



The Trust is a perpetual endowment that uses its resources to ensure Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program to serve Trust beneficiaries.

TRUST FUNDING

The Trustees adopt operating and capital budgets in two-year cycles, but by state statute must submit annual recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding expenditures of Trust income and other state funds to support the state's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program. These expenditures comprise the Mental Health Budget Bill and must be approved by the legislature.

Trustees also set aside a portion of The Trust's annual budget for authority grants, which are grants administered directly by The Trust. Authority grants are available for partnerships, small projects and mini-grant programs for behavioral health conditions, developmental disabilities and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. These grants are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Trustees or Trust staff and are available to non-profit organizations, service providers, tribal entities, governmental agencies and other groups that serve Trust beneficiaries. Individuals, by regulation, are not eligible to receive grants from The Trust.

For more information, see Grant Opportunities at www.mhtrust.org or call the Grant Administrator at 907-269-7999.

TRUST FOCUS AREAS

The Trust, with input from its many stakeholders, selects several programmatic areas on which to focus planning, development and funding that will have broad and long-term impacts on the systems that serve beneficiaries. Workgroups with representatives from beneficiary-related advisory boards, state agencies and service providers develop strategic plans and funding proposals in each focus area for approval by the Board of Trustees at its annual budget meeting in September. The approved proposals, along with other Trust funding priorities, form the basis for recommendations for funding as part of the state's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program.

Currently The Trust is focusing on five program areas that address issues with significant impact on beneficiaries:

1. Bring the Kids Home – reforming Alaska's mental health care for children and adolescents so they are diagnosed earlier and are treated closer to home;
2. Affordable Appropriate Housing – increasing a continuum of housing options for Trust beneficiaries;
3. Disability Justice – reducing the involvement and recidivism of beneficiaries in the criminal justice system;
4. Beneficiary Projects Initiative – supporting grassroots, peer-to-peer programs for Trust beneficiaries;
5. Workforce Development – creating an available and competent workforce for beneficiary service providers.



The Trust is working with stakeholders around the state to reform Alaska's mental health system of care for children and adolescents.

TRUSTEES

- Dr. William Doolittle . . . Chair
- Laraine Derr Vice Chair
- Paula Easley Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Barton Trustee
- Mary Jane Michael . . . Trustee
- Larry Norene Trustee
- Russ Webb Trustee

TRUST STAFF

- Jeff Jessee Chief Executive Officer
- Delisa Culpepper Chief Operating Officer
- Kevin Buckland Chief Financial Officer
- Bill Herman Senior Program Officer
- Nancy Burke Program Officer
- Katie Johnson Program Officer
- Steve Williams Program Officer
- Bill Hogan Program Officer
- Miri Smith-Coolidge . . Program Special Assistant
- Lucas Lind Grants Administrator
- Michael Baldwin Grants Accountability Manager
- Marilyn McMillan Budget Coordinator
- Vivian Hamilton Communications Manager
- Jody Thomas Administrative Manager
- Vickie Scaife Administrative Assistant

INFORMATION

To learn more about The Trust, its focus areas and funding opportunities, visit www.mhtrust.org or call 907-269-7960.

AN OVERVIEW OF The Trust



The TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

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www.mhtrust.org

The TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

A Catalyst For Change And Improvement



The Trust is a key player in Alaska's efforts to develop and retain a capable, competent workforce for providers who serve Trust beneficiaries.

THE TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is a state corporation that administers the Mental Health Trust. The Trust is a perpetual endowment that operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program for Trust beneficiaries. The mission of The Trust is to act as a catalyst for change and improvement in the systems that serve Trust beneficiaries.

BENEFICIARY GROUPS

Trust beneficiaries include the following individuals:

- people with mental illness,
- people with developmental disabilities,
- people with chronic alcoholism and
- people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

ADVISORS

Trustees and Trust staff work closely with four advocacy boards that represent Trust beneficiaries:

- Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse,
- Alaska Mental Health Board,
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and
- Alaska Commission on Aging.

The Alaska commissioners of Health and Social Services, Natural Resources, Revenue and Corrections are also advisors to The Trust, providing input about issues within their departments that relate to Trust beneficiaries.

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Trust acts as a catalyst for change and improvement in the systems that serve the beneficiaries. Trustees and Trust staff provide leadership in advocacy, planning, implementing and funding of the state's Comprehensive Integrated

Mental Health Program. The Trust and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services jointly convene other state agencies, beneficiary advisory groups and key stakeholders to develop and revise a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan for delivering services to Trust beneficiaries. The plan is a tool that focuses the funds and programs of the state, The Trust and its partners. It is reviewed and updated in five-year increments to ensure the plan is addressing the needs of Trust beneficiaries.

The plan looks at the current status of Trust beneficiaries and seeks to make long-term changes in four areas: health, safety, quality of life and economic security. The plan also examines current service delivery systems and any service gaps that may exist. Finally, the plan is useful in indicating avenues for future program efforts.

HISTORY

Prior to statehood, there were limited services available in the Territory of Alaska for individuals who experienced mental illness or developmental disabilities. Instead, these individuals were sent by the federal government to live in an institution in Oregon. During Alaska's transition to a state, Congress passed the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act of 1956 to help bring these individuals home. The act transferred the responsibility for providing mental health services from the federal government to the Territory of Alaska and, ultimately, the State of Alaska by creating the Alaska Mental Health Trust. To fund The Trust, the state selected one million prime acres of land that would be managed to generate income to pay for a comprehensive integrated mental health program.

Though the Alaska Legislature held a fiduciary responsibility to manage the land on behalf of Alaskans with mental disabilities, it did not do so. Instead, by 1982, only about 35 percent of the land remained in state ownership when Vern Weiss filed a lawsuit on behalf of his son, who required mental health services that were not available in Alaska. Other beneficiary groups joined Weiss v State of Alaska in a class action suit. The case was ruled on in 1984 by the State Supreme Court, which ordered that the original trust be restored. Ten years later, in 1994, a final settlement reconstructed The Trust with 500,000 acres of original Trust land, 500,000 acres of replacement land and \$200 million.

GOVERNANCE

The 1994 Trust settlement established a seven-member, independent Board of Trustees to manage the Trust fund. Trustees are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature for five-year, staggered terms. Trustees are officers of the corporation and have a fiduciary responsibility to enhance and protect The Trust's financial assets.

TRUST ASSETS

The Trust employs the expertise of several organizations to manage its cash and non-cash assets. The Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation and the Alaska Department of Revenue Treasury Division manage The Trust's cash assets. The Trust contracts with the Trust Land Office within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to manage its land and other non-cash assets, such as buildings, timber, minerals, and coal, oil and gas developments.



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