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## **MAJOR TRANSITION AT THE MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (October 26, 2016)— A major transition occurred today at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority as Jeff Jessee, longtime chief executive officer for the Trust transitioned to a new role at the Trust in advance of his planned retirement within the next three years. Jeff has served as the CEO of the Trust for the last 21 years, and was an instrumental part of the team that oversaw the settlement with the state that formed the creation of the Trust organization.

Mr. Jessee elected to move into a new role to allow the Trust to make a transition to a new focus balancing its advocacy efforts with generating additional revenue to allow the Trust to meet the increasing needs of its beneficiaries. Facing new challenges with the looming state of Alaska fiscal crisis the Trust faces an ever growing need to generate new revenue for beneficiary services the Trust will be recruiting a new CEO.

Additionally, the board of trustees announced that Greg Jones will serve as the interim CEO at the direction of the board while the board conducts a comprehensive search for a new CEO. Jones will oversee both the revenue generation side of the organization and the administration of beneficiary programs. He has an extensive resume and previously served as executive director of the Trust Land Office as recently as 2013. It is anticipated that the search for a new CEO will occur over the next six months.

“The board thanks Jeff for his tireless service and dedication on behalf of our beneficiaries. His unique understanding of the foundation of the Trust combined with his remarkable skills and talents have made Jeff invaluable to the development and evolution of the Trust from the moment it was reconstituted. We are glad that he will continue to serve beneficiaries,” said Russ Webb, chair of the board of trustees.