

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD MEETING

May 13, 2015  
10:10 a.m.

Taken at:

Dena'ina Wellness Center  
508 Upland Street  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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Trustees present:

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

Trust staff present:

Jeff Jessee  
Steve Williams  
Nancy Burke  
Miri Smith-Coolidge  
Nancy Burke  
Kevin Buckland  
Carrie Predeger (via speakerphone)  
Carley Lawrence  
Valette Keller (via speakerphone)  
Amanda Lofgren (via speakerphone)  
Katie Baldwin-Johnson (via speakerphone)  
Natasha Pineda (via speakerphone)  
Luke Lind  
Kat Roch (via speakerphone)

TLO staff present:

John Morrison  
Sarah Morrison  
Craig Driver

Others participating:

Kathy Craft; Tawny Buck (via speakerphone); Rich Sanders; Patrick Reinhart (via speakerphone); Melissa Stone; Denise Daniello (via speakerphone); Amy Snell; Lizette Stiehr (via speakerphone); Elizabeth Edmunds-Merritt (via speakerphone); Roger Branson; Martha Ramoth; Eliza Eller; Connor Eller.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR McCLELLAN calls the Board of Trustees meeting for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to order. He states that all of the Trustees are present. He moves to approval of the agenda.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

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

MR. JESSEE asks if the Resource Management Committee should be moved.

CHAIR McCLELLAN agrees.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to amend the agenda to delay the Resource Management Committee report until after the break.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN moves to the minutes of January 28-29, 2015.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve the minutes of January 28-29, 2015.

TRUSTEE WEBB seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN moves to the minutes of March 11, 2015.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any ethics disclosures.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that she has an employment contract with Anchorage Parks Foundation and believes that, at some point, they received money from the Trust. She also announces that her son, Connor Michael, was offered and has accepted an internship with the

Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office for the summer. She states that she is pleased to have her son be a part of what the Trust works on here.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states his congratulations, and asks for any other comments or disclosures. Hearing none, he moves on to a review of the Guiding Principles and a review of the Mission Statement, which are included in the Trustees' packets. He continues that the current bylaws are also included in the packet. He asks for any comments on Guiding Principles, Mission Statement, or bylaws. Hearing none, he moves to the Nominations Committee and officer elections. He states that the bylaws call for officer elections to be held at the September meeting, which this year is the last week of August. He appoints Trustee Laraine Derr as Nominations Chair for those elections.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion and asks for unanimous consent for elections to be held for chair and vice chair, as required by Article 4, Section 5 of the bylaws.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks which article in the bylaws.

TRUSTEE NORENE states that it says in case of a vacancy an election can be held at the next regular meeting. He adds that it is appropriate in the circumstances to be done at this time. He continues that he is calling for elections at this meeting.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion to nominate and ask for unanimous consent to elect Russ Webb as chairman.

TRUSTEE SMITH seconds.

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

TRUSTEE SMITH makes a motion and asks for unanimous consent to elect Mary Jane Michael as vice chairman.

TRUSTEE WEBB seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN passes the gavel to Chair Webb.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks Trustee McClellan to continue presiding at this meeting.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that next on the agenda is staff reports.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

MR. JESSEE states that the Legislature is still trying to pass a budget. He continues that there will not be any final word on that until the budget is actually passed. He asks for any particular questions.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL comments that she had an opportunity to visit programs which was very helpful in understanding and seeing what some of the challenges of providing services are and the costs associated with that. She states that she was astounded at the difference it would make for programs to actually receive Medicaid funding for those people that are currently not eligible. She continues that, as an organization, the Trust is in the depths of trying to help with Medicaid expansion and feels that the Trust should be out in front of it. She adds that this organization should do whatever it takes to help move Medicaid expansion and make it more appetizing for people. There are these kinds of opportunities to change the way services in the big picture are provided to people.

MR. JESSEE states that the Trust provided funding for the administrative startup costs, which was very important to the Administration. It not only assisted in them demonstrating that there would not be any additional general fund costs in the first year, this allowed the Trust to negotiate a substantial reduction in the grant reductions for both Senior and Disability Service grants and Behavioral Health grants. He continues that funding was put forward for the behavioral health Medicaid expansion and reform technical assistance contract, which has now been awarded. From a funding standpoint, the Trust did do everything they could. He states that if expansion is approved, there will be opportunities for continued investment around implementation, probably around workforce development, generating the staff that will be required to provide a lot of these services. He goes through a few more examples of some of the activities.

CHAIR McCLELLAN recognizes Trustee Easley.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if a co-pay would make the Medicaid expansion more acceptable to some people in the Legislature.

MR. JESSEE replies that has been discussed, but is not currently in any of the bills that he is aware of. He explains that the pushback from the Legislature comes in various forms. He states that if it was in a bill, it might help and would not be objected to by the Trust if it is done on a sliding scale. He adds that one of the Guiding Principles is that Beneficiaries should pay based on their ability, and current services have a sliding-scale-fee requirement.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if there was a letter from the CMS saying that the Trust could withdraw from the system.

MR. JESSEE replies yes, which is a concern. He states that all the bills now have a provision that should the federal government change the deal in terms of how much federal match, the State would automatically be out of the expansion.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that the Trust should take the lead on this and be out there in front. She continues that she does not know where everyone sits on this, but states that it is a high priority for her.

MR. JESSEE states that he believes the direction from the Board is that this is a top priority. He continues that staff time and resources have been allocated, making it a top priority. He adds that the only thing that should be, but has not been done, is funding of the media.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that it would be useful to be out there with an opinion piece and asks Mr. Jessee to write such a piece with all of the information about the impacts on the Beneficiaries, the folks in the Correctional system, and to debunk some of the reasons for not doing Medicaid.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL agrees.

MR. JESSEE states that he will come back with something. He continues with two other things. Vicki is retiring, and her last day is June 5, 2015. He adds that she will be missed. He states that the other thing is a Freedom of Information Act request, a public information request, not a federal one. It is for all of the e-mails around marijuana. The gathering is almost completed and will be turned over.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks who made the request.

MR. JESSEE replies that it is the pro-initiative group.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other questions or comments for the CEO. Hearing none, he calls a 15-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR McCLELLAN calls the meeting back to order, and states that the next item on the agenda is the Resource Management Committee report.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE NORENE states that there a couple of items on the agenda and, under consultations, begins with the placer lease.

MR. MORRISON explains that this is a placer lease to Doug Baker, doing business as Lakeview Excavating, in the Flume Creek area of the Fairbanks Mining District. He states that this is a historically mined area and all the land around it is planned B mining district, which is the intended use. He continues that the terms of the lease are a \$5,000 annual rental which can be offset in the year paid with royalties that are 10 percent of gross gold recovered.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the negotiated lease of Trust minerals at Flume Creek for mining of placer gold, as proposed.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE moves to the two motions for budget items approval.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees approve an increase to appropriation 15960-2016 from the facility maintenance account fund 3404 in the amount of \$149,700.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Trust Authority Board of Trustees concur with the negotiated lease of Trust mineral estate on Flume Creek for mining of placer gold, as proposed.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees concur with the recommendation to approve the incremental building expenditures totaling \$4,774,400 budgeted for fiscal year '16 to be paid by the property manager from rents and other income collected from the property.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees instruct the CFO to transfer up to \$114,200 to the third-party property manager, as requested by the TLO, for management of the facility.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees authorize the Trust Land Office to form and fund a single-purpose entity owned in full by the Trust for the purpose of acquiring, owning and operating Texas building acquisition project No. 2015-109.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees approve funding a newly formed LLC with principal from the Trust Authority Development Account fund code 34045 to acquire Texas building acquisition project No. 2015-109 up to \$7,075,000. The funds will include purchase price net of loan assumed and entity formation expenses, legal review, closing, and due diligence costs as necessary to complete the transaction, as presented.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends the Alaska Mental Health Board of Trustees authorize the TLO to complete the financing of Texas building acquisition project No. 2015-109.

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees approve an increase to appropriation 15960-2016 from the facility maintenance account, AKSAS fund 34048, in the amount of \$1,218,750. (Read into the record by John Morrison.)

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Resource Management Committee recommends the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees delegate to the executive director of the TLO the authority to modify the transaction up to the \$7,073,000 necessary as requested in Motion 2 or cancel transaction No. 2015-109, as necessary. (Read into the record by John Morrison.)

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

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Board authorize the Resource Management chairman and the Executive Committee to appoint John Morrison as the acting Trust Land Office director.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB states that the purpose of this is to fill a gap that was created by the absence of the TLO executive director, who is on leave until July 1. He asks if she submitted her resignation as of that date.

TRUSTEE NORENE replies yes.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion that the Board of Trustees authorize himself and the Executive Committee to make a final appointment for the Trust Land Office director.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

TRUSTEE DERR states that that would have to come before the Full Trust on the final approval of the TLO officer CEO.

A short discussion ensues.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks that the process for a full appointment be explained.

TRUSTEE NORENE replies that the appointment is made by the DNR Commissioner, and the Trust recommends to the DNR Commissioner.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that the motion should state that.

MR. JESSEE states that for that group, the Resource Management Committee chairman and the Executive Committee, to make that recommendation, it would have to be a publicly noticed

meeting. He adds that there is no reason why the Full Board cannot meet telephonically, if necessary.

The discussion continues.

TRUSTEE NORENE withdraws the motion, and concludes the Resource Management report.

CHAIR McCLELLAN moves on to the Executive Committee's report.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that there was a meeting on March 26, 2015, and the report is in the packet. He asks for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks Mr. Jessee about the legal status of guidelines versus policies. He states that he is trying to figure out where guidelines fit in how the Trust operates. He adds that the way he understands it is that a guideline is a suggestion, and a policy is a requirement.

MR. JESSEE replies that the intention is that the guide is a policy and will be followed until the Trustees change it. He states that whether it is called a guideline or a policy, it is the guidance that the staff has in operating.

A discussion continues.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion that the Trustees approve the Executive Committee recommendation to incorporate the updates and revisions made to the current Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's Personnel Guide 2010.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

A discussion ensues.

CHAIR McCLELLAN calls the vote.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that, in addition to the written report, there were some items discussed at the Trustee retreat on April 12. He continues that there is a follow-up work session that will be scheduled in the next few weeks to review the retreat recommendations with staff. He adds that this will be scheduled toward the end of the meeting. He moves on to the Finance Committee.

MR. BUCKLAND goes through the Cash Management sheet that has been updated through April. He states that the results for the Permanent Fund were not available for April. He goes through the sheet, explaining as he goes along.

A discussion on comparing the TLO's income from last year ensues.

MR. BUCKLAND continues, explaining, highlighting, and answering questions as he goes through the numbers. He briefly goes over the FY15 payout calculation and the snapshot of what would be seen if the books were closed right now. He adds the hope for improvement there. He states that the current status of the budget is that essentially the Legislature passed a budget. He continues that the funding of that budget went to the Legislature and did not pass the majority vote necessary to fund the budget out of the CVR. He adds that the current status is that the budget has not been funded, and the Governor has not vetoed the bill. He explains the budget that was approved. He adds that there are two proposed motions to be considered.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks that, technically, since the budget has not been passed and signed by the Governor, if finalization of the FY16 budget would be premature.

A discussion ensues.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks Trustee Webb to continue with the Finance Committee report.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE WEBB states that this will be his first and last Finance Committee report, and asks for a motion.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Board of Trustees ratify the Legislature's MHTAAR and Mental Health Trust admin budget amounts as appropriated in the FY16 Mental Health Budget Bill, CCH Bill 73, and, therefore, reduces previous FY16 Trustee Authority authorizations by \$60,900.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

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

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Board of Trustees reverse \$10,000 in FY15 Mental Health Trust Admin previously authorized during the June 25, 2014, Full Board meeting for the Trust Authority to use to advocate against Ballot Measure No. 2.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

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

MR. BUCKLAND thanks all.

TRUSTEE WEBB continues with the Finance Committee report, stating that there were multiple items taken up. He begins that the first item is a Trust Land Office item, the FY16 real estate budget. He asks Mr. Morrison to continue.

MR. MORRISON states that this motion has already been approved by the Full Board earlier.

TRUSTEE WEBB moves to the second item, designated grant to Youth Engagement and Enrichment Outreach Program Preventing Homelessness to Covenant House.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion that the Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board approve a \$75,000 FY16 designated grant to Covenant House Alaska for the Youth Engagement and Enrichment Program Street Outreach Program Preventing Adult Homelessness Project.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB states that the next item is a focus area allocation implementation for the 2015 recidivism reduction plan.

MR. JESSEE explains that last year intent language that directed a number of State agencies to work together to develop a recidivism reduction plan was established and well received by the Legislature. He states that additional intent language has been put in the FY16 budget directing all of those State agencies and notably placing a greater emphasis on the State partnering and collaborating with tribal organizations to develop an implementation plan to go with the recidivism plan that would lay out specifics about strategies, time lines, costs, and all those things that need to be put into the budget. He continues that this funding would allow contracting with Carmen Guitierrez to coordinate that group and develop the implementation plan. He adds that this whole effort has a lot of momentum at this point.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that the next three items are all essentially related, and asks Mr. Jessee to talk about them.

MR. JESSEE states that item No. 4 is the Re-entry Coalition Capacity Development. He explains that there are regional re-entry coalitions around the State that need to be taking the recidivism plan and the implementation plan and implement them in their region. He adds that there is no infrastructure to operate with. He continues that this would allow each of those regional entities to hire a coordinator to do the day-to-day work. He states that in order to implement any kind of plan, there is the need to have a capacity to collect data, analyze and determine whether the results are what was expected. In addition, he states that the Pew efforts require the State to have some data-gathering and analysis capacity. He adds that it is a testimonial to the fact that the Legislature is serious about getting this done, because these general funds stayed in the budget both on the House and the Senate side.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion that the Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees approve a \$100,000 expenditure authorization increase to the FY15 Disability Justice focus area, AR 16874-18, to fund a contract to facilitate the implementation of the 2015 Recidivism Reduction Plan and other efforts identified by the Trust aimed at reducing criminal recidivism of Trust Beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that Senator Kelly put Jeff Jessee in charge of the recidivism plan for the State, which is a real compliment for the work that he did.

A short discussion ensues.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion that the Finance Committee recommends that the Full Board of Trustees approve a \$500,000 FY16 expenditure to support local Re-entry Coalition Capacity Development in targeted communities.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion that the Finance Committee recommends the Full Board of Trustees approve a \$125,000 FY16 MHTAAR allocation to the University of Alaska Anchorage for the Alaska Justice Information Center.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion that the Finance Committee recommends the Full Board of Trustees approve a \$146,000 FY15 Beneficiary Employment Focus Area funding allocation to the Statewide Independent Living Council for the Alaska DB 101 Web Site and Online Benefits Calculator Project.

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

TRUSTEE WEBB states that there were two other issues that were dealt with in the Finance Committee. One was the committee acted to approve FY16 Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Focus Area allocation in the amount of \$1,380,100 for the purpose of FY16 BPI grant funding; and the last item was the recommendation from the CFO to adopt a Real Estate Management Audit Policy. He continues that Trustees and staff met and may have a plan going forward to resolve that issue. He concludes the Finance Committee report.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any further questions.

TRUSTEE DERR states, for the record, that the Executive Committee did approve the proposed revisions to the existing regulations dated May, 2012, and directed staff to initiate work with the Department of Law to amend those regulations dated May 12 to incorporate the proposed revisions. She continues, that will take care of the AMPS changes that were recommended and reviewed in January.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks her for the clarification. He calls for the lunch break.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR McCLELLAN calls the board meeting of the Alaska Mental Health Trust back into session.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve the action of the Executive Committee to approve the proposed updates and revisions to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's current Personnel Guide.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that one was already done.

TRUSTEE DERR states that it is the one on regulations.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the Executive Committee approves the proposed revisions to amend the Mental Health Trust's existing regulations dated May, 2012. Furthermore, the Executive Committee directs Trust staff to initiate work with the Department of Law to amend existing regulations dated May, 2012, to incorporate the proposed revisions.

A discussion clarifying the issues ensues.

TRUSTEE DERR rescinds her motion.

CHAIR McCLELLAN moves to the Planning Committee report.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that the Planning Committee met on April 26, 2015, and present were John McClellan, Larry Norene, Mary Jane Michael, and Russ Webb. She continues that there was a presentation by Heidi Wailand from Agnew::Beck regarding the Behavioral Health Systems Assessment, which is nearing completion. It will provide a lot of information regarding behavioral health capacity across the State. She adds that there was also an update on Medicaid expansion and reform. There was then an update on the long-term support and services on conflict-free case management. She states that there is a book in the packet, so everyone can read about it. She continues that staff gave an update on the Disability Justice and Substance Abuse Treatment Prevention and the re-entry coalition, the re-entry initiative. The funding for the local re-entry coalition was highlighted, as well as the importance of community assessment to identify the needs and areas of focus for them. She states that the Alaska Scorecard for 2014 has been finished, and all legislators have been given copies. She continues that there were no actions required, and concludes her report.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any questions or comments. There being none, he moves on to the Small Projects Approvals.

### **SMALL PROJECTS APPROVALS**

MS. BURKE states that the PEC, Proposal Evaluation Committee, met in March and considered the applications and recommendations for projects to be funded, which are on page 133 in the packet. She continues that there are 11 that are being forwarded to Trustees with recommendation to fund for amounts ranging between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve the recommended FY15 small projects from the March application period in the amount of \$106,900.

TRUSTEE WEBB seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Ms. Burke, and moves to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

MR. SANDERS states that he is Rich Sanders, the planner for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. He continues that Patrick Reinhart, executive director, is also on-line. He states that the presentation is going to focus a lot on the legislative priorities and things that the Council follows, and will end with some of the projects. He begins with House Bill 161, stating that the Council convened a work group with Medicaid, Access Alaska, Senior and Disability Services, and some other agencies to talk about the reuse of durable medical equipment under Medicaid. He explains that this is moving forward and being included in regulations. He moves to HB 76, a Council statute that removes the word "gifted" from the enabling statute. There were concerns about why this was being done. He explains that the Council's responsibility for the term "gifted education program" ended years ago with the IDEA Act, and became the responsibility of local school boards and the State Board of Education. It is not part of the duties as the Special Education Advisory Board. He adds that the focus of the Council is on intellectual and developmental disabilities, which is a different thing. He moves on to HB77, a disability training and I.D. bill. He states that it was brought by the Fairbanks Wall Busters Group from the Breaking-Down-Walls Movement, and is expected to move forward in the next session. He explains the bill more fully. He continues on to the capital budget requests, stating that they did not get anywhere with the Denali Deaf Community Center, which puts the whole project at risk. He continues that the Council will be looking for other funding from foundations and other places that may help cover this. He continues, moving to HB 154, Senate Bill 49, which is the civil legal services fund. This is strictly a potential funding mechanism for Alaska Legal Services which provides civil legal services to low-income Alaskans. He adds that a majority of the clients are Trust Beneficiaries, including persons dealing with addictions, domestic violence issues and others. He states that HB 99 is the voluntary termination of life, and the Council is opposed to that. He moves on to Senate Bill 104, House Bill 188. He states that one of the things going on for years is the inability for people on benefits to save enough to get up on STEP. The new ABLE Act, passed by Congress, allows people to set up ABLE accounts, tax-advantaged savings accounts. He continues his slide presentation, going through some of the other bills affecting the Council, and then goes through the budget cuts and how they affect the Council. He talks about the concerns of the Council and then talks about Employment and the Employment First implementation. He thanks the Trust for the generous funding which provided the ability to increase the number of certified benefits planners. These are the people that Beneficiaries must see when they return to work to understand how it will impact their benefits and where they can expect the benefits to end and new benefits begin. He states that he is working with Anchorage Community Mental Health on their application to become a Ticket to Work employment network. He explains that when jobs are found for people and they go off benefits, they will be reimbursed monthly by Social Security based on what program they are in. He moves on and states that the Council is partnering with the Department of Labor on the new grant for the Disability Employment Initiative which will focus on career pathways for youth with disabilities. It will be connected with business and industry. He moves on, stating that the Council is partnering with the Department of Labor on the new grant for the Disability Employment Initiative which will focus on career pathways for youth with disabilities and will be connected with business and industry. He goes through a few more groups and moves on to Project Search. He explains, that involves four hospitals in Alaska and is a great model. He shares a video that KTVA did on it.

(Video being played.)

He further states that the Council is very proud of this program and are now focusing on business and industry to get it into some other industries in Alaska. Last, he talks about the Council partnering in the CDC Health and Disability Grant and are working to develop a commercial in their Play Every Day Program under the Division of Health and Social Services, which is also a collaboration with United Way and other partners. He concludes the presentation and asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks about the definition of intellectual disability for Project Search.

MR. SANDERS replies that in talking about an intellectual disability, oftentimes people talk about those in the IQ range of 70 or below or have a condition such as Down Syndrome.

A discussion ensues.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the videos in the presentation were very effective. He thanks both and moves on the next presentation.

### **ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING**

MS. DANIELLO states that she is the executive director for the Commission on Aging. She explains that she is not specifically present because she is honoring the Department's freeze on travel to do her part to help with the funding services during these tight budget times. She provides an overview of the last legislative session, focusing on bills, budget items impacting seniors and other seniors at risk. She then takes a closer look at the impact of Medicaid expansion and reform for senior Trust Beneficiaries and other older Alaskans. She then switches to the national level to take a look at federal advocacy items for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia that Congress is taking a look at. She then briefly discusses the new draft Alaska State Plan for senior services, FY 2016 through 2019, which has been a focal point for the Commission's work since the last meeting. She goes through her presentation, explaining as she goes along.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks why the WAMI program was opposed to.

MS. DANIELLO replies that she can only deduce that it is a budget issue. She agrees that Alaska needs to build up its health-care workforce, and WAMI is a big way to do it. She continues with her presentation, looking at the impact of Medicaid expansion and reform for seniors and senior Trust Beneficiaries. She states that Senior and Disability Services and the Trust have assembled and featured an agency home- and community-based services steering community. She continues that it their purpose to work together to draft an RFP, request for proposal, to engage a consultant. She adds that it is called Medicaid Reform Work in Alaska with the 1015(k), and thanks the Trust and Trustees for their investment in that effort. She states that she attended the Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum this past March in Washington, D.C. She continues that she served as Alaska's Ambassador for the National Alzheimer's Association. She asks for any questions.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks when the Alaska State Plan will be ready for Trust review.

MS. DANIELLO replies that it is having an internal review and could be viewed right now. She adds that it will be out for public comment soon. She continues that the new plan will have to be in place by July 1.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other questions or comments. There being none, he thanks Ms. Daniello.

TRUSTEE EASLEY acknowledges the presence of Melissa Stone, the former state division director for Behavioral Health, who is now the director of Behavioral Health for the Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska.

MS. STONE thanks Trustee Easley.

TRUSTEE EASLEY congratulates her on the new job.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Trustee Easley for the introduction, and calls a break.

(Break.)

CHAIR McCLELLAN calls the meeting back to order. He states that next on the agenda is the statutory advisory update by Valerie Davidson, Commissioner of Health and Social Services. He continues that he has just been informed that Commissioner Davidson and staff have been called into an unscheduled meeting with OMB, Office of Management and Budget, and will be unable to make the presentation today. He moves on to Public Comment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

MS. SNELL states that she is Amy Snell, the director of Behavioral Health at Peninsula Community Health Services. She continues that they were very lucky to have Melissa on an interim basis. She gives a short report on some of the things that they have been doing, and thanks the Trust for all the support. She states that they are facing a difficult financial situation with changes to funding, and Medicaid expansion would help decrease the amount of services provided to folks who do not have a payment source. She welcomes any conversations or visits from anyone who would like to come and visit and see what the group does.

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any questions or comments.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks several questions: What prompted the combination of the community mental health center with the federally qualified health center; what were the challenges faced; what the benefits are; are there downsides; and what is the relationship of the program with the hospital and its programs.

MS. SNELL replies that there were financial difficulties on the part of all the agencies, the health clinic and the behavioral health provider. The board that was formed wanted to make a priority to provide integrated care. She continues that a grant has been required and has been a challenge. She states that being a one-stop shop is a great benefit to the clients working well together.

A short question-and-answer session ensues.

MR. JESSEE points out the Trust gave them a grant for attorney help and other merger planning and implementation, which is something that has been talked about with Foraker.

MS. SNELL thanks all.

CHAIR McCLELLAN moves back to the agenda, and recognizes Nancy Burke with a presentation on Medicaid expansion.

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION**

MS. BURKE states that she appreciated the conversation from the service providers. She continues that she asked them to address the question of Medicaid expansion and how that would impact them in terms of people they would see and impacts on sustainability for their program. She adds that she has copies of the presentation provided by the hospital for anyone interested. She goes through some of the highlights of the presentation. She asks to finish her presentation that contained Medicaid expansion talking points. She states that the hope is that the Trustees will have these talking points and feel up to speed on why the organization is moving in the direction that it is. She states that the thought is that people around substance abuse services, homeless adults and incarcerated persons will be among the populations of the Trust Beneficiary areas that will be eligible. She reminds the Trustees that one of the significant things about Medicaid expansion is that it covers everyone, regardless of disability conditions, up to 138 percent of federal poverty limit. She states that many people who have an underlying disability that prevents them from working full time or competitively are not able to meet the threshold for eligibility determination under the Social Security programs, and SSI is the main insurance program that people with a disability can qualify for; it comes with Medicaid and health care coverage. She continues that to qualify for SSI, a person has to be able to participate in a year-long process of application and screening and be in a stable place to maintain this process. She adds that it is very hard for people who are on the edge of making it to stay in the process. If a person does not respond to one of the requests for appeals during this SSI application period, the application gets thrown out. That means the process has to be started again. She states that the significance about expansion is that it covers a person based on income and really closes that gap that many Trust Beneficiaries fall into. She continues her presentation, explaining as she goes along. She states that if anyone has any questions about these reform activities, Amanda Lofgren, Natasha, Katie, or she would be happy to review them with you.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Ms. Burke, and asks if there is a draft motion for the Board to consider.

MS. BURKE states that the request will be for Trustees to consider approval of a change of intent to move \$100,000 Beneficiary Employment Focus area funds from the FY15 BPI grant funding line to a new FY15 Beneficiary Employment focus line, Medicaid expansion advocacy. She continues that it has a lot of synergy with the Beneficiary Projects area, given that the activities that are being focused on, employment and community engagement, are primarily the benefits that will come from expansion.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL makes a motion to approve a change of intent to move \$100,000 from Beneficiary Employment focus area funds from FY15 BPI grant funding to a new FY15 Beneficiary Employment focus area line, Medicaid expansion advocacy.

TRUSTEE WEBB seconds.

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

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the next item on the revised agenda is to schedule the retreat workshop.

MR. JESSEE states that there are five potential days and goes through them. He continues that the first one is Wednesday, May 27. He asks if anyone is a no.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that everyone agrees to Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. He asks staff to put up a confirmation of all of this to all the Trustees. He states that next on the agenda is the need for an executive session on a confidential personnel matter.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to go into executive session to consider a personnel matter.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

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

(Executive session from 3:36 p.m. until 3:49 p.m.)

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that the Mental Health Trust Board is now out of executive session and back on the record. He asks for any other business to come before the Board.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that in his new role as chair of the Board, he needs to appoint someone to replace him as Finance Committee Chair. He appoints John McClellan as Finance Committee Chair.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Mr. Chairman for the confidence, and states that he will be pleased to do that.

MR. WILLIAMS states that the site visits tomorrow start at 9:00 a.m., and goes over the schedule.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR McCLELLAN asks for any other business before starting public comment. He recognizes Lizette Stiehr.

MS. STIEHR states that she is Lizette Stiehr and is primarily here to say thank you. She thanks the Trustees and Trust for all their work on behalf of all of the Beneficiary groups. She states that she is the executive director for AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental

Disabilities, and is acting as a voice for agencies that provide services for Beneficiaries with developmental disabilities. She continues that she gets to work closely with Amanda Lofgren and under Jeff Jessee's outstanding leadership we are aware of some of the significant issues facing Beneficiaries who experience developmental disabilities. She states that the Center for Medicaid Services waiver amendment submission is due in July of 2016 to include how conflict-free case management is functioning for all individuals receiving services in Alaska. She believes that the Trust funding on this project was both essential and instrumental in getting the State SDS, Division of Senior and Disability Services, PCA, Alzheimer's Services, and HCF to work openly toward a new conflict-free design. She states that many provider agencies are working very hard in their local communities because the report gave a way to move forward gathering nontraditional partners seeking a nonconflicted agency to hire care coordinators who want to work within an agency and not become independent. She continues that AADD sponsored training for care coordinators interested in becoming care coordinators, and 68 people attended that this morning. She adds that all this happened because of the Trust funding, and we thank you all very much.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks her for her comments.

TRUSTEE WEBB thanks her for all her comments and for all the praise for Trustees. He states that the Trust can serve as a catalyst, but the people who do the real hard work are the people who get things done.

MS. STIEHR appreciates the opportunity to talk, and thanks all once again.

CHAIR McCLELLAN recognizes Kathy Craft.

MS. CRAFT states that she is the director of the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition and also the lead for the Trust Workforce focus area. She continues that at the last Planning Committee she filled all in on the health workforce profile survey that went out and will keep the Trustees abreast of that as the data comes in. She also talked about the SHARP, the loan repayment and incentive programs and the Alaska core competency. She shares some of the work that is being done with the Department of Labor, the Workforce Investment Board, and also the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Ms. Craft, and asks for anyone else.

MS. EDMUNDS-MERRITT states that she is the CEO of Challenge Alaska. She continues that about 17 years ago the Trust funded an inclusive recreation project through a grant to Challenge Alaska which was highly successful in serving Beneficiaries, giving them access to sports and recreation opportunities in Alaska equal to the access of their nondisabled family and friends. She states that project was transitioned and for approximately 15 years has been a CDEC grantee serving thousands of Beneficiaries throughout Alaska. She continues that Challenge Alaska and their partner in Juneau are currently placed to lose \$225,000 in funding that would serve over 80 clients next year. She adds that she wants the Trust to be aware of this pending loss of services to Beneficiaries, and states that any support and assistance that can be provided will greatly benefit Beneficiaries currently receiving the least services while waiting for full waiver services.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Ms. Edmunds-Merritt, and recognizes Roger Branson.

MR. BRANSON states that he is wearing the hat of an unofficial probationary member of Ionia. He thanks the Trust for the positive impact they have on the community, which it has been for a long time. He talks about how Mr. Jessee came into his life, and as a result of the catalyst, changed what he believed in. He thanks the Trustees, the Mental Health Trust, and Mr. Jessee for all the hard work.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Mr. Branson, and recognizes Martha Ramoth.

MS. RAMOTH states that she is Martha Ramoth, is generally from Smethwick, Alaska, and is a recovering alcoholic. She continues that she has been a client with Kenaitze Recover, and was introduced to Ionia in January. Since then she quit alcohol, gluten, sugar, and, in April, was one of the lucky few that attended a retreat, Healing Our Future. She has lost weight, introduced a healthier food menu to her family, which has helped in her recovery. She thanks the Trust, Ionia, and Kenaitze.

TRUSTEE WEBB thanks Martha for her courage, and congratulates her on her sobriety and improvement in health. He asked what was the most important thing to her in achieving sobriety and maintaining it.

MS. RAMOTH replies that the cooking demos and the hands-on has made a big difference.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Martha, and recognizes Eliza Eller.

MS. ELLER states that Ionia is one of the biggest peer-run organizations in Kenai and gives a short report on some of its activities. She continues that a lot of people are very interested in how food can affect their behavior and their own wellness as they move forward in their recovery.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks if, in their rural outreach, they find that the traditional Native foods satisfy the diet requirements, or do they need to change.

MS. ELLER replies that the aim is traditional Native foods, plus whole grains, beans, and farmed vegetables, minus the junk food.

A short question-and-answer ensues.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Ms. Eller, and recognizes Connor Eller.

MR. ELLER states that he is Eliza Eller's son and shares his experience of this outreach that Ionia has been doing, especially with Healing Our Future, and from the perspective of a youth growing up here. He continues that, from his perspective, it has been an amazing experience.

TRUSTEE WEBB thanks Connor for his courage to come up here and speak at his age.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks how old he is.

MR. ELLER replies 20.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks what his favorite thing about living his lifestyle is, or what are the challenges.

MR. ELLER replies that we are so blessed to be here and have this amount of nature and to live in a way that lets us connect to that. He adds that it is amazing.

CHAIR McCLELLAN thanks Connor, and asks for anyone else for Public Comment. There being none, he ends the public comment period. He asks for any other business to be brought before the Board.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that it might be appropriate for the Trust to formally recognize the Kenaitze for their welcoming and their sharing.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that it would be appropriate to send a formal thank you letter, adding that they have been quite welcoming and very informative in the tour and reception yesterday.

CHAIR McCLELLAN states that will be taken care of and thanks Trustee Smith for the suggestions. There being no other business, he asks for a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

(Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Full Board adjourned at 4:32 p.m.)