

GOAL 7

TRUST BENEFICIARIES' BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ARE ACCURATELY ASSESSED AND MET IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

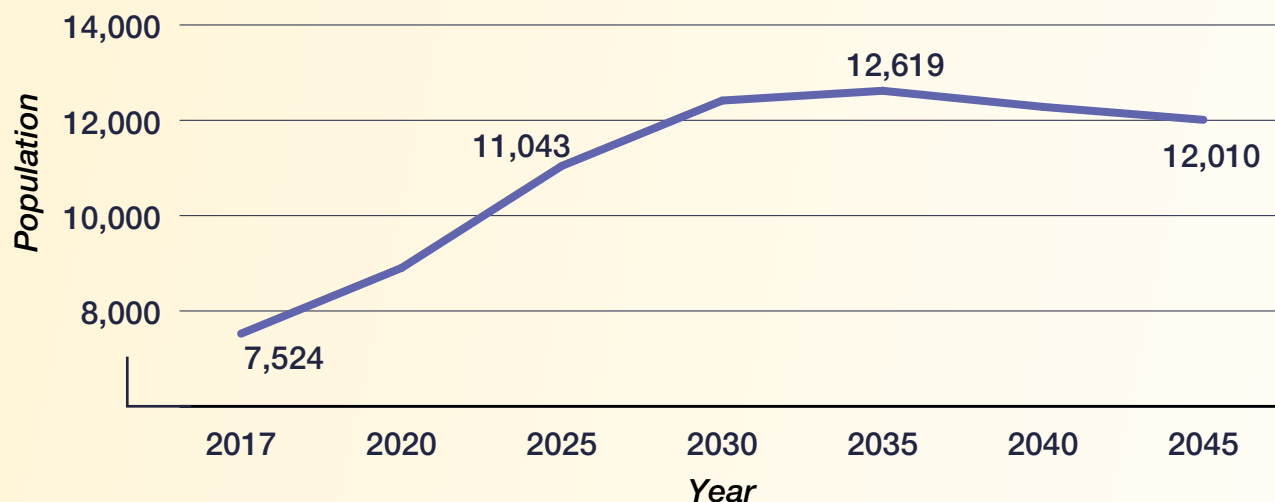
- 7.1 Objective:** Promote universal screening and standardized assessment and reassessment tools to reduce duplication and increase efficiencies across the service spectrum.
- 7.2 Objective:** Increase access to effective and flexible, person-centered, long-term services and supports in urban and rural areas to avoid institutional placement.
- 7.3 Objective:** Reduce the number of Trust beneficiaries entering or becoming involved with Alaska's criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

GOAL 7: SERVICES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Alaska has had a strong progression away from institutional settings and toward serving Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust) beneficiaries in their home communities. Receiving services in a least restrictive environment ultimately leads to more meaningful lives for beneficiaries, as well as cost efficiencies for state government. Every person's journey to recovery is different and treatment in an inappropriate setting can delay recovery.

Currently, Alaska's capacity to provide timely, appropriate levels of support to avoid institutional placement is limited. Least restrictive practices in home communities are paramount for Trust beneficiaries to be able to live meaningfully as contributing members of those communities. Receiving services in this way preserves existing natural supports and allows for the development of additional supports, making it the desired first choice.


Figure 13: Population Projection: Number of Alaskans with Alzheimer's Disease



Sources

Department of Labor and Workforce Development: Alaska Population Projections 2017 to 2045
<http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop/projections.cfm>

Prevalence Estimates: Trust Beneficiaries are from the 2018 Alaska Scorecard
http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/HealthPlanning/Documents/scorecard/2018_MHT_Scorecard_full.pdf



Providing enhanced and timely treatment options to Trust beneficiaries presents considerable challenges to the current mental health system, as there are typically long waitlists for the referred services that address the assessed needs of the individual. We can improve outcomes by enhancing and adopting state policies that require individuals with behavioral health needs to be supported and empowered to participate in treatment planning and recovery in hopes of improving their overall well-being.

7.1 Objective: Promote universal screening and standardized assessment and reassessment tools to reduce duplication and increase efficiencies across the service spectrum.

a. Strategy: Evaluate assessment tools and case-mix methodologies to discern what best meets the diverse needs of all divisions serving beneficiaries.

7.2 Objective: Increase access to effective and flexible, person-centered, long-term services and supports in urban and rural areas to avoid institutional placement.

a. Strategy: Ensure crisis stabilization services statewide.

b. Strategy: Provide a mechanism for individuals to receive timely assessment and placement in least restrictive environments.

c. Strategy: Leverage Medicaid options to provide alternatives to institutional placement.

d. Strategy: Use appropriate assistive technologies to improve safety and health outcomes for vulnerable Alaskans living in their communities.

e. Strategy: Establish a multi-agency committee focused on meeting the needs of individuals with challenging behaviors.

f. Strategy: Establish standards of care focused on person-centered services.

LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS: a wide range of services to help people with disabilities who need support to live more independently by assisting with personal and healthcare needs and activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing, grooming, etc.¹

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities²

7.3 Objective: Reduce the number of Trust beneficiaries entering or becoming involved with Alaska’s criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

a. Strategy: Establish a process to use pre-charge and pre-arrest diversion without incarceration.

b. Strategy: Increase awareness of least restrictive, long-term services and supports through counseling on options and person-centered interviewing.

c. Strategy: Collaborate with other criminal justice- or juvenile justice-involved partners to develop and implement services for Trust beneficiaries.

d. Strategy: Expand immediate access to treatment and support services for individuals who encounter law enforcement and the legal system.

e. Strategy: Expand access to services to accommodate the needs of victims and offenders who are Trust beneficiaries and involved in the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

DIVERSION: the broad category of justice models that divert people away from further prosecution, jail, or sentencing and into services in the community³

ENDNOTES

¹. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/American-Indian-Alaska-Native/AIAN/LTSS-TA-Center/info/ltss-overview.html>

². <https://www.atia.org/at-resources/what-is-at/>

³. <http://www2.centerforhealthandjustice.org/content/project/police-deflection>