



Who We Are

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) are charged with advising, planning and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska. The Boards are also tasked with evaluating federal and state laws concerning mental health, alcohol, and other drug and substance misuse prevention and treatment services. (A.S. 47.30.661, A.S. 44.29.100).

The Boards are comprised of Governor-appointed citizen volunteers and non-voting state agency representatives. ABADA and AMHB work together to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans.

What We Do

- Advocate for and with Alaskans with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Assist in the evaluation of Alaska's publicly funded behavioral health system.
- Educate the public and policymakers about mental health and substance misuse.
- Provide a public forum for the discussion of issues related to mental health and substance use disorders.
- Advise, plan, and help coordinate with state and local governments, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner advisory boards, community organizations, and the public on issues related to mental health and substance use disorders.
- Provide recommendations to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority concerning the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan and the use of money in the Mental Health Trust Settlement Income Account.

2023 Priority Focus Areas

- Increase access to safe and patient-centered institutional and community supports including withdrawal management, psychiatric care and telehealth.
- Identify gaps and areas to build the continuum of care for substance use and mental health conditions.
- Increase early childhood, early intervention, and prevention services and activities to reduce adverse childhood experiences, increase resiliency and prevent future mental health and substance misuse concerns.

2023 Priority Focus Areas Continued

- Reduce the stigma and negative feelings about substance misuse and mental health concerns.
- Increase supportive employment services
- Increase access to housing and housing supports
- Behavioral health and primary health care integration.
- Reduce harm caused by alcohol misuse.

Priority Populations

Our priority populations of concern are all Alaskans with Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders. To ensure adequate resources for typically under-supported and vulnerable Alaskans including:

- Justice-Involved Trust Beneficiaries
- Rural Alaskans
- Alaskans experiencing homelessness
- Youth and Families

How We Do Our Work

ABADA and AMHB meet regularly during the year to hear from state agencies, behavioral health providers and Alaskans with mental health and substance use disorders and other concerned members of the public, about the state funded behavioral health system. Board members engage with the Governor, Alaska State Legislature and state agencies to educate and advise on the needs of these Alaskans and the providers who serve them.

Staff work with Board members and other stakeholders on statewide planning and coordinating efforts including serving on statewide advisory councils, taskforces and coalitions, data collection and assessment, planning and program evaluation.

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

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