


**To:** Members, House Finance Committee  
**From:** Steve Williams, CEO   
**Date:** 2/9/2024  
**Re:** Follow up to January 31, 2024 Presentation

**MEMO**

On behalf of the Trust, thank you for the opportunity to present before the House Finance Committee and to provide an update on Trust's finances and work on behalf of beneficiaries.

Below you will find responses to questions posed by the committee for which we pledged to provide follow up information.

**1) Provide detail on the amount of Trust-recommended GF/MH was included in the FY24 budget. (Rep. Josephson)**

FY24 Trustee GF/MH Recommendation Total	FY24 GOV's Proposed Budget GF/MH Total	FY24 GOV's Amended Budget GF/MH Total	FY24 LEG Approved Budget GF/MH Total	FY24 ENACTED BUDGET GF/MH
\$9,933,000  (\$2,433,000 Operating, 7,500,000 Capital)	\$4,279,100  (\$529,000 Operating, \$3,750,000 Capital)	\$6,499,100  (\$1,749,100 Operating, \$4,750,000 Capital)	\$7,099,100  (\$2,349,100 Operating, \$4,750,000 Capital)	2 vetoes:  -\$167,000, Crisis Now Continuum of Care Grants- Public Health Emergency Programs  -\$333,000, Crisis Now Continuum of Care Grants-BH Treatment and Recovery

**2) Provide a history of the Trust's corpus payout percentage used over time. (Rep. Stapp)**

Currently at 4.25%, the Trust's payout began at 3.0%. The table below reflects changes to the payout over time.

Payout %	Fiscal Year Enacted
3.0	1996
3.5	1999
3.75	2006
4.0	2007
4.25 (current)	2008

**3) Provide internal metrics used to ensure timely grant payments. (Rep. Tomaszewski)**

The Trust internally tracks the percentage of grant agreements that are in place within 30 days of grant approval/start. We have been consistently near 100% by that metric.

With regards to grant payments, we do not track the timing of grant payments, but strive to have them made within 30 days of when they are requested. The Trust has not historically experienced any issues with delayed grant payments.

**4) Provide more information on each FTE in the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO), with capacity/workload info for each. (Rep. Hannan)**

There are 6 (permanent) FTE within the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) program. Additionally, the OLTCO has one temporary Assistant Ombudsman position funded with federal funds through June 2024. The Trust's recommended GF/MH increment (\$133.5) for the OLTCO would provide continued funding for this temporary position. Without the current temporary position, the OLTCO anticipates 120 fewer visits to Long-Term Care facilities and a reduction of 40 fewer cases to address, investigate, and resolve complaints from seniors in long term care settings. Currently, there are more than 600 Assisted Living Homes, and more than 20 Skilled Nursing Facilities in Alaska. Since 2019, the Office has seen an increase in the number of large (68-120 bed) Assisted Living Homes and the development of two new Skilled Nursing Facilities.

Here is more detail about this temporary position:

***Assistant LTC Ombudsman (Full Time – TEMPORARY POSITION through June 2024) – In addition to handling complaint investigations, attending resident council meetings, providing community education and information and consultation, this position makes unannounced visits to facilities in the following areas (including quarterly visits to targeted homes):***

- *Wasilla Area – 17 facilities totaling 185 beds*
- *Chugach/Eagle River Areas – 7 facilities – 45 beds*
- *Anchorage – 99501, 99502 and 99515 zip code areas – 49 facilities totaling 250 beds*

All seven current OLTCO staff work full-time and are working at capacity. Here is additional detail for the other six positions:

- 1) State LTC Ombudsman position – oversees the OLTCO program and is responsible for program administration, including the development of program policies and procedures, supervising employees, and representing the Alaska LTCO at national, state, and local community events.***
- 2) Deputy LTC Ombudsman position – oversees the volunteer program. This position is responsible for recruiting new volunteers, providing initial and ongoing training of volunteers, and supervising 20***

*plus volunteers. This position also makes unannounced visits to facilities in the Palmer area (6 facilities totaling 182 beds) and 2 facilities in the Anchorage area totaling 146 beds.*

- 3) The LTC Ombudsman Specialist** – *Serves as the first point of contact for the LTCO Office. This position handles calls, provides information and referral to the public, monitors complaints received through the website, and handles all administrative functions of the Office. This position handles all travel requests. This position provides administrative support to the LTCO volunteer program.*
- 4) Assistant LTC Ombudsman** – *In addition to handling complaint investigations, attending resident council meetings, providing community education and information and consultation, this position makes unannounced visits to facilities in the following areas:*
  - *Kenai Peninsula area (Kenai, Soldotna, Ninilchik and Sterling) – 11 facilities that totaling 263 beds.*
  - *Homer – 4 facilities totaling 78 beds*
  - *Cordova – 1 facility totaling 10 beds*
  - *Kodiak – 4 facilities totaling 46 beds*
  - *Anchorage – 99507 zip code area – 47 facilities totaling 278 beds*
  - *Anchorage – 99503 zip code area – 7 facilities totaling 92 beds*
- 5) Assistant LTC Ombudsman** – *In addition to handling complaint investigations, attending resident council meetings, providing community education and information and consultation, this position makes unannounced visits to facilities in the following areas:*
  - *Fairbanks, North pole, Galena, Tanana – 116 facilities totaling 375 beds*
  - *Utqiavik, Nome, Kotzebue, Unalakleet – 4 facilities totaling 58 beds*
  - *Bethel – 3 facilities totaling 33 beds*
  - *Valdez – 1 facility totaling 10 beds*
  - *Anchorage – 99508 and 99516 zip code areas – 55 facilities totaling 394 beds*
- 6) Assistant LTC Ombudsman**– *In addition to handling complaint investigations, attending resident council meetings, providing community education and information and consultation, this position makes unannounced visits to facilities in the following areas:*
  - *Juneau and Haines – 4 facilities totaling 212 beds*
  - *Ketchikan – 3 facilities totaling 96 beds*
  - *Petersburg and Sitka – 4 facilities totaling 125 beds*
  - *Wrangell – 1 facility – totaling 14 beds*
  - *Anchorage – 99504 zip code area – 54 facilities totaling 513 beds*
  - *Anchorage – 99517 and 99518 zip code areas – 9 facilities totaling 42 beds.*

For more information about OLTCO, see: [akoltco.org](http://akoltco.org).

**5) Provide detail on recent Trust investments in the *Crisis Now* initiative. (Rep. Edgmon)**

The table below details the last three years of Trust investments in our work to transform behavioral health crisis response.

<b>FY22</b>			
<b>Fund Recipient</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>FY22 Award</b>	<b>Area Served</b>
Agnew::Beck	Contractual Support/TA/Business modeling	\$200,000	Statewide
RI International	Agency support for providing Crisis Now Services in Alaska	\$100,000	Statewide
Alaska Hospital Association	Evaluation and analysis of youth in crisis being served in emergency rooms	\$95,000	Statewide
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living	Careline Crisis Call Center-capacity building/988	\$197,400	Statewide
City of Fairbanks	Crisis Now Coordinator	\$130,400	Fairbanks/Interior
Mat-Su Health Foundation	Crisis Now Coordinator	\$100,000	Mat-Su
Bartlett Regional Hospital	Operational support for the new 23-hour crisis stabilization center	\$100,000	Juneau/SE Alaska
Southcentral Foundation	Planning grant for Crisis Stabilization Center operations	\$400,000	Anchorage region
Providence Health and Services	Planning grant for Crisis Stabilization Center operations	\$400,000	Anchorage region
Set Free Alaska	Capital funding for voluntary crisis residential beds	\$250,000	Mat-Su
Ketchikan Wellness Coalition	Crisis Now Coordinator- build organizational capacity in the region	\$100,000	Ketchikan
Interior Alaska Center/True North Recovery	Mobile Crisis Team - peer and clinician model of response	\$800,000	Fairbanks
<b>FY22 Total</b>		<b>\$2,472,800</b>	

<b>FY23</b>			
<b>Fund Recipient</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Area Served</b>
Agnew::Beck	Contractual Support/TA/Business modeling	\$200,000	Statewide
RI International	Agency support for providing Crisis Now Services in Alaska	\$100,000	Statewide
Careline Crisis Call Center	Capacity building- 988	\$92,500	Statewide
Careline Crisis Call Center	Capacity building- 988	\$82,134	Statewide
City of Fairbanks	Crisis Now Coordinator	\$100,000	Fairbanks/Interior
Copper River Native Association	Mobile Integrated Health Response Team	\$391,089	Valdez-Cordova Census Area
Alaska Behavioral Health	Mobile Crisis Team Response- peer/clinician model	\$801,039	Fairbanks region
DOH/DBH	Zero Suicide Program Coordinator	\$62,500	Statewide

DOH/DPH	Access and Referral Network for Beds and Outpatient appts.	\$285,000	Statewide
Maniilaq Association	Crisis Now planning grant	\$200,000	NW Alaska
Providence Health and Services Alaska	Planning and operational development for a Crisis Stabilization Center	\$1,554,269	Anchorage
True North Recovery	Organizational support for peers' staff role with the Mobile Crisis Team	\$95,700	Fairbanks
True North Recovery	Mobile Crisis Team operational start-up in the Wasilla	\$499,591	Mat-Su
<b>FY23 Total</b>		<b>\$4,463,822</b>	

<b>FY24 (To-Date)</b>			
<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Area Served</b>
Agnew::Beck	Contractual Support/TA/Business modeling	\$250,000	Statewide
RI International	Agency support for providing Crisis Now Services in Alaska	\$100,000	Statewide
True North Recovery	Mobile Crisis Team operational start-up in the Wasilla	\$750,000	Mat-Su
AKBH	Mobile Crisis Team operations in Fairbanks	\$750,000	Fairbanks region
Bartlett Regional Hospital-Aurora Crisis Center	Operational support for the new 23-hour crisis stabilization center	\$475,000	Juneau/SE Alaska
Ketchikan Wellness Coalition	Crisis Now Coordinator- builds organizational capacity in the region	\$125,000	Ketchikan
City of Fairbanks	Crisis Now Coordinator	\$135,400	Fairbanks/Interior
Mat-Su Health Foundation	Crisis Now Coordinator	\$100,000	Mat-Su
<b>FY24 Total</b>		<b>\$2,685,400</b>	

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information to the committee. Please reach out to our offices if you have additional questions.