

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 27, 2022
9:01 a.m.

[9:01:41 AM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stedman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator David Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Anita Halterman, Board Chair, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Steve Williams, CEO, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

SUMMARY

PRESENTATION: ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

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[9:03:10 AM](#)

ANITA HALTERMAN, BOARD CHAIR, ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY (via teleconference), relayed that she was the new board chair of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

(AMHTA). She listed the names of the trustees. She cited that in FY 21 the trust provided more than \$21.3 million in grants to partners that helped improve the lives of trust beneficiaries across the state. She acknowledged and thanked all the partners who played a part in the formation of the agency.

Ms. Halterman continued her opening remarks. She asserted that the trust worked to provide funding and support for programs that improved the lives of beneficiaries. She noted that the standing trust focus areas and priorities included maximizing the systems that served beneficiaries. She noted that the trust supported its work through financial management, and strategic management of trust land assets. She acknowledged her fellow trustees and the trust staff for ongoing efforts in managing assets to support beneficiaries. She sheared the various successes made by the trust in the last year.

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She publicly thanked partners of the trust. She thought it was likely that every Alaskan had experience behavioral health challenges and was grateful to serve on the board.

[9:08:01 AM](#)

Ms. Halterman introduced the new CEO of the trust and provided a brief background.

[9:08:41 AM](#)

Steve Williams, CEO, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, discussed the presentation "Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority - Senate Finance Committee - January 27, 2022" (copy on file).

Mr. Williams spoke to slide 3, "Trust Beneficiaries":

- Beneficiaries include Alaskans who experience:
 - Mental illnesses
 - Intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
 - Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
 - Traumatic brain injuries
 - Substance use disorders

[9:09:49 AM](#)

Mr. Williams referenced slide 4, "Legislative Audit":

- Confirmed response to the 2018 audit
- Additional recommendations made in 2021
 - Commercial Real Estate
 - Policies and Procedures

Mr. Williams shared that the audit had been approved by the legislature in March of 2020 as a follow up to the audit performed in 2018. He assured the committee that the legislative auditor had found that the trust had acted on the 2018 audit findings and that the trust continued to operate while upholding state statute and the 1994 trust settlement agreement. He said that the auditor had provided additional recommendations, which were the last two bullet points on the slide, and that had been appreciated and were being considered by the board.

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Senator Wilson thought the 2018 audit was a controversial due to the issue of properties that had been purchased. He asked whether the trust still owned the properties and wanted to know the net revenue from those properties. He asked whether the properties had been independently appraised.

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether Senator Wilson's questions would be answered later in the presentation.

Mr. Williams stated he would address the matter at a later point in the presentation.

Co-Chair Stedman suggested that Mr. Williams factor in the responses and include details.

[9:13:18 AM](#)

Mr. Williams turned to slide 5, "Financial Position," which showed a bar graph entitled 'Trust Invested Assets,' with colored bars denoting the trust corpus, reserves, and real estate equity. He drew attention to the growth shown on the far right of the graph, which indicated increased growth overtime, except for the national economic downturn in 2009-2010. He drew attention to the blue section of the

far-most right bar, which signified the corpus was at \$498 million. He added that budget reserves were at \$268 million, and the real estate equity was at \$66 million; the total trust invested assets equaled \$832 million.

Mr. Williams touched on Senator Wilson's question. He related that the trust retained 7 commercial real estate properties: two in Anchorage, one in Washington, one in Utah, and three in Texas. He shared that the board had retained an independent real estate advisor who worked with the asset managers at the Trust Land Office and their recommendation had been for the properties to be held.

[9:15:49 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked about an agreement with the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC) to manage some of the trust's assets.

Mr. Williams stated that the trustees had considered seven different recommendations for property management, one of which was to transfer the management of the properties to APFC. The final recommendation had been to use an independent advisor in conjunction with the Trust Land Office.

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether there had been concern that the assets were not of sufficient quality to be of interest to APFC.

Mr. Williams thought that the concern was that the APFC was not currently structured to manage seven independent properties.

Co-Chair Stedman suggested that he had received differing reasons why APFC had not taken over management of the properties.

[9:17:23 AM](#)

Senator Wilson recalled that according to the recent audit, two of the properties were said to have negative cash flows. He wondered whether it was the boards current position to retain all seven properties.

Mr. Williams replied in the affirmative.

Co-Chair Stedman requested the status of each property and cash flow positions.

Mr. Williams agreed to provide the information.

[9:18:11 AM](#)

Mr. Williams considered slide 6, "FY23 Available Funding," which showed a table illustrating the trust's available funding for FY 23, and a table of the trust's historical available funding from FY 18 to FY 22:

Trust's Estimated Available Funding FY 23

Investment Portfolio Payout (4.25 percent) -
\$29,000,000

Prior Year Funds Carried Forward - \$2,800,000

Land Office Spendable Income - \$4,600,000

Interest Earnings - \$600,000

Total - \$37,000,000

Trust Available Funding

FY22 \$35,456,200

FY21 \$33,243,200

FY20 \$31,875,600

FY19 \$29,437,000

FY18 \$28,908,000

Mr. Williams stressed that the FY23 numbers were estimates. He anticipated the increase from FY22 to FY23 to be at a half million dollars.

Co-Chair Stedman asked Mr. Williams to remind the committee of a budgetary issue faced the previous year.

Mr. Williams thought a later slide would touch on the issue.

[9:20:41 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman looked at the Land Office spendable income on the Available Funding table on the slide. He asked how the fund determined the amount of spendable income from the Land Office.

Mr. Williams replied that spendable income was outlined in statute and regulation.

Senator Hoffman requested a more specific and detailed answer.

Mr. Williams used the example of the trust's timber resources, of which 85 percent went to the principal and 15 percent went to spendable income.

Co-Chair Stedman asked Mr. Williams to get back to the committee with a more detailed response.

[9:22:03 AM](#)

Mr. Williams displayed slide 7, "Trust Budget Development Process":

- Multi-month budget development process
- Trustees approve a budget in late summer
- Approved budget transmitted to Governor and LB&A by September 15

Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement

- Advisory Boards
- Beneficiaries
- State, Tribal, community, & Local Partners
 - Trust Staff
 - Review Focus Area/Priority Initiatives Goals & Work
 - Comprehensive Mental Health Program Plan
 - Grant Analysis
 - Advocacy Priorities
 - Review Previous Stakeholder Recommendations
 - Budget Recommendations Presented to Trustees

[9:23:06 AM](#)

Mr. Williams highlighted slide 8, "FY 23 Spending," which showed a pie chart divided into authority grants, agency budgets for the trust authority and trust land office, and Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR). He relayed that the slide was a high-level overview that showed that the spending fell into three buckets:

Authority Grants

\$17,634.7

Designated grants to community providers, nonprofits, local governments, and Tribal organizations.

*Includes \$1.85M in mini grants

Agency Budgets

Trust Authority: \$4,348.6

Trust Land Office: \$4,877.2

Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR)

\$8,526.3

Designated grants to state agencies, requires receipt authority

Mr. Williams cited that the agency budgets supported the activities for each of the offices to forward this mission of the trust. The program staff spent a significant amount of time forwarding initiatives that had been identified by the board.

Mr. Williams indicated that the green section was MHTAAR funds, which were trust funds included in the included in the FY23 budget, approved for different agencies for specific projects. He continued to the blue section represented authority grants that trustees approved and were awarded outside the budget process. The grants were made to organizations that worked to improve the lives of beneficiaries.

[9:25:52 AM](#)

Mr. Williams looked at slide 9, "FY 23 GF/MH Recommendations," which showed a table divided into operating budget items and capital budget items. The recommendations had been presented to the board and approved by the board. He detailed that the slide illustrated the MHTAAR funds that related to mental health General Fund recommendations. He highlighted the bottom of the first blue column, which showed \$3.7 million in MHTAAR funding, which was a portion of the total MHTAAR funding reflected in the budget. He said that the table only depicted MHTAAR that was connected to General Fund recommendations; all other MHTAAR increments were trust funded programs and services within the state budget solely funded by the trust.

Mr. Williams noted that many of the general fund (GF) increments were important to improving the system of care. He spoke to the columns on the righthand side of the slide, which showed the governor's proposed FY23 budget. He noted that the governor had included all the trustee approved General Fund recommendations. He added that there were two slight reductions related to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) receipts. He highlighted that the reductions were in Special Needs Housing Grants and Housing Assistance. He did not anticipate the reductions having any significant impact on the programs or recipients in FY23.

Mr. Williams noted that previously when the trust had presented the table to the committee, there had been a column entitled "trust reserves," which had included a set of uses of trust reserves that had not been communicated to, or approved by, the board. He thought the change was due to improved communication with the administration about the priorities of the trust. He said that OMB and the governor had offered priorities they'd hoped the board would consider. He used the example of the last capital budget item on the list, AHFC Senior Housing Predevelopment, as something the administration had presented to the board, which the board had included in their recommendations.

[9:29:32 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman wanted Mr. Williams to clarify the transfer protocol to a portion of the trust. He recalled an issue the previous year. He asked when the trust discussed transferring assets.

Mr. Williams relayed that the trust transferred its revenues into the corpus of the trust, generally on a quarterly basis, depending upon amount of funds generated. The transfer was coordinated with APFC to ensure a predicative, substantial, timely transfer.

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether there had been a policy change from previous years.

Mr. Williams stated that there had not been a policy change.

Co-Chair Stedman asked for more clarity. He recalled there had been concern about having an orderly process in previous years and inaction by the trustees to authorize the transfer to build up liquidity. He understood that there had been a difference of opinion between the trust and the board as to whether the money should be spent.

Mr. Williams offered to follow up in writing with further clarification.

Co-Chair Stedman asked that the information include the current board policy. He said that there had been committee concern that the transfers had not been taking place in a standardized timeframe for review and had encouraged the board to modify the policy to improve the process.

[9:32:45 AM](#)

Senator von Imhof recalled that the previous year there had been conversation about funding for the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). She recalled conflict pertaining to the appropriate vehicle for API funding; the governor had wanted to use funds from the trust and the board disagreed. She had asked the presenter from the trust why the trust did not fund API. She was curious about the board's rationale for funding or not funding API.

Mr. Williams relayed that the trust supported API in a variety of ways and had done so historically. He mentioned challenges with a disability lawsuit against API. He believed in FY23 budget there was at least one sizable increment related to API of approximately \$360,000. He offered to get back to the committee in writing.

Senator von Imhof thought the governor had previously requested between \$6 million and \$9 million. She noted that monies continued to increase (as shown on slide 6) and stated that she was aware there was no shortage of priorities. She hoped for a more robust conversation about the role of the trust on API.

[9:35:47 AM](#)

Senator Wielechowski asked whether there were any recommendations for additional services for homelessness.

Mr. Williams stated that the trust's work on homelessness was partially reflected in the Special Needs Housing Grants and Housing Assistance Program in partnership with AHFC. He said that there were other trust-funded efforts that addressed homelessness. He noted that much of the funding would be outside the state budget process and directly to organizations providing programs to the homeless community.

Senator Wielechowski wanted to see more detail on trust funding to address homelessness. He asked about the Housing Assistance Program.

Co-Chair Stedman requested that Mr. Williams add the information to his already requested written response on other issues.

Mr. Williams agreed to provide the information.

[9:37:09 AM](#)

Mr. Williams addressed slide 10, "Work of the Trust":

Established Focus Areas

- Disability Justice
- Mental Health & Addiction Intervention
- Beneficiary Employment & Engagement
- Housing and Home & Community Based Services

Additional Priorities

- Workforce Development
- Early Childhood Intervention & Prevention

[9:38:31 AM](#)

Co-Chair Bishop congratulated Mr. Williams on his new position. He looked back at slide 9 and noted there was about \$850,000 going to the University. He asked whether the funding was going towards workforce development.

Mr. Williams affirmed that the funding was directed toward the Center for Human Development to provide ongoing training and skill development of direct service professionals and more professional and clinical staff.

[9:39:29 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman looked at the housing and home and community-based services listed as an established focus area. He asked for a list of the targeted areas so he could assess the list for equity.

Co-Chair Stedman asked Mr. Williams to provide the list.

Co-Chair Stedman commented that the committee would be spending some time on the topic of work force development. He referenced substantial federal funding coming to the state that could be used to build up the workforce in the state. He suggested that the trust look to invest in the issue.

[9:41:23 AM](#)

Mr. Williams advanced to slide 11, "Trust Grant Impacts":

Increasing residential treatment and support capacity

- \$300,000 to Alaska Behavioral Health for residential mental health treatment in Fairbanks
- \$216,000 to the Arc of Anchorage for adult residential mental health treatment
- \$250,000 to Set Free Alaska (Mat-Su) for long term recovery housing

Supported efforts to prevent and end homelessness

- \$250,000 to the Beans Café for permanency navigation and new facility
- \$150,000 for the new Southeast Community Center hub in Juneau
- \$250,000 for Fairbanks Rescue Mission for Rapid Re-Housing

Mr. Williams noted that the projects listed on the slide were outside the state's budget process and were not MHTAAR funds. Mr. Williams spoke to the first two bullet points, which increased access to residential treatment beds. He noted that several of the project directly addressed homelessness.

[9:43:59 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked Mr. Williams to elaborate on the grant listed for the new Southeast Community Center hub in Juneau.

Mr. Williams mentioned the Teal Center, which was being constructed in Juneau. The trust was excited to support the Teal Center, where there would be several non-profit organizations sharing a space and providing direct services and well as referral services. He said that the center would serve the homeless population.

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether he should send homeless constituents to Juneau.

Mr. Williams detailed that the reason that the grant was for this facility was because a grant request to assist with coordinating services organizations in Juneau had been received by the trust. He believed that Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) provided services all over Southeast.

Co-Chair Stedman reminded the trust to look beyond the hub areas. He lamented that cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) made it difficult for people from more remote areas to access services.

[9:46:29 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman was focused on expanding upon Co-Chair Stedman's issue with Southeast. He made note of \$1.4 million being spent on homelessness in urban Alaska. He wondered how the trust was assisting homelessness in rural communities. He thought that the rural northern and western Alaska were more critical in terms of health, life, and safety of the homeless, given the climate and geography.

Mr. Williams appreciated Senator Hoffman's question and the comments from Co-Chair Stedman. He stated that the trust as an organization was responsible for beneficiaries throughout the state. He emphasized that resources were focused on the entire state.

Mr. Williams cited that the trust had provided financial support to the Winter House in Bethel. The trust had also helped to establish a homeless shelter in Nome. He recognized that the two shelters did not address the full need of northern and western Alaska. He offered to follow up with additional information.

Senator Hoffman noted that there were many sub-regional hubs in the state. He cited that there were hundreds of

communities in the state and knew there were entities in each community that were trying to address homelessness. He challenged the board to address homelessness in the smallest areas that were not regional hubs. He contended that the smaller rural areas of Alaska were being forgotten by the trust.

[9:51:20 AM](#)

Senator Wilson asked whether the trust looked at grantees in terms of evaluating effectiveness or use of funds. He asked whether the trust had ever requested or taken legal action against a grantee for return of funds.

Mr. Williams stated that the trust looked at non-profit status and standing when it received an application to be sure that the applicant was in good standing. He noted that all trust grants required financial and program reporting that included follow through with performance measure outlined in grant agreements. He stated that if there was a situation in which an organization did not meet expectations, recalling funding would be considered.

Senator Wilson asked whether AMHTA had, in recent years, revoked any organization's status due to misappropriation of funds.

Mr. Williams did not know. He agreed to provide the information.

Co-Chair Stedman suggested that Mr. Williams get back to the committee with further information.

[9:53:51 AM](#)

Mr. Williams looked at slide 12, "Transforming Behavioral Health Crisis Response":

What is the Crisis Now Framework?

Someone to Talk to, Someone to Respond and a Place to Go

- o Crisis Call Center
- o Mobile Crisis Team
 - o **Crisis Response Center**
 - o 23-Hour Stabilization
 - o Short-term Stabilization

Mr. Williams explained that there were opportunities to intervene at lower levels of care it saved on costs and resources. He said that starting at lower levels would have impact on API and ensure that individuals received the level of care they needed at the right time.

[9:55:58 AM](#)

Co-Chair Bishop asked whether the slide represented the model that was presented by the prior CEO of the trust and had been implemented by the State of Arizona. He asked whether law enforcement included the Alaska State Troopers to help in emergency situations, particularly in rural Alaska where there would be no mental health provider to guide individuals through crisis.

Mr. Williams affirmed that the model was the same as presented by his predecessor. He thought the next slide would address Co-Chair Bishop's questions.

[9:57:21 AM](#)

Mr. Williams showed slide 13, "Crisis Efforts, Cont'd":

- Working with stakeholders statewide
- Partnerships for new services in population centers
 - Fairbanks
 - Mat-Su
 - Anchorage
 - Juneau
- SB124 & HB172

CRISIS NOW - Recent Trust Investments

Fairbanks Crisis Now Coordinator Position (City of Fairbanks) - \$135k

Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Teams: Clinical (Alaska Behavioral Health)

and

Peer Support Specialist (The Bridge) - \$807k

Call Center Operations Expansion (Alaska Careline) - \$100k

Anchorage Crisis Stabilization Services Planning
(Southcentral Foundation and Providence Alaska) -
\$885k

Mat-Su Crisis Community Development Coordinator (Mat-Su Health Foundation) - \$100k

Mr. Williams stressed that to transform the system required multiple stakeholders to be able to come together for change, and that no one entity would have the resources or capacity to transform the system alone. He highlighted examples of recent trust investment in the initiative totaling approximately \$2 million in direct grants. He highlighted the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team and referred to slide 12, noting the relationship between the call center and the crisis team.

[10:00:31 AM](#)

Mr. Williams explained that the availability of the call center had resulted in resolution of individual case calls without intervention or higher levels of care.

Mr. Williams noted that the last bullet, represented a piece of legislation (SB 124) put for the by the administration that would ensure that people had the opportunity to be taken into protective custody status to receive care.

[10:03:03 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman referenced slide 11, and the \$1.4 million for urban Alaska. He noted that there was an additional \$2 million that also excluded Southeast, and that was millions more dollars going to urban areas of the state. He reminded that crises existed throughout the state, and he thought it seemed that trustees needed to have a broader view of the problem. He thought when the state was investing \$3.5 million in urban areas while turning a blind eye on the rest of the state was disheartening. He challenged Mr. Williams and the board to look at mental health issues in the state on a broader scale. He cited that he was not criticizing the fact that there were problems in urban areas that needed addressing but he asserted that the funding for the different areas of the state was out of balance.

[10:05:30 AM](#)

Senator Olson echoed Senator Hoffman's comments. He asked what plans the trust had for rural and more remote areas of the state.

Mr. Williams stated that the trust was looking at rural Alaska as it discussed initiatives. He assured that staff resources were being used to communicate with rural entities such as Norton Sound, Ketchikan, and other areas. He recognized that the model might not fit directly into rural communities.

[10:07:17 AM](#)

Senator Olson looked at slide 13 and considered the \$2 million in recent trust investments. He asked about ongoing costs for the projects.

Mr. Williams did not have information on ongoing costs. He anticipated that some of the services would qualify for Medicaid.

[10:08:38 AM](#)

Senator Wilson referenced Mr. William's mention of the Fairbanks crisis intervention team and diversions from use of emergency services. He asked whether there was any information available on the cost savings associated with the new program.

Mr. Williams did not have the numbers. He said that the program had only operated for one month.

[10:09:53 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman referenced Mr. Williams' mention of communication with more rural areas of the state. He thought it would be advisable to set up a demonstration project in one of the rural areas so that eventually those rural communities could design their programs from the ground up.

[10:10:54 AM](#)

Mr. Williams referenced slide 14, "Trust Land Office":

Highlights

- Land Sales
- Subdivision Platting
- Icy Cape Development

FY 22 Anticipated Trust Land Office Revenues

Coal - \$247,000
Oil and Gas - \$1,158,000
Minerals - \$1,168,700
Materials - \$25,000
Timber \$2,747,000
Lands - \$3,200,000
Real Estate - \$2,068,659
Total - \$10,614,359

Mr. Williams thought everyone was aware that the trust land office operated within the Department of Natural Resources. He said that many of the parcels were large and subdividing them made them more accessible to Alaskans and to generate funds for the trust.

Mr. Williams mentioned that the Icy Cape Development listed on the slide was a parcel about 75 miles south of Yakutat and was encouraged to discover how the lands could generate more money for the trust. He cited that the table showed asset classes within land office revenues. He said that the lands were diverse and provided various ways to generate funds.

[10:14:03 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked about the Icy Cape Development and thought there had been concern in the past about how the resource complied with the trust settlement agreement. He asked for more detail on the matter.

Mr. Williams thought Co-Chair Stedman was referring to use of trust principal in the development, which was a finding of the 2018 audit. He reminded that the trust had addressed the issue, and the board had authorized a transfer of trust income into the principal to compensate for previous use of the principal invested in the project.

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether the issue had been resolved.

Mr. Williams answered in the affirmative.

Co-Chair Stedman asked how much timber land the trust had left with which to have timber harvest.

[10:15:58 AM](#)

Mr. Williams turned to slide 15, "Trust/USFS Land Exchange":

- Result of more than a decade of effort
- Multiple stakeholders
- Swaps approx. 17,980 acres of Trust land for approx. 18,494 acres of USFS lands (equal value exchange)
 - Hollis
 - Naukati
 - Shelter Cove
- Revenue generation for Trust beneficiaries
- Preservation of viewsheds and other interests near SE AK communities

Mr. Williams addressed Co-Chair Stedman's question and relayed that process had started in 2005 and was the result of many parties coming together. After more than a decade of engagement with many stakeholders, the exchange had been finalized. The parcels listed on the slide had been transferred to the trust. He anticipated the trust would be able to generate \$25 million to \$30 million of revenue in the future. He agreed to provide more detailed information about trust lands that had timber resources. He thanked Co-Chair Stedman for his work on state legislation in 2017.

[10:18:34 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman recognized that the land exchange had been completed, and he was under the impression that a lot of the timber land would be monetized by a ten-year contract. He wondered what activity would follow the contracts. He asked about future timber supply over the next 20 to 30 years. He asked Mr. Williams to address the size of future opportunities and noted that smaller mills were also in need of fiber supplies.

[10:20:02 AM](#)

Senator Wilson asked whether AMHTA had any other land swap deals in process.

Mr. Williams relayed that there were opportunities being considered but did not know of any active deals.

Co-Chair Stedman noted there was one parcel in the Shelter Cove area in which state lands would be transferred to the trust to facilitate timber and recreation development. He requested more information on the exchange of land in the Shelter Cove area.

[10:21:30 AM](#)

Senator Wilson requested for the land office to comment on a gravel pit in his district that was under litigation. He asked why AMHTA wanted to pursue the lawsuit against the will of the community.

Mr. Williams offered to provide information later.

[10:22:38 AM](#)

Mr. Williams considered slide 16, "In Closing":

- Strong leadership at the board, Trust Authority & Trust Land Office
- Strong financial position
- Strong partnerships Together = positive impacts for Beneficiaries

Mr. Williams addressed Co-Chair Stedman's comments about potential land exchange. He noted that the governor had asked the land office to identify other state lands that could be transferred to the trust. The trust had responded with several parcels that could be transferred; there had been no movement in status on those lands. He closed that the trust was in a strong leadership position at all levels. He commented that the trust had strong partnerships with all stakeholders to improve the current systems of care.

[10:24:35 AM](#)

Senator Hoffman thanked Mr. Williams and the board for all the hard work that had been done. He noted that he had been in the legislature in the 1990's when the formation of the trust had been finalized. He shared that there had been many hours of discussion regarding what the

responsibilities of the trust. He asserted that his primary focus was on services for rural Alaska. He lamented that 30 years after the formation of the trust he was still requesting that rural Alaska be an equal priority to the board as urban areas of the state. He thought that the board had done a good job and recognized that new and existing programs should be equitable across the state.

[10:26:15 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman thanked Senator Hoffman for his service, spanning two centuries.

[10:26:26 AM](#)

Co-Chair Bishop dovetailed on Senator Hoffman's comments. He thought the committee had identified gaps outside of urban centers and major hubs. He agreed with Senator Hoffman's concerns. He asked whether the board had ever done a needs analysis with all the stakeholders in mental health to identify gaps in the system. He asked about the number of dollars that might be required to fill any identified gaps.

Mr. Williams recalled that in 2014 or 2015 there had been a statewide analysis of the behavioral health system. He did not recall whether there had been a cost analysis associated with the report, which was available on the trust website.

Co-Chair Bishop noted that the report was ten years old and thought a current analysis would be a valuable comparison.

Co-Chair Stedman thanked the presenters. He directed members to provide questions to his office. He thought that the presentation would conclude discussion of the Mental Health budget.

Co-Chair Stedman discussed housekeeping.

[10:31:21 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman noted that the meeting schedule could slow in speed to accommodate staff burnout.

#

ADJOURNMENT

10:32:08 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.