

**Minutes for the Executive Committee of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA)  
and Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB)**

**09/22/21**

**ABADA**

Anthony Carvahlo - Present  
Enlow Walker – Present

**AMHB**

Sharon Clark – Present  
Brenda Moore – Present  
Diane Fielden – Present  
Karen Malcolm-Smith – Present  
Monique Andrews – Present

**Guests**

Kathleen Totemoff  
Jerome Do  
Nick Mazzolini  
Skip Graham  
Steve Adams

**Staff**

Bev Schoonover  
Teri Tibbett  
Jennifer Weisshaupt

**Roll Call/ Introductions**

Meeting called at 10:00 AM

• **Staff and Committee Reports**

- Executive Director Report – Beverly Schoonover
- Bev presented her Executive Director’s report and sent it out to the boards for reference. The highlights of the report were as follows:
- Agency Operations: Kevin Holian was hired as the Administrative Assistance II.
- Staff are working from home and the office as outlined in their approved hybrid telework agreements
- Staff began a new collaborative planning project to work with Tribes and key stakeholders to submit a proposal for the inclusion of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) module in the FY23 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

- Renee Hoffard has stepped down from her board seats due to personal reasons
- Currently there are two openings on the Alaska Mental Health Board for behavioral health consumers (or their family members) and a behavioral health provider seat is open on the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.
- **Old Business**
  - Bridge Device Update
  - Following the presentation at the last EC meeting by Kathleen Totemoff on the Bridge Device, staff followed up with the Division of Behavioral Health to ask if the purchase and installation of the device was Medicaid reimbursable. Currently there is not enough evidence-based data nationally to include the Bridge Device in the Medicaid service array. Staff followed with the Trust to see if they would consider funding a pilot project to gather Alaskan data on efficacy of the device.
- **New Business**
  - Mental Health in Schools- A Landscape Assessment- Sharon Fishel, DEED, Pat Sidmore, DPH
  - AMHB Board member Sharon Fishel and Pat Sidmore presented on the recent landscape assessment of mental health in schools, which was a collaborative planning effort funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust.
  - A small stakeholder group (AMHB/ABADA, DEED, DBH, DPH, and the Trust) identified a collective need for more information on the landscape of current school mental and behavioral health activities and services around the state to help project partners determine how to best focus their future efforts.
  - Key findings of the report include an acknowledgment of the impacts of COVID-19 on students, parents and school staff; that most school districts in Alaska are providing some level of supports and services; common barriers exist for implementing and delivering supports and services; in-service and professional development time is leveraged to bring mental health training to staff; and trained school staff and community partners are critical.
  - Phase II of the project includes further investigations into the role of community partnerships in addressing the mental health needs of students and families, and identify potential funding sources, including Medicaid, for long-term sustainability and replicability around the state.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

AMHB/ABADA Board Meeting: October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.