

**Teleconference for Executive Committee of the Advisory board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
(ABADA) and Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB)  
02/07/2018**

**ABADA**

Alavini Lata  
Gunnar Ebbesson  
Lee Breinig  
Robert Coghill

**AMHB**

Brenda Moore  
Charlene Tautfest  
Christopher Gunderson - Excused  
Sharon Clark  
Stephen Sundby

**Staff**

Alison Kulas  
Beverly Schoonover

Meeting called to order at 10 Am by Alison

**Roll Call/ Introductions**

**Legislative Priorities/ Letters of Support Process**

- **SB128** is sponsored by Senator Giessel “An Act establishing the marijuana education and treatment fund; and relating to the duties of the DHSS to administer a comprehensive marijuana use education and treatment program.” Using the last 3 months of excise taxes as a proxy, DHSS estimates \$10M in total revenue for FY18. That means \$2.5M to the “Fund”. If passed, DHSS would take a year to assess, determine priorities and build capacity. The treatment component will be covered by DBH to build capacity for SBIRT, the rest will be appropriated to the Division of Public Health Administrative Services, and most likely be allocated to the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) within the Division of Public Health.
  - Will funds go out as grants to communities or are they going to work on ad campaigns around education? In the bill there are some specific things they are going to work on. About 30% budget would go into surveillance and monitoring YRBS questionnaires, and then a portion into community grants. We talked with DJJ about their grants and making sure we have to focus and needs for the communities. So a portion for communities grants and public education, the department has already done some public education campaigns.
  - Generally support but concerned that this would help fund other things, without focusing on the prevention side. Suggested language in our letter of support that we really hope this goes towards prevention of marijuana use. Concerned that the taxes go to prevention work but doesn’t see that clearly laid out.
  - One of the things we could do proactively is communicate with DHSS because once the funds are deposited they are going to be the ones that manage how that money is spent
  - Members agreed that want to see an effective use of funds and assess what organizations are currently doing work, ex: Division of Juvenile Justice.
  - Other suggestions- talk with Mike Kerosky to see what’s happening in the schools.

- **HB 268** is sponsored by Representative Gara “An Act Relating to the Prescription of Opioids”. This is a patient information bill, requiring providers to provide written and/or oral warnings to patients prescribed opioids. The Boards of each profession could issue sanctions for providers “habitually” violating the statute- i.e. providing prescriptions without any patient education. Discussion of how to increase the effectiveness of the bill.
  - Give a copy of the letter to the licensing boards (nurses, physician, etc)
  - Educate physicians how to talk with their patients and develop plans for how to get off the meds as well- needs to be an exit plan.
  - Want to make sure the right groups are addressing the issue and not adding unnecessary groups.
  - The Executive Committee reviewed the letter of support which included this feedback. Sent to Representative Gara for the record.
- **SB76- Title 4 provisions** sponsored by Senator Micciche. Have the Boards previously submitted letters of support? Alison will review the bill thoroughly and draft bullet points to discuss at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- **SB105** sponsored by Senator David Wilson. "An Act relating to the licensure of marital and family therapists; relating to professional liability insurance for marital and family therapists; relating to medical assistance for marital and family therapy services; and providing for an effective date." LMFTs would be allowed to bill Medicaid. Gunnar gave background on opposition by larger agencies, but we need people with Medicaid to be able to receive services. We need all licenses to be able to bill Medicaid, but need a more thorough review of the bill to see if there was anything overlooked.
  - Note: Alison followed up on this for more information. This conversation is also coming up with Senator Giessel’s SB 169 which is on a similar topic to remove the 30% supervision or direct supervision rule for psychiatrists to use telemedicine. It sounds like SB105 is saying you can use any number of psychiatrists to make up the 30%, which DBH has already clarified as their interpretation of the regulations. SB105 is then cleaning up the language.
- **HCR2** is sponsored by Representative Tarr “Urging Governor Bill Walker to join with the Alaska State Legislature to respond to the public and behavioral health epidemic of adverse childhood experiences by establishing a statewide policy and providing programs to address this epidemic.”
  - Alison accompanied the bill sponsor during the introduction of the bill to House Labor & Commerce. Public testimony was 2/12. Executive Committee agreed to update the previous letter of support for the resolution in prior years. Letter submitted.

### **Mental Health Trust Update**

The legislation audit that has been overdue will now be reviewed with the Board of Trustees as a draft 2/9/18. The statutory advisors (our Boards, Commission on Aging and the Governor’s Council) will get regular updates from Mike Abbott. The only thing he can share is the timeline, which is further delayed than anticipated last month.

- Still several steps to be completed before sending to the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee (joint of House and Senate members), which will be behind closed doors.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> LB&A committee meeting will be to vote to release the report to the public. This means, we will not see the report until late April/ early May.

In the meantime **Senate Bill 177** sponsored by Senator MacKinnon has been released, "An Act relating to the mental health trust fund and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; relating to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's authority to acquire, invest in, make capital improvements to, or undertake other activities on real properties; relating to management of mental health trust land; establishing the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Development account; relating to public access to information concerning the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority or mental health trust land; and providing for an effective date."

- It is referred to State Affairs committee and Finance committee.
- This bill may move before the audit is public but Mike has said they will amend anything that needs to be amended or make changes based on what comes from the audit.

Questions/ concerns raised by the Executive Committee:

- We feel this is a duplication of what the PFD Corporation already has. Why are we not continuing to use the Permanent Fund?
- Will they have to hire more staff/ contractors who are qualified to make investment decisions? What expertise do each of the Board of Trustees have on investments?
- Why is it only real estate? Does the bill expand their authority besides real estate?
- The Board of Trustees have not written guide lines around real estate investments.
- Presenting to the legislation now is premature until the audit is publically released. How will the audit weigh in to the bill?
- Why does it ratify everything prior to the bill being enacted?
- What is the public information that is restricted? Is there a precedent for that information to be sealed?

The Trust believes they are investing in Alaska and there are questions of whether the Permanent Fund supports Alaska. Our strength is not in investments, it is in programing. We support managing the funds to ensure stability and sustainability in the fund. If they can turn a profit on high risk investing it would be a good thing. However, they need to find a balance of making smart investments with people qualified to make those decisions while supporting beneficiaries' programs.

The Boards do need to weigh how we want to approach this since the Trust is our partner and we are statutory advisors. Options for the Boards to consider on next steps:

- Draft our questions into a letter for the Finance Committee. Have Board members weigh in on list and finalize.
- This letter can also be distributed to the Trust, Board of Trustees, and the Governor.
- Have conversations with members of the Finance Committee.
- Ask for a meeting with the Governor to advise him on our questions and concerns.
- Approach our concerns as statutory advisors to the programs that support beneficiaries rather than the investment experts.

**Closing Comments:** As we work together Alison would like to get more of your feedback so she can best represent the Boards. We can look into redeveloping the Advocacy Committee and other ways to engage all Board members. Any other suggestions please let Alison know.