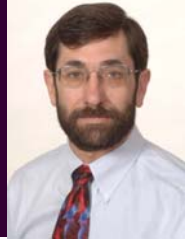


CEO REPORT

Jeff Jessee



February/March 2010

A Catalyst for Change and Improvement in the Systems that Serve Trust Beneficiaries

Program Activities

FY 2010 Budget

- The House Finance subcommittees have been closing out. While most of the Governor's budget remains intact, significant reductions to the Governor's proposed BTKH increments threaten the future of the initiative. The Governor proposed \$1,425,000 in additional GF/MH increments for BTKH. The Trustees had recommended just over \$4 million in additional GF/MH. This was to be matched by \$1,975,000 in MHTAAR. We had decided to support the Governor's budget even at the reduced GF/MH level. However, the House DHSS subcommittee reduced the Governor's request by 57% to only \$625,000. At this level of additional funding the project would not meet programmatic goals next year. In response, after consultation with our Finance chair, I sent the Subcommittee a letter (see attached) to that effect and putting them on notice that in response the Trust would be unwilling to continue the \$1.9 million level of support and would reduce our funding to match their \$625,000. This would be a \$1,300,000 reduction in MHTAAR support. This back and forth has generated some good discussion on the future of the initiative. It is unclear whether any further action will occur in the House or if we will work on the Senate side and resolve the impasse at the conference committee.
- Senate Budget Subcommittees are just now getting going in earnest and will probably be somewhat easier to work with than the House.

Disability Justice

- The Fairbanks Police Department's (FPD) held its third Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training the last week of February. There were 30 participants representing eight law enforcement agencies in this 40 hour training. Steve participated in the first day of the training presenting on Alaska's title 47 involuntary mental health and alcohol commitment statutes.
- Steve was invited by the Public Defender Agency as a team member of attorneys and juvenile justice personnel to attend the *Department of Justice's National Symposium on Indigent Defense* held in mid-February. The symposium brought together federal and state government leaders from around the

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The TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

country – judges, public defenders, prosecutors, legislators, and advocates for an open dialogue about the limited access to competent legal counsel, its impact on an equal and fair justice system, and expanding the role of the public defender.

- The fifth annual statewide conference on *Serving Offenders with Cognitive Impairments* will be held March 15th – 16th at the Sheraton hotel in Anchorage. Two nationally recognized experts will provide tools and techniques on how to best support criminally and sexually at-risk individuals who experience cognitive impairments in the community. The conference targets community providers including, but is not limited to mental health therapists, community case managers, program managers or directors and adult /juvenile probation officers.

Golden Heart Gateway to Recovery: Fairbanks Community Enhanced Detox Center:

- On December 2nd, the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) re-opened the Gateway to Recovery facility and re-started the provision of detoxification services. Currently, FNA has 12 of the 16 beds available for referrals and detox treatment. They hope to open the final four beds once all positions are filled, ensuring the proper staff/client ration to assure client safety. The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) continues to provide technical assistance to and monitoring of the Fairbanks Native Association and the services provided at the enhanced detox center. While the last 6 months have been challenging, FNA with the support of the Division and its local community partners has worked hard on re-evaluation its internal systems and service model and implemented changes to turn things around and appears to be back on the right path.

Housing focus area priorities update:

The housing focus area continues the process of replicating the successful housing practices used in other states in Alaska through several different channels.

- The Municipality of Anchorage leadership team continued to identify recommendations to the Mayor for methods of addressing the issue of people residing in camps and impacting neighborhoods. The HLT will work on outreach teams to the camps which will be coordinated inter-agency collaborations to assist people in transitioning to housing.
- One of the major recommendations to come out of the December 3rd meeting of the Mayor's Homeless Leadership team (HLT) was to replicate the *housing first* approach taken by Downtown Emergency Services (DESC) in Seattle.
- The leadership team also endorsed a proposed ordinance for a special conditional use permit to allow for a larger supported housing project in certain zones of Anchorage. This ordinance was reviewed at an Assembly meeting in February and will be up for a second public hearing and a possible vote on March 2.
- A "cold weather" policy is being drafted by Municipality DHHS and will provide for alternate housing resources for shelters when the weather reaches a certain (to be defined) temperature. There are several things that will be in place with this policy, including some DHHS designated churches that may serve as alternative shelters under these conditions.

Other focus area activities:

- November and December were housing grant program open seasons! This year we saw 10 applicants for the SNHG program applying for a total of 167 units under the Special Needs Housing Grant program. The reviews are being conducted now and we will wait for the responses in early March. Information is forthcoming on the Homeless Assistance Program grant applications as well.

Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) (Out of State (OOS) 2/22/10 census is currently **133**. After declining to 110, it has been creeping up. This is probably due to the closure of 44 RPTC (Residential Psychiatric Treatment Center) level beds in Fairbanks (read below). This is 69% below the first measured weekly census of 429 in April 2006.)

Report on the February BTKH Meeting, Feb 16 & 17 in Juneau:

- Legislative presentations and visits: Due to crowded schedules, no BTKH presentations were made to either the House or Senate Health and Social Services committees as originally planned. We were very successful however in having many youth, parents, and providers visit with key legislators.
- February 16, Legislative luncheon: Although only Representative Les Gara and two legislative aides attended the luncheon, Mark Erickson, MD, from Southcentral Foundation presented a valuable PowerPoint on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study and some of the interventions that have proven to be effective in preventing or alleviating the effects of them. The BTKH stakeholder group members and other attendees found this information very valuable. You can view it at the Trust's website at http://www.mhtrust.org/calendar/index.cfm?fa=ShowEvent&Classid=75&event_id=615 (It is about halfway down the list of meeting documents and is labeled as "Preventing Abuse and Domestic Violence.")
- Some important information shared at the meeting:
 - Boys and Girls Homes of Alaska, a Fairbanks RPTC (level 5) facility, has been downgraded by DHSS to the equivalent of a Level 3 facility (group home level). This was done to ensure for the safety and high quality services for youth residing there. Youth who are being currently assessed as needing RPTC level of care are probably contributing to the increase in the number of youth out of state reported at the top of this section.
 - RPTC admission/discharge, information of interest: 70% of RPTC recipients report a family history of substance abuse, 64% report physical abuse, and 46% have witnessed domestic violence. Aggression is the primary referral reason for out of state admissions (56%). 96% of returning youth received outpatient services after discharge. 66% were returned to parent(s) or another relative.
 - Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS): When PBS is provided in schools in Alaska (PBS, by the way, is an instructional, preventative approach to working with children regarding their behavior) it is found to be very effective. Two pilot sites reported about a 50% decrease in disciplinary actions in the schools as a result of PBS. PBS is being encouraged on a pilot basis with BTKH funding in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau and Dillingham.
- Transitional Aged Youth: At the BTKH meeting, youth who attended the November 2009 retreat developed recommendations for BTKH, confirmed the good practices suggested to Alaska by expert Dr. Hewitt Clark. This is one of the first steps to developing improved programming for youth aging into the adult system of services. BTKH Education meeting, Jan. 21:
- Positive Behavioral Results (PBS) Center for Human Development reported positive results at the Education Subcommittee meeting on Jan. 21. They and two other organizations (Stone Soup Group, Special Education Services Agency) form a consortium to assist four pilot school districts in the state in establishing PBS in schools and enhancing behavioral health provider support to intervene with higher need youth. **PBS has cut disciplinary actions by more than half** in most pilot schools. The pilot schools are in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, and Dillingham.
- Connecting treatment to home schools The Special Education Services Agency reported that 15% of parents who have youth admitted to out of state or in state residential psychiatric treatment centers are currently signing Releases of Information to allow them to assist the parents and schools in easing the transition from these centers back to their home schools. DBH has assisted them with outreach and in becoming a DBH business associate within current confidentiality laws so that they can directly outreach to parents. This percentage is currently low, but it is improving and we expect it to increase, with a current goal of at least 50%.

Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan

- After a meeting with the DHSS Leadership Team on January 7, Bill Herman has been working

with Deputy Commissioner Pat Hefley and Kate Burkhart, Executive Director of ABADA/AMHB to work out the details of a DHSS/Trust/Boards & Commission partnership Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This agreement would establish Bill's increased involvement in the Comp Plan to one of a leadership planning role between the partners mentioned. The intent is to develop a common planning framework and nomenclature based on the framework in Mark Friedman's book, "Trying Hard is Not Good Enough. This is proposed to be done by conducting a "visioning" conference the week of May 17 for leadership, planners, research analysts and other key staff from all the partners. The goal would be to develop agreement on the framework, develop consensus on the interface of the planning tools that are in development within the Comp Plan, establish their connection other various plans within DHSS and connect planning and budgeting together more than they are now. The DHSS Leadership Team will be meeting with Bill on February 4 to discuss the draft MOA for consideration of final endorsement.

- Memorandum of Agreement is nearing finalization and signature: The Executive Committee of the Comp Plan is now finalizing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DHSS, The Trust and the Trust-related Boards/Commission. So this effort will now begin. This MOA will initiate a work plan to better connect the Comp Plan with evaluation of programs and budgeting. Bill Herman will be in a leadership role in this effort.
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Results Accountability "Visioning" Conference scheduled for May 18, 19, and 20th at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage: The goal of this conference will be to receive training from national experts on how a results accountability framework patterned after Mark Friedman's book "Trying Hard is not Good Enough" can work to set up a more effective, data driven system. This framework works to connect planning and budgeting in many national, state and local settings, and with expert guidance, attendees will explore further how it might work for Alaska.
 - This visioning conference is intended for the leadership of DHSS, Trust leadership, and leadership of the Boards/Commission. Invited participants are: the DHSS Commissioner, key Deputy Commissioners; key Division Directors and their division leadership and planning staff; Trust leadership, program staff and Trustees; Boards/Commission Executive Directors and planning staff. We also plan to invite a small number of representatives from other key departments and agencies such as Anchorage United Way, Corrections and the Alaska Court System.
 - The intent is to allow time for attendees to meet and discuss connecting planning, evaluating and budgeting for specific Trust beneficiary populations in relation to the Comp Plan, but the scope would not just be limited to beneficiaries.

Workforce Development Focus Area:

- Kathy Craft attended the joint provider association forum on Human Services Workforce needs. The following priorities were determined: Competitive Wages & Benefits; Lack of Training Funds; Supervisor Training; and Ideas to reduce turnover.
- The 2009 Vacancy Study conducted by the Alaska Center for Rural Health has been completed and can be downloaded at www.uaa.alaska.edu/arch.
- WICHE and the Annapolis Coalition met with Pat Hefley, Karen Perdue, Mike Shiffer, Delisa Culpepper and Kathy Craft to discuss the next phase of the credentialing and quality standards process. It was determined that the curriculum development process should begin prior to the credentialing phase.
- The Psychiatric Residency Project continues to develop its implementation plan and will make a presentation to the Trust on Feb. 3, 2010.
- The Trust, UA and DHSS are working to ensure funding and support for the following projects: Early Childhood Mental Health Interdisciplinary Project (\$100.0); and the AK-PIC Internship (\$100.0); as well as the rest of the workforce focus area projects.

- The Workforce focus area continues to restructure its efforts concentrating on its vision, scope, authority, goals and measuring success, communication, and determining how funding recommendations should be made.
- Kathy Craft continues to actively participate in and assist in drafting the state Health Workforce plan for the departments of Health and Social Services, Labor and Workforce Development, Education and Early Development and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB).
- WICHE and the Annapolis Coalition met with Pat Hefley, Karen Perdue, Mike Shiffer, Delisa Culpepper and Kathy Craft to continue the CQSS process and committee make-up. Melissa Stone, DBH Director and Rebecca Hilgendorf, DSDS Director, will co-chair the committee. As soon as possible the new members of the committee will meet with WICHE and Annapolis Coalition to get caught up.
- The Psychiatric Residency Project presented its business plan and request for funding to the Trustees on Feb. 3, 2010.
- Jeff Jessee and Kathy Craft met with Rep. Fairclough's office to discuss the funding impact for the following projects: Early Childhood Mental Health Interdisciplinary Project (\$100.0); the Psychiatric Residency (\$125.0) and the BHIP (\$200.0).
- The Workforce focus area met to finalize guiding framework of vision, scope, authority, goals and measuring success, communication, and determining how funding recommendations should be made. Committees were established and members signed up to serve and begin work on the logic models.
- Kathy Craft continues to actively participate in and assist in drafting the state Health Workforce plan for the departments of Health and Social Services, Labor and Workforce Development, Education and Early Development and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB).
- The Behavioral Health Alliance university meeting was held and distance delivery education, engaging/including elders into the classroom, childhood mental health and early childhood mental health were the topics of discussion.
- The Trust Training Cooperative and the Behavioral Health Occupational Endorsement programs held their advisory committee meetings and continue on refining their missions and scope of work.

Beneficiary Project Initiative Focus Area:

Beneficiary Project Spotlight – Wellness Innovation Center (WIC) - Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS)

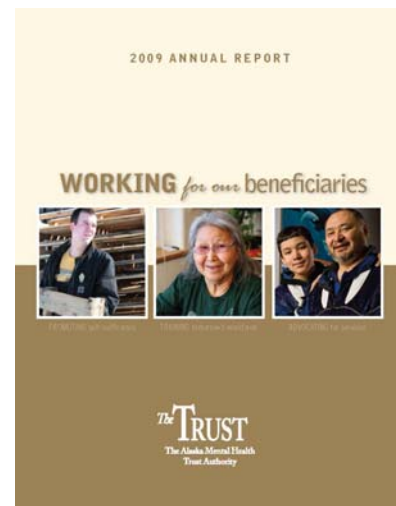
- The Wellness Innovation Center, a LLC of Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc (ACMHS) and current Trust BPI grantee, is the vision of Andrea Schmook, Director of ACMHS's Consumer Directed Services. The center is in close proximity to ACMHS off Tudor Road in Anchorage and provides a comfortable environment for adults with mental illness to meet, attend various skill building groups and activities and participate in employment preparation activities such as resume writing and job search. As a consumer directed program, the WIC has a governing board with strong representation from persons who have had personal experience with mental illness. As active participants of the center, members are empowered to give input into the decisions that impacts the center directly.
- The WIC serves as an important community resource for individual's transitioning or discharging from inpatient psychiatric treatment - many individuals are provided day passes from API to support attendance and engagement with WIC. Once fully released, many of these individuals continue to engage in the program.
- The WIC facilitates a leadership group which emphasizes the balance of responsibility for self and others, Wellness Action Recovery Plan (WRAP) groups, and an anger and stress management group. WIC is in the process of starting a *Dual Recovery Anonymous* group for individual's concerned with their personal recovery from both chemical dependency and emotional/

psychiatric illness.

- Since opening its doors in April of 2007 with support of Trust funding, the WIC has 154 active participating members. Between September and December of 2009, the center provided services to 101 unduplicated Trust beneficiaries.

Coordinated Communications & Advocacy

- **2009 Trust Annual Report** – the annual report has been distributed statewide as an insert in the Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily-News Miner, Juneau Empire, Peninsula Clarion (Kenai) and in the six rural newspapers published weekly by Alaska Newspapers. It is also [downloadable](#) from The Trust’s web site.
- **Trust History Project** -- The Trust history project team presented an update on the project to the Alaska Humanities Forum, which is also a project funder. The team is now working with Alaska Psychiatric Institute to plan an event (possibly mid-May) with two psychiatrists who practiced in the early days of that facility’s history and who played a role in creating the state’s mental health service delivery system.
- **You Know Me Campaign** –the ‘housing first’ TV spot is appearing throughout the legislative session on *Gavel to Gavel Alaska*, which provides coverage of the Legislature, and was heavily featured during network and cable coverage of the Winter Olympics in February.
- **Workforce Development**
 - **TV Campaign** -- The three previously developed TV spots that focus on recruiting former military personnel, empty nesters and Alaska Natives are running on *Gavel to Gavel* and during the Olympics in rotation with the You Know Me spots.
 - **Web Campaign** -- The committee is promoting direct service and behavioral health careers and job choices on the Anchorage Daily News Web site and on the social media site Facebook. These ads (shown at right) focus on four target groups: young females, Alaska Natives, empty nesters and former military. When someone clicks on the ad, they are redirected to www.aadsc.org where providers list job openings.



Long Term Care Ombudsman’s Office:

- On January 5th the LTCO met with Rep. Bob Buch to discuss the subject of long term ventilator care for a friend of his who is currently a patient at St. Elias Acute Care Hospital. We discussed the lack of long term care for ventilator patients in Alaska. The LTCO had discussed this issue several months prior with Rep. Buch and the need for the state to possibly assist in payment for long term ventilator care in Alaska for patients needing the care as the alternative is for the patient is move out of state away from family and friends. Options were discussed and then the LTCO met with the patient at St. Elias. The LTCO continues to work with the patient and his sons as their struggle with the decision to move their father to the Lower 48 to an appropriate long term care facility or to try to care for him at home with inadequately trained staff, thus putting the father at risk.
- On January 6th the LTCO met with regional representatives of Amerisys Hospice Care to discuss the need for additional hospice care in the Anchorage area. The LTCO is a member of the Pro-

fessional Advisory Committee for the local hospice. Amerisys wants to expand their hospice services in the Anchorage area and in the MatSu valley. They have opened a new office in the Valley. As a result of the meeting, Amerisys is going to contact the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic (as that is where many seniors go for treatment under Medicare) and the state Association for Assisted Living Homes to examine if they can provide hospice services for their clients.

- On January 21st the LTCO attended the Family Council meeting at Prestige Care nursing home (formerly Mary Conrad).
- On January 23rd the LTCO testified at a fair hearing concerning an elder who has been relocated from Wrangell nursing home to an assisted living home in Anchorage. At issue is whether the elder qualifies for Medicaid. The State has denied his request and the elder is appealing the decision.
- The OLTCO was successful in advocating for an elder to have his guardianship removed. His son, who recently was released from incarceration, had petitioned the court for, and was granted emergency guardianship of his father. The father had not seen the son in several years. The son had moved into the father's house and was taking action to gain access to his father's assets, including his nearly debt-free home. The OLTCO petitioned the court for review of guardianship on behalf of the elder and was successful in doing so. The son has since left the state.
- The OLTCO is involved in a case involving the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc, specifically the residents at Knik Manor. The residents per day meal rate has increased from \$2.00 per meal (for only meals eaten) to \$17.98 a day for meals whether the residents eat or not. Several residents have had to move from the long term care facility due to the cost. The OLTCO is currently researching statutes, the assisted living home's policies, etc to determine if the charges are appropriate.
- The OLTCO conducted training of about 15 prospective assisted living home administrators advising them of the role of the LTCO and of the special rights elders gain as residents in their assisted living homes.
- On February 1st Kim Stoltz, formerly with APS, began working for the LTCO on a 25 hour per week part-time basis.
- On February 1st through 3rd, an assistant LTCO (LM) traveled to Juneau primarily to complete certification training of two new Volunteer Long Term Care Ombudsmen. Training was completed on February 2nd. One volunteer will serve as a volunteer at Wildflower Court nursing home and the other will be a volunteer at the Juneau Pioneers Home. These are the first certified volunteer ombudsmen in Southeast Alaska. While in Juneau, the assistant ombudsman conducted drop-in visits at the local nursing home and Pioneers Home. On February 1st the assistant ombudsman gave a presentation on the role of the LTCO to the "COMPASS" organization which specializes in in-home services. On Feb 2nd and 3rd the assistant ombudsman gave a presentation on the role of the LTCO to 20 students undergoing Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training in Juneau. Also on February 2nd provided consultation to the Resident Council at the Wildflower Court nursing home.
- On February 3rd through the 5th an assistant LTCO (JB) traveled to Bethel along with a representative of the Alzheimer's Association. Purpose was to conduct a presentation on dementia and care giving of elders to caregivers in the community. The LTCO presented on recommended techniques and practices when caring for elders to enhance their lives in their waning years. She also discussed the role of the office of the LTCO and the resources the office provides. Approximately 25 people attended the two sessions conducted, including an evening session. While in Bethel the assistant LTCO visited the Bethel Senior Center and had lunch with several elders. She and the Alzheimer's representation also met with station personnel at KYUK radio to establish a monthly call-in program for listeners in the KYUK listening area concerning elders. The LTCO be the guest speaker for at least one program session dedicated to elders and long term care issues.

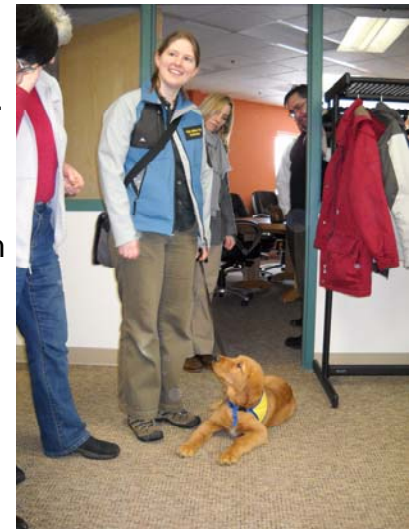
- On February 10th an assistant LTCO (LM) gave a presentation on the role of the LTCO to 12 students completing Personal Care Attendant (PCA) training at the Older Persons Action Group (OPAG) facility.
- On February 9th through the 11th the LTCO traveled to Juneau to present at the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) quarterly meeting and to visit long term care homes in the area. While in Juneau the LTCO also did drop-in visitations at the Wildflower Court nursing home and the Juneau Pioneers home on February 10th. Also on February 11th at the request of Rep. Bob Buch, the LTCO and Rep. Buch toured the Juneau Pioneers Home for nearly two hours visiting with staff and residents.
- Below are topics presented to the ACOA on February 9th:
LTCO actions since December meeting:
 - On December 14, the OLTCO was asked by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations, to assist them in investigating a local assisted living home in Anchorage. They had received a tip the assisted living home was employing illegal aliens as caregivers in the home. The LTCO accompanied two special agents to the home. No illegal aliens were found and the caregiver on duty was legitimate.
 - On December 21st and 29th the LTCO testified in a Fair Hearing at the state DHSS Office of Hearings and Appeals. An elder who was moved from one nursing home in Southeast Alaska to another nursing home in Southeast Alaska is appealing a decision by DHSS that he does not meet “nursing level of care” and thus would not qualify for the Medicaid Choice Waiver. The Disability Law Center is representing him during the hearing. The LTCO is heavily involved in this case as the OLTCO has advocated for the elder in that it feels he should not have been moved from his “hometown” nursing home in Juneau in the first place and then transferred to the nursing home in Wrangell. The elder flew from Wrangell to Anchorage on December 31st and is residing in the assisted living home in Anchorage. The fair hearing will continue with other witnesses to testify. The LTCO will attend the hearings as requested by the elder and his attorney.
 - Pending prosecution on elder abuse case
 - Over the past several weeks the OLTCO has been involved in a serious physical abuse case involving an elder in an assisted living home.
 - Through in-depth investigation and excellent cooperation with the state assisted living licensing agency and the state Medicaid fraud unit a warrant has been issued for the arrest of the caregiver involved in the alleged abuse.
 - This is the first prosecution action in the history of this office ever forwarded to this level by the state as a result of investigation by the OLTCO.
 - The person faces 9 felony counts (upgraded from 5 counts).
 - Caregiver was escorted by US Marshals from California to Anchorage and is now in jail.
 - Data from Federal Fiscal Year 08 vs. FFY09:
 - **171 cases opened in FFY 09**; 151 opened in FFY 08
 - **171 cases closed in FFY 09**; 124 closed in FFY 08 (27 NHs;123 ALHs, 21 other settings—72% in ALHs)
 - **371 complaints in FFY 09**; 236 in FFY 08 (**57% increase**) {Some cases may have more than one complaint}
 - **#1 complaint area was in Resident Care—102 total**, more than **double the 49 last year** (biggest sub-categories were falls/injuries-20; medication administration-17; toileting/incontinent care-15)
28 in NH and 74 in ALHs
 - **#2 complaint area was Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation—50 total**, more than dou-

- **ble the 23 last year** (16 verbal abuse; 13 physical abuse; 13 gross neglect)
 - **#3 complaint was Autonomy, Choice, Preference, Exercise of Rights, Privacy—41 total, more than double the 20 last year** (15 dignity, respect, staff attitudes, 8 exercise choice, 6 privacy)
 - **#4 complaint was dietary—33 total, 18 last year** (18 food service—quantity, quality, variation, choice, menu)
- Other issues:
 - No Long Term Care in Alaska for Alaskans needing ventilator care due to respiratory diseases.
 - Patients have no good options:
 - Move out of state away from friends and family at a time when elders need this family support the most.
 - Families try to take care of loved ones but family is not trained or can't give 24/7 care.
 - Entire families have left the state when their loved one moved to a state that has long term ventilator care, selling homes, etc to be near their loved ones.
 - Significant cost to transport vent patient to Lower 48.
 - Can't go to neighboring state like other states can.
 - St. Elias Acute Care hospital has ventilator care capability but only does short term acute care. Medicare will only pay as long as patient is making progress. Once patient "plateaus", Medicare quits paying for vent care.
 - Costs and capability:
 - Only St. Elias Acute Care hospital has ventilator care in state.
 - St. Elias can currently serve 12 ventilator patients (6 of which are in the ICU).
 - St. Elias can increase to 16 vent beds in about 10 days with addition of 4 more ventilators, and pulse oximeters.
 - Medicaid costs are currently \$1566 per day for vent care plus ancillary (radiology, lab, respiratory, occupational, speech and physical therapy, medical supplies, and drugs) costs of \$986 per day. Total Medicaid cost is \$2552 per day.
 - Private pay is room and board is \$2175 per day for ICU and general medical floor rate is \$1875 plus ancillary charges. Total is over \$3000 per day for private pay. (St. Elias is currently implementing rate increase for private pay).
 - Length of stay for vent dependent patients is averaging about 50 days until they are weaned off the vent. (They have had one vent patient, who is terminally ill, for 567 days).
 - St. Elias currently has 8 or 12 vent beds filled. It is a 60 bed hospital running at about 50% capacity. Average vent patient daily census is 7 patients.
- Notification of OLTCO of petitions for guardianships for elders
 - Elders often appointed full guardianships by the courts upon request of APS, family members or others
 - Full guardianship seen as most convenient
 - Limited guardianship or conservatorship may be all that is needed
 - Elder's wishes aren't considered
 - Elder needs proper advocacy
 - "Review of Guardianship" petition, after the fact, is long and often delayed
 - OLTCO to request courts to notify the OLTCO upon anyone petitioning for guardianship of elders

- Will allow OLTCO to enter process at beginning, same as the court visitor or court appointed attorney does, so OLTCO can advocate prior to the guardianship hearing for the least restrictive and most appropriated court decision.
- On February 22nd through 24th an assistant LTCO (JB) traveled to Saxman at the invitation of the Tlingit-Haida Elders Caregivers Association. While there she was the keynote speaker at a workshop for public and family caregivers on issues facing elders and the best practices for caring for elders.
- On February 25th the staff from the LTCO (JB, HA, MF) assisted APS workers in an emergency relocation of 4 elderly ladies from an assisted living home that was closed with no-notice by the state licensing agency to new assisted living homes. The ombudsman counseled and reassured the residents concerning the emergency closure and packed all personal belonging for the residents for transport to the new homes. The assisted living home was closed because the administrator was charged with 2 Class C felony accounts (barrier crimes) as a result of endangerment of a previous elderly resident who was physically, verbal and mentally abused in her home by a previous caregiver.
- On February 24th through 26th an assistant LTCO (LM) traveled to Fairbanks to conduct preliminary investigation into the alleged abuse and neglect of an elder in an assisted living home. As a result of this investigation and probable substantiation of the abuse/neglect, the case was referred to the state Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit for possible criminal charges. On February 26th the assistant ombudsman also met with 9 staff at the Fairbanks Home Health Agency and provided education on the role of the LTCO and how we may be of assistance to them.

Administrative

- **Grants Have Gone to the Dogs!** Golden retrievers, Scotty and Steven, visited The Trust recently to show off their skills as service dogs. The 18-week-old brothers are being trained by Alaska Assistance Dogs (AAD), which pairs children and service dogs-in-training, allowing the kids to train the dogs to perform 80 commands. Lead by a licensed psychological counselor, AAD has created a win-win program that sets the foundation for student success while producing service dogs for Alaskans with disabilities. The Trust provided \$15,000 toward purchase and training of the puppies through an FY2010 Partnership Grant.
- We received a thank you card from a Fairbanks family who received a mini grant from The Trust to purchase furniture.



CFO Update:

- The focus during the legislative session is on the Mental Health Budget Bill. The current version we are reconciling is at the House Finance Subcommittee level. Working with Legislative Finance and with the Budget Analyst at OMB, we are able to track our requests through subsequent versions of the budget. So far we have the Governor's Budget, the Governor's Amended, and now the House Finance Subcommittee. Still to come (and probably in quick succession) are the House and Senate versions, which will be reconciled by the Conference Committee—which ends up being the budget adopted by the legislature.
- The FY10 budget is reviewed monthly in ALDER reports, to track spending of the current budget. It also gives us a way to note budget items which are not being spent, so that program staff can contact the appropriate departments.

- Alaska Permanent Fund has recently caught up on its monthly financials, by issuing the December and January month-end reports. The delays were caused by a bank merger and new software configuration. We now have all the information to prepare Cash Management reports for December and January. February information should be available in late March.

Up Coming Events

March 5th	Legislative teleconference, 12 PM—1 PM, STE 210, Delisa Culpepper Communications and Advocacy, 1 PM –3 PM, STE 210, Vivian Hamilton
March 9th	Partners in Policy, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, STE 120, Kathy Fitzgerald
March 10th	Partners in Policy, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, STE 120, Kathy Fitzgerald
March 11th	Partners in Policy, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, STE 120, Kathy Fitzgerald Bring the Kids Home Independent Leadership Evaluation meeting, 9:30 AM—11 AM, STE 260, Bill Herman Executive Oversight Board/Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness, 12 PM—1:30 PM, STE 210, Nancy Burke
March 12th	Legislative teleconference, 12 PM—1 PM, STE 210, Delisa Culpepper
March 16th	OISPP, 1:30 PM—4:30 PM, STE 210, Bill Herman
March 18th	Bring the Kids Home Education Subcommittee, 1:30 PM—3 PM, STE 260, Bill Herman
March 19th	Legislative teleconference, 12 PM—1 PM, STE 210, Delisa Culpepper Communications and Advocacy, 1 PM –3 PM, STE 210, Vivian Hamilton
March 23rd	Bring the Kids Home Tribal Medicaid Steering committee, 9:30 AM—12:30 PM, STE 260, Katie
March 25th	Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness, 2 PM—4 PM, STE 120, Nancy Burke
March 26th	Legislative teleconference, 12 PM—1 PM, STE 210, Delisa Culpepper
March 29th	HOLIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED
April 2nd	Legislative teleconference, 12 PM—1 PM, STE 210, Delisa Culpepper Communications and Advocacy, 1 PM –3 PM, STE 210, Vivian Hamilton
April 6th	OISPP, 1:30 PM—4:30 PM, STE 210, Bill Herman
May 18, 19 & 20	<u>Results Accountability “Visioning” Conference</u> at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage , Bill Herman