

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 21, 2015

11:15 a.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Authority  
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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Trustees present:

Russ Webb, Chair  
Larry Norene  
Mary Jane Michael  
Paula Easley  
Laraine Derr (via telephone)  
Carlton Smith

Trust staff present:

Jeff Jessee  
Steve Williams  
Miri Smith-Coolidge  
Nancy Burke  
Kevin Buckland  
Carrie Predeger (via telephone)  
Amanda Lofgren

**PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR WEBB calls the meeting to order and notes that in addition to the Executive Committee, all the trustees are present. He asks for any announcements or ethics disclosures. There being none, he moves to approval of the agenda.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the agenda.

CHAIR WEBB offers an amendment to the agenda. He would like to take up the discussion of the January board meeting and the legislative presentations first, and then talk about organizational planning at the end. He continues that in that process he would like to consider an Executive Session for discussion of some personnel issues.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the agenda with that amendment.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB moves to approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2015 and the June 1, 2015 Executive Committee meetings.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 and the June 1, 2015 Executive Committee meetings.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB moves into the discussion about preparation for the January board meeting and legislative presentations, and recognizes Mr. Jessee.

MR. JESSEE states that it will be a challenging session with a lot of important things which may deal directly with the Trust; some will deal indirectly. Overriding everything is the fiscal situation. He gives a quick overview of what happened at the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that it is going to behoove the trustees to develop a clearly focused agenda and be clear about the benefits of the proposed action and why these are good ideas.

MR. JESSEE states that the members of Legislative Budget and Audit contain some of the Finance Committee members. He continues that there will probably be questions about how this money works; how much extra money is there; how is it managed; all sorts of questions. He suggests that the Trust be prepared for those during the presentation.

A short discussion ensues.

CHAIR WEBB states that it would a substantive dialogue about why the Trust supported Medicaid expansion; why the Trust is supporting reform; where the reform could go; and what the goals of reform ought to be. He continues that it would be worth our while to get those things prepared and ready for discussion. He adds that is a lot of work between now and January.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL agrees, stating that the long-term message should focus on the long-range goal of making this system consumer oriented, cost effective, serve communities across the state, and do it for less money.

CHAIR WEBB states that the goal is to have a Medicaid program that is sustainable and one that accomplishes the goals of each of the programs that have been refinanced with Medicaid,

because there is a public purpose for each one of those programs. He continues that the Trust has just chosen Medicaid as the financing. He adds that none of the statutory mandates are going to go away.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks to talk about the Alaska health care reform and adds the need to pull it all together in a simplistic, infographic way.

The discussion continues.

MR. JESSEE states that what he is hearing is to explain more fully how the Trust works so that there is a better understanding of where the money comes from, where it goes, and how that works. This would be an affirmative strategy of a vision and a business plan for how the State can move forward and not only have a more sustainable fiscal environment, but also better serve the beneficiaries.

CHAIR WEBB adds that a key message is that the Trust is their partner, as well as the Governor's partner, and will work with both branches toward common goals.

MR. JESSEE reminds all that this is the second session of this Legislature and a Trust overview type presentation would not normally be done. He goes into great detail on the strategy that will be used. He states the need for a totally different approach to confirmation of trustee nominees. He continues that the committee is interviewing four people and then a letter that reflects the committee's recommendation will be drafted. That will then go to the Governor's office.

MR. WILLIAMS states that he is looking for some direction on the way the calendar is set for the committee meetings on January 26 and then the board meeting on the 27th and the 28<sup>th</sup>. He asks if the trustees want to keep it all jam-packed in one week, or to just have a day of committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

A discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE EASLEY suggests doing the three days together and then change it later if necessary. She states that this will give the advantage of what has happened with regard to Medicaid expansion and to talk about that in committees.

MS. LAWRENCE states in regards to traveling to Juneau and dealing with legislators, one of the ideas tossed around is that the Trust is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hosting a reception this year in Juneau. This is an opportunity to be in a different environment with legislators and key policymakers and is less formal than in a committee hearing. She recommends doing it a different week when in Juneau, which would be another opportunity to be in front of legislators. She states that different options for venues and dates are being discussed.

A discussion ensues.

MR. WILLIAMS wraps up the meeting schedule and proposes working with Miri and looking at a calendar for '17 and '18 and proposing some dates. He states that he will separate out the

committee meetings in January from the board meeting and will need the Trustees to finalize the '17/'18 meeting dates at the January board meeting.

The discussion continues.

CHAIR WEBB segues into a discussion about the organization, the challenges that are being faced, and how to get the ambitious agenda completed.

MR. JESSEE states that embedding Nancy Burke at the Municipality is going well. She is fully engaged with the leadership team at the Mayor's office, which is getting ready to release the plan that was talked about. He continues reporting on staff and the challenges that will soon be faced.

The discussion continues on identifying financial impacts; the issue of the Medicaid expansion; engaging the community as well as the Trust in lobbying; and to really think about how much time and expertise that will take.

MR. JESSEE states that the Trust is still in a unique position of helping to bridge some of the gaps.

CHAIR WEBB asks that Mr. Jessee and staff think about where things stand overall in terms of the things to get done and consider the timeframe needed to carry out what was discussed today. He also asks for a quick turnaround time for accomplishment of this. He states that there are a couple of specific personnel issues that need to be discussed in Executive Session, and asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to move into Executive Session.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

(Executive Session from 1:02 p.m. until 1:40 p.m.)

CHAIR WEBB states that they came out of Executive Session into the Executive Committee for the purposes of a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE EASLEY makes a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB adjourns the meeting.

(Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.)