

Contact:
Carley Lawrence
Chief Communications Officer
Carley.lawrence@alaska.gov
907.334.2531

MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY AWARDS NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (October 27, 2017) — At a meeting on October 27, 2017, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to various organizations across the state. Organizations and grant amounts include:

- AK Child and Family: \$199,300

This grant is awarded for the Day Treatment Partnership for Children on the Autism Spectrum. AK Child & Family, in collaboration with the Anchorage School District, is developing a day program for children on the autism spectrum experiencing difficulties in school and home. It will incorporate classroom and home-based services using best practices and promising practice techniques with the goal of mainstreaming into the classroom within two semesters. The program will use a trauma-informed treatment approach without seclusion or restraint, along with in classroom support; individual, group, and multi-family interventions; recreation; and occupational, speech and physical therapies. In-home interventions and family psychoeducation will be an integral part of each child's treatment plan.

- Anchorage Library Foundation: \$75,000

This grant is awarded for the Social Worker in the Library Pilot Program. Twenty seven percent of Loussac Library patrons are Trust beneficiaries who experience alcohol/substance abuse, mental and behavioral health challenges, homelessness, and/or poverty. A full-time social worker at the library will help beneficiaries access resources they qualify for in an environment they already feel comfortable in. The Anchorage Social Worker in the Library program is based off of several successful models from other public libraries. The timing of this program is especially critical because our current economic recession has brought more people in need to the library at the same time that government budgets are shrinking. The Social Worker in the Library program will cheaply and effectively fill a gap to help the library's vulnerable patrons when they need it the most. It is also an opportunity to test new ways to deliver services to vulnerable residents and incorporate the Library into Anchorage's social services network.

- Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association: \$200,000

This grant is awarded for the Awakuxtxin (working together): Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program pilot phase project. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) and Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. (EAT), two tribally operated health corporations, have been collaborating over the past 24 months to create an innovative Regional Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program to be established in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority provided funding for a feasibility study, and a follow up project to support the planning and pre-implementation phase for this innovative and cost-effective treatment model that partners with seafood processing plants and other employers and key community partners. The pilot phase will help determine the effectiveness, impact, and long-term sustainability of the program model. Forty (40) Trust beneficiaries will receive intensive outpatient treatment services during the 18-months.

- Set Free Alaska: \$140,000

This grant is awarded to Set Free Alaska to remodel a facility that will enable Set Free to expand their outpatient program and house their administrative offices. Set Free Alaska primarily serves adults, teens, and children with substance abuse and mental health problems. The agency provides adult and teen outpatient services as well as residential treatment for high risk women. The new facility will allow Set Free to double capacity of outpatient services as well as to decrease the waitlist for treatment.

Other grants awarded include:

- Alaska Statewide Independent Living Council for the Innovation to Independence through Enabling Technology project for \$200,000
- Catholic Social Services for improved sleeping conditions at Brother Francis for \$50,000
- Alaska Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health for the training hub project for \$43,135
- Christian Health Associates for the Anchorage Project Access for \$25,000
- FOCUS, Inc. for the behavioral support preschool project for \$25,000
- University of Alaska Fairbanks for the online Medicaid billing class for \$23,300

On average, the Trust grants approximately \$18 million to various nonprofits, state agencies and projects that promote long-term system change and/or innovative projects that improve the lives and circumstances of Trust beneficiaries. Grants are awarded throughout the year.

About the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is a state corporation that administers the Mental Health Trust, a perpetual trust created to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive mental health program to serve people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injury that results in permanent brain injury. 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 fully self-funded and is overseen by a seven-member board of trustees.