

Karen Perdue



Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in an appointment to either the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority or the Board of Regents.

With regard to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, I have a long and deep interest in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable Alaskans. In my 20 plus years in State government, I worked for many years to help settle the case and then as Commissioner of Health I worked to help implement the Trust in its first years. Over the years I have been involved in many many activities with the Trust to improve services for the beneficiaries. This included reconfiguring the emergency psychiatric services in the state, implementing an FASD prevention and diagnosis system, developing the first community based waivers for persons with developmental disabilities.

Probably most important, many of my family members have struggled with addiction or disability. I helped launch a multi-year project to research the residents of Morningside Hospital, the original Oregon facility that housed our Trust beneficiaries. That group of about 3,000 Alaskans included my uncle.

With regard to the Board of Regents, I have a long association with the Board of Regents. I served as the Associate Vice President of the University of Alaska Statewide system for a decade. I learned a tremendous amount about the role the University plays in our state and how the system fits together. I think this kind of knowledge is vitally important in a time when the University is facing restructuring due to funding issues.

As you know I was raised in Fairbanks and I am reside here today. I feel regional representation is very important in choosing Board members.

Thank you for your consideration. Enclosed is my resume.

Karen Perdue

**General Information**

Board/Commission and seat you are seeking:

Mental Health Trust Authority, Trustee

Additional Boards/Commissions of interest:

None

State Boards/Commissions on which you have served:

Numerous as Commissioner of Health and Social Services

First Name

Karen

Middle Name

Ruth

Last Name

Perdue

Military Service

**Conflict of Interest**

Full disclosure of personal financial data under AS 39.50.010 is required for certain boards and commissions. Are you willing to provide this information if required for the board or commission which you are applying?

Yes

Service in a public office is a public trust. The Ethics Act (AS 39.52.110) prohibits substantial and material conflicts of interest. Is it possible that you or any member of your family will benefit financially by decisions to be made by the board or commission for which you are applying? If you answer 'yes' to this question you MUST explain the potential financial benefit.

No

Please explain the potential financial benefit

**Employment History**

Employment work history including paid, unpaid, or voluntary.

Most recent previous employment was CEO of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA)

Currently serve on Admissions Committee for the University of Washington School of Medicine Alaska WWAMI

National Rural Health and Human Services Advisory Committee

Providence Health and Services Regional Board ( past)

American Public Television Board (past)

See resume for more

**Education, Training, Experience & Qualifications**

List both formal and informal education and training experiences:

Bachelors Degree Stanford University 1978

Numerous Trainings

List any professional licenses, certifications, or registrations and dates obtained that may be used as qualifying criteria:

I served in State government under four governors and participated in numerous activities related to settling the Alaska Mental Health Trust litigation through legislation. For instance, I represented the administration on a task force which included advocates such as John Malone, Lydia Selkregg and George Rogers to come up with the eventual framework for the Trust. As Commissioner of Health and Social Services I assisted the setting up of the Trust Board and operating procedures and participated in their meetings during the formation stage. I have had extensive contact with the other Boards as well, including the Governor's Council on Disabilities, the Mental Health Board and the Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. In my community of Fairbanks I have participated in many policy meetings regarding addressing our behavioral health needs. I had a large role in the development of a multidisciplinary project to address the chronic inebriate problem called the Golden Heart Project. As a member of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Foundation Board I deal regularly with building capacity for behavioral health and senior services in our community. During my decade long tenure at the University of Alaska as a systemwide vice president I partnered with the Trust to develop behavioral health workforce capacity.

List any community service, municipal government, and state positions held, and any awards received.  
Commissioner of Health and Social Services 1994-2001

Deputy Commissioner of Health and Social Services 84-1991

Associate Vice President University of Alaska 2001-2010

Awards: Victor Howerly Award for Lifetime Achievement in Mental Health, National Rural Mental Health Association 2012, Alaska Mental Health Trust Mover Award, Distinguished Service Award Alaska Public Health Association, Alaska Historical Society award for researching the history of mental health services in Alaska and the enactment of the federal law establishing the mental health lands trust.

### Conviction Record

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years or a felony within the past ten years?

No

Conviction Circumstances

### Certification of Accuracy & Completeness

By submitting this online application, I swear the information I have entered on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I deliberately conceal or enter false information on the form my application may be rejected, I may be removed from the list of eligible candidates, or I may be removed from the position. I agree that the Office of the Governor may contact present or former employees or other persons who know me to obtain an additional information about my skills and abilities. I understand that the information on this application is public information and may be released through a legal request for such information.

Type "I certify"

"I certify"

Resume Addendum:

### Press Release Wording

Karen Perdue, 61 years old, from Fairbanks Alaska-- four decades of service in health and human services policy. Served as Commissioner of Health and Social Services and Vice President of the University of Alaska. Recently retired as director of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. Was involved in the passage of the settlement of the mental health lands litigation through legislative resolution and in setting up the Trust Board.

Submitted: 8/21/2015 4:04:58 AM

**KAREN R. PERDUE**



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***PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

***Current***

**Owner Chena Consulting:** Provide strategic information and guidance to clients interested in health and human services policy. Currently working with Tobacco Free Kids National and the American Cancer Society on tobacco control and e cigarette use.

**Owner Chena Collectibles:** Collect, appraise and sell historical material mostly related to Alaska history or ethnographic groups.

**Co Chair Program Committee Arctic Council Host Committee for Alaska:** Appointed by the Governor of Alaska to assist the State in hosting the US two year chairmanship of the Arctic Council-an eight arctic nation forum.

**Trustee Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Foundation:** Active member of community hospital governing board.

**Investigator, The Forgotten Alaskans: The Morningside Hospital Project:** Participating with a team of volunteer researchers in Alaska, Washington DC and Oregon to reconstruct the history of the Morningside Hospital where as many as 6,000 of Alaska's mentally ill were served from 1901-1967. *Morningside Hospital.com*

**President/CEO, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association 2010-2015 Anchorage and Juneau Alaska**

Represented the hospital and nursing home industry in Alaska with Governor, State government and legislature, other industry groups, federal government and Congress

**Associate Vice President Health Affairs, University of Alaska System, Fairbanks, AK 2001-2010**

**Health Programs:** Responsible for developing health and social sciences capacity throughout the university system. Member of the university's executive administration playing key role in strategic planning for degree expansion and program development.

**Adjunct Faculty:** Taught graduate level courses at University of Alaska Fairbanks in health policy and circumpolar health issues at graduate level.

**Educational Technology and Distance Education:** Lead an Educational Technology Team charged with developing distance learning and more educational technology options for instruction, research and service.

**United States Representative, Arctic Council, Sustainable Development Working Group:** On behalf of the US State Department, represented USA at the Arctic Council, an eight nation government to government forum on arctic issues. Responsible for US representation on human and economic issues and other business conducted in the sustainable development dimension.

**Eight Stars of Gold, Principal Investigator;** Lead a multi-year project to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alaska Statehood. Included collecting historic materials for libraries and museums and creating a finding aid, producing two one hour public television documentaries and many other activities. Two Emmy's for documentary.

**Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, 1994-2010 Juneau, AK**

Cabinet level appointment overseeing 2,200 employees and a budget of \$1.2 billion. Longest serving DHSS Commissioner since statehood. Led the state's efforts in welfare reform, health care expansions, child protection, juvenile justice, public health, mental health and initiatives in primary care and fetal alcohol syndrome.

**Independent Consultant, Partner, Northern Research and Planning, 1990-1994 Fairbanks, AK**

Developed robust company providing health and social services system development, planning and evaluation services to non-profit and public agency clients. Projects focused on development of standards and other aspects of quality improvement and in development of community-based health systems for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

**Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, 1985-1990 Juneau, AK**

Responsibilities included major programmatic, management, and fiscal responsibility for the state's largest department with 1,900 employees and \$1 billion budget. Provided overall direction for the state's public health, medical assistance (Medicaid) and public assistance programs, as well as the state's health planning efforts. Also responsible for the department's personnel management, independent audit, budget, and fiscal management services. Worked extensively with federal officials, congressional and state legislative delegations, citizen groups and municipalities throughout Alaska.

**Director, Division of Community Development, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, 1982-1985 Juneau, AK**

Directed five major statewide programs that promoted economic self-sufficiency with 80 employees in five separate offices across the state. Developed and implemented the Statewide Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Restructured and implemented Alaska's Low-Income Weatherization Program. Formulated Lighting and Thermal Standards for energy-efficient residential construction. Administered Alaska's Day Care and Head Start Programs, and promoted involvement of the private sector in addressing child care needs of employees.

**Congressional Aide US Senator Ted Stevens, 1978-1981 Washington DC**

Congressional Aide in the Minority Whip Office of the US Senate and Press Aide.

**Teamster Local 959 1974-77**

During construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, worked as a Teamster building the line.  
Was able to contribute to college costs with earnings.

***BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (2001-2015)***

- Governor Bill Walker Transition Team
- Commonwealth North Board of Directors, Current
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services three terms
- University of Washington School of Medicine Admissions Committee- Alaska, current
- Ted Stevens Foundation, Board member , current
- Mountain Pacific Quality Foundation, Board member
- Regional Policy Board, American Hospital Association
- American Public Television Board, member
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Foundation/Banner Health System, Board member, current
- Providence Health Systems, Board member two terms
- Denali Commission, Board member
- Alaska Society of Circumpolar Health, Board member
- Hospice of Tanana Valley, Board member,
- National Center for Excellence in FAS, Steering Board
- Alaska FAS Steering Committee
- Alaska Suicide Prevention Council
- Alaska Telemedicine Advisory Council
- Arctic Council, United States Representative, Sustainable Development
- Alaska Human Resource Investment Board, Board Member
- Alaska Council on Domestic Violence, Board Member
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Board Member
- Alaska Public Health Association, President 1994,member current
- Alaska Center for Rural Health, President of the Board, 1990-member current
- American Public Human Services Association, Executive Board member 1994-2001

***HONORS***

- Victor I Howery Lifetime Achievement Award for Rural Mental Health, National Rural Mental Health Association 2012
- Citizen of the Year with Husband Charles Bettisworth, Farthest North Boy Scouts 2016
- Woman of Distinction Honoree, Farthest North Girl Scout Council , 2012
- Award of Achievement , Alaska Historical Society, Forgotten Alaskans, 2011
- Resolution of Appreciation, University of Alaska Board of Regents 2010
- Esther Billman Award for Historic Achievement, Alaska Historical Society 2006
- Telly Awards, Bronze Level- Vital Signs and *Creating Alaska-the 49<sup>th</sup> Star*,2006, *Mr Alaska*, 2009
- Friend of Nursing Award, March of Dimes Alaska 2006

- Dot Truan Disabilities Family Advocacy Person of the Year Award, 2001
- Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Person of the Year Award 2001
- National Association of Social Workers, Alaska Chapter Appreciation Award 2001
- Friend of Emergency Medical Services Award, Governors Council on EMS 2001
- Honorary Alaska Public Health Nurse, Alaska Public Health Nurses Association 2001
- Award of Appreciation, Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health 2001
- Outstanding Service Award, University of Alaska Anchorage Social Workers Club 2001
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Award of Appreciation 2001
- Good Nutrition for Alaskans Award, The Alaska Food Group 2001
- Alaska Native Health Board, Award of Recognition 2001
- Resolution of Recognition, Alaska State Legislature 2001
- Alaska Juvenile Justice Award 2001
- Early Intervention Appreciation Award 2001
- Alaska Center for Rural Health Award 2001, 1999
- Denali Kid Care Achievement Award 2000
- Alaska Psychological Association, Contribution Award 1998
- Alaska Public Health Association Meritorious Health Service Award 1998
- Alaska Press Club , Best Reporting 70, Best Weekly Section 71, Best Non-Daily

Education:

Stanford University, BA, Human Biology 1978

Personal:

Married to Charles Bettisworth—four children and six grandchildren  
 Avid Boater Owner of MV Northern Explorer, 50 ft trawler hull  
 Collector of Alaska Historical and Ethnographic Material