

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 22, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Hybrid/Zoom Meeting:

Originating at:

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99508**

Trustees Present:

Agnes Moran, Chair

Kevin Fimon

Brent Fisher, Ex-officio

Other Trustees Present:

Anita Halterman

John Morris

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

Heather Phelps

Samantha Ponts

Also participating:

Sandra Heffern; Ashlee Carlson; Brenda Stanfill; Barbara Mongar; Brenda McFarlane; Chelsea Burke; Jordan Nigro; Joshua Adams; Kevin Kelly; Lizzi Makovec; Steve Corven; Karl

Soderstrom; Nick Kraska; Chloe Sylvester; Caitlin Hegwood; Susan Garner; Tony Newman;

Patrick Reinhart; Teresa Novakovich; Dawn Johnson; Troy Buckner; Mary Middleton; Janis

Carroll; Anne Dennis-Choi; Lisa Shori; David Pantaleone; Rebecca Ling; Christina Shadura;

Leigh Dickey; Gabby Markel; Robyn Capp; Jennifer Pierce; Lisa DeLaet; Jackie Yates; Sarah

Dolly; Tiffany Hall; Alison Kear.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MORAN called the meeting to order. She began with a roll call, and then moved to the announcements. She noted a really full agenda, and the need to work efficiently. She asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

ETHICS DISCLOSURE

CHAIR MORAN asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, she moved to the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026, was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

COO UPDATE

CHAIR MORAN moved to the COO update, and recognized Katie Baldwin-Johnson.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON began with a high-level look at where the Trust is in operationalizing the new strategic plan, which was finalized in December. Staff has been engaged in building out the operational framework for that work that will help guide the move into implementation. To date, the work is organized into six primary domains which have been identified and defined through a series of leadership-led staff work sessions with Commonality. The intent of the plan is to define the organizational conditions needed to be in place in order to implement the strategic plan for the programmatic priorities, specifically. Timelines, responsible parties, and intended objectives are important to move this work forward. She continued to a preview of the FY28-29 budget development timeline. The Trust has a consistent cycle of engagement and planning leading to an annual budget recommendation presented to the Board for consideration, deliberation, and approval at the August Board meeting. Everything remains on track, with the intent of being in alignment with the strategic priorities. She shared that outreach and engagements includes the April trip to Kotzebue for a regional site visit. Productive use of the time in Kotzebue was made, and they met with Maniilaq's leadership on both days. Overall, it was a great trip that reinforced the deep commitment of our partners in the region. She also touched on upcoming events, including the Improving Lives Conference, which is scheduled for September 17 and 18 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. Registration, sponsorships, and the call for speakers launched April 13th. She highlighted, as suggested by Trustee Morris, that scholarship opportunities are being offered. She moved to some legislative updates and talked about the recent Senate HSS Committee presentation. She asked Alison Biastock to talk about the budget.

MS. BIASTOCK stated that it was great to see a shift in the tone of debate around the mental

health budget bill, which passed. There was appreciation for the focus on, and the importance of, mental health services in Alaska. There were also a lot of positive statements about the Trust.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that an overview of the Trust, its priorities, grant impacts, and an update on the Statewide Crisis Initiative was provided to the Senate House Committee in February. We were invited to dive deeper into some of the impacts that were highlighted, and to also share, with greater depth, how the work in the crisis area is moving forward. The Trust was well received by the committee. She moved to the requests for recommendations which is the process for receiving budget recommendations from the statutory advisory boards, which are due back May 18. This information helps shape some of the budget strategies. The Boards are encouraged to include population needs, regional demands, available resources and intended outcomes in their proposals, which should also align well with the Comp Plan, as well as the Strategic Plan. She did a brief check-in on the Rural Health Transformation and the May Board meeting in Kodiak. She highlighted some of the work of staff and recognized Eliza Muse for her work on a mid-decade update on the State Health Assessment and Healthy Alaskans 2030 indicators. She also recognized Ms. Muse for 15 years of services with the State of Alaska.

(Applause.)

IDD PROVIDER ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

CHAIR MORAN thanked COO Baldwin-Johnson, and moved to the IDD Provider Assessment presentation.

MS. BARSTAD introduced Sandra Heffern, who is the CEO and owner of Effective Health Design. She has extensive experience in the design and implementation of home- and community-based services. She successfully built, led, and sold the senior and disability service organization Ready Care, which provided home- and community-based services for elders and individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities. She has proven skills in developing collaborative relationships with many stakeholders, including government, service providers, and the business community. She added that it has been a pleasure to work with her on this important project.

DR. HEFFERN stated that she was contracted by the Trust to assess and evaluate the current care system for ten organizations providing services for beneficiaries experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities in Alaska. The assessment was to focus on the organizational operations and sustainability of the larger legacy provider organizations that comprise a part of the core continuum of services. Specifically, she conducted ten in-person assessments with organizations in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Fairbanks, Copper River Valley, Kenai Peninsula and Southeast Alaska. The assessment consisted of interviews with executive directors, board members and organizational leadership that included finance officers, human resources, program directors, compliance officers, and IT. She reviewed finances, policies and procedures, annual reports, board minutes and any other applicable documents. At the conclusion of her on-site visits, she wrote a report and submitted it to the executive director of the organization to make sure that the information was correct. She submitted a final report to the executive director and to Ms. Barstad, as the program officer with the Trust. At the conclusion of those ten visits, she aggregated her findings into a final report, which she reviewed with the committee. She stated that, as suspected, the ten organizations are struggling. Provider

findings point to system-level patterns, and they are not isolated provider issues. She clarified that the providers were struggling, but not failing. The ten organizations represent decades of service to Alaskans. They have survived, but not necessarily thrived, through multiple changes to the service delivery system. She stated that in order to better manage the system there is a need to have better measures of how they are doing. The Trust can ask questions about the connectedness of the various initiatives, not to slow down progress, but to really discuss the intended and unintended consequences. In order to better manage the system, there needs to be better measures of how we are doing. She continued that they did not need to reinvent the wheel, and encouraged structured and systematic learning from other states. She added that there is a clear opportunity to move forward collectively by recognizing the service delivery community as an interconnected system. That system must be evaluated using measures that reflect sustainability, not just funding levels or compliance, but the ability to reliably deliver services over time. Purposeful system design is essential and includes aligning policy, workforce capacity, operational expectation, and funding structures in ways that realistically match the needs of the individuals served.

A discussion on the presentation ensued.

CHAIR MORAN thanked Dr. Heffern and stated that they had a lot to think about here. She called a break.

(Break.)

COMMITTEE APPROVALS OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

CHAIR MORAN resumed the meeting and recognized COO Baldwin-Johnson.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON commented that there are some approvals specifically called out on the agenda, the Authority Grant contract approval and the competitive grant approval, which have not historically been brought forward before, and are characterized a bit differently.

AUTHORITY GRANT CONTRACT APPROVAL – NO WRONG DOOR: CONNECTIONS TO CARE

CHAIR MORAN moved to the Authority Grant contract approval, and recognized Kelda Barstad.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this first approval is to procure a contract for a pilot project associated with the No Wrong Door project that is currently being implemented by the Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Developmental Disability Resource Centers.

CHAIR MORAN stated that a motion is needed.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees approve an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the No Wrong Door Connections to Care contract. This contract will be awarded using the State of Alaska procurement process, and the funds will be allocated from the Trust focus area strategy implementation line of the Fiscal Year '27 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. BARSTAD continued that the No Wrong Door project works to integrate information regarding long-term services and supports to reduce frustration and overwhelmed experience by people when they try to access those available options so that we can improve their outcomes and really give people informed choices when they are seeking out these services. She added that this particular pilot project seeks to integrate into the work of the ADRCs and DDRCs a behavioral health component. It would really look at how to do a better job of communicating cross-system, not only when people have co-occurring needs, but also how to make sure that there is conflict-free information referral and assistance services available to the beneficiaries across beneficiary categories.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked how to do any kind of pilot situation.

MS. BARSTAD replied that, for this particular project, because it is a contract, part of it will be requesting from the contractor an evaluation component and a project plan. The full evaluation criteria has not been developed. That will happen with the partner agencies and the No Wrong Door staff and team at SDS.

CHAIR MORAN asked for any other questions. Hearing none, she called a roll-call vote.

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

COMPETITIVE GRANT APPROVAL – MINI GRANT PROGRAM TO INFORMATION INSIGHTS

CHAIR MORAN stated that the next one is a competitive grant approval for the mini-grant program.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$2.3 million Fiscal Year '27 Authority Grant to Information Insights for the mini-grants for Trust beneficiaries' Behavioral Health & Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities program. These funds will come from the mini-grants for beneficiaries experiencing mental illness, chronic alcoholism, substance-use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries, and the Trust mini-grant contract administration lines of the Fiscal Year '27 budget. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MR. LIND stated that for FY27 the trustees made a move to increase the amount of \$1.5 million for the IDD and behavioral health program, up to \$2.3 million. Traditionally, a competitive contract to determine a contractor for the program and then the trustees have granted the funds to that agency. This time there is a different format; a competitive grant defined one entity to take the grant funds and execute the program. For FY27, it will be enhanced with more outreach, more feedback with surveys and program navigation. If a beneficiary has a question, they will be referred to Information Insights, the proposed grantee, to assist. Those are the major changes for FY27.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON highlighted that an analysis of the benefits of actually handling it this way was done. All staff was involved in this, and we are looking forward to this as an opportunity to find some time efficiencies.

CHAIR MORAN noted that this is an example of a legacy program that needed to be restructured, which has been addressed by staff. She called the vote.

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

CONSENT AGENDA – AUTHORITY GRANT REQUESTS OF LESS THAN \$250K AND WITH A GRANT TERM OF 12 MONTHS OR LESS

CHAIR MORAN moved to the Consent Agenda and asked Trustee Fimon to begin.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following Authority Grants as outlined below, to include:

No. 1, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, Alaska Behavioral Health Association Supervisor Academy, \$200,000;

No. 2, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc., SAIL, Ketchikan Capital Project, \$150,000;

No. 3, Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, building a System to Achieve Employment First for All, Year 2, \$146,126;

No. 4, Resource Center for Parents & Children, Family Support, \$145,000;

No. 5, City and Borough of Juneau, Zach Gordon Youth Center, gap funding for Shiyi Xaat Hit, Spruce Root House, Youth Shelter and Transitional Living Program, \$120,000;

No. 6, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, \$88,500;

No. 7, Stone Soup Group, Cooperative Youth Engagement, Building Skills, Belonging and Support, \$80,000;

No. 8, Southeast Alaska Independent Living Inc., The ORCA Training, Travel and Scholarship Initiative for Beneficiary Wellbeing, \$75,000;

No. 9, City of Fairbanks, Community Response Coordinator, \$74,000;

No. 10, JAMI Health & Wellness, Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development, Juneau, \$60,000;

No. 11, City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Coordinator, \$60,000;

No. 12, Valley Charities, Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative, Reentry Coalition Capacity Development, Mat-Su, \$60,000;

No. 13, Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., Anchorage Reentry Coalition, \$60,000;

No. 14, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Open Doors Community Support Facility Improvements for Vulnerable Adults, \$55,000;

No. 15, Anchorage Community Land Trust, Investing in Mountain View's Nonprofit Hub: Necessary Building Safety Improvements for the Mountain View Service Center, \$50,000;

No. 16, New Hope Counseling Center, Parking Lot Expansion and Pavement for New Hope Counseling Center, \$50,000;

No. 17, University of Alaska Southeast, Trauma-Responsive Tools for Alaska's Emerging Special Educators, \$50,000;

No. 19, Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, IDD System Capacity Development, \$125,000;

No. 20, Junior Achievement USA, Financial Literacy as a Pathway to Long-Term

Stability for Vulnerable Young Alaskans, \$22,125;

No. 21, Alaska Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Looking Forward: Growth and Sustainability, \$20,000;

No. 22, Municipality of Anchorage, Strengthening Crisis Response at the First Point of Contact: CIT and Trauma-Informed Deescalation Training for Emergency Dispatchers, \$10,750;

No. 23, Wrangell Mountains Center, Saghani Ggaay, Young Raven, Alaska Native Youth Camp, \$10,000.

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

CHAIR MORAN stated that the reentry program is winding down, and it looks like we are starting up another reentry housing, moving from coordinators to actual grant support. She noted that this is another example of a legacy program. She added that they may be getting to the point for an overall housing philosophy and perhaps bringing in ISER, or looking at a cost/benefit analysis of what and how we are doing it, and if there is a smarter way to do it. She was interested in opening up a discussion on doing some sort of evaluation and moving forward to look at how housing is being done across different beneficiary groups.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN suggested looking at the history of the housing solutions. The budget has shifted some of the GF funding requests to HUD. Perhaps there some duplicated requests.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that staff has agreed to look at this. She clarified that the winding down was related to the funding of the reentry coordinators. The reentry housing needs are being looked at separately from just reentry-related. The need is great and spans the beneficiary population.

CEO WILSON appreciated the comments and agreed. She appreciates that all of the insight and work going forward with housing be part of the overall strategy.

TRUSTEE FIMON welcomed further discussions on it and the steps already discussed.

CHAIR MORAN asked if the Wrangell Mountains Center is open to non-Natives, or if it is a Native-only preference for that program.

MS. PHELPS replied that the program is only for Alaska Natives. She stated that Gabby Markel, the executive director of Wrangell Mountain Crossing, is online and can explain the reasons for that.

MS. MARKEL stated that the program is specifically designed to serve Alaska Native youth, mostly based on the context of historic displacement and intergenerational trauma. To best serve them, we have taken into account a lot of research that shows that tribal communities tend to really benefit mental healthwise by greater cultural knowledge. The program is targeted at Alaska Native youth with the hope to prevent them from becoming Trust beneficiaries. She added that the curriculum is well-designed to help serve that population, which is why it is so targeted.

CHAIR MORAN asked Mr. Hickey, since they were dealing with HUD funds, if we can fund a program that is not open to the entire beneficiary group.

MR. HICKEY replied that he would look at that, but it seems to implicate the State of Alaska Constitutional Equal Protection Clause. He stated that he would get back to the Board of Trustees after he reviews it.

CHAIR MORAN suggested pulling this, and dealing with it once there is clarification.

MR. HICKEY suggested keeping it in the motion as it currently exists because he can provide the opinion prior to the Full Board meeting.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he was fine with leaving it in the motion.

CHAIR MORAN moved to No. 19, Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, IDD System Capacity Development. Based on the information today and the phenomenal presentation Dr. Heffern did, this may be a missed opportunity. This is the third year of the grant proposal, but this is primarily cleanup and travel. It may be an opportunity to shift focus on this grant.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this second request from AADD is just funds-based operations. The organization is not shy in coming forward and presenting projects that are timely. They are a high-quality organization that delivers results. In going forward, she feels that they will continue working together and flourish. They have a very deep provider membership base, and are a key component of the broad group of partners working to support this field.

CHAIR MORAN asked if travel fits into the budget and was allowed.

MS. BARSTAD replied that the executive director traveling to other parts of Alaska is key. Having that face time in the community is important to build relationships and to build understanding of how those systems can be better in places that do not have the ability to travel to the conferences or have limited funding. Having the executive director go out and do that outreach and training with organizations or prospective member organizations who are serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disability is very important.

CHAIR MORAN asked for any other questions on any of the individual consent agenda grants. There being none, she called the vote.

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

CHAIR MORAN called a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR MORAN reconvened the meeting and recognized COO Baldwin-Johnson.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that, because they were ahead of schedule, it was confirmed with folks to be available in the event there are any questions.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA – AUTHORITY GRANT REQUESTS OF AT LEAST \$250K AND/OR REQUESTS THAT HAVE A TERM OF MORE THAN 12 MONTHS.

CHAIR MORAN began with No. 2 on the list, which is Covenant House Alaska. She asked for a motion.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$1 million Authority Grant to Covenant House Alaska, Scaling Homelessness Prevention Statewide, Demonstration Project grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. BARSTAD stated that the Trust funding will support expanding a successful federal demonstration project implemented by Covenant House Alaska that prevents homelessness for youth after foster care, providing system navigation and flexible funding. This pilot project began in 2022 and will conclude in September 2026. This provides the Trust an opportunity to partner with Covenant House to serve an additional 120 youth through this two-year project. Approximately 100 youth age out of foster care in Alaska annually, and often with few supports. This project will continue the strength of being data-informed and partnership-driven and is designed to scale statewide as a prevention-first infrastructure. Youth homelessness is a leading pathway into adult chronic homelessness. This project is intended to continue its success, and it has a positive outcome on the beneficiaries in the foster care system, and prevents them from going into the homeless service system. By stabilizing youth before they enter the homelessness system, this approach reduces reliance on emergency shelter, law enforcement and emergency health systems, which are the most intensive and costly interventions. She added that Alison Kear, the chief executive officer of Covenant House Alaska, was online.

CHAIR MORAN stated that she liked this grant because it builds on the success of the program, which is good to see. She also appreciated that they are working to expand it out of the hub communities and into some of the more rural locations. She asked if there are kids that manage to escape the foster care system without any coexisting issues to be eligible for this program.

MS. KEAR replied that her ultimate goal is that if there are 100 kids that age out of foster care a year it is very manageable to figure out how to take all 100 and not have them touch homelessness. They would be blending money. There is no one resource that would restrict them to overserve or underserve any one population.

CHAIR MORAN called the vote.

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

**STATE OF ALASKA DOH, DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITIES SERVICES,
InterRAI PROJECT**

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$640,500 Authority Grant to the State of Alaska Department of Health, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, for their InterRAI project grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. BARSTAD stated that this project will be a foundational change to the home- and

community-based service system. This project will reimagine how an investment for the home- and community-based services waivers and personal care services will be conducted.

MS. COCHRAN asked for a brief stand-down to reboot the system.

CHAIR MORAN called a break.

(Pause.)

MS. BARSTAD stated that the InterRAI project would support seven assessor positions, travel to conduct in-person assessments, and supplies associated with those positions for the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services to implement the project. Some benefits to this new assessment system are a modernization that aligns with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Federal, State, and initiatives promoting integrated data-driven Medicaid systems. She continued that it addresses the needs of not only the broad population of people who need home- and community-based services; it gets into specialty areas, such as intellectual and developmental disabilities. She noted that director Tony Newman with Senior and Disabilities Services was online.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if this is a full-match grant that will be split with Medicaid.

MS. BARSTAD replied that these funds are eligible for Medicaid administrative claiming, which is a 50/50 match for the State of Alaska for these activities.

CHAIR MORAN asked if this is the first step towards getting standardized evaluation tools into the hands of the partners.

MS. BARSTAD replied that it is a critical step; a huge step forward.

MR. NEWMAN stated that they are working to keep the stakeholders informed and engaged as they go. They were at the Full Lives Conference and shared a presentation on the InterRAI. They are also going to other forums, AED monthly meetings, other stakeholders' monthly meetings, to engage people along the way.

CHAIR MORAN asked for any other questions. There being none, she called the vote.

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

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS, FLEX FUNDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$400,000 Authority Grant to Partners for Progress for the Flex Funds for Mental Health Courts grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PHELPS stated that Steve Corven, the therapeutic court program director, and Josh Adams, the CEO of Partners for Progress, are available to answer questions. She continued that Trust

funds will provide necessities, like transportation, housing and hygiene supplies to therapeutic court participants who are all Trust beneficiaries. Partners for Progress will disburse funds to the Anchorage, Juneau, Palmer therapeutic courts and the Palmer Family with Infants and Toddlers Court. These funds are similar to mini-grants, providing a mechanism to directly fund the need of Trust beneficiaries while maintaining a fiscal oversight through Partners for Progress.

CHAIR MORAN noted that this is another one that has been going on quite a while. She asked if there was a better structure or a smarter way to be implementing this from a Trust perspective.

MS. PHELPS replied that the requests for the mini-grants far exceeds what is provided. This legacy program provides a direct funding source to the therapeutic court participants in a more immediate fashion. She stated that this project is very important to continue because it does provide direct assistance to Trust beneficiaries, but we are open to look at other ways to do this, through an RFP or through doing direct MHTAAR to the Alaska Court System, to disburse the funds. There are pros and cons to all of the situations.

CHAIR MORAN stated support for this with the expectation to take a look at how to do it smarter looking forward.

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

ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT, INC., VICTIM TRANSITION SUPPORTS

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$300,000 Authority Grant to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Inc., for the Victim Transition supports grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PHELPS stated that Brenda Stanfill, the executive director of ANDVSA, was online for any questions. She continued that Trust funds will provide flexible housing funds, including deposits, rent, mortgage payments, utility deposits, assessments, or anything else that is a barrier to an individual's ability to access and maintain housing. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault will act as a pass-through organization for these funds which provide a mechanism for directly funding the needs of Trust beneficiaries connected to domestic violence and sexual assault services. Based on data from FY26, reported by the grantee, the grant funds are fully expended by January 31, 2026. There is a great need for this. The final report is due in August. She stated that the funds assisted 72 Trust beneficiaries and their children in attaining or maintaining permanent housing. It looks like this will be a legacy project.

CHAIR MORAN stated that it was not only a legacy program; it goes back to the overall philosophy of housing and how we want to move forward with some of these programs. She continued that it is part of a larger conversation. She added that she was okay with this as it is presented and fully understands that it impacts the positive impact these folks have. She stated that, as a board member, she would like to have more of a feeling for what is being done with housing going forward.

TRUSTEE HALTERMAN asked if this agency received State General Funds for operations

previously.

MS. STANFILL replied that they receive a small amount of State funds specifically for the legal program that offers attorneys. She added that they do not receive State funds for the operation of the main organization. She stated that they act as a pass-through organization for the funds that come in from the Trust. They have 24 different organizations throughout the state that do this type of work.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR MORAN asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, she called the vote.

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

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, ALASKA PUBLIC BENEFITS ADVOCACY PROJECT

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$299,860 Authority Grant to the Alaska Legal Services Corporation for the Alaska Public Benefits Advocacy Project grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PONTS stated that this proposal requests Trust funding to support Alaska Legal Services in expanding its public benefits advocacy services for Trust beneficiaries statewide. She explained that the project will recruit, train and support a new class of community justice worker volunteers and provide additional legal capacity to represent Trust beneficiaries in public benefits cases. Trust funds will support a full-time volunteer coordinator to recruit and manage volunteers, and a part-time staff attorney to represent Trust beneficiaries statewide in the full range of public benefits matters. Funding will also support outreach to Alaska communities, coordination with community partners and costs associated with office space, communications and case-related legal work. She added that this project addresses barriers Trust beneficiaries face in accessing and maintaining very essential public benefits. This project will serve Trust beneficiaries statewide. She added that Leigh Dickey, the advocacy director, was online.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked Ms. Dickey for a bit of a description of how this may work for the beneficiaries.

MS. DICKEY replied that the main source of the clients is through word of mouth and community referrals. Trust beneficiaries would hear about them from others in the community who had successful outcomes in their public benefits cases. She continued that they also have strong and long-lasting ties to different stakeholders in the communities that refer clients, like Tundra Women's Coalition, social service providers like APCQ in Maniilaq, Tlingit and Haida. Food Bank of Alaska has been a huge source of referrals for Trust beneficiaries and others experiencing SNAP delays.

CHAIR MORAN asked staff why they considered one year instead of two.

MS. PONTS replied that it was considered one year to expand staffing and volunteer capacity.

CHAIR MORAN asked for any further questions. Hearing none, she called the vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Fimon, ye;, Chair Moran, yes.)

VALLEY CHARITIES, MAT-SU REENTRY COALITION HOUSING PROJECT

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$200,000 Authority Grant to Valley Charities for the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

CHAIR MORAN stated the other reentry grants at this point are one-year grants. This one is proposed for two years. She asked if this should be cut back to one year, so it stays on the same cycle as the other ones.

MS. PHELPS replied that Ketchikan Wellness Coalition has a two-year grant that was approved at the August Board meeting.

CHAIR MORAN stated that she preferred seeing this as a one-year grant, and would put the onus on us to resolve what we want to do moving forward.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON replied that that could be worked on with the applicant to revise between now and the Board meeting.

CHAIR MORAN asked if Trustee Fimon agreed with that.

TRUSTEE FIMON replied yes.

CHAIR MORAN stated that they would move forward on staff having the discussion with them, and to be brought back at the Full Board meeting. She asked Ms. Phelps to continue.

MS. PHELPS stated that Trust funds will provide short-term housing and utility systems for Trust beneficiaries returning to the Mat-Su community after incarceration. Valley Charities, Incorporated, is the fiscal agent for Mat-Su Reentry Coalition and will disburse the funds. The funds provide a mechanism to pay for housing and utilities while Trust beneficiaries are engaged in their reentry program. She noted that Mat-Su Valley probably has the most people being released into the community because they have Goose Creek, which is a 1500-bed facility, Hiland Mountain, Mat-Su Pretrial and Palmer Correctional. There is a high volume of people being released into the community. She added that Barbara Mongar was on the phone for any questions.

CHAIR MORAN stated that her concern was not with the validity of the program, but more with the shotgun effect of funding these types of programs.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if Barbara Mongar had anything to add.

MS. MONGAR stated that this was an important program to them, and they would be happy to make it back to a one-year.

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

ILIULIUK FAMILY & HEALTH SERVICES, INC., BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SAFE ROOM

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$500,000 Authority Grant to Iliuliuk Family and Health Services, Inc., for the Iliuliuk Family & Health Services Behavioral Health Safe Room grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PONTS stated that this is a one-time capital investment to establish the only dedicated behavioral health crisis stabilization space in Unalaska. Trust funds will support direct capital development costs. This includes building out a dedicated behavioral health space within the emergency department. She projected that these would provide urgent, emergent primary care in Unalaska and serve as the primary point of contact for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. Currently, there is no dedicated clinically appropriate space for these individuals. As a result, individuals experiencing behavioral health crises are often managed in exam rooms or, when they cannot safely return home, held in the correctional facility. She added that online she had Dawn Johnson, IFHS CEO, Teresa Novakovic, grants administrator, and Christy, one of the clinical supervisors.

CHAIR MORAN asked them if they would like to make any comments.

MS. JOHNSON stated appreciation for the opportunity to present anything that is needed regarding this behavioral health safe room for the community. She continued that they have an ongoing project due to complete at the end of this year, December 2026. They would like to make one of the ER rooms that are being built to be this behavioral health safe room specific for these types of patients.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that this was a part of a much bigger program and asked how far along that project is.

MS. JOHNSON replied that they received a grant back in 2022 to expand and renovate the current building. It actually started in 2024, and we are on schedule to complete December 31, 2026. We are expanding from the current building six new emergency rooms and a new X-ray department. Then we are renovating the current space's lab to be more efficient for the way the lab techs work.

CHAIR MORAN asked if this would fund an additional module that will fold into the overall plan, or if it is repurposing a module that already exists.

MS. JOHNSON replied that it is a module already designed and in place, but the building of the room has not started because we are waiting to see if we have the funding to do all of the specifics to make it a behavioral health safe room. Otherwise, it may end up being a regular emergency exam room.

CHAIR MORAN called the vote.

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

CHAIR MORAN called a lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR MORAN reconvened the meeting with True North Recovery.

TRUE NORTH RECOVERY, ANCHORAGE LAUNCH PAD (CRISIS WALK-IN CENTER)

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$1,017,842 Authority Grant to True North Recovery for the Anchorage Launch Pad (Crisis Walk-in Center) grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PONTS stated that this proposal requests Trust funding to support True North Recovery in establishing Anchorage Launch Pad, which is essentially a walk-in access point for behavioral health and substance-use services. The Launch Pad will serve as a hub for behavioral health navigation and service access. It includes four components: integrated behavioral health assessment; mobile outreach and coordination with the Anchorage Police Department's HOPE team; peer navigation; and an outpatient service access point. This model is based on True North's existing Launch Pad in the Mat-Su. Assessments will be available on a walk-in basis. Peer navigation will support individuals with barriers, such as identification, Medicaid and completing paperwork. The Launch Pad will also provide a location to access telehealth care assist for individuals without Internet access. Trust funds will support the establishment and initial operations of the Anchorage Launch Pad, including staffing, facility costs, supplies, equipment and transportation to appointments or other service locations to support engagement and service connection. She added that this Launch Pad will provide a location for individuals in Anchorage to access services, complete assessments and be connected to appropriate levels of care. She stated that Karl Soderstrom CEO, Nick Kraska, Chloe Sylvester, and Caitlin Hegwood from True North Recovery were present in the room.

CHAIR MORAN asked if they would be providing detox services or just doing the intakes and referring to detox.

MR. SODERSTROM replied that, based on the needs assessment conducted with Agnew::Beck, they have access to detox beds, and we went from 10 to 20 in the Mat-Su Valley. This space will be a triage center and a step down from those types of detox facilities, the crisis stabilization centers that are coming online, rather than being a detox center itself.

CHAIR MORAN asked if they would be providing any kind of holding facility or doing a 24-hour hold.

MR. SODERSTROM replied that this is more of a step down from that type of environment.

What the system does not have in place is a mechanism to provide long-term care in that short period of time. The Launch Pad and programs like this stand in that gap and help people navigate those high-acuity emergency department, crisis stabilization settings and get them connected to long-term care.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR MORAN called the vote.

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

NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT, INC., SAFE FAMILIES PROJECT

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$450,182 Authority Grant to New Life Development, Inc., for the Safe Families Project grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that in November 2024, the Trust Board approved a 12-month grant to New Life Development for the Safe Families Project, which supported transitional housing and intensive programming. It impacted 13 mothers and 19 children during the grant term. Of those served, 85 percent obtained employment during the program; 100 percent of families remained intact; 69 percent graduated by completing the program requirements; and 78 percent of graduates maintained stable housing at six and 12 months post exit from the program. This two-year proposal will support the continuation of the women's cohort of single parents or pregnant women and will expand the program to include a men's program for single fathers and their children. The four-month program provides the single parents with a clean, safe, sober transitional home for them and their children, and also includes intensive intervention, a structured curriculum and wrap-around case management and support designed to transition the family to permanent stability and self-sufficiency. The Safe Families Project will directly impact Trust beneficiary mothers and fathers who experience mental illness, substance-use disorders, trauma histories, and cognitive impairment. It also impacts their children who are impacted by their parents' living situation and at great risk of ACEs and becoming Trust beneficiaries themselves. She added that Troy Buckner from New Life Development was there to answer any questions.

CHAIR MORAN stated that there was a limitation of families with one to two children. She asked if that is a space requirement.

MR. BUCKNER replied that it is a capacity issue. Ideally, they would like to be in a separate property from where they run the other programs. The pilot of this program used one apartment in their six-apartment building. The goal is to have a six-plex where the family size does not matter.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked if the six-family apartment is on hold.

MR. BUCKNER replied that it is technically on hold. However, there is one male, and we took one of the apartments from the male facilities. He added that the distinction between the regular

program and the Safe Families Program is that the regular program is revenue-generated. Individuals pay to live there; it is a residential program.

The discussion continued.

CHAIR MORAN noted that this is a two-year grant, and called the vote.

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

ALASKA CHILDREN’S SERVICES, INC., ALASKA CHILD C.A.R.E.S.

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$439,975 Authority Grant to Alaska Children’s Services, Inc., for the Alaska Child C.A.R.E.S. High Fidelity Wraparound Family Services Program grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. VOELKER-ROSS stated that this project focuses on early intervention to prevent escalation into higher intensity systems. It is a two-year project that will support Alaska Children’s Services to expand the staffing in their C.A.R.E.S. program, which stands for Coordination, Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support. This model integrates behavioral health services, educational partnerships, case management, social supports and caregiver skill-building to stabilize struggling families within the community. The project builds capacity and family stabilization and behavioral health services for Trust beneficiaries, including children and youth experiencing behavioral health concerns and individuals at risk of involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Families served in the C.A.R.E.S. program often face compounding stressors, including financial instability, transportation barriers, housing and security, and inconsistent access to behavioral healthcare. Without early coordinated support, these challenges frequently escalate into crisis-level interventions and long-term public costs. This expansion represents a strategic investment in prevention, workplace capacity, and cross-system coordination. CEO Anne Dennis-Choi, Finance Director Lisa Shori, and Community Programs Director David Pantaleone were there to answer questions.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he is familiar with the Alaska Child program and heard the word “expansion” in the description. He asked if there are additional things coming in between.

MR. PANTALEONE replied that a community needs assessment was done and expanding into the schools is the next area of growth with having case managers and outreach coordinators at the school, which has been successful with families. He explained that there are schools on site, and the C.A.R.E.S. program is all in the community.

A brief discussion ensued.

CHAIR MORAN called the vote.

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

MAT-SU YOUTH HOUSING, MY HOUSE SERVICES CONTINUUM OF CARE

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$430,000 Authority Grant to My House Services Continuum of Care grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MR. BOYER stated that this proposal was brought forward from My House, and their program manager, Rebecca Ling, is online. He explained that My House is a nonprofit organization based in Wasilla that serves high-risk youth ages 14 to young adult age 25. They hit right up through the transitional age for youth transitioning out of foster care or out of other services. This is a high-risk age. The services currently provided, with the potential for expansion, are hitting this population of youth, male and female, who are at risk for homelessness, substance-use disorder, co-occurring with mental illness, exploitation, survivors of trafficking and real struggles with things like suicide. He continued that they received a Congressional-directed spending grant from Senator Murkowski that is being used to build and expand their facilities. That building is due to be completed at the end of the year, and there are current facilities in Wasilla. The funding requested is operational to expand clinical supervision, case management, clinical support, peer navigation and some staffing around security. In their facilities, security for youth coming out of trafficking and exploitation is one of the core foundations for them to be able to work on their treatment care, job skills, vocational work and being able to move back into the community. This project can really meet some of the crisis services for the youth, which is a real need in this state.

CHAIR MORAN asked if the operational portion of this is predicated on completion of the capital building.

MS. LING replied that with the services asked, staff will work in the drop-in center and the residential center previous to the opening of the Carson-Cottle Complex.

CHAIR MORAN asked, long-term, will this particular group move into that complex or will they be more in the community resources area.

MS. LING replied that this group will move around. She noted that the majority of the staff move around. Clinical supervisors will provide clinical supervision for folks in the drop-in center, in Just Path, the new residential facility, in the redemption center. The case manager and the peer will also float around. All of these positions will move around to all facilities, as do all of the positions. They are moved to where the need is.

TRUSTEE MORRIS asked how many beds the Carson-Cottle Center has.

MS. LING replied that there will be 62 additional beds for homeless individuals, as well as 16 additional for a human trafficking redemption program. We are working with VOA on a recovery high school with additional beds. She continued that there is an outpatient facility and crisis beds in the building. The building design makes it a very flexible facility.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked about the status of the other three grants.

MS. LING explained that the Mat-Su Health Foundation grant has been moved to the next board meeting with a substantial ask of around \$4 million.

CHAIR MORAN asked for anymore questions. There being none, she called the vote.

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

KETCHIKAN WELLNESS COALITION, KETCHIKAN CRISIS NOW

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$270,000 Authority Grant to the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition for the Ketchikan Crisis Now grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PONTS stated that this proposal requests Trust funding to support the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, continuing and expanding Ketchikan crisis response coordination and community health navigation efforts. The project supports coordination of crisis response, outreach training and data collection and reporting in Ketchikan. Trust funds will support personnel, including the Crisis Now director, a community navigator and partial executive director oversight. The funds will also support outreach training, travel and supplies. This will help beneficiaries access services and improve referral pathways. She added that online were Lisa DeLaet, the Crisis Now community director; Jackie Yates, executive director; and Sarah Dolly, who will be stepping in for Lisa when she leaves her position.

CHAIR MORAN stated that Crisis Now implementation it getting more mature and asked if there is a structure going forward to migrate to more of a consolidated or comprehensive structure, or whether it will still be piecemeal.

MS. PONTS replied that in other communities the Crisis Now coordinator is funded by the City. That is happening in Fairbanks.

MS. YATES added that they are anticipating by the end of two years that the position will have succeeded in implementation of the stabilization components within three different areas of the community. The hope is that more integration will happen at the dispatch center. The goal is to partner with the Department of Health and integrate a lot of the tasks that Crisis Now has done with a navigation component within the community.

CHAIR MORAN asked for anymore questions. There being none, she called the vote.

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

RECOVER ALASKA, AURORA – ALASKA’S UNIFIED RESPONSE ON REDUCING ALCOHOL HARM

MOTION: The Program & Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$200,000 Authority Grant to Recover Alaska for the AURORA-Alaska’s Unified Response on Reducing Alcohol Harm grant. The motion was made by TRUSTEE FIMON; seconded by TRUSTEE MORAN.

MS. PONTS stated that this proposal requests Trust funding to support Recover Alaska in

carrying out the AURORA initiative, which is a two-year effort to understand alcohol-related harms across Alaska, and support communities and developing prevention strategies based on that information. Trust funds will support staff time, statewide regional data collection, community engagement and training for local volunteers, funds office support data evaluation, stipends and training for community data collection, facilitation of a statewide data team and travel for in-person engagement in up to three communities. She continued that, currently, there is no unified source for alcohol data in Alaska, which results in a fragmented understanding of the harms. This project will also establish a statewide data team and train community stakeholders to collect data using standardized tools and methods. The expected impact is increasing understanding of alcohol-related harms, expanded use of community-led prevention approaches and development of a coordinated statewide prevention strategy. She added that Tiffany Hall, the president and CEO of Recover Alaska, is in the room.

TRUSTEE FIMON asked if there has been any communication or coordination with Mr. Baldwin on how that may fit into the data the Trust is also trying to collect and learn from.

MS. HALL replied that they had not talked about this yet. She stated that there was one component to the AURORA project not included here. They are applying for a grant completely separate from this project to redo a statewide perceptions, behaviors, beliefs poll of Alaskans. That was done once in 2018, and we would like to renew that. She continued that the goal is to have better awareness and access to data, and we want to have that conversation once we start getting into it a bit more.

MR. BALDWIN stated that, while we have not had specific conversations on this project, we have had the larger state-of-the-state in terms of alcohol and alcohol prevention and consequences. He added that he has been working behind the scenes with the team and is up on this project and proposal. What he likes about this is data capacity-building. It is taking it down to the regions and local communities for an option of participating and owning the process, and having some engagement around the data and how to use it in a meaningful way.

A discussion of the project continued.

CHAIR MORAN shared her concerns and asked what the scaled-down project would look like before she commits to this.

MS. HALL replied that she would be happy to submit that.

COO BALDWIN-JOHNSON clarified the direction for staff, this is one of the items that would need to be addressed at the Board meeting.

CHAIR MORAN replied that, for her to be supportive of the project, she would like to know what would be accomplished with that significant amount of funding not secured. Her understanding in the presentation is not the funding. She asked what can they accomplish if that funding does not come through.

TRUSTEE MORRIS stated that it seems the primary concern is whether or not additional funding from other agencies or stakeholders comes through, and if it would be practical or efficient to consider approving it contingent on further funding.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that seemed doable, and we could put that contingency there.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON stated that trustees have passed things in motions directing it to be contingent on receipt of other funding. She offered that if trustees are willing to move this over to the Board Meeting, and Ms. Hall will work through what that contingency plan is, to scale it to options on what could be accomplished if the funding did not come through.

*After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED, with a contingency plan.
(Trustee Fimon, yes; Chair Moran, yes.)*

CHAIR MORAN commented that she was excited to see what they came up with in housing and would like to get out of this piecemeal. It is hard, as a trustee, to keep track of all the different individual grants and whether the Trust is having an impact or not. At some point she would like to see something comparable happen with the various mini-grant programs.

TRUSTEE FIMON stated that he was in agreement with the Chair and was happy with the discussion of some slight modification of how these are being brought forward. He stated appreciation for the Chair and the homework she does when she comes to meetings. He included the staff in his appreciation.

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

There being no objection, the MOTION was APPROVED.

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Program & Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.)