

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 19, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Trustees Present:

Paula Easley, Chair

Mary Jane Michael

Russ Webb

Trust staff present:

Steve Williams

Bill Herman

Katie Baldwin-Johnson

Michael Baldwin

Nancy Burke

Natasha Pineda

Valette Keller

Others Participating:

Denise Daniello (via telephone); Teresa Holt; Sherrie Hinshaw; Debbie Bock; Scott Ciambor (via telephone); Thea Agnew Bembem (via telephone); Meg Loomis (via telephone); Ward Jones (via telephone); Thomas Dock (via telephone).

**PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR EASLEY asks for introductions at the table and then online. She asks Mr. Herman for an announcement regarding the behavioral health study.

MR. HERMAN states that a contractor has been selected and is in the ten-day protest period, which should end next week. He continues that Agnew::Beck has been chosen, and the subcontractor is Hornby Zeller Associates. He adds that Hornby Zeller Associates is doing the DOC needs assessment. He continues that, barring any kinds of protests, a contract should be signed around the end of next week. He states that the first thing to do, within the first two months, is to develop a data analysis plan and, basically, that is taking the RFP and further clarifying it. He adds that it is an 18-month contract to assess the capacity, amount of service delivered, compare that to prevalence, and build a very detailed baseline of what kind of services are being delivered. He continues that there is a strong tribal component with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to look at their database and connect with behavioral health aides and

behavioral health programs in the tribal system. He states that it will be a rich starting point for continuing baselines in the future.

MS. DANIELLO asks if, in the scope of the study, they will be looking at the services that people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia receive.

MR. HERMAN replies that it is a behavioral health assessment which will be looking at the co-occurring diagnoses. He continues that seniors with mental health issues will be in there, and there will be age stratification information.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for any other questions. There being none, she asks for any changes or additions to the agenda. She states that a few people online were asked to do their presentations at about 2:45. She moves on to the minutes of January 3, 2014.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to accept the minutes of January 3, 2014.

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

CHAIR EASLEY asks Mr. Baldwin for a report on the MHTAAR breakdown of funding.

MR. BALDWIN states that in FY13 there were approximately 54 MHTAAR-funded projects that went to the State. He continues that in the past five years the number of MHTAAR has been slowly declining. He reports that the projects are categorized as capital-related projects, direct-service related projects, planning and research or workforce development-type projects. He adds that, when the categories are broken down, workforce development is not the typical workforce focus area project because it includes any projects that have a workforce component. He continues going through the aspects of the performance summary, explaining as he goes along. He states that two projects did not go as hoped: One was the project related to Bring the Kids Home that was to provide some support to the Complex Behavior Collaborative, and the money was not spent; the other was a Disability Justice Therapeutic Court project in Barrow that did not do as well as it had done in the past. He adds that Steve Williams can give more details about the Disability Justice Therapeutic Court project.

MR. WILLIAMS explains that the project was stopped because of an ongoing challenge with keeping the project moving in a consistent, sustained way, largely related to staff turnover both in terms of the project coordinator and in judicial leadership. He adds that the funds were restricted.

CHAIR EASLEY asks if those funds are available to be reappropriated.

MR. WILLIAMS replies that the balance of the funds from FY13 go back into the pool and do not come back to the Disability Justice Focus Area.

CHAIR EASLEY asks a question on outreach and education and where the Trust Training Cooperative funding would be evidenced.

MR. BALDWIN replies that most of the Trust Training Cooperative would come under the “professionals trained” cell in the report.

CHAIR EASLEY states that there has been a big jump in the number of professionals trained through TTC courses, and it does not seem to be shown.

MR. BALDWIN explains that the TTC has a lot of duplicated counts, and the numbers reported were unduplicated counts.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for some background on where research funding goes.

MR. BALDWIN explains that the planning and research projects were about a quarter of the MHTAAR funding available, 14 projects, and he goes through them.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that a great job was done in giving the definition on the Beneficiaries and asks if definitions on how all were categorized for a basic understanding of the process could be done for the future.

MR. BALDWIN agrees, and continues his report, moving into the area of improvement.

A short discussion ensues on the collection of data and meeting with the Division to track progress.

CHAIR EASLEY moves on to the focus area reports, and recognizes Nancy Burke.

MR. HERMAN talks about the plan for just a verbal report; not written.

MS. BURKE states that they will be focusing on some of the things happening on the new focus areas, and not the existing focus areas.

A short discussion ensues on the subject.

MS. BURKE states that the Housing Focus Area has the main body of work and has some exciting new developments in terms of the Department aligning around changing some of the structures to support people with severe mental illness in the community through ACT, Assertive Community Treatment, teamwork. She continues that the Complex Behavioral Collaborative is the project for people with multiple diagnoses who have more needs in the community and need more resources. She adds that these responsive mental health teams have a full host of psychiatry and nursing helping to look at things from different perspectives. She states that the holdup for really moving the projects forward is the way that the State’s Medicaid program is configured in a very limited fee-for-service model. She continues that a work group was convened to work on this, giving a way to keep projects within the Department rolling through some of the changes that are happening. She adds that changing how Medicaid responds in the community with services could open the doors for a number of different areas and projects. She continues that work will have an impact on the new area, which are the long-term services and supports. She states that one of the first populations targeted is people with Alzheimer’s disease,

and Ms. Daniello and the Commission on Aging are leading this effort with advocacy. She adds that they are convening a group of people to look at a specific State plan for Alzheimer's services. She continues that when that work is completed, steps can start to be taken to better the services for folks with Alzheimer's disease. She adds that will be this year's project. She states that one of the barriers for people with Alzheimer's disease in qualifying for services is that there is no physical component to the disease until the late stage. She continues that the entire service delivery system is set up with qualifications that correspond to physical disability. She states that a work group is being put together that includes the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, the director, Duane Mayes, Jon Sherwood, and people from the Department who can change those rules through a series of approvals that need to happen.

MS. DANIELLO mentions appreciation at the Commission for all of the assistance and support from the Trust in developing this ADRD State plan. She states that this issue of servicing people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, as well as people with other cognitive impairments has been an issue for the senior community for at least ten years. She explains the situation and adds that the National Association of States United on Aging and Disabilities has been asked what kind of coverage other states provide for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias when that is their primary condition.

MS. BURKE states that the Employment Focus Area has a meeting on February 28, 2014, that will be from 9:00 to 11:30 at the Trust. She continues that it is a kickoff work group with stakeholders that will be meeting with a national consultant who examines states' statutes on employment. She adds that an assessment of the State will be done. She states that all are welcome to attend.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for any questions. There being none, she recognizes Katie Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that this report is about Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and asks Natasha Pineda to start with data.

MS. PINEDA states that the first meeting with the data stakeholders was held on February 13, 2014, and Trustee Webb was in attendance. She continues that the partners and boards worked on identifying which key stakeholders, data planners, and prioritization processors need to be at the table. She adds that there was a comprehensive conversation about alcohol-and-substance-abuse related data. She continues that it was a productive meeting, and a good start. She states that the next step will be participating in a Healthy Alaska 2020 strategy work group looking at the treatment and prevention aspects of the two alcohol-related indicators. She continues that the hope is to inform the planning process for the focus areas. She states that the next steps would be to look at perception data and pulling it together.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that it was helpful to hear what folks felt the gaps in data were. She moves on to the adverse childhood experiences, stating that they continue to work with the resiliency partnership which includes the Trust, the Children's Trust, Rasmuson, First Alaskan, ANTHC, Mat-Su Health Foundation, and the University to further the conversation on how to increase the dialogue, collaboration, the communication, and identify the priorities for

resources. She gives a short report on the activities of the meeting. She moves on to Recover Alaska, stating that one of the strategies is the positive social norms strategy, and asks Ms. Pineda to go into more detail.

MS. PINEDA states that the Alaska Wellness Coalition is a coalition of substance abuse prevention coalitions from around the state. She continues that the goal of the project is to conduct a coordinated campaign to reduce underage drinking that accounts for messages and efforts at the local, state and federal levels. She adds that a statewide campaign is going to be created that can be localized so that the message and data can be manipulated to represent what is actually happening in that community. She states that all the funders and the coalition came to agreement on what the outcomes will be and how to work together on moving forward to success on all levels.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that Title IV is moving along and the subcommittees continue to meet. She continues that the plan is to wrap up the recommendations that can be brought forward and have the various subcommittees present to the larger stakeholder group on March 25, 2014. She moves on to CHAR, Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retail, stating that a legislative priority document has been prepared that characterized the ABC subcommittee title for review effort in a relatively negative light. She continues that the process has been highly collaborative and the majority of the folks participating are industry representatives. She states that the framework and evaluation work group, FEWG, which is part of Recover Alaska, Trust, United Way, are talking about pulling the different strategies together and connecting to a longer-term change.

MS. PINEDA states that there was a follow-up to the Senate Finance presentations, and the request for the Trust to talk about marijuana policy. She continues that there is a running list of national policy experts from states that have gone legal. She adds that she will keep all updated on that.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for a copy of that list. She asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks to be made aware of the next meeting of the Framework Accountability Work Group.

CHAIR EASLEY moves on to the Rural Technical Assistance Quarterly Report, and recognizes Thea Agnew.

MS. AGNEW-BEMBEN states that Meg Loomis will be giving the report.

MS. LOOMIS reviews the rural technical assistance contract report in the packet and goes over the activities reported in that document a majority of which are focused on the Kodiak region. She states that one of the things measured is the funding, and the goal is to help entities bring in nonTrust funding which she elaborates on. She moves to the rural outreach trip, stating that there were eight legislators, nine aides, five state officials, and adds that there is a list of the attendees following this report in the packet. She states that the next step is convening a meeting next month, with Agnew::Beck facilitating, and identifying the priorities for moving forward and

then the means to get there. She adds that the hope is that this will guide any future projects in the region with possible Trust involvement.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for any questions. There being none, she moves on to the Togiak Gun Safe Project.

MS. LOOMIS states that in 2012 the Trust awarded \$15,000 to the Togiak Traditional Council to purchase 120 gun safes. She continues that over the course of this past summer, all of those safes were installed, and then every single household was surveyed on how the safes were being used. She adds that there was a 100 percent response rate, and almost 96 percent are using them. She continues, in addition to guns and ammunition, they are also locking up medication, alcohol, and other things that might be used as a means for suicide. She states that Ward Jones and Thomas Dock, who work for Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, have called in to talk about their perspectives working in the community with the gun safes.

CHAIR EASLEY recognizes Thomas Dock.

MR. DOCK states that he is in Kodiak and feels safe now that the guns are safely stored and locked up. He continues that it resolves one of the issues of knowing where the young men will be or where they are going because now they ask for the guns when they go out hunting.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE WEBB asks if there is any information about firearm-related suicide attempts or deaths, firearm-related violence or crime, and unintentional injuries since the safes have been installed.

MR. DOCK replies that the gun safes have made a lot of difference to the community, and adds that he has not heard about any suicides being resolved or any violence in regards to weapon-involved issues.

MR. JONES states that there has been one firearm suicide in Togiak in FY12, and it was a person older than the school children. He adds that there has not been a suicide in Togiak since then.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that he would like to have the data tracked.

MR. JONES replies that the intention is to keep this surveillance system going and have data results available.

CHAIR EASLEY states that this project is a success and asks if it is something that the Trust would want to replicate throughout the state. She continues, asking if proposing to having gun safes in every village of Alaska is appropriate.

TRUSTEE WEBB replies that before moving forward with that, really good data is necessary. And the other thing is the question of simply how to do that. He adds that safes are generally

very heavy and hard to get in and out of the community.

MR. JONES states that the gun safes put in Togiak are generally gun cupboards, and most of the ones in the villages are the school-locker type. He continues that they are metal and not the heavy fire-resistant, armored ones that are used in some homes. He explains how the safes were purchased and transported using creativity and a number of partners.

CHAIR EASLEY thanks Mr. Jones and Mr. Dock on the excellent work on this project.

A short discussion ensues on tracking the data and benefits of this project.

CHAIR EASLEY moves to the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan discussion and recognizes Bill Herman.

MR. DOCK thanks the Trust for making a difference in his community.

MR. HERMAN begins with how the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan relates to the Trust statutory responsibilities and to the bylaws of the Planning Committee. He then moves on to the flow chart and goes over it, connecting it to the results-based accountability work. He states that the Planning Committee identifies and forecasts the status and the needs of the Beneficiaries. He continues that the Alaska Scorecard is the hub of that effort. He adds that there are some key indicators that describe the life domains of the Beneficiaries and that it is further informed by other data coming in from different planning sources. He continues going through the Scorecard and how it is working and being used.

CHAIR EASLEY asks how that would be connected with the amount of money that the Trust is putting into a project. She states that the goal is to help Trustees determine what is and is not working and what more should be done, so money needs to be in there.

MR. HERMAN replies that what could be done, probably in the action plan, the strategies, would be to put in the dollar amounts. He states that it could be worked consistently across all the focus areas to get that information out.

A short discussion ensues on the Scorecard and the software.

MR. HERMAN states that the data is simple and straightforward and can be put in manually and then extrapolated from an Excel spreadsheet. He continues that he would like all to think about the overall cycle of tracking information, and adds that there is a lot that still needs to be finalized.

The discussion continues.

CHAIR EASLEY states that the next meeting is April 23, 2014, and asks how this will move until then.

MR. HERMAN replies that the Alaska Scorecard data work group is meeting on an every-two-week basis to finalize this Scorecard this year. He states that the desire is to start expanding out and picking some areas to focus on. He continues picking them off one at a time, building them out, getting them connected to best practices and other things that relate to those individual indicators. He adds that people could feel like they can look through the Scorecard and start getting a sense of the status of the Beneficiaries.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL states that she will not be available for April 23.

CHAIR EASLEY states that it may need to be rescheduled. She thanks Mr. Herman and acknowledges Sherrie Hinshaw from the Division of Behavioral Health, stating that she is integral to the project.

MR. HERMAN acknowledges Kathy Craft, Brita Bishop, Mary McEwen, and the research analysts on the planning staff for each of the statutory boards.

CHAIR EASLEY recognizes Michael Baldwin.

MR. BALDWIN states that the firearms study has been tracked down, and there are three copies to send home.

CHAIR EASLEY asks for a motion to adjourn.

TRUSTEE WEBB states that he would like to pursue having some in-depth work session to sit down and do some serious thinking.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL agrees. She states that one of her take-aways from the Juneau meeting was that the community mental health centers are in trouble, and there cannot be a system without them. She continues that she would like to have a conversation about that, and would also like to look at some more of Tom Chard's research.

A short discussion on scheduling ensues.

TRUSTEE WEBB makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*There being no objection, the meeting is adjourned.*

(Planning Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.)