Trust
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508
Tel 907.269.7960
www.mhtrust.org

To: Brent Fisher, Chair
Through: John Morris, Program and Planning Committee Chair
From: Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Chief Operating Officer
Date: November 18, 2026
Re: Program and Planning Committee Report – October 15, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Program & Planning (P&P) Committee met at 8:30 a.m. on October 15, 2026. Trustees present included John Morris (Chair), Agnes Moran, Anita Halterman, Brent Fisher (Ex-Officio), Kevin Fimon, Cori Feige.

COO Report, Katie Baldwin-Johnson:

Strategic Plan Implementation:
The Trust continued implementation of its Strategic Plan by aligning internal operations and grantmaking activities with newly adopted priority areas. Grant proposals are now organized according to Strategic Plan priorities to strengthen alignment between funding decisions and Trustee direction. Staff advanced implementation of the Prevention & Early Intervention Moonshot through the release of a Request for Proposals, expanded outreach efforts to communicate the Strategic Plan to partners and stakeholders, and launched new priority-area webpages to improve public understanding of the Trust's goals, priorities, and anticipated impact.

Communications, Outreach, and Visibility:
The Trust expanded its statewide and national visibility through active participation in conferences, presentations, and partner engagement events. Staff highlighted innovative approaches to rural substance use treatment at the National Association for Rural Mental Health conference, delivered a keynote address at the Employment First Conference emphasizing Alaska's commitment to competitive and integrated employment opportunities for beneficiaries, and represented the Trust at the Alaska Behavioral Health Association conference and numerous stakeholder events across the state. These engagements helped promote Trust priorities, strengthen partnerships, and increase awareness of resources and opportunities available to beneficiaries.

Partner Engagement Activities:
The Trust continued strengthening partnerships and increasing awareness of Trust resources through a variety of engagement activities across Alaska. Staff participated in consultations and site visits with the Central Peninsula Mobile Crisis Team to support crisis system development, presented on Trust resources and funding opportunities at the Alaska Primary Care Association Fall Leaders Meeting, and represented the Trust at milestone events including the Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services (AARS) residential treatment expansion ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Ketchikan Senior Supportive Housing ribbon-cutting, and the AWAIC 50th Anniversary celebration. Trust staff also participated in the Fairbanks Pediatric Summit, contributing to discussions focused on improving behavioral health services and supports for youth and adolescents.

Future Outreach Opportunities:
The Trust identified several upcoming opportunities to increase visibility, strengthen strategic partnerships, and share progress on key initiatives at state and national forums. These engagements will support outreach, relationship-building, knowledge exchange, and broader awareness of Trust priorities and investments among stakeholders, policymakers, service providers, and partner organizations.

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP):
The Trust remained actively engaged in the Rural Health Transformation Program through participation in regional convenings and ongoing collaboration with the Department of Health and community providers. Staff monitored program implementation, including approximately 249 proposed Year 1 projects totaling $222.6 million in anticipated awards, while evaluating opportunities to align Trust priorities with emerging investments and strengthen partnerships that support improved health and behavioral health outcomes across Alaska.

Grant Operations Modernization:
Contractual support has been engaged to assess current grant management operations, workflows, reporting systems, data dependencies, and opportunities for automation and artificial intelligence-supported process improvements.

Mini-Grant Program:
The revised Trust Mini-Grant Program reopened on September 16, 2026. Eighty-five applications were received during the first application cycle and grant decisions are anticipated later in October. Initial feedback regarding the revised application process and program improvements has been positive.

Regulations and Policy Monitoring:
The Trust continued efforts to monitor and improve the policy and regulatory environment affecting beneficiaries and Trust-funded initiatives. Staff are conducting an internal review of Trust regulations to identify opportunities for streamlining, modernization, and alignment with Administrative Order 360, while also tracking state regulatory actions with potential implications for beneficiary services. Current attention is focused on proposed Medicaid reimbursement rates for subacute stabilization and crisis residential services due to their potential impact on Alaska's crisis care continuum and the sustainability of recently developed crisis system infrastructure.

Staffing Update:
Pleased to announce the hiring of Sondra LeClair as Program Officer. Sondra brings experience in rural health systems, emergency services, nonprofit leadership, and direct beneficiary service delivery, and began employment with the Trust in October 2026.

The committee held public comment

Committee Grant Actions – Requiring Full Board Action at the November 18, 2026, Board meeting:

Authority Grant Consent Agenda – Authority Grant Requests of less than $250,000 with a term of 12 months or less. The committee approved recommending the following 10 grants for Full Board approval. Two proposals were not unanimously approved by the committee and are identified below.

Priority Area: Prevention & Early Intervention

1. Presbyterian Hospitality House, AK Treatment Foster Care & Child Agency Summit, $160,000

Priority Area: Crisis Response

2. North Star Community Foundation, Warming Center, $100,000
3. Kenai Peninsula Homeless Coalition, Nikiski Shelter of Hope Building Updates, $54,500

Priority Area: Treatment & Recovery

4. RuralCAP, Bay Haven Child Advocacy Center, $158,674
5. Rehabilitative Educational Adaptive Living Solutions, Telehealth to Serve Alaskans with TBI, $24,309 (not unanimous).

Priority Area: Ongoing Support & Wellbeing

6. North Star Community Foundation, Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance, $80,000
7. 2027 Leading Practices Academy in Infrastructure Development – Contract, $10,000
8. Interior AK Center for Non-Violent Living, Permanent Supportive Housing Preservation Project, $46,671
9. Interior Community Health Center, Dental Grant, $20,000

Cross Priority Area: Other Trust Investments

10. AADD, Elevating the Voices of Lived Experience, $24,999 (not unanimous).

Authority Grant Non-Consent Agenda – Authority Grant Requests of at least $250,000 and/or requests that have a term of more than 12 months. The committee unanimously approved recommending the following 7 grants for full Board approval:

Priority Area: Prevention & Early Intervention

1. VOA, MTSS-Based School Mental Health Services for Anchorage and Rural Youth, $1,500,000
2. All Alaska Pediatric Partnership – A2P2 Contract Amendment, $1,000,000
3. Robertson Enterprises, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, $113,696

Priority Area: Crisis Response

4. AK Behavioral health, Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team, $750,000

Priority Area: Treatment & Recovery

5. Cama'i Health Center, Safe Room Improvements at Cama'i Community Health Center, $750,000

Priority Area: Ongoing Support & Wellbeing

6. Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiatives, Rainbow Flats II & III, $350,000
7. Home and Community Based Services Assessment – Contract, $350,000-400,000

The committee adjourned at 11:21 a.m. Pending agenda finalization, the committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 27-28,2027 in Anchorage.