

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY  
FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 24, 2018  
8:30 a.m.

Taken at:  
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall  
320 W. Willoughby Avenue  
Juneau, Alaska

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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Trustees present:

Mary Jane Michael, Chair  
Carlton Smith  
Laraine Derr  
Paula Easley  
Jerome Selby  
Christopher Cooke  
Greg Jones

Trust staff present:

Mike Abbott  
Steve Williams  
Miri Smith-Coolidge  
Carley Lawrence  
Katie Baldwin-Johnson  
Andy Stemp  
Kelda Barstad

Trustee Land Office present:

Wyn Menefee  
Craig Driver  
Sarah Morrison  
Aaron O'Quinn

Also present: Verne Boerner; Mike Powers; Commissioner Valerie Davidson; Monique Martin; Karen Forrest; Kathy Craft; Patrick Reinhart; Alison Klaus; Denise Daniello; Marie Darlin; Patrick Sidmore; Bev Schoonover; Teri Tibbet; Sandra Heffern; Brenda Moore; Robert Boghill, Jr.; Paul Voelkers; Carly Uchytel; Bob Janes; Dave Branding; Bruce Habberger; Bruce Van Dusen; Duff Mitchell.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR MICHAEL welcomes all and states that the presentation before the Senate Finance Committee just finished, and it seemed to be favorably received. She continues that it was a good precedent for the day, and she is looking forward to the meetings over the next two days. She asks for a motion to call the meeting to order.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to call the Full Board of Trustees meeting to order.

TRUSTEE JONES seconds.

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the roll, and states all trustees are present. She also states that present today are two future trustees, Verne Boerner and Mike Powers, who have been recommended by the Governor and are awaiting legislative confirmation. She thanks them for attending. She then asks for any changes in the agenda.

TRUSTEE COOKE states the it was his impression that part of the reason for having this meeting in Juneau was the opportunity to meet with the Permanent Fund people to discuss investment strategies, but that is not on the agenda.

MR. ABBOTT replies that Angela Rodell discussed that point with trustees in September, and that meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2018.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other questions and changes to the agenda. There being none, she asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE JONES seconds.

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

## **STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATE**

CHAIR MICHAEL welcomes the Commissioner and staff and thanks them for coming this morning. She asks the Commissioner to continue.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON states that she is Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services. She introduces Karen Forrest, deputy commissioner; Randall Burns, director of the Division of Behavioral Health; and Monique Martin, who helps the policy advisor for the Department in the Commissioner's Office. She states that she will provide several updates and begins with the budget; specifically, on some of the Governor's SUD funds that were put into the budget. She continues that all have been struggling with the budget deficits since 2015 and have cut government spending across the state significantly. There are 3,000 fewer state employees throughout the state; over 40 facilities have been closed; and about 100 programs and services have been reduced or eliminated funding. She adds that her department

has cut \$210 million from the General Fund budget since 2015, and has eliminated about 120 jobs. The good news is that the funding in the Governor's FY19 budget requests are the same as last year, with a few exceptions. There were no additional decreases from the '18 budget. She states that there is an increase of \$18 million for grants for substance use disorder treatment programs for '19. In terms of the SUD treatment funding, the Governor, as part of his public safety action plan, recognizes that public safety continues to be an issue in the state, and it has become increasingly problematic. She continues that, as part of the criminal justice reform effort, that treatment is a significant opportunity to be able to reverse some of the unfortunate trends. She explains that when there are gaps in the behavioral health system, there are increases in public safety encounters. The cases increase in the number of inmates in correctional facilities, and increases in the number of children in and out of home placements and encountering the welfare system. Also, increases in emergency room overutilization are expected. She states that the \$18 million invested over a several-year period in providing more SUD treatment services is one of the attempts to change the dynamic in the state. She talks about some of the services that are being anticipated, and she wants to make sure that the opportunities exist throughout the state, not just in the urban centers. There is about \$4.5 million for medically monitored withdrawal management, inpatient service; \$1.5 million for ambulatory withdrawal management; \$4.5 million for residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment. She states that there is a need for sobering centers, and substance misuse crisis evaluation services, and \$3 million will be dedicated to that. \$1.5 million will be dedicated to housing assistance and supports, and then \$3 million to assist with startup costs. This will also build upon the past SUD appropriations that came in 2017. She continues that the community engagements, community partnerships are critical to making the most of the opportunities offered. The Central Peninsula Hospital received \$2.5 million to be able to do detox and opened in August of 2017. They have six beds with a capacity to increase to ten. Their average length of stay is about five days; and the hospital has been able to move patients to their residential treatment programs. She adds that a part of their program also includes the opportunity for patients to return for monthly naltrexone shots. The funds to purchase the facility were made available by the Kenai Peninsula Borough on behalf of the hospital. That level of community engagement really was critical to being able to allow those dollars to stretch farther. Set Free Alaska in Mat-Su was awarded \$1 million. They provide substance use disorder treatment for women and children and opened in August of 2017. Their facility reached capacity in November. They have 12 treatment beds for women; and four additional beds for their children. She states that the Mat-Su Health Foundation purchased a facility and contributed about \$400,000 for renovations. The third grantee was Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, serving the Interior, received a \$2.5 million grant for a sobering center. It opened in December of 2017 with a capacity for 12 beds. They opened for outpatient services first in December, and they are going to be able to expand to overnight services by the end of this month. She adds that their facility was secured with a no-cost or low-cost lease through the Trust; once again, an example of how those community engagements are important. She gives a shout-out to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, who sponsored the cost of the architectural design to make sure that a modern facility was built and met the needs of the individuals living in that community. She moves on to API and talks about workplace safety and what is happening there. The original API opened in 1963, and by 1965 had 225 available beds that provided care to Alaskans who needed inpatient psychiatric services. She states that the new facility has 80 beds. That level of reduction is a challenge, especially since there are more people in Alaska now than there were in

1963. She continues that, at that time, the opportunity was to reduce the number of folks that were systematically institutionalized inappropriately, which was a step in the right direction. There was also an effort and an intent to build more community-based programs. Unfortunately, the level of community support that was needed did not keep pace with what is needed as a state. She adds that every new employee at API is required to do safety training at orientation, and then an annual four-day refresher course to ensure their safety and the patients' safety. There are also other kinds of on-line trainings that are available to employees. She continues that there is tremendous pressure trying to meet the needs of Alaskans with the resources that are not in this budget. The other piece is what happens when someone is discharged. She states that included in the FY19 budget is requests for appropriation to be able to remodel the Anchorage Pioneer Home to convert a wing for additional dementia beds, and to have nine dedicated beds in that facility for dementia. She continues that API has become the State's defacto place to go when Alaskans are struggling with dementia. The other is an 1115 waiver. Two certificates of need were signed and approved for 24 beds at Alaska Regional, and 13 beds at Mat-Su Regional. She moves to Medicaid expansion and states that almost 40,000 Alaskans are enrolled, and \$50 million has been spent. Claims have been paid for behavioral health services through Medicaid expansion, which is an incredible opportunity to be paid for services that were not paid for before. She continues that the coordinated care demonstration projects were a requirement of Senate Bill 74. Various kinds of payment models were looked at, and an RFP for various models was put up. There are three finalists in negotiations, which will be announced soon, with the details. One of the other requirements for Senate Bill 74 was a stakeholder work group, looking at opportunities to be able to engage with stakeholders and providers. She asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks what kind of demand the criminal holds or placements place on API.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that there are three ways for people to get admitted to API. First, is court-ordered for evaluation and treatment; second is voluntary; and third is involuntary hospitalizations. She asks Director Burns to provide more detail.

MR. BURNS states that the forensic unit at API, called Taku, has only ten beds. It was built at medium security. He continues that when the Court sends an individual to API for competency evaluation, staff tries to do those evaluations in the jails. They do not actually transfer people to the Taku unit for evaluation. He explains the process in more detail and adds that they are under a great deal of pressure from the Court because there is a waiting list for those beds for the purpose of doing restorations.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if support from those folks come from the Department of Health and Social Services or from Corrections.

MR. BURNS replies no, there are three forensic psychologists, plus the psychiatrist and the nursing staff that do both the evaluation for competency at the jails and then are responsible for the restoration plan for the individuals.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if API is paying for that care even though it is Corrections' hold.

MR. BURNS replies that this is a long-standing debate about just who is responsible for that care. The statute does not name the Department of Health and Social Services around the issue of competency evaluations or the culpability evaluations. The Department of Health and Social Services generally pays for at least one of the examiners.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that, in the budget overview, a \$3 million allocation for sobering centers was mentioned. He continues that it is a modest number, and asks what can be expected as a result of that.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that it is not enough for sobering centers and also crisis evaluation services. The resources are not enough, but they are a step in the right direction.

TRUSTEE SELBY thanks the Commissioner and asks about the percentage of the beds being used for dementia patients at API.

MR. BURNS replies that the Denali unit is a 10-bed longer-term unit. There are about five patients that have been on that unit for a considerable length of time. There is also a contract with Hope Cottages to open a five-bed unit to transfer those individuals out of the hospital and into a nonhospital level of care. They agreed to take five, which was two years ago. Currently, the house has two people in it. They are very complex, difficult, and the issues are behavioral.

TRUSTEE SELBY states that it seems that is not a cost-effective use of the API facility, and a strong effort should be put on to finding an alternative way to not tie up API beds, facilities and staff.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that it is a constant challenge and struggle when going from 225 beds to 80. She states that any business model for any kind of service will have that kind of incredible pressure. She adds that if anyone is interested in participating in the stakeholder work group, February 2nd is the deadline for participation and getting the information.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks all, and recognizes Kelda Barstad.

MS. BARSTAD states that she has the focus area long-term care and supports. There are some plans that will be worked on for FY19 to see how capacity can be built up, and to look at serving seniors who have behavioral health issues and dementia. They will be taking a look at some of those complex needs of seniors in Alaska.

TRUSTEE JONES thanks the Commissioner, and asks if there is a contingency plan if money came from wherever and if there is room on the site to expand API.

MR. BURNS replies that it was built with the capacity to add one additional unit, which was up to 24 beds. It would be relatively easy to extend that system into a new unit.

A brief discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE COOKE states that one of the core elements of the mission of the Trust is the advocacy, planning and implementation of funding of a comprehensive integrated mental health program. He asks how to address all these issues that seem to be in perpetual crisis, and how can the Trust help.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that another plan is clearly needed, and she would be happy to work with Trust staff on how to make that happen. She also acknowledges the Trust and its role and resources in providing care for Alaskans in a most appropriate setting. She thanks the Trust for ensuring the safety of Alaskans.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that, in discussions, every time API comes up there is high interest in what the future may look like. He asks when an appropriate time would be to learn about the specific plans.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON states that the time is now. There is the rising crime, children in out-of-home placements, emergency-room overutilization. Most Alaskans would agree that the time is now.

MR. WILLIAMS states that it is important to remember that some of the variables that have created the pressure could not have been foreseen in the past. Beneficiaries were cycling through and did not understand the process that was happening before them. The Trust started working on looking at that area and providing the education in the Court System so that when beneficiaries were in front of the judge and raised questions, they could be answered, which drove into the Disability Justice focus area. He continues that this is a reactive system which now has to look forward and plan so overbuilding does not occur as a reaction to the overflow of water that is coming. He thinks of the emphasis of preventions and how to start thinking about preventing people from getting to the higher levels of care and managing a system that really looks at the individual early on, and then works with them through the process. He adds that there will always be a crisis.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other comments. There being none, she thanks the Commissioner, stating that she appreciates the partnership. She calls a short break.

(Break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL asks that the trustees review the Guiding Principles, and then asks for any ethics disclosures. Hearing none, she moves to the minutes from September 6 and 7, October 4, October 26 and 27, and November 16.

TRUSTEE COOKE makes a motion to approve the minutes for September 6 and 7, October 4, October 26 and 27, and November 16.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

TRUSTEE JONES seconds.

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

CHAIR MICHAEL moves to the Mission Moment, and welcomes Kara Nelson from Haven House, and Denny Starr.

### **MISSION MOMENT**

MS. NELSON states that she is the director of Haven House Juneau. Haven House is a faith-based recovery place for women coming out of incarceration. It has been open since March 17, 2017, which is when the first sister was welcomed, and it has been operational for over three years. She explains that over that time the services have expanded based upon just the need in the communities, not just for navigating for reentry, but also for recovery support services. There is one part-time staff member, and we have been able to change policy and procedures to be able to go inside the prison at any time to help support folks' prerelease, and we also have an incredible relationship with Probation and the Department of Corrections, as well as all of the stakeholders through the coalitions and substance disorder agencies. She gives a snapshot of a six-month period. She states that Haven House is an incredible home which houses up to eight women. There is a very structured program that people are guided through. She continues that there are also nonresidential services that also help contribute to the larger picture. She introduces Denny Star who has graciously accepted to share her story, and been a part of Haven House before it was even opened.

MS. STARR states that she is originally from Angoon and was a long-term inmate at Hiland Mountain. She lives in Juneau now. She stated that she was in a domestic relationship for 8.5 years, and had two children very young. She explains that she got sentenced to prison for 35 years, with 15 suspended. She explains that at 10 years she was able to go to the parole board, but had no support and needed reference letters. She continues that her mom told her about Haven House as a place that she could possibly come home to because she had no place to go. Her mom contacted Ms. Nelson, who came and visited. The next thing, a few days later, she had three reference letters to go to the parole board. She had 2.5 years to go, which was hard to accept. She ended up getting letters of encouragement in the mail from multiple people that she did not know that were a part of Haven House. She adds that she struggled with being in a place in the community, but Kara was always on hand when she was needed. Being placed at the Haven House was an incredible experience because there were times that she felt alone and was reassured, which helped her make sense of her life. She states that she was supposed to leave six months later, but felt that one more month was needed. She was allowed to stay the additional month, and that was when she felt that she was okay to move forward. She continues that Haven House helped her with her self-esteem, and a lot of values were developed from what she did there. She adds that Kara is still in her life and is a friend that continues to be supportive. She states that she has a future from Haven House, because of the support of people who believe in people who change. She continues to be a work in progress.

(Applause.)

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Ms. Starr, and states that she is an inspiration with her story. She asks for any questions from the trustees.

TRUSTEE EASLEY comments that she toured the facility some years ago.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other questions from the trustees. She asks how Haven House is funded.

MS. NELSON replies that the Alaska Mental Health Trust is one funder; there is also funding through the Juneau Community Foundation; and about 50 percent of the budget comes from community donations. One of the challenges and successes concerning funding is being a new entity that is doing something different. She adds that it is a time of developing relationships and hopes that there will be more collaborations locally.

CHAIR MICHAEL appreciates the presentation, and then breaks for lunch.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL states that next on the agenda is the CEO report.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **CEO UPDATE**

MR. ABBOTT states that the 2017 annual report of the Trust has been handed out. It represents the first time that the Trust Land Office is consolidated inside the Trust annual report. He continues that staff is working hard to create one public identity for the Trust, not segmenting the Trust Land Office and the Trust Authority Office. He adds that there are some limitations on that consolidating, but with the clear guidance received from the trustees, we look forward to continuing to push that. On social media, all of the communication efforts should be linked in coming months. He states that the consolidated advocacy effort and information-sharing process that the Trust has supported, and in some cases funded, is well underway. He continues, stating that Heidi Wailand has accepted a position with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Mr. Williams is in the process of building a recommendation on what changes, if any, should be made to that position as we are considering filling it. He adds that there is one other vacancy in the program officer position, and potentially others in the offing. He states, that with the new committee charters being cemented, he wants to make sure that the trustees are clear with what the staff assignments are for the different trustee committees: The Planning and Policy Committee will be staffed by Steve Williams; Resources Committee will be staffed by Wyn Menefee; Andy Stemp will be supporting both the Finance Committee and the Audit Committee. Some of the highlights from the Trust Land Office are: The Southeast land exchange is moving forward on schedule, and we are tracking to implement phase I by the May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline that is referenced in the Congressional legislation. That will trigger the Naukati timber sale on Prince of Wales Island. The best-interest decision on that was submitted about a week ago. He adds that the procedural steps necessary to complete the land exchange and then initiate timber sales associated with that are being finalized. He states that staff has been approached by a couple of folks that are interested in the Trust gaining control of a piece of land that is currently controlled by the Department of Defense adjacent to Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks. He explains that there



is a subdivision of housing built on DOD land that is being leased to a private owner that owns the housing there. That private owner has said that they would like the Trust to consider acquiring that land, likely through an exchange, so that a long-term arrangement for the continuation of providing housing on that parcel could be reached. He states that right now the Department of Defense is only willing to lease the land on a continuing basis for five years at a time. The housing is in reasonably good condition and has been there for about 25 years. It does require additional investments, and the owners are uncomfortable making those investments if there is only five years of leasing at a time. He continues that there are Trust lands on the east side of Fort Wainwright that have limited near-term economic value that may be good candidates for a land exchange. He adds that that conversation is in the very early stages, but it does present the opportunity to provide immediate cashflow from Trust lands that would otherwise not be available in the near future. He explains the process in more detail. He moves to the legislation audit and states that word has been received from the legislative audit team that they are almost done and are ready to start the process of presenting their preliminary findings next week.

A brief discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE EASLEY comments that this is outstanding, informative, and staff did an amazing job on it.

MR. ABBOTT states that Carley deserves all the credit for having that put together, and adds that it has been distributed to the Legislature. He concludes his report.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that the meeting will recess to the State Capital and will reconvene at 3:00 p.m.

(Break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL states that the trustees are all back, and she recognizes Patrick Reinhart to make his presentation on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

## **STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATES GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

MR. REINHART begins by handing out the annual report. He begins with the Early Intervention Infant Learning Programs in the budget. He states that this particular budget issue is typically one that could be targeted. There are maintenance-of-effort requirements with this program that if the safe funding is reduced there would be an exponential negative impact on the funding available to all the infant learning programs around the state. He continues that the Council acts as the advisory board to the Infant Learning Program with the State, which is now with the Division of Senior and Disability Services. There is \$110,000 given to support part of one of the staff people to act as that staff to the early intervention committee. He points out that a lot of their funding, a significant amount in the past has been RSA, reimbursable services agreement, with the Center for Human Development at UAA. There is an issue because they are not given as much money as they have been given in the past. He states that the big change in this year's budget is in the grant-funded community development disability grants, which are

gone for next year. Any disability grants are combined into a category of just senior and disability grants. He continues that all the funding for this is essentially being replaced by the individual supports waiver that was supposed to start January 1. It looks like that transition will not occur until March. There may be an issue related to not enough funding in the current year's budget to fund some of the obligations to individuals that are in grant services. He adds that SDS is looking to see if there is an opportunity to switch it from Medicaid receipts. The funding was there, but was put in a different category under Medicaid versus grant funding.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks about the ISW, some of the individuals are already receiving Medicaid services and are going to transition to the new waiver, and some are new people who are taken off the waitlist will also get the ISW.

MR. REINHART explains that it was supposed to be a minimal amount of funding to help individual families until they got on the waiver while waiting. This ISW kind of replaces the old grant-funded program. He moves on to the Alaska Training Cooperative, which coordinates almost all of the training for all of the beneficiary groups. The Alaska Mobility Coalition is still going. The coordinated transportation funding has gone up both on the Trust and State levels. This supports those human service transportation programs that are all over the state. He moves on to the legislative priorities. One of them is the developmental disability vision and values codified in state law. He states that he met with Senator Micciche's staff about a new version of a draft bill that the Department is reviewing today. He encouraged them to get it done and will advocate for it. It is primarily an aspirational language type of bill that we want future administrations to abide by when home- and community-based services are provided. It will be a primary focus of the Key Coalition. In support of decision-making agreements, there is a draft bill through Representative Millett's office about what to do about making these supported bills legal to guardianship, and she is totally for it. He continues that there is also a resolution about bills that increase revenues and contribute to a stable government economy, which is the biggest issue, and concern is a balanced budget that can be counted on for services going into the future. Also, being watched closely, is the civil legal services fund, which got pretty far last year. He states that a lot of the beneficiaries depend on Alaska Legal Services and Disability Law Services for free help. He continues, going through and explaining their support. He states that they have an opportunity to meet with the Governor's wife for the third year in a row. There is an hour spent in the Governor's house with both him and his wife, which is a good experience and opportunity to share our legislative priorities. He continues that the inclusive practice award is on February 6<sup>th</sup> and welcomes any trustees to come to any of these things. The Key Campaign is March 1 in Juneau. He adds that the Full Lives Conference is April 12 and 13 in Anchorage. This year the Senior and Disability Services will put on a care coordinator's conference, which is going to be combined as one event for care coordinators and for direct-service workers. It will be three days rather than two, with a bit different focus. The National Disability Policy Seminar is April 23-25. The national organization meets every other year in Washington, D.C. and this year they are meeting in July. That will be kind of the annual advocacy with the Senators and our representative in D.C. He moves to the education committee and recognizes staff person Anne Applegate, who has been invited, along with committee chair, David Kohler, by Commissioner Johnson to be part of the monthly leadership calls with partners around the state. They are working on looking at issues, particularly around the education of children that are Deaf. This is something that the Council never had access to before. He states that DD and

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committees are commenting about regulation packets put out in the Community First Choice options in the individualized supports waiver. There is also a work group working on proposed legislation for supported decision-making. He continues that there is a workforce work group survey to inform what is going on in terms of barriers to employment. The Early Intervention Committee is involved in the universal developmental screening, and they developed a task force working on making sure that all infants are screened for developmental disabilities early so they can get early intervention services. He adds that is a very active group which is involved with getting a lot of different organizations to participate. He updates on the Alaska ABLÉ account. There was a significant amount of energy and effort into getting the work out about ABLÉ accounts. There are now 94 funded ABLÉ accounts in the state, with \$395,000 in those savings accounts. He adds that there are more accounts opened that are not being counted because there is no money in them yet. He explains that they worked with the Department of Revenue Banking Division on the report for the Alaska Legislature on that, and they are going to continue to do outreach throughout 2018 to people with disabilities and families, service providers, and state agencies.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks about the workforce work group survey and if that was the survey results or the survey itself going out.

MR. REINHART replies that the survey is going out to providers on what some of the barriers are being experienced in getting people to work.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that she would be interested in seeing these results.

TRUSTEE DERR asks about House Bill 54 and the Council being against that on the voluntary termination of life. She asks what kind of discussion was had.

MR. REINHART replies that it generates a lot of conversation and the Council cannot come to agreement on it. Some people support it and some people do not. He states that it is one of those slippery-slope issues that if it is done, then someone may be encouraged to go that route with a family member with a significant disability.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks how many Alaskans are within the Council's framework of focus.

MR. REINHART replies that it is a poor calculation that goes back to the '60s. He states that their national group is working on recalculating things differently based on certain factors. It is basically a percentage of the population that experiences these series of developmental disabilities, and is calculated on the number of people in the state.

TRUSTEE SMITH encourages Mr. Reinhart to engage in the Mission Moment, having someone from the Council share their story.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks Mr. Reinhart to tell the story of how you helped get the land for the Challenge Alaska facility. It is a great Mission Moment.

MR. REINHART tells the story about how Challenge Alaska arrived at the piece of property in Girdwood where Challenge Alaska's ski school is located. He explains that this happened when he was a director of Challenge Alaska. The Japanese owners that bought the resort basically kicked out Challenge Alaska from the spot they were, and they built a new day lodge. Challenge Alaska was wandering around without a home for a few years. He states that he looked at this spot off the side of Chair 3 at Alyeska, and decided that was the place. It had a cliff base with a road going up to it that people could come into the building, get into their adaptive equipment, ski downhill to the chair lift, and be able to come from the uphill side into the building. That essentially could be the most independent they could possibly be. He states that at the time, the Japanese owners would have nothing to do with it and got to the point that they did not want people with disabilities skiing there. It was frustrating. Then a miracle happened. He stated that he got a call from Justin Dart, Jr., the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the chair of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He was going to all 50 states to promote the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He continued that Mr. Dart got in contact and asked to have a public hearing set up and to have interviews with the television stations. He explained that the Dart family owned Tupperware, and Mr. Dart was in charge of Tupperware Asia, where he met his wife, Yoshiko. He stated that he asked for one favor, that Mr. Dart meet with the Japanese general manager of Alyeska and convince them that giving this piece of property for the ski school was the right thing to do. Mr. Dart said to set up the meeting. The meeting at Alyeska was set up, and he brought Mr. and Mrs. Dart to meet with the Japanese general manager, who did not speak very good English. He states that Mr. Dart was in a wheelchair from polio, and we had to lift him up all the stairs to go into the general manager's office. Mr. Dart stated to the manager that he comes from the President of the United States' office, and to give Patrick whatever he wants, make a deal. And the meeting was over. He adds that Yoshiko Dart interpreted everything, and there was a deal for the lease of the land for 25 years. At the end of the 25 years, the land had to be bought or they would buy us out or continue with another lease. The acquisition deal was done because Challenge Alaska and Alyeska did not want to continue with the lease.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks him because it is such a great story.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks Mr. Reinhart to talk a bit more about the Key Campaign for those that do not know about it.

MR. REINHART states that the Key Campaign has been going on for over 30 years. It is an annual fly-in for the beneficiary group to inform the Legislature about what their priorities are. He continues that there are 24 council members; they come in with a couple hundred families and individuals with developmental disabilities. They go up and meet with the legislators and also end up in a meeting with the Governor. He adds that there is a capital steps rally which is always covered by the local news. Then there is a candlelight vigil and a big dinner. There are a lot of legislators, the families, an auction and entertainment.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Reinhart and calls a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL reconvenes the meeting and moves to the Commission on Aging.

## **ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING**

MS. DANIELLO introduces Vice-Chair Marie Darlin. She continues that Ms. Darlin is a long-term commissioner for the Commission of Aging and is a resident of Juneau. She continues that the Commission's purpose is to work to maintain the health, dignity and independence of older Alaskans, 60 years of age and older, through planning, advocacy, education and interagency collaboration. The Commission fulfills the federal requirement for the Federal Aging Act to advise the state on aging matters. The Commission's roster shows 11 members. Some of the members are public members; six members are of senior age, 60 years and older. She continues that they have designated seats for the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Economic Development, a senior services provider, and for the chair for the Pioneer Home Advisory Board. There are two staff members for the Commission. She proceeds with a quick overview of the senior population, 2017 estimates that were released a couple of weeks ago. She continues talking about the budget, looking at the enacted budget with the Governor's proposed FY 2019 budget, and then looks at the federal budget appropriations. She gives a quick update on the Commission's advocacy priorities; this is year two of a two-year session with the same priorities as last year. She talks about the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Survey, the 2016 perceived cognitive impairment module findings which presents findings that compare Alaska with the 20-state composite. She states that the Department of Labor Workforce Development released the new population of estimates for Alaska. According to those estimates, the total state population, including all age categories, is now 737,000. That represents a loss of 2,629 residents from 2016. She adds that the senior population continues to grow, and it now makes up close to 18 percent of the total state population. There are 6,386 seniors age 85 and older who are the ones most at risk for developing chronic health conditions, cognitive impairments, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and in need of long-term services. The good news is that funding for the senior core programs has been maintained or increased. She expounds on this more fully on both the state and the federal funding. She then moves to legislation and the Commission's advocacy efforts, stating that they are working on and will continue to work on four bills: House Bill 236, which is to extend the Alaska Senior Benefits Program; House Bill 123, disclosure of health-care costs to improve consumer awareness about the cost of medical services; support of the Civil Legal Services Fund to have a sustainable funding source for organizations that provide free and low-cost legal assistance to low-income Alaskans, veterans and seniors; House Bill 186, food donations that would remove company liabilities, allowing donation of excess food to food banks. She continues that the Commission will also be advocating for protecting the senior safety net. They will also continue to support increased supports for family and other natural caregivers. She adds that, a few weeks ago, Congress passed the RAISE Act, which stands for Recognized Assist Include Support and Engage. It has a special emphasis on updating the family caregiver strategy for the Nation. The Commission will also support funding for all senior services, including improved capacity for people with Alzheimer's disease.

TRUSTEE DERR states that HB 54 has the Older Aging Commission, which is the one on assisted-end-of-life care. She asks whether there has been a discussion in regard to that legislation.

MS. DARLIN replies that there are bi-weekly call-in sessions throughout the whole state regarding all of these issues. She states that the Commission is trying to track all of this and keep people throughout the state informed about where this legislation is in the process.

TRUSTEE DERR asks if a stand on HB 54 has been taken.

MS. DANIELLO replies that it is interesting because some people are for it and others oppose it. An official stand has not been taken. She moves on and shares some new findings received that look at the 2016 BRFSS Perceived Cognitive Impairment Module. This compares Alaska with 20 other states. She explains that BRFSS are telephone surveys that are conducted in every state and is based on reports. This was started in 1984, and it was based on people having land lines. Over the last couple of years, it has transitioned to cell phones. Every state participates, and it is the largest health-related surveillance system in the world, gathering a lot of data. She states that the Commission on Aging, the Trust and the National Alzheimer's Association partnered and asked the Commission on Public Health to include this special optional module in the BRFSS survey called the Perceived Cognitive Impairment Module. Perceived cognitive impairment is a self-report of increasing memory loss and confusion. She talks about the results, stating that Alaska has a higher percentage of people who are reporting increasing memory loss and confusion. She explains this in greater detail, focusing on the people that are talking with their doctors to get connected with services as early as possible. The troubling news is that about one in three people in Alaska that have increasing memory problems are also reporting that they live alone. This same module was done in 2013, and the ratio was 1 in 8 Alaskans reported memory problems and lived alone. She continues that the preliminary planning efforts for the next state plan for senior services has begun. It will be for FY 2020-2023. A senior survey has been put together for publication in the Senior Voice. She continues that the Elder Senior Listening forums will also be starting. The Commission meets February 5-9 in Juneau and will discuss the next state plan which will be looking at a more broader population of aging needs. They will also be working on the roadmap, which will intensify in the fall, doing the needs assessment activities for the state plan. She states that the annual report is complete, but has not been properly formatted. This report includes the senior snapshot which has a lot of data on a number of health and wellness indicators for Alaska seniors, as well as the number of people receiving services, and demographic information. This is a very useful resource and is updated every year. She moves back to the Commission meeting on February 5-9 and states that in addition to the board meeting and partner reports, a special called The Partnering and Advocacy for Alaska Seniors meeting will be hosted on the morning of February 6. There will be a special presentation from AARP, the national office, about the long-term services scorecard. A scorecard was released for every state to basically evaluate the services that each state provides for seniors. The Commissioners will also be meeting with legislators and their staffs, and then will visit a few communities in Southeast on Thursday as part of the rural outreach.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks for a history of Marie Darlin's longstanding commitment for the Commission.

MS. DANIELLO replies that Ms. Darlin started with the Commission in 2008 and is an important Commissioner. She is also a model for successful aging. She gives to the community, to the state, to her family, and to the organizations she serves. She has worked tirelessly as an advocate for Alaska seniors, for the Commission on Aging and for AARP Alaska for about 15 or 16 years. She also testifies on various bills of interest for seniors. Legislators know her, recognize her and respect her, and they especially listen when she speaks. Another aspect of Ms. Darlin is that she also is a volunteer for the State's Historical Society and had a major role in the design of the State Museum. She also volunteers for the Juneau City Museum. She is an active member of the National Active Retired Federal Employees Association and served on the Juneau Commission on Aging for many years.

TRUSTEE DERR states that many aspire to be as active as septuagenarians and octogenarians.

TRUSTEE SMITH states the Ms. Darlin was at the Assembly every year, and goes there regularly. The Assembly pays attention to what she has to say. He thanks her for that.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks all and calls a break.

(Break.)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the meeting back to order for the public comment period. She reads the guidelines for public comment and then begins in Juneau, recognizing Duff Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL states that he is a resident of Juneau, and is here to ask for consideration to sell the lot that is waterfront to the Alaska Ocean Center. He talks about his background as a previous purchaser with Develop Juneau Now where the Juneau district heating facility will be placed.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Mitchell, and recognizes Bruce Van Dusen.

MR. VAN DUSEN states that he lives in Juneau and is executive director of Polaris House. He explains that Polaris House is a club house member of Club House International Corporation which consists of more than 300 club houses in more than 30 countries. Polaris House serves a beneficiary population of adults 18 and older who are living with mental illness diagnosis, currently serving more than 70 people. He adds that new memberships grow 12 to 15 each year, which has caused growing out of the current space. He states that the City and Borough of Juneau has made a property available for applications for businesses or services that benefit the community. He continues that a proposal has been submitted to purchase the property. He adds that Polaris House has had discussions about purchasing the property with Trust Authority staff, which looks promising. The property has been valued at \$320,000 with more than 3,000 square feet. It has all the necessary equipment modifications to make this a permanent home for Polaris House. He adds that it will provide the ability to start much needed psychiatric respite services, which the Division of Behavioral Health is supportive of for Juneau. He states the intent is to

solicit funds from the Trust Authority to aid in purchasing this property with the aim of securing the funds necessary. He continues that it provides a first step to a long-term goal of establishing the Polaris House Foundation. He adds that the Trust has been supportive of Polaris House for many years, and this has insured providing the best most effective services to persons living with a mental illness diagnosis. He also takes the opportunity to thank the Trust as an active partner serving Trust beneficiaries.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Van Dusen, and recognizes Don Haberger.

MR. HABERGER states that he is speaking of behalf of the Juneau Re-entry Coalition and will touch upon three things for the coalition's highlights and progress: Planning, engagement and results. He explains each in greater detail and goes through community assessment which was a requirement of the agreement with the Trust. He adds that the community as a whole is ready for the conversation. The business community shows the receptiveness, but the community in Juneau wants to know how to solve the opiate crisis and getting more engagement. He continues that one of the big processes that the coalition got engaged in was case management for those coming out of incarceration, volunteering to go through a program, and having that program for resources on the inside, planning for them and getting connected to resources on the outside. He states that in January the first two program volunteers graduated from the nine-month program. There are community members going into the Lemon Creek in-reach program for folks coming out into the community.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that this is exciting to hear, and she hopes that more and more communities will form these coalitions. She asks if there is any interest from other communities.

MR. HABERGER replies that Ketchikan is forming a coalition.

TRUSTEE SMITH shares that, in his opinion, Mr. Haberger has already created Juneau as a model coalition. He recognizes the high level of coordination work that he has done, encouraging him to get the Municipality and the Assembly involved.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Haberger, and recognizes Dave Branding.

MR. BRANDING states that he is the CEO at JAMHI and begins with a history of NCABD Juneau, established in 1965, and with the Salvation Army, helped to establish the first halfway house for people with alcoholism in this community. Notably, more recently, it was instrumental, along with the Trust, in establishing the Juneau Re-entry Coalition. He continues with a history of JAMHI which has grown, over time, into becoming an integrated primary-care provider, expanding its focus into whole-person health and wellness. He announces the merger of these two organizations into JAMHI Health and Wellness, Inc. This has been a focus of the organizations for the last six months, and it was completed last week. He states that together as a merged organization they are now pursuing the mission of helping people live their own best lives. He continues that the integrated behavioral health services and primary-care services that are provided are open to anyone in the community at the new clinic, which has been open for several weeks, which will provide primary-care services for serving youth and anyone in the community that needs health-care on a sliding-fee schedule. He hopes that when the trustees do



the site visit at Forget-Me-Not Manor, they will take time to see the clinic and learn a bit more about the work that has been happening, in part, because of this merger.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Branding, and recognizes Bob James.

MR. JAMES states that he lives in Juneau, and three years ago, along with several very well-meaning people, founded Alaska Ocean Center. The desire at that time was to provide a \$24 million center, self-sustaining for the cruise ship visitors to learn about the issues of ocean health and climate change in Alaska. He talks about the design, and adds that the Alaska Ocean Center has partnered with another entity that has the \$3,220,000 to purchase the property. He explains in more detail, stating that the ocean center is going to have a research arm with the technology to help provide Alaskans with the information needed to make the changes. He asks for the Trust's help, and thanks all for their time.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. James, and recognizes Carl Uchytel.

MR. UCHYTIL states that he is the port director in Juneau, which entails the four municipal harbors throughout the borough, two of the cruise ship docks Downtown. There are six long-trap facilities throughout the Borough from Echo Cove to Taku Harbor. He continues that he is here with his strongest unqualified request to sell the C-1 property. He adds that it would be a private harbor with private funds, which would increase the capacity of small cruise ships that come to Juneau annually. He, once again, states a strong support for the sale of C-1 for the ocean center.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Uchytel, and recognizes Paul Voelkers.

MR. VOELKERS states that he is a Douglas resident and talks about the ocean center and the potential purchase of C-1. He continues that he is a member of the board and is involved in the trench level, working on the plan and design of the project since 2015. He describes the planning lever and understands what it will do for local commerce. He adds that the Juneau delegation, the state level, the mayor's office and Juneau Assembly are all supportive because of the linkages and the opportunities for some things to converge together.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Voelkers, and asks for anyone on-line who would like to testify. There being no one, she concludes the public comment period for the day. She states that the meeting will begin again at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(AMHTA Full Board meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.)