

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 27, 2016
8:15 a.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
Hugh Malone Board Room
801 West 10th Street, Third Floor
Juneau, Alaska

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:

Russ Webb, Chair
Mary Jane Michael
Carlton Smith
Laraine Derr
Paula Easley
Larry Norene

Trust staff present:

Steve Williams
Jeff Jessee
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Carley Lawrence
Amanda Lofgren
Kevin Buckland
Mike Baldwin
Katie Baldwin-Johnson

TLO staff present:

John Morrison
Wyn Menefee

Others participating:

Kate Burkhart; Kathy Craft; Patrick Reinhart; Denise Daniello; Deputy Commissioner Diane Casto; Terry Schuster; Liz Medicine Crow; Joan O'Keefe; Sierra Jimenez; Lindsay Hallvik; Tyler Osterhaus; Rhonnie McMaster; Christa McMaster.

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR WEBB calls the meeting to order and announces that all trustees, except for the most newly appointed trustee, are present. He moves to approval of minutes.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moves to the Guiding Principles and briefly reviews them. He states that the bylaws are in the packet and on the website for any of the public interested in reviewing them. He recognizes Carley Lawrence for the mission moment.

MS. LAWRENCE states that each of the trustees have the latest annual report. It is a bit longer than previous ones. She continues that it has been 20 years since the Trust has been actively working to improve the lives of beneficiaries, and their stories are featured throughout the annual report. She adds that a video was created kind of celebrating the 20 years and featuring each of those beneficiaries in the annual report.

(Video played.)

(Applause.)

CHAIR WEBB states that the video was powerful and asks about the plan for it.

MS. LAWRENCE replies that this video will be up on the website later today, featured prominently to celebrate the 20 years and as a companion to the annual report to help guide people to the website, as well. She continues that shorter videos will be cut, vignettes of each beneficiary, and little snippets will be placed on social media.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks about the Governor's mansion.

MS. LAWRENCE replies that it is a difficult venue to show a video, but we're working on it.

CHAIR WEBB states that he would like to show that in the legislative sessions.

A discussion ensues.

MS. LAWRENCE states that the other video is one story about two minutes long and could be shown in the Senate.

(Video played.)

The discussion continues.

MS. LAWRENCE states that while this story is featured, she is only one person. She wonders how many other people are just like her, incarcerated, that the Trust could be helping.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that it supports the reports about more community services coming out of Corrections.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that the other piece is connecting to the community supports that are available and building those with people coming out of prison.

MR. JESSEE states that it would be great to introduce at Senate Finance which would help the discussion with them.

CHAIR WEBB states that starting off with this as a representation of the Trust mission, share that and then talk about why it matters. He continues that this particular case is illustrative of thousands of other Alaskans. It illustrates all of the connections that have to be made for people to be successful when they are in an institution, and how fundamental services are once they get out.

MS. LAWRENCE states that she will do that.

CHAIR WEBB moves on and recognizes Jeff Jessee.

MR. JESSEE states that API has been struggling with staff with the result of reducing their capacity. He continues that they are on the road to recover and should be back close to their normal capacity.

CHAIR WEBB asks if these are locum tenens or permanent.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replies that one is a contractual telepsych locum tenens in Hawaii, which is a very temporary situation. She continues that there is a part-time arrangement with North Star Hospital where their psychiatrist is spending about six hours a day at API. That has

allowed them to expand their beds to 71. She adds that there is a plan to bring in the next psychiatrist in April. They will be up at full capacity by April.

MR. JESSEE states that it is not solving some of the longer-term issues, but is a start.

MR. WILLIAMS states that other piece is that it is a workforce issue. The psychiatrists, the mental health clinicians and the advanced nurse practitioners with psych emphasis is not only a challenge for API, but also for DOC.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that the other issue has been that the pay for psychiatrists is not competitive with other places hiring around Alaska. She continues, that has been addressed by increasing the pay and a hiring bonus for psychiatrists. The nurses are the hardest position for them to fill right now.

A short discussion ensues.

MR. JESSEE states that the uncertainty of leadership, not having a permanent commissioner at Corrections, is part of the hold-up. He moves on and explains the nomination process and the confirmation hearing for the two new trustees.

A discussion ensues.

MR. JESSEE states that the Governor's Housing Summit went very well. He adds that there has been a fair amount of challenge on the operating side around some of RurAL CAP's housing programs. He goes through the confusion and issues involved.

A discussion on the Housing Summit ensues.

MR. JESSEE moves on to the Criminal Justice Commission meeting, stating that the 21 recommendations that came out are going to be reflected in Senator Coghill's Senate Bill 91. He continues that there will be a lot of effort to get that through. He states that the last thing is to talk about the behavioral health assessment and where that is going.

MR. BALDWIN states that the first phase of the contracts is wrapped up, the executive summary of the report is being revised. He explains in greater detail the process of negotiation because of the expiration of the contract and the ability to have access to the data and the dataset.

CHAIR WEBB states that the Trust has always struggled because of being reliant on external entities to get access to data. He asks if an agreement has been worked out with the Department for that access, or are there statutory impediments that prevent it.

The discussion continues.

MR. BALDWIN states that the other piece is the Health Information Exchange and their ability to have data analytics in their future. He continues that they are trying to work towards being an information-sharing exchange.

CHAIR WEBB asks Trustee Michael if she would make this a Planning Committee undertaking. He asks for any further questions or comments. There being none, he moves on, stating that Commissioner Davidson will be doing her presentation tomorrow. He recognizes Denise Daniello.

MS. DANIELLO states that she is executive director for the Alaska Commission on Aging and thanks the Trust for the opportunity to update with a report of the Commission's activities. She continues that she will be talking about budget and impacts for this legislative session. She begins with a look at the budget for senior services, services that serve senior Trust beneficiaries and other older Alaskans. She states that the senior community-based grants include all of the senior grant-funded services, nutrition, transportation support services, senior in-home, adult day, family caregiver services, aging and disability resource centers, and many others. She continues that these services are very important to senior Trust beneficiaries who live in the community and are not eligible for the Medicaid waiver or personal care assistant services. She explains this more fully. She then does a review of the five legislative priorities affecting seniors and provides a progress report of implementation efforts pertaining to Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. She shares some new findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, the Cognitive Impairment Module, which was done in 2013 for people who experience memory loss, and then looks at how Alaska compares to other states.

A short discussion ensues.

MS. DANIELLO talks about the Governor's Housing Summit, stating that this was the first time that a Governor has identified housing as a priority for the administration. It included a senior housing breakout session with about 20 people participating. She recognizes that Amanda Lofgren was one of the facilitators for this session, along with Rachel Greenberg, one of our commissioners. She states that they were asked to identify a problem statement and then offer recommendations. A lot of the recommendations come from strategies from the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, as well as the roadmap. She continues and provides an update about the Alaska Commission on Aging board and answers any remaining questions. She adds that the Commission on Aging meeting will be held in this room February 8 through 11 and invites all to attend. She states that they have a new Commission member, Gordon Glaser, a long-time resident of Anchorage. He was appointed to the public member seat in December, 2015. She continues that Eleanor Dimenti, the longest standing Commission member, is the new vice chair. She is from Cantwell and is very active on the Ahtna board of directors. She adds that Marie Darlin, another commission member, has been nominated by the Governor for the Woman of Distinction Award that will happen on March 8, 2016 in Juneau.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks how many of the 2,795 people with Alzheimer's require full-time care.

MS. DANIELLO replies that a number of people received some kind of training at the Alzheimer's Resource Agency.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if the number of people with Alzheimer's that require 24-hour care is known.

MS. DANIELLO replies that there are 6,600 people estimated, 65 years and older, with Alzheimer's in Alaska. She states that many of them live in the community; very few live in nursing homes. She continues that some of those individuals are cared for at home by their family caregivers, but does not know how many require 24-hour care.

A short discussion follows.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks, for all services for seniors going forward, how does the Commission model for this future demand.

MS. DANIELLO replies that it is a big issue with an entire continuum of care of services for seniors, during these difficult budget times, to hold on to the base funding, making the argument that these services are going to save money in the long run for long-term care. She states if people are kept living healthy, independently and longer at home, that will save money on nursing home care cost. She continues, stating the need to look beyond government or the public funds to provide services, and each person needs to take care of himself.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if there are models that are projecting what will happen with this infrastructure that is being built now in 20 years.

MS. DANIELLO replies that the need for senior elder care will continue even past 2042.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any other questions or comments. There being none, he thanks Ms. Daniello and states that next on the agenda is a partner update from Commissioner Monegan, who is not here. He recognizes Deputy Commissioner Diane Casto.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTO states that Commissioner Monegan sends his regards. She continues that she was asked to come and do an update on some of the partner projects going on between the Trust and the Department of Corrections. She begins with an overview about the DOC. She states that it is an all-consuming, full-time job dealing with the issues of substance abuse and mental health, critical issues. She continues that they are in the process of reviewing the new 2015 offender profile that will be coming out soon. The number of those in our population of 50 and over is up to 19 percent of the population. There are a lot of elderly people that are in very poor health mentally and physically, and it takes a lot of resources to manage that population. She moves on, stating that the administrative review was conducted and goes through a number of the recommendations. She continues that the one thing that DOC needs more than anything is some stability, and we are really anxious to get a permanent commissioner to move forward with many of the recommendations and begin making progress. She adds that they are addressing and looking at the process to see how a better job of making sure that there is protection and safety for the individuals can be done. She states that one of the reasons she was

brought into the Department of Corrections was to start opening up partnerships on how to do a better job of working with the communities, working with the other agencies, the beneficiaries, and making sure that the right people are working with the DOC to do the work that is needed to be done. She moves on to the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission's report and the 21 recommendations, six additional recommendations, focusing on how to improve the criminal justice system. She states that staff is reviewing the 21 recommendations, how they are going to impact, how to implement those that will be within the system and believes that there will be a huge change seen over the next five years. She states that the last time she was here, the Mental Health Trust Authority had graciously funded four community reentry coalitions: Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Anchorage, and Juneau. She reports that all four of those coalitions have been in place for some time. She continues that an actual coordinator was hired for each of these coalitions, which has greatly improved their stability. They are struggling with the issue of how to keep the coalition vibrant, moving forward, dealing with some of the inner fighting and bickering, and the feeling of too much involvement from the DOC and the Trust. She adds that they are working with the Trust to get some training for all four coalition coordinators and their chairs, as well as other coalition members on just some tools and tips on how to keep the coalition going. She moves on and talks about reentry, stating that the first 72 hours are the most critical.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if the DOC is letting communities know if someone is coming back to the community.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTO replies that Anchorage has the Partners Recovery Center where individuals go, and the other communities are more sporadically. Ideally, each of these four communities will actually have a center to keep better track of what is happening.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks what kind of impact is the program going to have on groups like Gastineau.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTO replies that it is probably a bit too early to tell. Ideally, the goal is to move more people out into the halfway houses and community centers, and they currently are not at full capacity. The good news is that there is some capacity. She continues going through some of the other reentry issues. She moves on to the challenge of finding appropriate housing, which is a huge issue, along with family supports.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any further questions. There being none, he calls a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR WEBB states that next on the agenda is the Planning Committee report, and recognizes Mary Jane Michael.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks Steve Williams to begin.

MR. WILLIAMS introduces Terry Schuster, who is with the Pugh Charitable Trust. He states that he is a senior associate and has been the point person for Alaska as it is related to this Justice

Reinvestment Initiative. He continues that he passed out the Criminal Justice Commission summary of the Justice Reinvestment Report to the trustees.

MR. SCHUSTER recaps the problem statement about what it is that the Commission is trying to fix. He states that the main problem in Alaska that the Commission has zeroed in on is growth in the Alaska prison populations. The growth in the incarcerated population in the state has grown a lot quicker than growth in the resident population. This growth has been a primary focus of the Criminal Justice Commission, which has come at great cost to the state. He continues that the Governor and the Senate President and the Speaker and the Chief Justice reached out and invited us to provide technical assistance, which began eight months ago with the Commission. This began with a data analysis and then a system assessment. This was sort of the basis of the next several months of policy development conversation. He adds that the general framing of the package is in front of the Legislature under the umbrella term of justice reinvestment. The idea of justice reinvestment is that the State needs to free up funds. In the case of this package, there is a potential for about \$424 million over a ten-year period in savings to the State. He states that savings will help address the budget shortfall. He continues that this is a package and some portion of that savings has to be reinvested into high-priority services. These high-priority services, which are often underfunded because so much of the state money is going toward prison beds, which are really expensive.

CHAIR WEBB asks, specifically related to the treatment needs of the inmate population, has anything of particular significance been discovered there.

MR. SCHUSTER replies that there is research that is relevant, but this package does not actually address that. He states that some very basic things about criminogenic needs are known and explains the research around what works to reduce recidivism and the assessment tools. He continues that addressing multiple criminogenic needs to identify an individual plan for people based on the risk factors that are presented in their assessment and follow through on that plan and retest months and then years later to see if the risk score has gone down and if this affects the outcome and individual behavior. He states that this reform package is not specific about giving this particular type of treatment to any particular inmate. It is focused on the broader brush stroke of who is going to prison, for how long, and can those variables be adjusted in order to free up funds.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that he knows that Pugh does very well at engaging the public at large and asks how to engage Alaskans at large in the reinvestment concept.

MR. SCHUSTER replies that because of the legislative session there is a very short amount of time to influence a small number of people in the Legislature. In terms of education efforts, there is value in reaching out to do general education of members of the public. He states that the large bulk of the outreach to community members is aimed at how to get organizations and coalitions writing letters of support for this concept, and then very specific letters of support for what is going to be the substitute of SB 91. He explains more fully.

A discussion ensues.

MR. SCHUSTER states that he is not sure how all this is going to play out and asks to keep the information line open and keep the Trust up to date on how those conversations are going.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL thanks Mr. Schuster.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Schuster and the Pugh Trust for all their work nationwide on this issue, and, in particular, in Alaska.

MR. SCHUSTER states that Pugh is a very large organization and started foundations now of public charity. He continues that this public-safety-focused project is just one of many. The general theme that connects them all is the goal of helping governments be more efficient for the public good.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that the next item is the approval of the FY16 November small projects.

CHAIR WEBB asks for a follow-up on the meeting yesterday and what came out of it.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that there was a discussion about Medicaid expansion and reform; then the 2015 update of the Alaska scorecard, which was followed by the FY15 Trust MHTAAR status report performance summary, and then an update on the advocacy. She continues that the Housing First projects have been very successful in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau; but those beds were filled by people already on the streets who needed immediate service. She adds that similar kinds of supportive programs may be needed for some of the people coming out of Corrections.

MR. BALDWIN states that suggestions about potential topics for some of the later Planning Committee meetings were captured and put on the agenda.

CHAIR WEBB asks if any trustees have questions or issues that came out of that meeting. There being none, he moves to the approvals of the FY16 small projects.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Full Board approve the recommended FY16 small projects from the November application period in the amount of \$55,500.

TRUSTEE SMITH seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB states that the agenda brings the trustees to lunch. He asks for any other issues that the trustees would like to cover.

TRUSTEE NORENE asks to discuss further the resource management strategy and future income needs.

CHAIR WEBB agrees.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that there have been informal discussions on how to accommodate the future needs when it comes to income. The Trust Land Office director has been given a strategy that always relates to maximizing income, revenue, and growth. He asks to discuss this further and consider if there should be an emphasis on income versus growth and what the needs could be.

CHAIR WEBB states the need to set a target for producing income and move towards that.

TRUSTEE DERR states the need to go into Executive Session to discuss the legal opinion that has not been resolved. She continues that it is in regard to using the TADA account for CHAI.

CHAIR WEBB asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

(Executive Session from 11:30 a.m. until 11:51 a.m.)

CHAIR WEBB moves back into regular session for the purposes of finishing up the meeting and discussing the potential for an issue or a motion to direct our TLO director to develop a plan for generating income. He asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE SMITH makes a motion that the board of trustees direct the TLO executive director to develop and present to the trustees, as soon as possible, but no later than September, a plan to generate annually from the Trust's noncash assets an amount of spendable income equal to or exceeding the spendable income generated from the Trust cash assets. The plan should define a strategy for achieving the income target as quickly as possible, but no later than 2035, along with interim targets, identify policy decisions required or other actions trustees must take to enable the plan to be implemented, and identify any impediments that would hinder or prevent successful implementation of the plan, including organizational, structural, procedural, regulatory, or statutory issues.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB states that Mr. Morrison has a charge to develop a plan. He moves to the scheduled lunchtime break. He asks all to assemble at the State Capitol, Room 519, at 1:15. Thank you.

(Lunch break.)

TRUSTEE MICHAEL calls the meeting to order and states that all are waiting for the chair and executive director to return. She adds that they are in a meeting right now. She states that, if the board agrees, she would like to change the agenda to first have the committee reports, the Resource Management and the Finance Committee. She asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to change the order of the agenda.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL recognizes Trustee Norene with the Resource Management Committee report.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that there are several consultations and asks Mr. Morrison to explain each one.

MR. MORRISON states that the first consultation is the 2016 annual land sale consultation for roughly 70 small-sized parcels and lots located across the state. Anticipated 2016 revenue to be a million and a half dollars principal, roughly \$15,000 of income, based on historical trends.

TRUSTEE SMITH makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the offering of approximately 70 subdivision lots and small-sized parcels through the TLO's annual land sale program.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

MR. MORRISON states that the second item is the resource management strategy. The resource management strategy is the Trust Land Office's long-term asset management strategy for managing Trust assets consistent with TLO regulations. This version is the latest iteration of the plan.

TRUSTEE SMITH makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the adoption of the newest draft of the Resource Management Strategy as a long-term asset management strategy for managing Trust land assets consistent with TLO regulations 11 AAC 99.020.11 and AAC 99.090(c).

TRUSTEE MICHAEL calls the vote: Trustee Derr, no; Trustee Easley, yes; Trustee Smith, yes; Trustee Norene, yes; Trustee Michael, yes. The motion is approved.

MR. MORRISON states that the third item is from the October RMC meeting. It is for a ten-year lease with the Assets Group for the building known as Assets at 2330 Nichols Street. This is a PRI lease contemplating to rent them the building starting at \$60,000 a year, which is a difference from fair market value of \$285,000. Over the ten-year estimated life, it is anticipated that the cost would approach \$3.2 million for the reduction of the lease funds as compared to fair market value. He states that this is a much different process, it being a PRI, and offering something at less than market rates. He continues that the program office publicly noticed it and no comments were received.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the decision to approve a ten-year lease with Assets, Inc. for the building and property located at 2330 Nichols Street in Anchorage, Alaska. The starting rent shall be \$60,000 per year, \$5,000 per month. This beneficiary-related use of Trust lands is proposed at rents that are below fair market value. The increment between the established rent and the fair market rent of \$345,444 is \$285,444 in year one. Over the ten-year lease, it is estimated that the uncompensated use of Trust land will be approximately \$3,197,000.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks if Mr. Morrison foresees any changes in the way the land disposal program is done.

MR. MORRISON replies that, as contemplated in the resource management strategy, for many years the TLO had a successful land sale program based on the idea that through the settlement many finished lots were received from DNR that were otherwise saleable; it was just a matter of timing the market and picking the right time to sell them. He states that one of the goals and objectives of the land section is to maintain a three-year inventory of saleable lots. He continues, that is going to come at great effort and at times expense when those lots are forced to be developed from parcels that are not necessarily something that could be sold without subdivision or other improvements.

TRUSTEE NORENE concludes the Resource Management report.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL thanks Mr. Morrison.

MR. WILLIAMS states that the Finance Committee report has one item that requires full board action.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL recognizes Trustee Smith and his report for the Finance Committee.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that the motion relates to the payout for FY2016. He continues that Mr. Buckland is continuing to work on the asset allocation study and the RFP.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to authorize the transfer of \$20,030,000 from the Alaska Permanent Fund budget reserve account to the mental health settlement income account to finance fiscal year 2016 base disbursement payout calculation. The CFO may fulfill this motion with one lump sum or multiple transfers.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL turns the gavel back over to the chairman. She states that next is the presentation by Ms. Crow.

CHAIR WEBB welcomes Ms. Crow.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks if he could introduce Ms. Crow.

CHAIR WEBB agrees.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that he is proud to introduce Liz Medicine Crow, a tribal member of Tlingit-Haida Central Council. She is also a Sealaska shareholder from the Village of Kake on Kupreanof Island. She is an attorney, former director of the Alaska Native Policy Center, and is currently the CEO of the First Alaskans Institute. He welcomes her.

MS. MEDICINE CROW states that it is an honor to be here and thanks all for the invitation and the wonderful introduction. She continues that she is from Kake, which is the epicenter of all things great and beautiful in Alaska. Her grandparents were Mona and Tommy Jackson of Kake; her mother is Della Cheney. On her Raven side she is Kaach'adi; Fresh Water-marked Sockeye Salmon is her clan. On her Haida side she is from the Eagle Tiits Gitee Nei people of Haida Gwaii. Their crest is the hummingbird. She adds that she has had the honor and privilege of working for First Alaskans Institute for a number of years. She states that First Alaskans Institute is a statewide Alaska Native nonprofit that was formed in the late '90s. They began as the AFN Foundation which created the First Alaskans Foundation through a name change and some bylaw changes through a working partnership with the owners of the TransAlaska Pipeline. She gives more background on the negotiations with the Native landowners and how the endowment that is the First Alaskans Foundation and the Institute is the only receiver of the draw-down off of the endowment. She continues that they are able to then focus on leadership development and have some incredible leadership programs. They do a lot of work in building communities, and they also publish the First Alaskans Magazine. The goal of the magazine is to advance Alaska Native for the next 10,000 years. She states that strategic planning for 10,000 years can be quite a bucket to carry; but the notion that we have been here for over 10,000 years and that Alaska Native people have a responsibility forward into the next 10,000 years is not only something that the institute is dedicated to, but the Alaska Native people in our communities are also raised with the understanding of this responsibility. It is part of the cultural fabric. She states that one of the important roles at First Alaskans is the opportunity to try to help our own people, as well as others, understand this complex nature of what is called the Alaska Native community. She explains the importance of the Native structure of life and of being citizens of Alaska and the United States. She offers herself and staff, the policy center and Leadership Development Program and the Community Engagement Program as assets and as resources to the work that the Trust does. She states that even in the Treaty of Cession, when Russia sold the pieces of Alaska, that it claimed to have some holdover, refers to the unique relationship that the United States of America already had with its indigenous peoples. She talks about the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, and states that land settlement was the first of its kind in dealing with Native people. She explains it more fully and in greater detail. She states that there is an opportunity in Alaska to break down the barriers that people mentally have because they have not had an opportunity or just have not been able to get out to the communities and see how they operate. She continues that delivery of services by the tribes is extremely difficult because it does not matter how many people there are, the provision of services still costs the same. She states that if clarity is needed on some of what she talked about, she is available to sit, visit and talk more about these things. (Tlingit spoken.)

CHAIR WEBB thanks her and asks for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE NORENE asks for some clarification, regionals not funding any issues.

MS. MEDICINE CROW explains more fully.

A discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE SMITH suggests opening a dialogue with the regional corporations; talk with them and see if there might be something to collaborate on. He clarifies that the public purpose of these corporations is to benefit their shareholders.

The discussion continues.

MS. MEDICINE CROW states that a lot of the funding for things that are happening at the Native Village of Eklutna or Kawerak, for instance, is federal funding. That federal funding is coming to them because of the responsibility and a relationship that the federal government has to the Native people of this country. She continues that those funds come through the government side rather than from the claim side, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Medicine Crow. He asks Trustee Smith, as the Finance Committee chair, to, at a future Finance Committee meeting, bring together some resources and help delve into this a bit more to understand how to partner effectively with the nonprofits that have health care responsibilities and capacities and resources.

TRUSTEE SMITH agrees, and also thanks Ms. Medicine Crow.

MS. MEDICINE CROW (Tlingit spoken), thanks all.

CHAIR WEBB states that public comment is next and calls a six-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR WEBB states that the Trust bylaws call for a public comment period during all the regular meetings of the full Board of Trustees and goes through the procedure. He recognizes Lindsay Hallvik from SAIL.

MS. HALLVIK states that she is from SAIL, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, and is the ORCA program director, which is the Outdoor Recreation and Community Access program. She continues that SAIL serves about 1200 or more people with disabilities in Southeast Alaska, and about 500 of those are Trust beneficiaries. In the ORCA program, about two-thirds of the recreation participants are Trust beneficiaries. She adds that this year has been a great one due to the support of the Trust Authority that has positively impacted the program.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks which beneficiary groups they work with.

MS. HALLVIK replies that they work with people with developmental disabilities, as well as traumatic brain injury and mental health. She thanks all.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Hallvik and recognizes Tyler Osterhaus.

MR. OSTERHAUS states that he has been with SAIL and ORCA since sixth grade, and it has been fun and joyful. He continues that it helped a lot with all that he has gone through. He adds that he recently started with the PETS program which is helping with employment skills. He states that he received a lot of help, which has greatly improved all he has done.

CHAIR WEBB congratulates him.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks how old he is.

MR. OSTERHAUS replies 16.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks about his job training.

MR. OSTERHAUS replies that he was interning over in Zach Gordon, which is the teen center.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL thanks him for testifying.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Osterhaus and recognizes Rhonnie McMaster.

MS. McMASTER states that she has been hanging out with ORCA for about five years and used to be really shy. She has been an instructor for two years and enjoys having fun, camping, walks, and also enjoys skiing.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks her age.

MS. McMASTER replies 25.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. McMaster and comments on a job well done. He recognizes Christa McMaster.

MS. McMASTER states that she is Rhonnie's mom. She continues that Rhonnie has been with ORCA about four years, and the change in her has been amazing. Rhonnie is cognitively impaired and panics and then shuts down. She originally involved Rhonnie in ORCA for the physical aspects, and the program has been irreplaceable in her life. That cannot be taught in a classroom. She is not only involved in the activities, she is also doing volunteer time there. She not only has friends, she is expanding her horizons on what she can do. She continues that her husband works at Eaglecrest and Rhonnie wanted to teach skiing. This is her second year, and she is a paid instructor for the We Ski program and teaches beginning skiing. She states that is the kind of thing that ORCA has done for her.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. McMaster for coming here and helping the trustees learn about the program, what it does, and for the courage to come here and testify. He asks if there is anyone on the phone.

MS. JIMENEZ states that she is Sierra Jimenez and is calling in from Haines. She continues that she works for Southeast Alaska Independent Living and works out of the Haines office. She states that she has been involved with two Mental Health Trust-funded projects in the last year and is calling to say thank you. She gives a short report on what has been done with these two different projects. She continues that a \$75,000 grant was received to help go toward the SAIL portion of the Wellness Center in Haines. It is pretty much a nonprofit center. The money from the Trust went towards an acceptable kitchen that opens up into a classroom to teach independent living skills such as cooking and budgeting. There is not a huge homeless population in Haines, but it does exist. It is still under construction with a substantial completion date of mid-March. She moves on to the second project, PETS, the Preemployment Transition Services that was partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation. SAIL received funding to take 15 youths through the project, which she explains fully. She adds that all 15 are finished, and it seems that four of the seven students that went through ended with offers of paid positions. It was successful and an empowering project. She thanks all.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that the SAIL director, Joan O'Keefe, is here and asks her to say a few words.

MS. O'KEEFE states that she is the director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living and appreciates the support of the Trust. She continues that they serve more than 1200 folks throughout Southeast in about 19 communities through the four offices. Agency-wide, more than 40 percent are Trust beneficiaries. She adds that they are an independent living center and one of the core services is peer support.

CHAIR WEBB asks if there is an analogous organization in Anchorage.

MS. O'KEEFE replies that Access Alaska is in Anchorage, and they have the largest region in the state, actually two regions. Their offices are in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Wasilla. Technically, independent living centers cover the whole state. She states that the Trust has also been very supportive with the Home Modification for the Aging in Place project and are very excited about that process and product. She thanks the Trust for the support, and gives a bit more information on the project.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. O'Keefe.

MR. JESSEE states appreciation for all that came and talked about the value of the recreational programs.

MS. O'KEEFE states that every core service of independent living can and does happen through recreation. Even the core service is transitional. Many skills, life skills, can be done through recreation. Thank you.

CHAIR WEBB asks for anyone else to testify.

MR. JESSEE states that there are some written comments from Faith and Dorrance. He continues that the Disability Law Center and the Mental Health Board should be leading in this area. He adds that if the Disability Law Center and the Mental Health Board can get together with Faith and Dorrance and come up with a plan, then the Trust will throw in and help push it through. He states that he has steadfastly resisted taking the lead.

A short discussion ensues.

CHAIR WEBB suggests a committee meeting or an informal work session to sit down and explore what is going on, how these things fit together and then whether there is anything that needs to be done. He recesses the meeting.

(Full Board of Trustees meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m.)