

**Teleconference for Executive Committee of the Advisory board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
(ABADA) and Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB)  
03/07/2018**

**ABADA**

Alavini Lata -Excused  
Gunnar Ebbesson - Excused  
Lee Breinig - Excused  
Robert Coghill - Excused

**AMHB**

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

**Staff**

Alison Kulas  
Clarena Bellinger

Meeting called to order at 10 Am by Alison

**Roll Call/ Introductions**

**Mental Health Trust Update**

- Brenda-I don't want us to have any can of control I just want us to be in the know
- Chris- I just want us to be involved in the process.
- Charlene- my only concern was going forward with legislation without an audit happening
- Alison- the audit has been delayed further now more likely to be April or May. Because of that they have stopped the legislation. So at this point I think we need to reassess and keep those things in mind at that micro level. Do you feel good about holding or do you feel the need to discuss this more with the full board
- Brenda – I think we need to figure out some way to follow the process of the legislation and the process of development.
- Alison – as the move forward next legislation session
- Brenda – yes
- Alison – I will let Mike know about our interest at the micro level.

**Legislative Priorities/ Letters of Support Process**

- **Budget testimony for House Finance update and priority items identified**
  - Alison- We did have some folks testify and we did submit our letter. We have heard some new development on the supplemental on Medicaid.
  - Chris – this is not the first year this has happened. It feels a little different this time. Maybe you can tell us why there wouldn't be more of a fast track on a supplemental bill
  - Alison- I sat in a lot of department over reviews, and I have not heard an urgency had not heard when they are presenting the supplemental request, that there was a miscalculation and that we have more people signing on. And that the supplemental that would cover that, because of the 52% match from the state. I think we are at 90% federal Medicaid match. The 100 million dollars short has been broken out to 78.1 million is going to health care services 12.6 is for behavioral health services, 2.2 is going adult preventable dental. This is because they will be running out of that state match.

On Monday they said they would run out of money in March and now is changed to mid-April and now they are looking in May. If its much later in the year they will hold payments. This is a concern if they really are running out of that match, much sooner then June. Contact rep. ??? and will be tracking the issue more, and wondering where is the urgency, how it can be presented in the senate. I know Micciche has said that we don't know where the 100 million dollars is going to come from, we don't have the room and it is a large request. So we do need to work the senate side. The House was really respective on the budget. And the urgency isn't there from the department.

- Charlene – if it passed April they would run out of funds and health centers wouldn't get any payments until the next FY for back payments. I don't know how the centers are fancily if they would stay open or not.
- Brenda – we were having problems with the MIS system. Has that all been sorted out. Is maybe some of the lack of urgency is because of those issues.
- Chris- yeah I think that was a part of that. The claims process got so sideways. I think that was a piece, and the other piece may be more of a factor last time. At the start of the year they create their budget they try and project where the Medicaid will go, even if the total budget is close they can be off in the distribution of it. They had under funding behavioral health because they didn't cover the participation in enrolment increase.
- Alison – they do feel solid on their estimate now. They do feel the supplemental with be good for the rest of the year and for FY19 they've add an additional 27 million to the budget for a total of 127 million. They feel sold in how they are estimating this point going forward, with how many people they are getting into services. They can do a fast track system or the regular supplemental process, but that takes a longer time frame. They could do half of the supplemental do a fast track, so that they are making payments in April May. one thing that came up the health providers only have 15 of cash on hand. Because provides really on Medicaid for a larger part of their billing. We're talking about 12.6 million for behavioral health but it could impact them with payments
- Chris- the division and the department as a hole as been pushing to serve low income induvial in the state. Has pushed providers to Medicaid. Because they wanted to help with that cash flow. That pulls in more people and then that's puts them into how do we stock cash until the end of the year cause of Medicaid.
- Alison – how do you feel comfortable in response to this. We can write a letter, or set up meetings to talk with folks. Charlene you have a great relationship with senator Micciche, he would be a good person to chat with on this.
- Brenda – what is AHOP doing?
- Alison – I think that are doing an official letter. I can follow up with Tom. I know there were tracking the issue and talking about it. They have been mentioning it at meeting.
- Brenda – if AHOP is doing a letter I think we should be in sync with them
- Chris – I agree with Brenda. Write a letter of support
- Charlene – I will talk with John
- Alison – I will check in with Tom, Asha, and John as well. Ill find out what they are doing and then send out an email. That way we can be on that united front with them
- **SB76- Title 4 provisions sponsored by Senator Micciche**
  - Alison - There is a complain bill in title 4 for revision and rep. Kopp. The two of them are working close together. They have reached out to see if we would give a letter of support to the rewrite. I wasn't sure if the boards of done a letter before or if we want to do one?

- Chris- I don't remember if the boards have weighed in on this
- Alison – I will email out the bullet points from the change
- Charlene – with no one from ABADA here I would check in with BOB
- Alison – I will check in with Bob
- Brenda – the legislation hasn't really been at this place before, but Jeff was really leading this before.
- Alison – Recover Alaska has been working with Sen. Costello, working on questions, and really make sure that they can get a hearing this session. I will get those bullet points and follow up with folks from the ABADA Board
- **SB105/ SB169- Sen Wilson LMFT and Sen Giessel on BH providers. Supervision or direct supervision provided by telehealth services**
  - Alison – these bills are not the same bills but they both are rally trying to increase access to the license medical license and therapist. If you do want to submit letters of support for both of these or one of these.
  - Chris – Sen. Willson bill, is his increase supervise clinical hours to get a license or decrease.
  - Alison – One is to decrease the number of hours by 30%, then the other one is to increase the providers that can sit in that 30%
  - Charlene- I think 105 is so they can bill Medicaid in community health centers
  - Chris – Wilson's bill will because yeah the community health center under regulation only also allows License clinical social workers, and psychologist bill under the community health center designation. So is bill would open up to LMFTs in community health centers
  - Stephen – Don't we already address LPC in the same way is the correct?
  - Charlene – Im not sure
  - Stephen- well if its going to happen with LMFT then its needs to happen with LPC too
  - Alison – I can check on that
  - Brenda - A lot of Alaska uses LPCs
  - Chris – as long as there is equally around all license types I agree. So if we could get information on who that is aimed at.
  - Alison – ok I can draft up a letter and then send it out to full board to review to highlighting around the points of equality. That we want more license guides.
- **Additional Items for Consideration**
  1. Brenda- Did Cath Gissel get back to us?
  2. Alison- on the 120 Marijuana tax fund. I did touch base with her staff Jane and she did submit a community for Cathy Geisel marijuana bill to where it change it from 25% of the tax to go to 35% to DHSS and have it focus on afterschool programs. So the compromise was increasing the school programs.
  - Charlene – what about the violence in the work place bill
  - Alison – so that one Joanna Cahoon did weigh in on. I did email out information on that bill. She is interested in testifying. It did have one more hearing. But we have not done a letter for that one. Do you have a thought on how to response on that?
  - Charlene – no I thought we were going to wait on that. Not that I'm not for safety but on the other hand it could have something on felony not getting housing.
  - Alison – this one is very complicated bill. Definitely let us know if you want us to write on this official.
  - Chris- I agree with Charlene. I don't know if enough if known on the bill.

- Alison – and I think that where the Trust was as well that there wasn't a lot of data on hospital individual to address concerns. The Trust was worried that this would increase felony's.
  - Brenda- we've dealt with this API governance board and they have a lot of issues around this. They've put in training to avoid this. I'm wondering if we should check in with Ron on this bill.
  - Charlene- I've asked if they could back down the injuries down by unit. I was told they would do that. That was you can look at the children's unit or other units. I just don't think they should have children and sex offenders in the same building. I find it inappropriate at a state level.
  - Alison – I will say also one of the budget amendments was for the Trust to move funds study of API forensics beds.
  - Brenda- haven't they already done a study
  - Alison - they have so they think this study wont take long
  - Brenda- we have capacity issues.
  - Charlene- they have groups in their own area but they still share the same building
  - Alison – I did talk with Randal with the Trust and I think we will meet with folks next week. I think we will start a group to get into more of the API concerns and have patient input, and I think that can contact with the HB312 issue as well. How can we protect patient, doctors and nurses. Charlene I would like to contact with you if you are hearing for Ron.
- **Board meeting update for April 17-19**
    - We are agenda meeting starting, and what we are going to do for the community.
    - Clarena has booked many travel and we have a good attendance.