

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING

February 23, 2016
4:10 p.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop
First Floor Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:

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

Trust staff present:

Steve Williams
Jeff Jessee
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kevin Buckland
Mike Baldwin
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Amanda Lofgren
Carrie Predeger
Heidi Wailand
Valette Keller

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR WEBB calls the full board meeting to order and calls the roll. He asks for a motion to approve the agenda. He asks for any changes to the agenda.

MR. JESSEE states that he would like to add a change of intent.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion to approve the amended agenda.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any ethics disclosures. Hearing none, he moves to the first order of business, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, FY17 MHTAAR funding request of \$50,000. He recognizes Jeff Jessee.

MR. JESSEE states that Military and Veterans Affairs is going to get a substantial reduction in their budget. The question was: What could the Trust do to help? He continues that they were easy to work with and quickly identified that if there was a way to get their database project set up to identify veterans that are returning to the community from Corrections, the outreach workers could be targeted to contact those individuals and make services available to them. He adds that it was refreshing to have an organization that really wanted to work with the Trust and focus on beneficiaries in the VA, and in general. It is before the board for consideration.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that she participated in the Governor's Housing Summit and was placed in the Veterans Housing Group. She continues that one of the things she learned was that there is a real uniqueness to the life of a veteran, what they have gone through, and how they have stay connected to their community of people that went through similar things. She adds that there is a substantial number of people that are veterans that suffer from substance abuse and mental illness, and she is pleased to see this come forward.

CHAIR WEBB asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to approve a \$50,000 FY17 MHTAAR grant to the Office of Veterans Affairs for the Veterans Services Database Project.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB recognizes Amanda Lofgren with a change of intent.

MS. LOFGREN states that when the planning for the Employment Initiative started in September of 2014, funding for the Division of Vocational Rehab Services to have a position dedicated to being responsive to the changes in the Workforce, Opportunity and Innovation Act was allocated. It specifically required Section 503(c)(3) contractors that are the federal contractors to have a goal of 9 percent of individuals that they employ as individuals with disabilities. She continues, that for multiple reasons, that position and that project has not been successfully put together. She adds that other things were done to address that, which she explains in detail. She states that the change of intent is to look at reprioritizing the position to

align with the focus on Criminal Justice. She continues that there have been multiple conversations with the Department of Labor about their connection and coordination with the Department of Corrections and the reentry and recidivism. One of the things identified is that there is often a lot of misalignment between the two departments, as well as the connection to the Job Centers post release, even while they are incarcerated. She adds that there are a lot of vocational training opportunities as well as services that are provided in the Job Centers that could be located in the Corrections Centers. She explains this more fully. She states that the intent is really to more align and coordinate, in addition to being a part of the employment planning.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Board of Trustees approve changing the intent of the FY16 and FY17 MHTAAR grants to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development from the DVR Counselor/Liaison position to the Job Center Liaison in Correctional Facilities position in the amount of \$125,000 for each fiscal year.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks how this project would be supervised to make sure that it is serving the people it is supposed to be serving.

MS. LOFGREN replies that as a program officer she would be working closely with the Department of Labor in monitoring this to make sure that the outcomes are effective.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks if there is a greater level of confidence in filling this position.

MS. LOFGREN replies that there is a lot of support.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR WEBB asks for any other issues or comments. He recognizes Larry Norene.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that all are looking forward to meeting Trustee Selby.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that with the Planning Committee materials, Senate Bill 91 was sent, and she was wondering if anyone wanted to comment on that.

MR. JESSEE states that it is Senator Coghill's bill that incorporates many of the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Commission and has started on its legislative journey.

MR. WILLIAMS states that it is sitting in Senate State Affairs and has had three hearings. He continues that there are concerns out in the community around the threshold levels for property thefts being raised and inflation-proofing so they do not stay bottomed out. There are also some concerns from the Office of Victims Rights and from some law enforcement organizations around reducing misdemeanors to a violation as opposed to an actual charge.

CHAIR WEBB comments that this is the biggest change in the criminal justice system in the last 40 years. The last rewrite of the criminal statutes occurred around 1977. He asks for any other comments or questions.

MR. JESSEE goes through some of the updates, stating that there will be a CEO report this month, and then he goes through some of the news of things that have been and will be happening.

CHAIR WEBB asks for a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE SMITH makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

There being no objection, CHAIR WEBB adjourns the meeting.

(Full Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.)