

Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Alaska Mental Health Board

Quarterly Board Draft Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom

January 11, 2023

Dually Appointed Members Present: Monique Andrews, Robert Dorton, Diane Fielden

ABADA Members Present: Lee Breinig, Chair, Chase Griffith, Katholyn Runnels, Kara Nelson, Kathleen Totemoff, Renee Schofield

AMHB Members Present: Charlene Tautfest – Chair, Sharon Clark, Brenda Moore, Karen Malcolm-Smith, Tonie Protzman, Kurt Hoenack, Jeanne Brady, James Savage

Ex-Officio Members: Carrie Collins, Duane Mayes, Adam Rutherford – excused, Sharon Fishel Shannon Dilley

ABADA Members Absent: Philip Licht – excused, Anthony Cravalho – excused, Christine Robbins – unexcused

AMHB Members Absent: Tanya Hicks – unexcused

Staff: Bev Schoonover, Executive Director, Jennifer Weisshaupt, Planner II, Stephanie Hopkins, Planner II, Kevin Holian, Administrative Assistant II, Eric Morrison, Project Assistant, SSPC

Minutes Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

Chairs Lee Breinig and Charlene Tautfest welcomed board members to the meeting. The mission statement was read, the lands were acknowledged, and board members introduced themselves and disclosed conflicts of interest as follows:

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

Lee Breinig

Family member who is a Trust beneficiary; tribally enrolled member of Kavilco and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes; works for Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), which receives grant funding from multiple sources.

Robert Dorton

Employed by Tanana Chiefs Conference and works with the Fairbanks Re-Entry Coalition.

Kathleen Totemoff

Employed by Ninilchik Traditional Council, which receives funding from Medicaid. Member of the Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry coalition and Nine Star, both of which receive state funding.

Kara Nelson

Chief operating officer for True North Recovery, one of the tri-chairs for the Mat-Su Re-Entry Coalition, board member of Careline. They receive grant funds through True North from the State of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, and reimbursement from Medicaid.

Brenda Moore

President of Christian Health Associates, which receives state grants and Medicaid reimbursement.

Kurt Hoenack

Mat-Su Youth Housing client navigator and serves on the board as a non-voting member. Also on the Mat-Su Opioid Task Force.

Charlene Tautfest

On the board of Peninsula Community Health Services, which bills Medicaid and receives state grants.

Tonie Protzman

Employed by Cornerstone Health Recovery, executive director for the National Association of Social Workers, and both entities receive state and federal funding.

James Savage

Director of operations for True North Recovery Wasilla Day 1 Center, co-chair and founding member of the Mat-Su Opioid Task Force. Receive grant funding as well as federal pass through via Medicaid reimbursement.

The other members of the boards had no conflicts to declare.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Diane Fielden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 2022 meeting, **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark. Hearing no discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Breinig **MOVED** to include an executive session right before board business to discuss concerns of board members. Bev Schoonover asked for the specific names of board members that will be discussed so they have the opportunity to request the meeting be public. Chair Breinig **AMENDED THE MOTION** to amend the agenda to include an executive session to address board member concerns. He further explained that board members have been notified, and they include himself. Diane Fielden self identified as another one of the board members. The motion was **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark. Hearing no discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**. Chair Tautfest added the executive session as the first item under Board Business.

BOARD PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS DISCUSSION

Diane Fielden outlined the priorities as drafted by the Advocacy Committee as follows:

Priority Populations of Concern:

All Alaskans with substance use and mental health disorders to ensure adequate resources for typically under-supported and vulnerable Alaskans including:

- Justice-involved Trust beneficiaries
- Rural Alaskans
- Alaskans experiencing homelessness
- Youth and families.

Advocacy Priorities:

1. Increased access to safe and patient-centered institutional and community supports including withdrawal management, psychiatric care, and telehealth.
2. Identifying gaps and areas to build the continuum of care for substance use and mental health conditions.
3. Increase early childhood, early intervention, and prevention services and activities to reduce adverse childhood experiences, increase resiliency, and prevent future mental health and substance misuse concerns.
4. Reducing the stigma and negative feelings about substance misuse and mental health concerns.
5. Increased supportive employment services.
6. Increased access to housing and housing supports.
7. Behavioral health and primary health care integration.
8. Reduce harm caused by alcohol misuse.

Diane Fielden stated that the committee meets every two weeks on Monday at noon. Everyone is welcome to join and listen in. Next steps are to work on specific bills that were left over that did not get through last year. Brenda Moore added that they will also be looking at budget items.

PRESENTATION ON BRUCE'S LAW

Sandy Snodgrass began her presentation by stating that her son Robert Bruce Snodgrass was poisoned with fentanyl in Anchorage on October 26th, 2021. He started showing substance misuse disorder symptoms at 16 or 17 and spent almost a year in jail for theft. She bailed him out because he agreed to go to treatment, which he successfully completed. He was in outpatient treatment and on an ankle monitor awaiting court, and he relapsed and died.

As a result, Sandy Snodgrass educated herself about fentanyl and was able to have meetings with Senators Sullivan and Murkowski. Both senators have done many things behind the scenes,

without legislation in place, that have made a difference in standing up a response to the fentanyl epidemic. Senator Murkowski's office introduced Bruce's Law on June 6th, 2022. They are very hopeful it will pass before June 4th, 2023. Representative David Trone is the sponsor in the House, and Representative Mary Peltola is a co-sponsor.

Bruce's Law will stand up a response nationwide to provide prevention, education, and naloxone training for young people and agencies that have contact with young people. Coalitions will be able to access funds through SAMHSA grants.

Sandy Snodgrass explained that in the meantime, she has started a non-profit agency called AK Fentanyl Response Project. She will be hosting community events in Fairbanks next week, and other events will be forthcoming which will include showing a video called "*Dead on Arrival*," which is a 20-minute documentary appropriate for all ages. She shared that a recent report from the DEA indicates that six out of ten counterfeit pills are now suspected of containing enough fentanyl to kill a person. She will distribute DEA flyers during her events. She also noted that more and more drug users are seeking fentanyl and are carrying naloxone to revive each other and use again.

Sandy Snodgrass explained that she is looking for support from people willing to attend her events and provide her other community suggestions to hold events. She remarked that Senator Murkowski has asked her to go to Dillingham and Togiak. She received a small grant from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, which is supplying her travel funds, and the DEA has also provided her with literature. The HIDTA funds should allow her to go into six or seven communities, and she hopes to build relationships in those communities to further the cause.

Sandy is also the administrator for Alaska for Facing Fentanyl, and they have developed kits that have everything a school needs to hold an assembly. There is also a link to the *Dead on Arrival* video included in the materials. She demonstrated another kit that when you press a button, it's a video to train people on the spot in 10 minutes to provide naloxone and recognize possible poisoning or overdose.

Sharon Clark suggested the boards could write a letter of support.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg introduced herself by stating that she has been with the Department for 13 years with a significant amount of that time in the Division of Public Assistance (DPA). She noted that most people are aware of the media coverage surrounding issues with DPA and the current backlog. She stated that it resulted from a series of events, and they are focusing on solutions going forward and how to address the backlog and ensure it doesn't happen again. The majority of the commissioner's office has been dedicated to working with DPA, and they are also working very closely with the Governor's office, legislators, and advocacy groups.

Commissioner Hedberg shared the following areas of focus with DPA:

- Because of some threats, they are focusing on making sure that each of the DPA offices are safe for staff to come to work.
- Training to build up staff competencies, and onboarding long-term, non-perm positions to train and support the virtual call center.
- There is a dedicated team working on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recertifications from October forward.
- They are working through some new contracts specific to information technology (IT) because they have old and new systems that are labor intensive for eligibility technicians to navigate.
- Working with federal partners to see what they will allow the state to waive.

Commissioner Hedberg stated that the Governor had an Administrative Order that created the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation (GACOR) to receive stakeholder feedback, determine what the opioid settlements allow, and then develop recommendations in a report. She acknowledged that Jenny Weissaupt did a lot of the writing for the report, which went out for public comment this fall and was then submitted to the Governor's office. There will be a bill introduced to secure the opioid settlement funds, both the funds they are currently working on as well as future settlements. The bill will be carried by the Department of Revenue.

Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci introduced herself by stating that she has been in state service for about 10 years, and has recently joined the Department of Health. She highlighted that she has her master's degree in public health and is passionate about the work of these boards. She looks forward to achieving their shared goal of healthier Alaskans.

Commissioner Hedberg stated that she is very system focused and partner driven. It's going to take everyone working together focusing on solutions. She stated her priorities as follows:

1. The continuum of care for Behavioral Health contains gaps. A lot of work has happened over the past four years, and there is much more they want to do. The Department of Justice report came out, and they are working on the recommendations because they want Alaskans to receive the right care in state or as close to home as possible.
2. Public Assistance.
3. Healthy Families Initiative from Governor Dunleavy, which contains three pillars: healthy beginnings; improving access to health care, which includes behavioral health care; and healthy communities. The initiative will elevate existing work, include partnerships, and part of it will be working with the legislature on expanding or increasing certain areas.

Chair Breinig noted a 4.5 percent increase to funding for the joint boards, and he wants to know how they can best utilize this funding in aligning with the current administration and initiatives. He also remarked on funding coming in through the state through the GACOR.

D.C. Emily Ricci clarified that there has been a 4.5 percent increase in 1115 waiver services as a part of the Department's general response and recognition of the impacts of inflation on rates and

the impact on providers. This is a tool the Department was able to leverage quickly to get the rate increase into place for providers.

Commissioner Hedberg explained that the first step for GACOR was receiving public comment from stakeholders. The legislature is aware that the bill to secure the current opioid settlement and future opioid settlement funds will entail the Department of Revenue creating an account, purchasing bonds with the funds as they come in, and then there will be interest earned over time in that account. Addressing opioid addiction will take generations. They need immediate funding now, but they will also need it for years to come. The compromise was to take a percent of market value and give it to Department of Health. There is a cross-agency grant committee that will create the grant application and guidance, and they will distribute the funds annually to organizations that are focusing on prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. Part of the settlement is that they have to demonstrate that the funding is focused on future opioid remediation. They have to measure the work they are doing to demonstrate they are actually addressing the opioid epidemic.

Brenda Moore asked about the state of Medicaid with the end of public health emergency. D.C. Ricci stated in December, Congress passed an omnibus act, and the public health emergency is no longer tied to the suspension and the reimplementing of requirements for a renewal of Medicaid eligibility. Effective March 31st, the state will need to begin the recertification of essentially all Medicaid beneficiaries, which can happen over a 12-month period of time. More detailed information to the public will start to roll out in February.

Diane Fielden asked how the budget increase affects the boards, and how then boards can find out what their budget is in order to determine the most effective use of that budget. Commissioner Hedberg noted that she would have to work with Bev to follow up on this question. She noted that the other beneficiary boards do not have a budget. Those budgets are absorbed by the Department. Bev Schoonover put a link to the Office of Management and Budget into the chat for board members to review. Bev also commented that she believes the board members' question lies with travel policies and confusion about how the funding sources work. Bev also noted that board members do not have any oversight over the budget based on their duties and bylaws, and it is her responsibility. She also stated that everything is publicly available.

Diane Fielden remarked that the staff has over 50 percent of the travel budget, and the remaining travel budget is for the board members. She and some others would like to know how they decide who goes where and how that money is spent. Bev Schoonover stated that the boards decide where they want to go, and in the bylaws it is all based on how much money there is. Non-employee state travel is budgeted differently than state travel for staff to fulfill their duties. She is happy to go over this at any time, and she suggested inviting Boards and Commissions to explain it.

After the conclusion of the Commissioner's presentation, Sharon Clark addressed the opioid remediation money and the amount of time the money has to be budgeted for, and she wondered how many kids and adults will die in the meantime, and she wants to know what is being done for them and their families. Sharon would like to know if the Commissioner is aware of how bad the

fentanyl issue is in Alaska, and she would like to know the Department of Health's take on that and how they are reaching out to help parents.

BOARD BUSINESS

New Business

Executive Session

Renee Schofield addressed the executive session scheduled on the agenda and noted that the boards have very narrow parameters under which to go into executive session. The bylaws state that they can only discuss matters that would either adversely affect the boards' finances or the reputation and character of any person, and that person has the right to request a public discussion. She didn't believe it was clarified in the motion if the person they would be discussing was notified. She also missed the exact reason they will be going into executive session.

Chair Breinig stated that the motion for executive session was to address the concerns that a particular board member has, and that board member is himself, so he has notice. Diane Fielden stated that she is also included in that. Renee stated that she doesn't know what those concerns are related to. Chair Breinig stated that the concerns are related to his position and the direction of the boards, and he is seeking guidance on some issues he feels conflicted about.

Renee Schofield encouraged members of the boards to review the bylaws because she does not believe this reaches the bar of an executive session. She believes a concern about the direction of the boards should be a public discussion. Chair Breinig shared concerns that some of the things he would like to discuss in executive session might be misconstrued and be damaging to his reputation or misperceived by the public. Renee Schofield believes Chair Breinig is setting himself up for potential litigation, and she reiterated that this does not hit the mark for executive session.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was heard, and a full transcript was prepared.

BOARD BUSINESS, Continued

New Business, Continued

Executive Session, Continued

Diane Fielden asked Renee Schofield to explain her worries about going into executive session. Diane explained that she has concerns about how the board is running and how they work on their board, and she didn't think she should ask it in a public setting because it is board business. She strictly needs to know what the rules are so she doesn't feel like there is something wrong.

Brenda Moore cautioned a situation with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority where they got into trouble for discussing things that didn't pertain specifically to personnel or financial matters during executive session. She stated that if it is a matter of operations and how the board is operating, that is public information. She does not want them to have to have a legislative audit because they went into executive session inappropriately.

Kathleen Totemoff agrees with Renee Schofield. She remarked that there were technical issues in the beginning when they were discussing this, but she heard there were concerns. She wondered if the type of concern needs to be specifically identified for them to move forward with executive session. The reasoning seems vague to her.

Chair Breinig stated that he feels conflicted about the lack of training or direction that he has in his role, and he wants to be sure he's executing it as effectively as possible. In addition, he doesn't know if they are meeting their statutory responsibilities, but that could be a matter of communication. He doesn't believe they are hearing from people in various communities as much as they have in the past or that they are communicating that information to the Governor or the legislature. He recognized people serve on the boards out of a sense of passion. He feels issues have been elevated in the public and in the media, and they are tasked with addressing all these issues. He wonders if they are doing a good enough job. He also noted that after reviewing the bylaws, he recognized specific duties they may have deviated from or could improve upon. As chair, he wants to set a tone and an example that will best serve the people. He is calling into question how to improve his own competence and improve communication so he understands the full scope of what has been going on. There have been a number of things brought to his attention that he feels conflicted about.

Charlene Tautfest clarified that Chair Breinig wants to go into executive session based on item ii from the bylaws, "Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion."

Renee Schofield agrees with Chair Breinig on several of his points, but she thinks that is board business and is not necessarily anything confidential in nature. She understands his angst, which may be resolved with mentorship. If there is a communication issue, it would be healthy for them to discuss that in public and not during executive session. Chair Breinig understands the process of having board business be open to the public, but he feels that it could prejudice his reputation.

Bev Schoonover noted that the last month and a half since the chair transition has been very difficult, but she is always open to talk with members of the boards. She stated that the first line of her position description is that her main duty is to carry out the statutory duties of ABADA and the Mental Health Board. If the boards go into executive session and talk about the statutory duties, they will be talking about her position, and she respectfully requested that be done in public or that she be invited into executive session.

Jeanne Brady added her opinion that she agrees with Chair Breinig talking about the concerns confidentially at first, because whatever he is doing, he is representing the board. Whatever prejudice will be applied to his leadership will also reflect on the boards.

Chair Tautfest reminded the boards that they have already voted and approved going into an executive session with no opposition to the motion. Chair Breinig stated they should go into executive session.

Kara Nelson asked for a discussion on Bev Schoonover's remarks. She is unsure how the process works if there is a discussion about her position or her duties. Chair Breinig offered that Bev Schoonover seek legal counsel on that issue. Bev Schoonover respectfully requested that they pause and seek that counsel before the boards go into executive session. She stated that unfortunately they will need to postpone the executive session.

Chair Breinig **MOVED** to table the executive session, **SECONDED** by Diane Fielden. Hearing no further discussion nor opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation (GACOR)

Chair Breinig acknowledged the information the boards received from Commissioner Hedberg today. Jenny Weissaupt stated that the report had been previously sent to board members. Chair Breinig asked Jenny to provide board members with a written report summarizing the boards' involvement in the process. He is confused about how that process happened and why the boards were not as involved as he believes they should have been, particularly ABADA.

Diane Fielden asked if there were any members of the boards involved on that council or if it was only staff. Kathleen Totemoff stated that those were open meetings, and anyone could attend. Diane didn't know the meetings were happening. Bev Schoonover responded by stating that GACOR members were appointed by the Governor, and the invitations were very strict and limited. Director Hedberg from Public Health was in charge of the GACOR. Renee Schofield and Sharon Clark were chairs of the boards at the time, and they discussed it and immediately reached out and asked that ABADA have a seat on the council for a board member. They were told no. They then asked Public Health to include them with staffing for it, and Jenny Weissaupt was assigned. During the May AMHB/ABADA board meeting, Director Hedberg attended the meeting and presented on the process and invited everyone to the GACOR meetings. The boards have had regular updates as staff reports during Executive Committee meetings. Jenny has distributed materials and invitations, and several board members were a part of the GACOR meetings and listened in as members of the public. The boards also encouraged Public Health to have GACOR receive public comment during this process. Jenny compiled all the public comments and sent them out to the boards, distributed the draft report, and told board members when comments were due so they had an opportunity to comment on the draft report. Jenny then took all the information from across the state, synthesized it, and gave it back to the council. The council had another meeting and incorporated the comments into the report, and then the report was finalized.

Chair Breinig asked for further clarification on why the boards' involvement was the way it was. He is appreciative of the efforts that were made during the process, but he would like to understand how they can be more involved instead of being an ancillary thought. Bev Schoonover stated that she doesn't understand why it happens, but it also happened under the Walker administration with the Opioid Policy Task Force they weren't initially invited to participate in. She noted it has happened multiple times since she's been with the boards, and she thinks it will take both staff and the boards to address the issue.

Bev Schoonover was proud of the ABADA board members who showed up to the GACOR meetings and provided comments, and she is very proud of the work that Jenny did on this.

Chair Breinig followed up by stating that he doesn't want the boards to be seen as an obstacle or something that's intrusive to this administration, and he wants to understand how they can best work with the current administration in that context. He is open to hearing people's thoughts on that or possibly asking leadership about how they can be more effective in their roles when they feel as if they are being circumnavigated. Sharon Clarke asked if he is also suggesting there be a closer dialogue between both boards and staff so that when these things come up, they are going down the road together and that it is voiced that way. Chair Breinig believes the strength of the boards comes from all the members' experiences and backgrounds, and they should be tapping into that more effectively to serve the people.

Kara Nelson confirmed that the parameters to participate on the GACOR were very strict. She noted that there were multiple opportunities to participate in the process, and her primary source of information about this process was through AMHB/ABADA. She attended several meetings and provided comment and felt heard as a member of ABADA.

Diane Fielden asked for more information on the inability to get representation from the boards on GACOR. She also asked if there was communication between the Governor's office and these boards. She noted they are an advisory board, and she doesn't know why the Governor wouldn't want them on there. Renee Schofield reiterated that there were strong guidelines on who could be on the council. They asked to have a seat and were declined. When the council was looking for technical assistance, they were able to get Jenny in as the transcriber.

Diane Fielden continued on to ask Bev Schoonover if she is having any communication problems and if there is any way the boards can help her be able to get information to the Governor, because it sounds like she's having trouble working her way into that office. Bev Schoonover noted that this is an ongoing issue. She stated that the Governor has very much empowered his commissioners, and he is far removed from the work of his commissioners. She doesn't believe the Governor is meeting with any of the boards outside of the Permanent Fund or oil-related boards. She highlighted that with this recent change of commissioner and deputy commissioner, the communication is better than it has ever been. Commissioner Hedberg and D.C. Ricci know the boards, and they are very supportive. Bev stated that a board retreat would be a perfect

opportunity to invite the Governor's staff to educate them on the purpose of the boards, highlight where there has been duplication and miscommunication, and ask how better to work together.

Chair Breinig asked that the written summary report on staff involvement with GACOR include staff thoughts on how the boards can be more effective in being a part of things.

Board Development Committee/Board Retreat

Chair Tautfest stated that under the bylaws, chairs can form and appoint members to committees. She would like to form a board development committee to be tasked with the following activities:

- Review the bylaws
- Create board meeting agendas more inclusive of what the boards would like to do and see.
- Plan a board retreat to include partner reports and other tasks that could free up time at their regularly scheduled board meetings so they can use their quarterly board meetings to complete board business. They could use the time to learn about their statutory duties and what their role is, particularly for new board members.

Chair Tautfest would like to have three people from each board on the committee.

Bev Schoonover is very supportive of the board development committee and noted that Jenny Weisshaupt is willing to staff it. She also loves Chair Tautfest's idea of a board retreat. She stated that depending on what the boards would like to do regarding the next board meeting, if they have money left over, they can ask for special permission for a retreat. This could be done this fiscal year, or they could incorporate it as part of the funding they receive for next fiscal year. Chair Tautfest believes Anchorage would be the retreat location where they would have access to free conference rooms.

Sharon Clark **MOVED** for the formation of a Board Development Committee, **SECONDED** by Diane Fielden. After brief discussion and hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Bev Schoonover suggested they invite someone to come talk to the Board Development Committee about state travel policies.

Ad Hoc Committees

Chair Breinig recommended the formation of two ad hoc committees:

- Tracking federal legislation
- Tribal healthcare strategic partnership committee.

Chair Breinig asked that anyone interested in participating on these ad hoc committees e-mail him, Chair Tautfest, and Bev Schoonover.

Jeanne Brady shared her concerns on overtaxing staff resources with the addition of committees. Chair Breinig stated that they can solicit involvement from the community on these ad hoc committees, which would help disburse the workload and help keep them connected to the communities. Bev Schoonover noted that because of the Open Meetings Act, public notice and recordkeeping typically involve staff. Diane Fielden asked if they legally have to have a staff member in a committee meeting and if committee meetings have to be publicly noticed. Bev replied that anytime three board members meet and discuss business of the board, it has to be publicly noticed. It is in the staff member job descriptions to help run committee meetings. If the board chooses not to utilize the staff for committee meetings, staff can consult with them on how to conduct them. Jenny Weisshaupt added that staff are passionate about these topics as well, and they are interested in participating and helping.

Sharon Clark remarked that from their last meetings and over the last few months, they have heard much about being short on staff and issues with taking staff's time. She asked if it would be a problem to have a staff member at committee meetings. Bev stated that she mentioned once formally that they were short on staff, and that was to request an additional month to help plan this meeting. They have recently experienced two staffing changes, the losses of Val Cooday and Teri Tibbett. They will be hiring another planner because Stephanie Hopkins was promoted, and they will have no problem staffing committees for the boards.

Letter of Support

Sharon Clark shared her feelings about not enough being done to support parents, family members, and people that have come before the boards with their stories. She wondered how many kids and adults they will continue to lose as these opioid remediation funds slowly come into play. She feels their purpose as board members is to be an intermediary to the Governor to let him know that these people need help. She also wanted to know what the Trust can do with the funding they have available to help these people.

Chair Breinig encouraged Sharon Clark to read the GACOR report.

Bev Schoonover stated that the GACOR decided to bond the money over 18 years. They are going to try to get the money right away to start spending it right away. The faster the bill can get in place, the faster the money will go out to communities. Jenny Weisshaupt added that ABADA has a seat for a board member to participate on the proposal review committee.

Kara Nelson believes Sandy Snodgrass is doing amazing work, and she noted that there are many people on the boards who are doing that work in the trenches as well. Kara noted that she partners with Karen Malcolm-Smith as well as Sandy. She would love to see the boards write a letter of recommendation for Sandy Snodgrass, someone who has been a huge inspiration for herself and others.

During discussion, Karen Malcolm-Smith highlighted the work Sandy has done to gather the forces of the Congressional delegation and the DEA, and she wondered if there was any funding

available for her from the Trust. She also noted that they should consider supporting Michael Carson's Kellsie's Law with the legislature.

Sharon Clark suggested that they also advocate for a public awareness campaign to the entire state of Alaska.

Hearing no further discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Ongoing Business

Next Board Meeting

Jenny Weisshaupt displayed a PowerPoint presentation for the boards on her research for a meeting on Prince of Wales Island. She described all of the travel logistics on the island, communities available to visit, and sites to visit within those communities. She described the logistics of getting board members statewide to the island by commercial airline, ferry, and/or airplane charter.

Chair Breinig proposed that if the logistics are too complex, they could hold their meeting in Juneau during the legislative session and then explore holding community or fireside chats in the smaller communities if they are unable to get the full Boards there. Diane Fielden asked if the full boards could meet in Juneau, and they can send a small group to Prince of Wales, and their meeting could hold a dual purpose.

Chair Tautfest felt that with the new members of the legislature, it would be important they educate the new legislators on who the boards are and what they do, and it would be good for newer board members to get that experience.

Sharon Clark felt that if the boards go to Juneau, meeting with legislators should be the focus, and rural and urban meetings should have their own focus.

Staff and board members discussed past meeting schedules between urban, rural, and legislative and the timing for those meetings. Bev Schoonover stated that almost every board in the state of Alaska gets approval for one in-person board meeting. The boards have gotten permission for two per year because they receive federal money for their second in-person board meeting. She noted that state travel policies are always changing, but for this year, they have funding between now and June 30th for another board meeting anywhere the boards would like to go. The meeting has to have an element of working with a community to learn about severe mental illness and severe emotional disturbance of youth, because that is the funding they get through the block grant. This year their RSA for that funding did not specifically include a rural component. On July 1st they receive funding again for two board meetings, and she suggested they could have their rural meeting in the fall of 2023 and meet again in Juneau during the 2024 session.

Chair Breinig shared his concern that they will miss out on a rural focus area by not going to Prince of Wales, but he is also concerned they not miss the legislative session.

Chair Tautfest suggested the Board Development Committee can help define what rural means. She also likes the suggestion of sending a smaller group to hold listening sessions in smaller communities, and she thinks this topic can also be fleshed out by the committee. Bev noted that they would want to include listening sessions to rural communities in the FY'24 travel plan. When that gets submitted and approved in April, they won't need to ask for special permission after that.

Sharon Clark asked if any unused travel funds were sent back that they didn't use last year. Bev stated that everyone was underbudget for travel because of COVID, and funds were moved to areas that were overbudget.

Diane Fielden **MOVED** that the next board meeting be in Juneau in March with the full boards, **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark.

Brenda Moore asked for clarification that this location is in lieu of the meeting on Prince of Wales. Chair Tautfest agreed and reiterated the complex travel logistics.

Hearing no further discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Chair Tautfest suggested holding the meeting the last week of March or the first week of April.

Chair Breinig **MOVED** that they reflect in the minutes that the rural meeting will be in Prince of Wales at a date to be determined.

Bev Schoonover strongly advised the boards to meet with people at state travel to learn about how travel works before deciding on the fall meeting so they fully understand what the limitations and opportunities are.

Without a second, the motion **DIED**.

Board members were in agreement that a discussion about the fall meeting will take place at the Juneau meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Kathleen Totemoff stated that Ninilchik Traditional Council has a free online Smart Recovery platform through their medication-assisted treatment program. This is free to anybody in Alaska for the whole year, and people can access it 24/7. This is a resource that can be shared with people who are struggling, and it connects people to some services outside of regular office visits.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Board members and staff shared final thoughts as follows:

- Good to be able to get together with some of the board in person.

- A retreat is a good idea.
- Thanks to everyone for speaking out and giving their opinions. Glad to be able to have discussion and come to a resolution.
- Thanks to everyone for their time and participation, chairs for their leadership, Stephanie for all her efforts assisting onsite, and all the staff for their participation.
- Thanks for the opportunity to try to elevate the level of their work. These are issues they are all passionate about.
- Look forward to seeing everyone in person in Juneau and over Zoom more frequently.
- Thank you to the staff for everything you do. Many hours went into the reports that were created.
- Many board members are working on the ground doing this work, and they can put their energies together to find good resources and help connect people in different areas.
- It was a hard discussion today, but appreciate being a part of it.
- Learning a lot about boards and where I can be most useful.
- Looking forward to meeting with legislators.
- Enjoy watching how board members work, and it's good to get to know people in person.

Bev Schoonover will follow up on the question about executive session, and she noted she has the list of board recommendations to get started on.

ADJOURNMENT

Diane Fielden **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Chair Breinig. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

MOTIONS

Diane Fielden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 2022 meeting, **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark. Hearing no discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**. Page 2.

Chair Breinig **MOVED** to include an executive session right before board business to discuss concerns of board members. Bev Schoonover asked for the specific names of board members that will be discussed so they have the opportunity to request the meeting be public. Chair Breinig **AMENDED THE MOTION** to amend the agenda to include an executive session to address board member concerns. He further explained that board members have been notified, and they include himself. Diane Fielden self identified as another one of the board members. The motion was **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark. Hearing no discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**. Chair Tautfest added the executive session as the first item under Board Business. Page 3.

Chair Breinig **MOVED** to table the executive session, **SECONDED** by Diane Fielden. Hearing no further discussion nor opposition, the motion **PASSED**. Page 9.

Sharon Clark **MOVED** for the formation of a Board Development Committee, **SECONDED** by Diane Fielden. After brief discussion and hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**. Page 11.

Sharon Clark **MOVED** for the boards to draft a letter of support for Sandy Snodgrass for Bruce's Law, and that they help in any way to bring some insight and help to this, **SECONDED** by Diane Fielden and Kara Nelson. Hearing no further discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**. Page 13.

Diane Fielden **MOVED** that the next board meeting be in Juneau in March with the full boards, **SECONDED** by Sharon Clark. Hearing no further discussion nor objection, the motion **PASSED**. Page 14.

Chair Breinig **MOVED** that they reflect in the minutes that the rural meeting will be in Prince of Wales at a date to be determined. Without a second, the motion **DIED**. Page 14.

Diane Fielden **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Chair Breinig. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m. Page 15.