

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:

Mary Jane Michael, Chair
Laraine Derr (via Speakerphone)
Russ Webb
Carlton Smith (via Speakerphone)

Trust staff present:

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

Others participating:

Scott Ciambor; Kate Burkhart (via Speakerphone); Mariya Lovischuk; Chris Cooke.

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the meeting to order and asks for any announcements. There being none, she asks for an approval for the agenda.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE SMITH seconds.

CHAIR MICHAEL has everyone introduce themselves. She states that the first item on the agenda is the Medicaid Behavioral Health System's redesign update, and discussion of Trust consultant activity. She recognizes Katie Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON begins with a recap of the visit with Charles Curie and Stephanie Colston during the week of December 14. She states that the purpose of the visit was multi-faceted; lending expertise to the Alaska reform group that has facilitated a series of presentations that looked at how other states were handling healthcare reform. She continues that the feedback with that produced some very productive discussions and "aha" moments with behavioral health. She adds that this reinforced the importance of really focusing on behavioral health for the Department of Health and Social Services and understanding the services in the system better. She states that one of the intentions of the visit was to work with DHSS and DBH in looking at the organizational capacity to be able to handle and manage some of the changes that need to happen within State Government and their function and role in managing behavioral health services. She continues that, ultimately, it was a very productive week with a lot of opportunity to pull everyone together and reinforce the fact that everyone is in this together. She states that there were some independent meetings with Mat-Su Health Foundation with the purpose of understanding what was gained and learned through their community health needs assessment and some of the regional planning. She continues that there were very specific ideas on how to regionally better manage not only behavioral health services, but also healthcare services. She adds that no decisions have been made about that. She explains this in further detail. She states that DHSS is very interested in moving forward with some of the recommendations and looking at some of the redesign of behavioral health. She would like some more discussion and then, depending on Trust guidance and direction, talk about an opportunity to bring something forward in January.

MR. JESSEE states that the Commission is saying that behavioral health is the key to successful redesign in the healthcare system. He continues that this is a great opportunity to leverage this fiscal crisis into potentially a transformative system change.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that he suggested the need to start working on an expanded scope of work and try to sort through the cost and figure out how to bring forward the best information to present to the Legislature and for the Trust to try to make good decisions.

MS. LOFGREN states that in talking about the road map for the implementation, January 15 will be the release of the Medicaid expansion redesign report. She continues that there is a behavioral health initiative dedicated as one of the three. She adds that the primary care initiative also includes significant behavioral health components. How this is all structured for success will be very important.

A discussion on implementation ensues.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON suggests preparing a memo and bringing it forward to the trustees in January to approve funds for a contract which then would begin the procurement process which is putting out a competitive RFP.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other comments or questions.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks that, assuming a contract is crafted, depending on how the procurement process worked, that the relationship with this vendor is likely to be extended for quite some time.

MR. JESSEE replies, yes, the plan would be to look at a three-year contract.

TRUSTEE SMITH states the importance of making sure that the context is carefully drafted so that the Legislature is on board from the beginning.

MR. JESSEE agrees, stating that is realistic.

TRUSTEE DERR asks if this is looking at creating another voice before the Legislature.

CHAIR MICHAEL replies no, that Jeff is that voice. She states that the idea here is to validate the work that has been done by having someone who has been through it and knows where the changes need to occur.

TRUSTEE DERR asks what the strategy would be if the Legislature is not positive. She adds that there will be nothing but cuts.

MR. JESSEE replies that a lot of the structure and policies and a lot of that infrastructure development does not require legislative approval. He states that Plan A is that they are full partners and are driving ahead with the Administration and the Trust; and then Plan B is that they are not so supportive and will hammer away at the budget. Then we all will have to make do with what is received.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that part of the Trust goal is to align reality with what is hoped to be accomplished and also have the expertise available to adapt the strategy to whatever the actual reality is.

The discussion continues.

TRUSTEE DERR asks where the money is coming from.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replies that there is money in the focus area for consideration, and there are also some other options. She adds, that would be the substance abuse prevention and treatment focus area.

The discussion continues.

TRUSTEE DERR suggests making the Trust's position clear about what it is doing.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that will be put on the agenda for another Planning meeting for a primary discussion.

MR. JESSEE states that another thing staff can do is bring a way to frame this focus area that shows how this effort fits into that context. He adds that it is not just a collection of isolated strategies.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that next on the agenda is the housing focus area, the Juneau Housing First project funding request. She recognizes Ms. Lofgren.

MS. LOFGREN states that this is an opportunity to bring a capital project to the Planning Committee. She continues that requested at the last Finance and Board meetings was an opportunity to have more dialogue and conversation around capital projects. This project has been worked on for a while, and some technical assistance in the development phases was provided to work with other Housing First projects in the Lower 48 to specifically design the Juneau project. She states that one of the most impressive things about this project is all the community support and collaboration that has been going on. This has been a main priority for the City and Borough of Juneau, as well as many of the other partners. She continues that the amount of support is also reflected in the budget. She states that it will be 32 units in Juneau with 24-hour staffing and a lot of different programming. This is a great opportunity for the Juneau community.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks if there will be a request for the January board meeting.

MS. LOFGREN replies that it will come forward at the Finance Committee meeting on the 26th.

TRUSTEE DERR states the necessity for the numbers to add up.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that almost \$10 million for 32 beds is a lot of money and asks what drove the cost up.

MS. LOVISCHUK explains that the total cost of the project is around \$7 million, which is very comparable to the other construction costs in the state. She states that the reason why the project capital funding sources add up to that much is because the City and Borough of Juneau is going to pass an ordinance financing the project in the amount of \$1.8 million. She continues, that is being done so that a contract with the contractor can be signed in the month of January in order to save the maximum contracted price that the contractor can have. She adds that the price would go up to the commodity prices anticipated for 2016.

MS. LOFGREN states that one of the things that is unique about this project is the contract is locked in for the FY15 rates.

TRUSTEE DERR states the need for the actual cost of the building and not the funding sources for the board and the Finance Committee meeting.

A short discussion ensues.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other questions or comments.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that locking the 3 percent in order to secure this contract right now is the right thing to do.

MR. CIAMBOR states that the City and Borough of Juneau are really proud of this project and would like to have an opportunity to bring all of the partners to engage with the Trust. He asks when that could be possible.

CHAIR MICHAEL replies that her recommendation would be at the Juneau board meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS states that the Finance Committee is meeting on Tuesday, the 25th, and that is where this memo will first be discussed. He suggests having a couple of the key representatives present.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other items to come before the committee. There being none, she asks for a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

There being no objection, the meeting is adjourned.

(Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.)