

To: Brent Fisher, Chair
Through: Agnes Moran, Program and Planning Committee Chair
From: Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Chief Operating Officer
Date: May 20, 2026
Re: Program and Planning Committee Report – April 22, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Program & Planning (P&P) Committee met at 8:30 a.m. on April 22, 2026. Trustees present included Agnes Moran (Chair), Kevin Fimon, Cori Feige (remote), Brent Fisher (Ex-Officio, remote), John Morris, Anita Halterman, and Josie Hickle (remote).

COO Report, Katie Baldwin-Johnson:

- Strategic Plan Operationalization:
 - Strategic Plan finalized December 2025.
 - Operational Plan under development across six internal domains.
 - CEO to present Operational Plan overview at May Board meeting.
 - Trustee-Staff strategic work session planned for July meeting series.
- Budget Development (FY28-29)
 - Budget cycle on schedule; FY28 recommendation under development
 - Budget overview will be provided at the July 28-30 P&P Committee meeting.
- Requests for Recommendations (RFR)
 - Annual RFR distributed April 15; responses due May 18.
 - Updated structure is well received and supports clearer planning from advisory boards.
- Outreach & Engagement
 - Trustees and staff conducted a regional visit to Kotzebue.
 - Engagements included Maniilaq leadership, hospital tour, elder's home and IDD homes and youth services.
- Improving Lives Conference
 - Scheduled for September 17-18 at the Dena'ina Center.
 - Registration and sponsorship applications opened April 13.
 - Attendance target of 400+ participants
- Legislative Updates
 - Improved tone during Mental Health Budget Bill debate.
 - House added \$500,000 GF for Crisis Call Center to match \$1 million of MHTAAR.
 - As of this meeting awaiting Senate CS release.
- Senate Health & Social Services Presentation- February 24, 2026
 - Trust leadership presented updates on priorities, grant impacts and statewide crisis initiative progress.

- Rural Health Transformation
 - Over 1,800 letters of interest submitted statewide; requests exceeded \$2.5 billion.
 - Behavioral health continues as the most represented area.
 - Trust monitoring impacts on beneficiary-serving systems and are engaged in supporting process.
- Crisis Initiative
 - Agnew::Beck providing expanded technical assistance.
 - New crisis resources published, including stabilization and mobile crisis guides.
 - The next quarterly crisis newsletter will be released in May.
- Peer Support System Development
 - Request for Information (RFI) resulted in 16 responses from across Alaska.
 - The Request For Proposals (RFP) is in development focusing on peer run, recovery-oriented programs.
 - Initial funding term: two years, with annual review for continuation.
- Staff highlights
 - Trust staff remain active statewide and nationally across multiple sectors, contributing expertise in policy, research, conference leadership, and system development initiatives.

Intellectual & Developmental Disability (IDD) Provider Assessment:

- Dr. Sandra Heffern presented the findings of a statewide assessment of ten IDD provider organizations. The review showed a system under significant strain, driven by workforce shortages, financial pressures, and growing administrative and compliance demands. These challenges affect providers across all sizes and regions and are compounded by increasing fragmentation in the provider landscape.
- Dr. Heffern also noted national trends toward rate reform, streamlined administrative processes, and careful sequencing of system changes to avoid destabilizing services. She highlighted emerging models—such as lifespan waivers and value-based approaches—that could inform Alaska’s long-term system development.
- Key recommendations included establishing statewide measures to track system health, reducing administrative duplication, supporting provider leadership, and exploring shared-service models. Over time, more integrated system planning will be needed, with the Trust continuing to convene partners to guide coordinated improvements.

Committee Grant Actions – Requiring Full Board Action at the May 20-21, 2026, Board meeting:

- A. Authority Grant Contract Approval: No Wrong Door: Connections to Care Pilot, \$150,000, recommended for full Board approval.
- B. Competitive Grant Approval: FY27 Mini-Grant program, Information Insights, \$2.3 million, recommended for full Board approval.
- C. Consent Grant Approval Agenda – Authority Grant Requests of less than \$250,000 with term of 12 months. The committee unanimously approved recommending the following 23 grants for Full Board approval including:
 - ABHA, AK Behavioral Health Association Supervisor Academy, \$200,000
 - SAIL, Inc., SAIL Ketchikan Capital Project, \$150,000
 - AADD – Building a System to Achieve Employment First for All, Year 2, \$146,126
 - Resource Center for Parents & Children – Family Support, \$145,000
 - City of Juneau, Zach Gordon Youth Center, Gap Funding for Sheiyi Xaat Hit (Spruce Root house), \$120,000
 - RurAL CAP, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, \$88,500
 - Stone Soup Group, Cooperative Youth Engagement, \$80,000
 - SAIL, Inc. Orca Training, Travel, Scholarship Initiative for Wellbeing, \$75,000
 - City of Fairbanks – Community Response Coordinator, \$74,000
 - JAMI Health & Wellness, AK Prisoner Reentry Initiative, \$60,000
 - City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Coordinator, \$60,000
 - Valley Charities, AK Prisoner Reentry Initiative, \$60,000
 - Anchorage Neighborhood Housing, Anchorage Reentry Coalition, \$60,000
 - Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Open Doors Facility for Vulnerable Adults, \$55,000
 - Anchorage Community Land Trust, Investing in Mountain View’s Nonprofit Hub, \$55,000
 - New Hope Counseling Center, Parking Lot Expansion & Pavement, \$50,000
 - University of AK Southeast, Trauma-Responsive Tools for Alaska’s Emerging Special Educators,
 - JAMHI Health & Wellness, Juneau Reentry Coalition Reentry Housing,
 - AK Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD), IDD System Capacity Development, \$25,000
 - Junior Achievement USA, Financial Literacy as a Pathway to Stability for Young Alaskans, \$22,125
 - Alaska Association for Infant and Early Childhood, Looking Forward: Growth & Sustainability, \$20,000
 - Municipality of Anchorage, Strengthening Crisis Response at First Point of Contact, \$10,750
 - Wrangell Mountains Center, Saghani Ggaay (Young Raven) Alaska Native Youth Camp, \$10,000; (legal review requested)

D. Non-Consent Grant Approval Agenda – Authority Grant Requests of at least \$250,000 and/or requests that have a term of more than 12 months. Note: Due to being ahead of schedule during the committee meeting, the grant order is different from the original agenda ordering. The committee unanimously approved recommending 13 grants for full Board approval:

- Covenant House Alaska, Homelessness Prevention Statewide Demonstration Project, \$1,000,000
- State of Alaska (DOH/SDS), InterRAI Project, \$640,500
- Partners for Progress, Flex Funds for Mental Health Courts, \$400,000
- AK Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Inc., Victim Transition Supports, \$300,000
- AK Legal Services Corporation, AK Public Benefits Advocacy Project, \$299,860
- Valley Charities, Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project, \$200,000 (revised to 1 year)
- Illuvium Family & Health Services, Inc., Behavioral Health Safe Room, \$500,000
- True North Recovery, Anchorage Launch Pad (Crisis Walk In Center), \$1,017,842
- New Life Development, Inc., Safe Families Project, \$450,182 (2 years)
- AK Children’s Services, Inc., C.A.R.E.S., \$439,975
- Mat Su Youth Housing, My House Services Continuum of Care, \$430,000
- Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, Ketchikan Crisis Now, \$270,000
- Recover Alaska, AURORA – AK’s Unified Response on Reducing Alcohol-Harm, \$200,000; (contingency plan requested)

Additional discussion:

- Expressed need for a unified housing strategy across Trust programs.
- Review and modernization of legacy programs will continue.
- Legal analysis requested regarding equal-access compliance for culturally specific programs.
- Interest in modeling statewide implementation for Crisis Now successes.

The committee adjourned at 1:46 p.m. Pending agenda finalization, the committee’s next meeting is scheduled for July 29-30, 2026, in Anchorage.