

Contact:
Carley Lawrence
Chief Communications Officer
Carley.lawrence@alaska.gov
907.334-2531

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY HIRES NEW CEO

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (October 4, 2017) —The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees announced today the hiring of Mike Abbott as Chief Executive Officer. Abbott is currently the Municipality of Anchorage Municipal Manager. Abbott is a long-time Alaskan and has a distinguished career in public service. He will begin at the Trust on November 1.

“This is an exciting time at the Trust and we are so fortunate to have Mike on board. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be able to hit the ground running and really lead this organization to a new level,” said Mary Jane Michael, chair of the board of trustees.

Abbott will oversee both the Trust Land Office and the Mental Health Trust Authority office in his role as CEO. “I am humbled and excited about this opportunity to lead this unique organization. I’m looking forward to working with the board and staff to understand the opportunities and challenges that it currently faces and develop solutions that will benefit Trust beneficiaries,” said Abbott.

Additionally, Andy Stemp was recently hired as Chief Financial Officer. Previously Stemp was the Director of Administration and Finance for the North Slope Borough.

In fiscal year 2018, the Trust anticipates granting nearly \$18 million to state agencies, nonprofits and providers across Alaska. The Trust currently prioritizes funding requests in the following areas: Medicaid reform, criminal justice reform, housing and long-term services, substance abuse prevention & treatment, and beneficiary employment & engagement.

-###-

About the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

The Trust operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to fund system change, demonstration projects, funding partnerships, technical assistance and Trust-initiated projects. The Trust is overseen by a seven-member board of trustees. Trustees are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is a state corporation that administers a perpetual trust created to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive mental health program to serve people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance related disorders, Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injury. The Trust Land Office is charged with generating revenue and managing the Trust’s nearly one million acres of land. The TLO carries out its stewardship role by managing and protecting the inherent value of the Trust’s real property portfolio for today’s development opportunities and into perpetuity.