priorities on behalf of beneficiaries, and this will be incorporated into the communication materials going forward. She continued that the plan and priorities will be a standing topic when engaging with the partners. There are a lot of regular engagement opportunities where they are a standing item on an agenda, for the Behavioral Health Association, the partners with AHA, which is a very large group that convenes regularly.

CHAIR FISHER talked about the graphic which was being developed through the strategy development process. He really likes it. Hearing no other comments, he asked for a

motion to adjourn.

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

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Special Full Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.)