



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Office of the Governor
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Neil Steininger, Director

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January 19, 2021

Mr. Christopher R. Cooke, 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 Mr. Cooke, 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 changes to Trust recommendations. There are fund changes from General Fund Mental Health to Mental Health Trust Reserves. The Mental Health Budget proposes use of these reserves over the next several fiscal years to meet necessary expenditures of the state's mental health system that cannot be accommodated through existing general fund revenues. Fund changes to utilize reserves occurred in the following departments:

- Department of Administration: \$86.0 for holistic defense;
- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development: \$180.0 for holistic defense;
- Department of Education and Early Development: \$50.0 for the Alaska Autism Resource Center;
- Department of Health and Social Services: \$53.5 to the for the Zero Suicide Initiative, \$20.0 for Peer Support Certification; \$75.0 for the Comprehensive Program Planning Coordinator, \$45.0 for beneficiary mental health status data collection, \$250.0 for maintaining aging and disability resource centers, \$63.0 for IT application/telehealth service system improvements; and
- University: \$100.0 for the Alaska Training Cooperative and \$225.0 for the Alaska Justice Information Center

In addition to the fund changes, Mental Health Trust Reserves are used to provide an increment of \$6,000.0 in the Department of Health and Social Services for supporting services at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute for both the FY 2022 Governor's budget and an FY 2021 Supplemental.

In evaluating the capital needs of the state, the decision was made to reduce general fund capital expenditures in the Mental Health Budget by \$14.8 million. Of the reduction, \$3.2 million was a fund change from General Fund Mental Health to the Mental Health Trust Reserves

The total FY 2022 Mental Health Budget is \$218.2 million of operating expenditures and \$9.7 million of capital. We look forward to working with you and the legislature to secure passage of this budget.

Sincerely,

Neil Steininger
Director

cc: Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Miles Baker, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 FY 2022 Trust to Governor Budget Summary
Attachment 2 Operating Budget Comparison
Attachment 3 Actions on Non-Trust Recommendations
Attachment 4 Capital Budget Comparison