January 17, 2020

Ms. Mary Jane Michael, Chair
Members of the Board of Trustees
Mr. Mike Abbott, Chief Executive Officer
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. Michael, Members of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Abbott,

Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication to the goals of the Mental Health Trust (Trust) and the work you do on behalf of the Trust’s beneficiaries. Your efforts are of great value to beneficiaries of the Trust and the state as a whole.

The Mental Health Budget, as submitted to the administration and subsequently transmitted to the legislature, contains minimal changes to Trust recommendations. There is a reduction of $372.7 to the Department of Administration for expansion of the holistic defense model in Nome and a reduction of $138.0 to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for the DHSS Comprehensive Program Coordinator and Housing – IT/Telehealth Service System Improvements. There is also an unintended reduction of $91.5 for the Public Guardian Position. The FY 2021 Governor’s Amended Budget will correct this error.

In evaluating the capital needs of the state, the decision was made to reduce general fund capital expenditures in the Mental Health Budget by $4.1 million. The Coordinated Transportation and Vehicles project has changed and is proposed to be fully funded by the Trust.

The total FY 2021 Mental Health Budget is $214.4 million of operating expenditures and $13.1 million of capital. We look forward to working with you and the legislature to secure passage of this budget.

Sincerely,

Amanda Holland
Acting Director

cc: Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Suzanne Cunningham, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor