

**To:** Brent Fisher, Chair  
**Through:** Agnes Moran, Program and Planning Committee Chair  
**From:** Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Chief Operating Officer  
**Date:** **August 27, 2026**  
**Re:** Program and Planning Committee Report – **July 29, 2026**

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### **Meeting Summary**

The Program & Planning (P&P) Committee met at 8:30 a.m. on April 22, 2026. Trustees present included Agnes Moran (Chair) remote, Kevin Fimon, Cori Feige, Brent Fisher (Ex-Officio) remote, and Anita Halterman. The agenda reflected a continuation of ongoing strategic, budgetary, and programmatic work, along with several approvals aligned with FY28–29 development.

### **COO Report, Katie Baldwin-Johnson:**

- Strategic Plan Operationalization:
  - Continued work on operationalizing the Strategic Plan across internal domains.
  - Trustees selected the Prevention & Early Intervention Moonshot during the July 28 work session.
  - CEO will give operational update at August Board meeting.
- Budget Development FY28/29
  - FY28 budget recommendation on schedule; major investment lines under development.
  - Workforce and system-capacity priorities tied to moonshot direction will be highlighted in committee presentations.
  - Budget cycle remains aligned with long-term planning.
- Requests for Recommendations (RFR)
  - The annual RFR cycle launched in mid-April and concluded in May with participation from the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education.
    - ACOA and AMHB/ABADA did not put forth recommendations under the RFR process
  - Updated RFR templates have improved clarity and alignment with strategic objectives.
- Outreach & Engagement
  - Ongoing statewide partner engagement through conferences, rural visits, and presentations on Trust priorities and resources to partners.
  - Recent partner milestone events include Challenge Alaska groundbreaking and TCC rural engagements to Nikolai, McGrath, and Takotna, Alaska.
- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)
  - Review timeline for Year 1 funding extended; federal CMS review still in progress.
  - Grant agreements are expected in early August.
  - Participation in regional Department of Health RHTP convenings (Cordova, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Dillingham) to gather local priorities.
    - Themes emerging from convenings: care coordination; workforce needs; interoperability; transportation; childcare shortages; housing; specialty-care access.
    - Bristol Bay CTE consortium highlighted as a regional workforce model.

- Improving Lives Conference
  - Registration, sponsorships, and call for speakers active since April.
  - Three new pre-conference sessions (September 16): Complex Care Initiatives; RHTP-related workshop focused on Transforming Beneficiary Health in Alaska; and Advocacy training for lived-experience individuals.
  - Themes: innovation & change; upstream/downstream supports; whole-person care.
- Mini-Grant Program Modernization (IDD/BH)
  - Transition to Information Insights underway with new workflows, portal, and clearer guidelines.
  - Temporary pause in application acceptance; relaunch scheduled for September 16 with an October 15 deadline.
  - Goal: improve responsiveness and beneficiary-centered design.
- Competitive RFP for Beneficiary-Led Programs
  - Proposal review completed; recommendations prepared for discussion.
- Workforce Development & System Capacity
  - UAA School Psychology Program: accreditation candidacy achieved; rural student cohorts progressing.
  - Continued focus on statewide supervision networks, rural practicum support, and MTSS alignment.
- Staff anniversaries:
  - Kelda Barstad – 20 years with SOA and nine years with the Trust.
  - Mike Baldwin – 18 years with the Trust.

**Committee Grant Actions – Requiring Full Board Action at the August 26-27, 2026, Board meeting:**

- A. **Authority Grant Contract Approval:** Mental Health Supports in Schools Community of Practice, Stellar Group Facilitator Contract, \$60,000 recommended for full Board approval.
- B. **Authority Grant Competitive Peer-Based Services Approvals:** Peer-Run Recovery Oriented Program Recommended Agencies and Funding Amounts. The committee unanimously approved recommending the following 7 grants for August Full Board approval including:
  - Anchorage Community Mental Health Services dba Alaska Behavioral Health, \$426,420.50
  - LINKS Resource Center (Mat-Su), \$343,000
  - Alaska Youth and Family Network (Anchorage), \$300,000
  - Kodiak Area Native Association (Gulf Coast), \$188,416.95
  - Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection, \$122,291.90
  - Set Free Alaska (Mat-Su), \$117,647
  - NAMI Juneau (Southeast), \$115,000
 Total: \$1,612,776.05
- C. **Authority Grant Consent Agenda** – Authority Grant Requests of less than \$250,000 with term of 12 months or less. The committee unanimously approved recommending the following 9 grants for Full Board approval including:
  - Alzheimer Disease Resource Agency of Alaska, ADRD Rural Outreach and Prevention, \$188,000
  - Kin Support Program (HAA Yaitxu Saiani), Building the Evidence Base for a Culturally-Grounded Kinship Navigator Model, \$150,000
  - University of Alaska, Replication of Trust Beneficiaries in Alaska’s Department of Corrections, \$148,000
  - Independent Living Center (Homer), Gulf Coast TABI Expansion Project FY27, \$125,000
  - Alaska Safety Alliance, A successful Start: AHWC Year II Continuation Request, \$120,000
  - Special Education Service Agency, SESA’s Low Incidence Disability Outreach Program Evaluation, \$110,000

- NAMI Fairbanks, Strengthening Early Intervention and Crisis Response in the Fairbanks Community, \$45,946
- Alaska Humanities Forum, Strengthening Protective Factors for Bristol Bay Youth through Classroom Storytelling, \$75,000
- Catholic Social Services, CCS Substance Use Disorder Treatment Start-up, \$44,000

**D. 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 3 grants for full Board approval:

- Independent Living Center (Homer), Self-Directed HCBS (FY27), \$300,000
- Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), Healing Pathways Project, \$260,000
- Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, NWAK Housing Intervention Program (HIP), \$254,757

The following grant was recommended to the full board for approval by majority vote:

- Alaska Impact Alliance, UReCares Stipend and Respite Program 2026, \$250,000

#### **Statutory Advisors/RFR – MHTAAR**

- Chelsea Burke, Executive Director of the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) provided an informational update on FY28 RFR priorities. Three initiatives were highlighted:
  - Project SEARCH Adult Site – Alaska’s first adult site under development in Juneau; early progress and strong partner interest.
  - Universal Changing Spaces Fund – RFI opened July 1 to assess statewide capacity; strong demand and growing installation momentum.
  - Self-Advocacy Leadership Support Initiative – expands training and national advocacy opportunities for disability self-advocates, reducing financial barriers.
- All projects are early in implementation; further discussion and trustee recommendations will occur in August.

#### **FY28/FY29 Budget Recommendations**

- Staff presented the preliminary FY28–FY29 budget recommendations and invited trustee discussion to help refine priorities ahead of final adoption at the August Board meeting.
- The recommendations align with the newly selected Prevention & Early Intervention Moonshot, emphasizing initiatives that advance workforce development, system capacity, and long-term strategic direction. Trustee direction will shape the final recommendations brought forward at the August Board meeting.

The committee adjourned at 1:47 p.m. Pending agenda finalization, the committee’s next meeting is scheduled for October 14-15, 2026, in Anchorage.