

*Alaska Mental Health Board  
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse*

*FINAL – June 2012*

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

Advisory Board on Alcoholism  
and Drug Abuse



Alaska Mental Health Board

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## BILLS and BUDGET ITEMS PASSED IN 2012

*Many bills and budget items were passed in 2012 that affect Mental HealthTrust beneficiaries. Some are still awaiting signature by the Governor. Following are what passed the legislature.*

**HB 21 – Suicide Prevention Council**, by Rep. Anna Fairclough. This bill adds a member representing military personnel to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. It also expands the age requirement for the youth member.

**HB 65 – Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund Grants**, by Rep. Bryce Edgmon. This bill supports senior citizen housing development funds for developing senior citizen housing.

**SB 74 – Insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder**, by Sen. Johnny Ellis. This bill requires health insurers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and a variety of provisions.

**HB 78 – Incentives for certain medical providers**, by Rep. Bob Herron. This bill creates a health care professions loan repayment and incentive program to increase the number of health care professionals, including psychologists, MLCSW and MDs, providing direct care.

**SB 82 – Foster Care licensing; state custody**, by Sen. Bettye Davis. This bill affects sibling placement, foster home construction, and use of “another planned permanent living arrangement.”

**SB 86 – Protection of vulnerable adults and minors**, by Governor Sean Parnell. This bill will strengthen the laws against financial exploitation of vulnerable adults and enhance ability to obtain emergency protective orders.

**HB 125 – Alcohol Beverage Control Board**, by House Rules by request of the Legislative Budget

and Audit Committee. This bill moves the ABC Board from the Dept. of Public Safety to the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

**SB 127 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day**, by Senator Kevin Meyer. This bill establishes September 9<sup>th</sup> as FASD Awareness Day permanently in statute.

**HB 131 – Community and transportation advisory board**, by Rep. Cathy Muñoz. This bill establishes a board to develop a long-range plan for coordinated community and public transportation.

**SB 137 – Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training**, by Senator Bettye Davis. This bill requires teachers (of 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades) to have suicide prevention training.

**SB 140 – Cathinone Bath Salts**, by Senator Kevin Meyer. This bill adds cathinone “bath salts” to the list of Schedule IIA controlled substances and amends penalties.

**SB 151 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) as a Mitigating factor**, by Senator Kevin Meyer. This bill FASD as a mitigating factor, giving judges flexibility in sentencing people with FASD.

**SB 210 – Crimes Against Children**, by Senator Lesil McGuire. This bill expands current statute relating to assault, recklessness, and endangerment to children. ❖

## FY13 BUDGET ITEMS

The following budget items passed this legislative session in the FY 13 Operating, Mental Health, and Capital budgets (HB 284, HB 285, SB 160). Governor Parnell signed the bills on May 14.

### DEFINITIONS:

*MHTAAR = a state funding source, Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts*

*GF/MH = a state funding source, General Funds found in the Mental Health budget bill (HB 285)*

*GF = a state funding source, General Funds in the Operating budget bill (HB 285)*

*I/A Receipts = Interagency Receipts (allocated to one department, but transferred to another)*

*Inc = Increment (added to the base budget)*

*OTI = One Time Increment (not added to the base budget)*

*IncOTI = Reflects Trust's annual zero-based budgeting*

*IncM = Maintenance increment (maintaining existing funding for ongoing projects, programs, services, etc.)*

*DHSS = Department of Health & Social Services*

*DBH = Division of Behavioral Health*

*DJJ = Division of Juvenile Justice*

*OCS = Office of Children's Services*

*SDS = Division of Senior and Disabilities Services*

*DPH = Division of Public Health*

*DOC = Department of Corrections*

*DEED = Department of Education and Early Development*

*LAW = Department of Law*

*ADMIN = Department of Administration*

*Courts = Alaska Court System*

*Trust = Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority*

*RPTC = Residential Psychiatric Treatment Center*

*SED = Severe Emotional Disturbance*

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Trauma-informed Care

*\$360,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

Funding will support access to trauma-informed behavioral health services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of interpersonal violence. For a victim of domestic violence experiencing a generalized mental health issue or moderate alcohol dependence, treatment services are out of reach unless the person has private insurance. Rather than wait until that person's condition worsens to become one of the Medicaid priorities for treatment services, this increment will increase access to treatment and early intervention services to address the behavioral health issue before it become a serious, incapacitating (and expensive) disorder.

**Complex Behaviors Collaborative: consultation & training**  
*\$650,000 IncOTI (\$325,000 MHTAAR; \$325,000 GF/MH) - Behavioral Health/DHSS.* Funds will provide consultation and training services for existing community social services providers so they are better able to serve people with disabilities (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.) who also experience challenging behaviors, such as aggression, inappropriate sexual behaviors, wandering, self-harm, etc. Services may include stabilization, triage, assessment and referral to diagnostic services, short and long-term community-based supports.

**Community Behavioral Health Centers outpatient & emergency residential services & training**  
*\$450,000 (\$400,000 MHTAAR IncM; \$50,000 GF/MH Inc) – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* This funding will expand grant opportunities to Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHC) to enhance outpatient services with innovative programs and training for children experiencing SED, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), and other cognitive impairments. A separate evaluation component is funded by the Trust to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of these outpatient services.

**Mental health clinical positions in Corrections**  
*\$355,000 IncOTI (\$164,000 MHTAAR IncM; \$191,000 GF/MH Inc) – Inmate Health Care/DOC.* This funding supports a mental health clinician in DOC to manage the high needs of offenders in the newly expanded Men's Mental Health Unit at the Anchorage Correctional Complex. Duties will include assessment and programming, monitoring for safety, and developing appropriate release plans.

**IMPACT model of treating depression**  
*\$75,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* Funds support "Improving Mood Promoting Access to Collaborative Treatment" (IMPACT) model of treating depression in the primary care setting. Administered by a psychiatrist and depression care manager, this model emphasizes patient education, positive lifestyle changes, and antidepressant medication when appropriate. Funding will also support telehealth equipment for three demonstration projects in urban and rural Alaska.

**Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (Year Three)**  
*\$200,000 (GF) IncM – I/A Rcpts to DHSS.* The Family Wellness Warriors Initiative addresses domestic violence, abuse, and neglect in Alaska Native communities. The project equips organizations and individuals to effectively address the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical effects of domestic violence, abuse, and neglect.

See “Mental Health Clinician oversight in youth facilities” under YOUTH AND FAMILY

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT**

### **Substance Abuse Treatment for un-resourced individuals** *\$405,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

This increment will make grant funds available to expand substance abuse treatment capacity in Alaska – including medical detox, residential and/or intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and aftercare to adults without the resources to pay. It will help address Alaska’s high demand for alcohol and drug abuse treatment, which continues to exceed the state’s ability to clear waitlists. Funds will also help reinforce existing treatment programs in the face of a potential increase in demand for services.

### **Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Program in DOC** *\$1,380,500 (GF) Inc – Offender Habilitation/DOC*

This funding supports DOC’s ongoing effort to treat and rehabilitate offenders with substance abuse disorders. Currently, DOC provides assessment, referral, and substance abuse treatment to roughly 1,600 incarcerated inmates annually. However, the department is unable to provide these services to all inmates who are willing and eligible to receive them. Funding will expand services to about 500 additional offenders (both institutional and community-based), and add aftercare capacity, which will increase the effectiveness of the current services.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention grants** *\$9 million (GF) – Behavioral Health/DHSS (in SB 160)*

This funding adds the other half of alcohol tax revenue (currently 50% of the tax is added) to the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention Fund. From the intent language of the bill: “An amount equal to 50 percent of the revenue collected during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, from the alcohol beverage tax (AS 43.60.010) not to exceed \$19,300,400.0 is appropriated from the general fund to DHSS for behavioral health grants under (AS 47.37.030) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015.”

### **Treatment funding for therapeutic court participants** *\$200,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Therapeutic Courts/COURTS.*

Funding will support timely access to substance abuse and mental health treatment for therapeutic court participants in an effort to address the underlying issues related to contact with the criminal justice system. Timely access to substance abuse and mental health treatment services is a critical component to the operations of these courts, the success of its participants, and to reduced recidivism.

### **Pre-development for sleep-off alternatives in Nome**

*\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* These funds will be used to support pre-development and planning activities for alternatives to incarcerating persons requiring protective custody in Nome. Activities may include substance abuse assessment, assessment of the service capacity of existing programs and facilities within the community, and developing an implementation plan for identified treatment services.

## **PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION**

### **Early Childhood Screening & Brief Behavioral Services**

*\$360.0 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

The increment will fund outreach, training, and technical assistance to encourage more health providers to administer EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) during well-child exams. Funding also supports informing families about services available and providing information and meaningful referral to services. Early childhood maltreatment, such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence has been well-documented to show higher likelihood of depression, substance abuse, PTSD, maladaptive behaviors, language deficits, altered brain maturation, and other neuropsychological outcomes later in life.

### **Early Intervention for Young Children grants**

*\$490,000 (\$315,000 GF/MH Inc; \$100,000 MHTAAR IncM; and \$75,000 MHTAAR Inc) – Children’s Services/DHSS*

This funding will expand implementation of two projects recommended by the Alaska Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan to improve services for young children with behavioral health challenges, ages birth to five Services to young children focus on the family system and building protective factors. Expected outcomes include building an in-state workforce competent to use evidence-based interventions for young children and their families, and demonstrating the impact and value of early childhood therapeutic service models.

### **Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program Positive**

*Parenting training \$80,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Children’s*

*Services/DHSS.* Funding will support three demonstration sites in fully implementing the “Teacher Pyramid” model, an evidence based research model for supporting social competence and preventing challenging behavior in young children. The parent training modules serve both biological and foster families who are in need of intervention supports, but whose provider agencies have not yet adopted these strategies.

**Increased demand for newborn screening**

*\$350,000 (GF) Inc – Public Health/DHSS*

This increment supports ongoing efforts to screen newborns for autism, genetics, metabolic genetics, and cleft lip/palate, hearing, etc. at specialty clinics statewide. Specialty clinics ensure access to care for families with children with special health needs. More families are taking advantage of the program, so the department is able to collect an increasing amount of clinic fees.

**See “Evidence-based family therapy models” under YOUTH & FAMILY**

**See “Grants for substance abuse treatment and prevention” under TREATMENT**

**SUPPORT SERVICES****Project SEARCH**

*\$100,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Vocational Rehabilitation/DOLWD*

Project SEARCH teaches job skills and places high school seniors with developmental and intellectual disabilities in three internships in complex yet systematic jobs within large businesses (often hospitals). Funds support time-limited job coaching services so students acquire skills required by potential employers.

**Expanded vocational education support and services**

*\$156,000 (GF) Inc – Offender Habilitation/DOC.* This request will expand vocational education services to incarcerated offenders under DOC’s custody. Access to vocational education increases the likelihood of employment following an inmate’s release. Meaning employment leads to financial stability, which leads to stability overall and supports former offenders becoming contributing members of the community. Funds support training and experience with small engine repair, marine safety, animal care, flagger certification, welding, etc.

**Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)**

*\$75,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Public Health/DHSS*

Funding will support community health development, training, support groups, statewide development, client surveys, Autism Awareness Month activities, data collection, distance support, communication, and collaboration with tribal entities. The AARC promotes information and resources about autism to individuals across the state directly affected by autism, living with someone with autism, first responders, service providers, caregivers, medical providers, and others.

**Services for the Deaf**

*\$135,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* These funds will support services to improve employment and housing outcomes for Alaskans who are

deaf or hard of hearing. With supports, people with disabilities have an increased probability of success in the community and reduced risk of placements in correctional institutions or the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). Funding for services for the deaf community have been reduced in the past six year and consumer reports indicate services are limited.

**Mini Grants for beneficiaries with disabilities**

*\$252,500 (MHTAAR) IncM – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* Mini-grants provide people with disabilities with

a broad range of equipment and services that are essential to increasing independent functioning and improving quality of life. These can include devices, access to medical, vision and dental, and special health care, and other supplies or services that might remove or reduce barriers to an individual's ability to function in the community self-sufficiently.

**Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network (ASPEN)**

*\$150,000 (MHTAAR) Inc – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.*

Funding will build capacity of the service delivery system for people with disabilities in targeted communities by (1) fostering local collaborations to link survivors with services and resources, (2) providing cross-training and technical assistance, (3) developing policies and procedures designed to prioritize safety, empowerment, and access, and (4) resolving barriers to safety, empowerment, and access to non-judgmental services provided by disability and DVSA service providers.

**Telehealth strategic capacity expansion**

*\$90,000 (GF) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

This increment will support increased access to behavioral health services, by 1) assessing readiness of DBH provider network to pilot demonstration project, 2) review potential vendors and telecommunications carriers to work collaboratively with DBH for a custom application, 3) identify specific hub areas for linkage to appropriate services for home-based treatment. Funding will help get services into homes through case managers, behavioral health aides, and others, resulting in decreased travel costs for treatment and court appearances, increased integration with primary care, and increased productivity.

**Sustaining 2-1-1**

*\$22,500 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

Funding supports Alaska 2-1-1, an information and referral system for health and human services resources throughout Alaska. The call center is staffed weekdays from 8:30am - 5pm for callers to receive personalized attention. A website is available to all 24/7.

**Alaska Legal Services Corporation**

*\$200,000 (GF) – Community and Regional Affairs/DCCED*

Funds will support organizations providing legal services to low-income Alaskans – many of whom live with developmental disabilities, mental illness, Alzheimer’s Disease and related

dementia. At present, there is only one Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) attorney for every 4,000 Alaskans living in poverty. Funds will help address the critical unmet need for civil legal assistance.

See “Adult Day Services” under SENIORS

See “In-home intensive support” under YOUTH & FAMILY

See “Senior In-Home Services” under SENIORS

See “Aging and Disability Resources Centers” under SENIORS

See “Adult Protective Services and provider quality assurance” under SENIORS

## PEER SUPPORT

### Peer Navigator Program

*\$90,000 (GF/MH) IncM; \$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* Funds will maintain peer navigator services, including hiring parents and youth experiencing SED to assist peers in navigating the service delivery system. Grantees are required to report outcomes, including number of parents involved, results of the interaction, and effectiveness of services.

## YOUTH and FAMILY

### Evidence-based family therapy models

*\$470,000 (GF/MH) IncM (\$270,000 GF/MH, \$200,000 MHTAAR) – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

This increment will provide funds for contracts to implement evidence-based family treatment models in Alaska. In FY 13, it will support a contract with Dr. Scott Sells to implement “Parenting with Love and Limits” (PLL) for children with severe emotional disturbances and their families. It will also support expansion to new communities, including training, supervision, quality assurance and system development over time. This enhancement of outpatient behavioral health services is required to ensure that severely disturbed children are able to remain in their homes and communities.

### In-home intensive support

*\$200,000 (MHTAAR) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

Funding supports grants to implement a service model to divert children with severe emotional disturbances and complex behaviors from residential psychiatric treatment centers (RPTC) through intensive in-home supports and crisis management. Continued progress at reducing out-of-state RPTC placements requires effectively serving youth in-state, however, the long-term nature of co-occurring issues such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, autism, and developmental disabilities requires a new

model of developing intensive behavioral health services in a community setting. This increment will support start-up of this model.

### Expansion of school-based services

*\$125,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

This increment supports grants and contracts to expand school-based services treatment capacity by providing educational tracking for youth returning from Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers (RPTCs). Funds also support training and implementation pilot projects for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) that develop connections between schools and behavioral health providers to better serve youth experiencing serious emotional disturbance. PBIS also establishes a school-wide culture which research shows reduces behavioral problems and improves learning across the school setting.

### Foster parent/parent recruitment training and support

*\$276,000 (\$138,000 GF/MH, \$138,000 MHTAAR) IncM –*

*Children’s Services/DHSS.* Funding supports grants to recruit and screen potential foster parents, and for training and technical assistance for parents and foster parents. These services are intended to improve the ability of parents and foster parents to effectively parent children with severe emotional disturbances (SED) and to reduce the need for out-of-home care and for residential placements. Therapeutic Foster Homes are recognized as an economical and effective alternative to costlier types of residential care for youth experiencing SED.

### Mental Health Clinician oversight in youth facilities

*\$152,900 (MHTAAR) Inc – Juvenile Justice/DHSS*

Funding supports supervisory oversight to mental health clinicians in DJJ facilities in areas such as clinical service delivery, case consultation, development of training plans, and expertise related to confidentiality and ethical issues, within the 24/7 secure facilities, as well as the probation services of DJJ. Currently, DJJ does not have the capacity to provide adequate support and supervision of clinical services.

### Services for transition-aged youth

*\$425,000 (\$200,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI; \$225,000*

*(GF/MH)) – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* Funding supports building community-based capacity for transition-aged youth to move into adulthood with age-appropriate services, including productive work and/or educational activities. The goal is to target youth, particularly those with few or no family supports, who are at risk of moving into corrections, emergency mental health or substance abuse programs.

**Family Voice for parents and youth**

*\$45,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* This funding brings parents and youth experiencing severe emotional disturbance to the Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) and other advocacy and policy setting meetings – with the goal of educating youth and families about issues related to SED and to providing policy-makers with first-hand knowledge of issues relating to youth and families affected by SED.

See “Rural transition services” under RURAL SERVICES

See “Rural Re-entry Specialist” under RURAL SERVICES

See “Rural/tribal system development” under RURAL SERVICES

See “Project SEARCH” under SUPPORTED SERVICES

See “School-based suicide prevention” under SUICIDE

See “Alaskan Autism Resource Center” under SUPPORT SERVICES

See “Alaskan Family Violence Prevention Project” under PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

See “Increased demand for newborn screening” under PREVENTION

**SENIORS****Adult Protective Services and provider quality assurance**

*\$550,000 (GF) Inc (\$275,000 G/F Match, \$275,000 Fed Recpts).* Funding supports the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program which provides services designed to protect vulnerable adults from exploitation, abuse, neglect or self-neglect and abandonment. With only nine investigators statewide, it has become increasingly difficult for the state to meet statutory requirements for protection of vulnerable adults, especially in the rural areas. Funding will support compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ requirements to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving waiver services and to deliver improved and measurable services to vulnerable adults.

**Aging and Disability Resource Centers**

*\$125,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* Funding will continue support for Alaska’s Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)s, to build capacity to provide eligibility screening, assessment and procedures, and formalized options counseling. Older Alaskans, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers require reliable information for accessing a range of health services – including home care, financial support, housing, transportation, and equipment.

**Adult Day Services**

*\$202,500 (GF/MH) Inc – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* This funding supports multiple year grants to Adult Day Service (ADS) providers who serve older

Alaskans with Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia, cognitive impairments, and physically-disabling conditions, and who are not safe alone unsupervised. ADS activities include exercise, games, art projects and art therapy, outings, assistance with personal care, meals, respite for unpaid family caregivers and start-up funds for a new program in an underserved area.

**Senior In-Home Services (SIH)**

*\$425,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* This funding will increase multiple year grants to senior home- and community-based service providers for care coordination, chore, and respite services. Funds will address growing waitlists for SIH services for seniors with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia and Alaskans age 60 years and older with physical disabilities or mental health conditions at risk for institutionalization. Support services reduce the need for more costly nursing home placement. Funding also supports start-up funds for one new program in an underserved area.

See “Rural long term care development” under RURAL

**SUICIDE PREVENTION****School-based suicide prevention**

*\$450,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Behavioral Health/DHSS* Funding provides grants to school districts and/or student organizations to implement evidence- and research-based suicide prevention training and intervention models that are tailored to the unique needs of local student and teacher populations. School personnel across the state have expressed a critical need for resources, technical assistance, and flexibility to implement programs that fit the unique needs of individual communities. Funds will support programs already successfully implemented in Alaska – including *Signs of Suicide* (Mat-Su schools), peer leadership and mentoring programs (Northwest Arctic Borough School District), and a training pilot using *Kognito At-Risk* for high school educators and staff statewide.

**DISABILITY JUSTICE****Increased capacity for the Institutional Discharge**

**Program (IDP+) \$106,400 (GF/MH) Inc – Inmate Health Care/DOC.** This funding will expand the IDP+ program to serve high needs and high risk individuals with bipolar disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders or other cognitive impairments. The IDP+ mental health clinician works closely with probation officers to closely monitor court-ordered conditions to enhance the individual's motivation and prospect for continued treatment and stability, and to promote public safety.

**Social services public defender specialist in Bethel**

*\$138,800 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Public Defenders Agency, LAS/ADMIN.* This funding will support a social services specialist in the Public Defender Agency to assist attorneys with "in-house" clinical expertise on developmental and cognitive disorders and available community treatment. Duties may include forensic psychosocial interviews, home visits, needs assessments, and assistance in developing expert opinion and negotiating ongoing legal issues.

**Implement APIC discharge planning model in Corrections**

*\$260,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI ;\$92,500 (GF/MH) – Behavioral Health Care, IHC/DOC.* This funding will support the "Assess, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate" (APIC) model of connecting Trust beneficiary offenders re-entering the community to appropriate community behavioral health services. The APIC model, which has shown to reduce recidivism, engages both DOC and community treatment providers in developing a transition plan for the soon-to-be-released offender.

**Criminal Justice Technician in DOC**

*\$67,200 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Inmate Health Care/DOC.* This funding supports a technician to track and provide reports on program outcome measures, clinical contacts, unit census changes, mental health Title 47s, access to programming, treatment failures, suicide data, assault and injury data, release data and a variety of other patient and programming needs for offenders in DOC.

**Discharge Incentive Grants**

*\$150,000 (GF/MH) IncM; \$250,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* This funding supports beneficiaries in DOC settings who require extended supervision and support services to prevent repeat incarceration and becoming a public safety concern. These funds will be administered by DBH as Assisted Living Home vouchers or support service resources. Resources will also be targeted to increase the skill level and capacity for assisted living providers to successfully house this population.

**Fairbanks Juvenile Therapeutic Court**

*\$245,900 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Therapeutic Courts/COURTS.* This project continues funding for a therapeutic court alternative for Trust beneficiary youth involved in the juvenile justice system in Fairbanks. The project engages Trust beneficiary youth in treatment, and helps avoid future more expensive treatment services or costs associated with the adult correctional and judicial systems. Funding will also support tracking and reporting outcomes.

**Mental Health Court expansion in targeted communities**

*\$204,400 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Therapeutic Courts/COURTS.* Funding supports a therapeutic court alternative for Trust

Funding supports a therapeutic court alternative for Trust beneficiaries that serves to identify the underlying reasons for an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, followed by development of a treatment plan (court-ordered) designed to decrease the risk of future contact with the criminal justice system. Funding also supports tracking and reporting data, related number of individuals served and their outcomes, how funding is utilized, and associated cost savings.

**ASAP therapeutic case management and monitoring**

**treatment in Barrow** *\$139,900 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Therapeutic Courts/COURTS.* This project will continue funding a position within Alaska Safety Action Program (ASAP) in Barrow which provides a therapeutic court alternative. It includes identifying available treatment, making treatment recommendations to the court and supports, monitoring adherence to court ordered recommendations, and other mechanisms that address the underlying disorder contributing to the individual's contact with the justice system.

**Probation officer for Anchorage Wellness Court**

*\$79,900 (I/A Receipts through Courts) – Alcohol Safety Action Program/Behavioral Health/DHSS.* This funding supports a probation officer at the Anchorage Municipal Wellness Court. Responsibilities include substance abuse screening, case management, education and treatment recommendations, monitoring of DWI and other alcohol/drug related misdemeanor cases. ASAP operates as a neutral link between the justice and the health care delivery systems, including enforcement, prosecution, judicial, probation, corrections, rehabilitation, licensing, traffic records, and public information/education.

See "Training for Mental Health Staff in Corrections" under PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

See "Expanded vocational education support and services under SUPPORTED SERVICES.

See "Mental Health Clinicians in Corrections" under MENTAL HEALTH

**RURAL SERVICES**

**Rural Transition Services**

*\$100,000 (GF/MH) Inc – Teaching and Learning Support/DEED.* These funds support youth with disabilities residing in rural and remote areas of the state to transition to adult life. Services include assistance with employment, independent living, participation in postsecondary education, and in community life. Grant projects include hands-on training, camps, technical assistance and ongoing

### **Rural Re-entry Specialist**

*\$110,900 (MHTAAR) IncM – Juvenile Justice/DHSS*

Funding supports a project to assist rural communities in developing prevention and/or early intervention activities, and make recommendations for training efforts to reduce the risk of local youth contact with the juvenile justice system, which in turn will decrease the risk of recidivism and the associated high costs of care within the juvenile justice system or out-of-home placement. The project engages local communities, treatment providers and natural supports in rural communities in a planning process to assist youth returning to their rural home communities.

### **Multidisciplinary Rural Community Project – Year Three**

*\$1.4 million (I/A Rcpts) IncM – Behavioral Health/DHSS*

These funds support rural community pilot projects to develop innovative, multi-disciplinary, collaborative approaches to domestic violence and sexual assault early intervention and prevention. These I/A Receipts are transferred from the Governor’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Initiative.

### **Rural/tribal system development**

*\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.*

Funding will assist in establishing SED services in rural areas, including developing and improving funding mechanisms and strategies specific to tribal systems. Projects may include developing Medicaid clinical, billing and supervision capacity, technical assistance to link programmatic and finance sections into an effective service delivery/billing revenue generation, implementing telemedicine, Skype or other distance delivery technology, grant writing, and/or blending funding streams.

### **Rural long term care development**

*\$140,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Senior and Disabilities*

*Services Administration, SDS/DHSS.* This funding continues a project that provides technical assistance to rural communities and helps analyze long-term care needs and locate resources to meet those needs. It includes outreach, education and intensive community-based work to help meet the needs of people with Alzheimer's and related dementias, and other cognitive impairments.

**See “Family Wellness Warriors” under MENTAL HEALTH**

## **SUPPORTED HOUSING**

### **Office of Integrated Housing**

*\$225,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.*

Funding supports an ongoing project offering technical assistance in developing supported housing options for

Trust beneficiaries. The Supported Housing Office develops housing and support opportunities for consumers with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, to expand supported housing opportunities statewide.

### **Bridge Home Program**

*\$1,020,000 (\$750,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI; \$270,000*

*(GF/MH)) – Services to Seriously Mentally Ill, DBH/DHSS.*

Funding supports the Bridge Home Program, which offers rent subsidies paired with intensive in-home support services for individuals 'cycling' through emergency and institutional settings – including DOC facilities, API, hospital emergency services, and other high-cost social service and health programs.

### **Capital projects include:**

- **Home modification and upgrades to retain housing** – \$100,000 (GF/MH)
- **AHFC Homeless Assistance Program** – \$8 million (AHFC receipts)
- **AHFC Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing** – \$1.750 million (MHTAAR).

## **PLANNING/RESEARCH**

### **Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan**

*\$120,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Public Health/DHSS.*

Funds support development of the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (Comprehensive Plan), a legislatively-mandated planning process between DHSS, the Trust, and four beneficiary advisory boards. The plan is used to measure status of beneficiary-related indicators, guide program evolution and service delivery, and contributes significantly to the establishment of funding priorities. The Comprehensive Plan is developed within a results-based framework that assist policymakers in identifying beneficiary needs and service effectiveness.

### **Acquired and Traumatic Brain Injury (ATBI) Program**

*\$136,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Senior and Disabilities*

*Services/DHSS.* This increment will continue to fund a research analyst for data development, collection, analysis and reporting activities associated with the planning and implementation of the ATBI program – providing the foundation to work to reduce the incidence of brain injury and minimize the disabling conditions through the expansion of services and supports for ATBI survivors and their families.

### **Behavioral health follow-up survey**

*\$75,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.*

This funding will be used to conduct a behavioral health survey of client recovery one year after treatment. This survey has

important policy implications for improving treatment and can help document cost savings from good treatment. If survey information is found to be helpful, it is the intent to repeat this survey every 4 to 5 years.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Training for mental health clinical staff in Corrections**

*\$15,000 (MHTAAR) Inc – Inmate Health Care/DOC.*

This training will offer Corrections clinical staff additional tools for better understanding and better managing inmates with mental health disorders and/or cognitive impairments. DOC has 48 clinicians, psychiatric nurses, counselors, ANPs and psychiatrists system-wide. This funding would enable DOC to bring all clinical staff to one location for a two-day training covering mental illness, substance abuse, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (A/TBI), developmental disabilities, and mental diseases associated with aging.

### **Assisted living home training and targeted capacity for development**

*\$190,000 (\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI; \$90,000 GF/MH) – Behavioral Health Grants, DBH/DHSS.*

This funding provides training for assisted living home providers and a targeted capacity development project designed to improve the quality of training available for providers serving individuals with severe mental health disabilities, and providers serving high-needs individuals in correctional facilities. Both programs serve to address homelessness and improve daily functioning activities for very impaired individuals.

### **Training for defense attorneys**

*\$15,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Office of Public Advocacy, LAS/ADMIN.* Funding will support training for defense attorneys in understanding and effectively handling legal cases involving persons with mental health disorders and/or cognitive impairments, including foundational knowledge on mental health disorders and cognitive impairments, best-practice and available treatment, and Alaska's community behavioral health system.

### **Training for Judicial Conference participants**

*\$15,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI – Therapeutic Courts/COURTS*

The funding will support training on topics related to mental health disorders and/or cognitive impairments, addictions, associated treatments, therapeutic jurisprudence principles and practices to participants of the Judicial Conference, which include the Dept. of Law, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy. Training offers understanding of the underlying causes for a beneficiary's contact with the criminal justice system, appropriate interventions, recommendations for alternative conditions of bail/probation, etc.

### **Microenterprise capital**

*\$125.0 (MHTAAR) IncM – Senior and Disabilities Services/DHSS.* These funds support access to startup funding, small business technical assistance, development support, and other assistance for people with disabilities interested in self-employment and economic independence.

### **Autism Workforce Development Capacity-building**

*\$75,000 (MHTAAR) Inc – Public Health/DHSS*

This funding will increase the number of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) certified to provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), the primary evidence-based intervention that is most likely to improve the life of children and families experiencing Autism. Funding will support student recruitment efforts, student financial support, and student field coordination support.

### **Loan Repayment**

*\$380,000 (\$180.0 (GF/MH) IncM; \$200.00 (MHTAAR) IncM) – Public Health/DHSS.* Funding supports one component of the required "non-federal match-funding" for continuation of SHARP. Funds will field another estimated 16-22 program practitioners – the entire amount for which will go to practitioner loan repayments, and none for administration.

### **Workforce Development Coordinator**

*\$115,000 (MHTAAR) IncM – Department Support*

*Services/DHSS.* Funding supports the single point of contact for DHSS and the Trust on all health workforce projects and activities, including providing direction and guidance and ensuring coordination for health workforce issues, ensuring proper stewardship of public dollars and accountability for investments made, assisting in finding and charting health workforce direction, and overseeing and acting as technical assistance for ongoing and new health workforce projects.

### **Committee on workforce competency curriculum development**

*\$45,000 (GF/MH) IncOTI – Behavioral Health/DHSS.* Funding will support consultation and technical assistance for ongoing development of competencies, assessment tools and curriculum for direct care health and social workers. Strengthening workers' skills is a priority of the Trust's workforce activities, acknowledging that direct care health and social services workers are often the primary care givers for seniors and people with disabilities.

## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

### **Anchorage Campus**

- **Specialized skills and training on serving cognitively impaired offenders** - \$55,000 (MHTAAR)
- **Interdisciplinary Education in Children's Mental Health** - \$64,000 (MHTAAR)

- **Interpersonal Violence Prevention for Beneficiaries** - \$80,000 (MHTAAR)
- **Technical Assistance and Implementation of D.A.R.T. Teams in targeted communities** - \$210,000 (MHTAAR)
- **Trust Training Cooperative and Alaska Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy** - \$822,500 (MHTAAR)
- **Partners in Policy-Making** - \$200,000 (MHTAAR)

**Fairbanks Campus**

- **Human Services (HUMS)** - \$50,000 (MHTAAR)

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Coordinated transportation and vehicles** – \$1,050 million (\$250,000 MHTAAR; \$800,000 GF/MH).

**Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) pilot to improve screening and services** – \$425,000 (GF/MH).

**Essential program equipment** – \$475,000 (GF/MH).

**Assistive technology** – \$125,000 (GF/MH).

**Grants for Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention** – \$9 million (GF).

**ADVOCACY TIPS**

- *Write a letter-to-the-editor, or coordinate a letter writing campaign.*
- *Make a telephone call to a public official's office or coordinate a telephone campaign.*
- *Write a letter to a public official or coordinate a letter-writing campaign.*
- *Organize people to join the Alaska Advocacy Network at [www.capwiz.com/mhtrust/home/](http://www.capwiz.com/mhtrust/home/).*
- *Host a reception in your home or place of work.*
- *Make five new contacts and spread the word about an issue.*
- *Set up a table at a public event, party, or reception and raise awareness about an issue.*
- *Visit a legislator in your hometown and talk about how something affects you or people you know.*
- *Write an opinion piece for your local newspaper or find someone else to do it.*
- *Go on a radio talk show and discuss an issue, or find someone else to do it.*
- *Write a personal story and send it to a policy-maker.*
- *Tell your friends or co-workers about an issue.*
- *Attend an advocacy training workshop or learn about an issue that interests you.*
- *Tell your personal story at a public meeting (Assembly, City Council, Rotary, Chamber, School Board, state legislature).*
- *Coordinate a local advocacy effort in your community – involve the media, host receptions, write letters, coordinate volunteers, visit policymakers, etc.*

To join the statewide **Action Network** sponsored by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, go to [www.capwiz.com/mhtrust/home/](http://www.capwiz.com/mhtrust/home/)