

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

March 11, 2015
11:00 a.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
801 West 10th Street
Anchorage, Alaska

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:

Mike Barton, Chair (via Speakerphone)
John McClellan, Acting Chair
Paula Easley
Russ Webb
Larry Norene
Mary Jane Michael

Trust staff present:

Jeff Jessee
Steve Williams
Nancy Burke
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Kevin Buckland
Carrie Predeger
Carley Lawrence
Valette Keller
Amanda Lofgren
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Mike Baldwin
Natasha Pineda
Marilyn McMillan

Others participating:

Carlton Smith; Christopher Cooke; Kate Burkhart (via Speakerphone); Patrick Reinhart (via Speakerphone).

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR BARTON calls the special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order. He states that because of a difficulty conducting a meeting remotely, he asks John McClellan to conduct the meeting today.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks the Chair, and takes over the meeting. He calls the meeting to order and asks for a roll call. He states that all the Trustees are present, and we also have two appointed, but not yet confirmed, Trustees present. He asks them to introduce themselves.

MR. SMITH states that he is Carlton Smith.

MR. COOKE states that he is Chris Cooke.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the next item is approval of the agenda and asks for any additions or deletions. He offers one addition to the agenda after the marijuana position paper discussion and presentation, a reorganization discussion. He asks for any comments or concerns. There being none, he moves to ethics disclosures and asks for any.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that he has a tenant in a warehouse that grows medicinal marijuana approved by the police, DEA, and he wants the Trust to be aware of that.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN states that if there are any motions or considerations on the marijuana issues, he will ask about Trustee Norene's status on that.

MR. JESSEE states that there are a number of administrative things to discuss, such as the May meeting agenda, board meeting dates, just to confirm with the new Trustees that those dates are okay for them. He adds that some board retreats and board orientation should be discussed at some point.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN agrees, and puts that on the agenda for the end. He asks for any other comments on the agenda. There being none, he considers the agenda approved, as modified. He moves on to review of Guiding Principles. He moves on to the position paper on AS 17.38, the regulation of marijuana, and recognizes Mr. Jessee.

MR. JESSEE states that at the last meeting staff was directed to come up with a position paper, and Natasha Pineda did the work on that.

MS. PINEDA states that all of the feedback was taken into consideration and was put into a simple format that includes all the areas that the Trustees wanted to make sure that there were either amendments or regulations around. She continues that she worked with Cindy Franklin at the ABC Board, reviewed some of her materials, and spoke with her, as well as other partners. She explains that page 1 is a summary of some of the policy language included, plus an introduction to the issue. She continues that page 2 is where amendment considerations begin. She adds that some of the language was revised and more specific documentation was included

to help clarify some of the items. She moves to page 3, stating that there was nothing new added to indirect financial compensation or the driving level limits, and made an ultimate decision on what the driving limits were. Also included was current information on what other states have done. She states that in terms of funding considerations, the regulatory board should be fully funded. She adds that it was important to be specific in having regulations and having them enforced, and the resources to do that at the ABC Board.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any comments or questions.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that one of the goals discussed at the last meeting was to get decriminalization in, which is not mentioned here. He asks how that fits in, or should it be addressed in any way.

MR. JESSEE replies that the way the current statutory framework is set up, marijuana is a controlled substance. He states that the first attempt to reconcile the criminal statutes with the initiative was to retain marijuana as a controlled substance, but allowing the initiative to be used as an affirmative defense. He continues, that was seen as the easiest way of implementing the intent of the voters. He states that the Judiciary Committee drafted a bill that would go through the entire controlled substance statutory framework and rework it to make marijuana legal to the extent that the initiative appeared to make it legal. This turned into a 90-page bill. He continues that it passed out of Judiciary and is now in Finance. He states that given that currently law enforcement has very minimal focus on enforcing low-level marijuana activity at all, it is unclear how many people might be caught in that for relatively minor infractions.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that the Legislature can hash it out.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other comments.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that the issue of advertising whether it would be legal to try to restrict it has been talked about before because of the fact that it would be similar to alcohol restrictions on advertising. She asks if there is any information on the advertising issue.

MR. JESSEE replies that there are six bills, and surely there are bills that do address advertising. He states that it is unclear whether those restrictions will survive court challenge. He continues that their approach has been to advocate for the maximum amount of advertising restrictions, particularly those that might be enticing to youth. He adds that, in general, the normalizing of marijuana consumption is not wanted. He continues that eventually the courts will have to sort out the ability of the Legislature to manage advertising.

MS. PINEDA states that the way our partners are advertising it is to be aligned with Public Health, which is advocating for the most restrictive at this time.

A discussion ensues.

MR. JESSEE asks if the limiting of THC concentrates been looked at.

MS. PINEDA replies not at this time.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks to add, in addition to labeling, some limitations on dosage.

MR. JESSEE replies yes.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that it would be important to protect the public seeking a medicinal use to make sure they are getting the right thing. He goes more deeply into his experience on the subject.

MR. JESSEE states that there are some suggestions for some edits, and asks if the committee would like to adopt this now or have it edited and brought back.

A discussion ensues.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN suggests using the document with the revisions from today.

MR. JESSEE states that it does not have to be formally adopted. He continues that it will be amended, give the Board a few days to come back with any problems, and then send it out.

The discussion continues.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the next item on the agenda would be a discussion on organization. He asks if Laraine Derr is on-line. He states, for the record, that she is not present. He continues that, due to new appointments, the Board is losing the chair, the vice-chair, and the Finance Committee chair. In the interim, Laraine Derr has resigned as vice chair, and Finance Committee chair; and Mike Barton, Chair, has appointed me as vice chair, and Trustee Webb as Finance Committee chair. He asks if the Board would like some form of election sooner than September, and how to go about that.

MR. JESSEE replies that there are a couple of options. There have been some suggestions to amend the by-laws and hold elections immediately. He explains that the amending can be done by a unanimous vote of the board. He continues, if not, then at the May meeting, which is a regularly scheduled meeting and would fall within the by-laws' requirements, officers can be elected. He adds, that it is up to the Board. From a staff perspective, he is less worried about a decision about officers as just getting the process in place.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN states that it would be proper to have a nominating chair and make proper nominations, and then put the election at some meeting in the future.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that the newly appointed members need to be confirmed and oriented and able to participate before doing nominations and new officers.

A discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL suggests talking about succession planning and what term limits are and to think about some kind of process to make sure that there is a chairman in the future and not get in this same position. She states that if people knew they were only serving for a couple years as chair, more people would be willing to participate and dedicate that kind of time.

TRUSTEE WEBB agrees with Trustee Michael. He suggests having that discussion now, or scheduling a retreat and having a longer discussion at that time.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN states that, for organizational purposes, to carry on and revisit this at the May meeting.

MR. JESSEE segues to retreats and asks how and when they are wanted, and if one is wanted before the May meeting.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN urges that the retreat be held after the appointments are officially made.

MR. JESSEE states that the Legislature adjourns April 19th, and the confirmations should certainly happen then. He suggests somewhere between April 20 and May 12.

A discussion ensues.

MR. JESSEE states that everyone agrees to April 15, around 10:00ish.

MR. WILLIAMS moves on to the May board meeting scheduled for the 12th, 13th, and 15th in Kenai. He states that there was one formal board meeting, and then site visits can be scheduled. He continues that there is a list of potential places, and passes that list around.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if there is something unique about the Central Peninsula Hospital.

MS. BURKE replies that the Central Peninsula Hospital is working on their substance use program and they are looking at housing for people completing treatment. She states that it has an interesting component, which is why it was included on the list. She adds that site visits around our focus areas are important so that some of the issues and policies addressed in the focus areas can be highlighted.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if any of the site visits address youth issues or youth services.

MS. BURKE replies that she believes the Alaska Christian College is working with youth from rural areas, and the tribal court will also have some focusing on youth.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other meeting coordination.

MS. WILLIAMS reminds all that the September board meeting is August 26th and 27th; on August 4th are the RMC and Finance Committee meetings; August 5th and 6th is Planning Committee.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN recognizes Mr. Reinhart.

MR. REINHART states that there is also a project search site for young folks with developmental disabilities and employment at Central Peninsula Hospital. He continues that there is a large stakeholder meeting in Anchorage on the 11th and 12th around employment, and a film thing on the 11th.

TRUSTEE EASLEY notes that she is assigned to meet with that group, and she will attend the meeting as Trustee.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other business.

TRUSTEE WEBB takes the opportunity to thank Mike Barton and Laraine for all of their hard work and contributions, and states that all the Trustees appreciated the opportunity to both get to know and work with them.

ACTING CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Trustee Webb and adjourns the meeting.

(Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.)