

AMHB/ABADA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2009

Established priorities

These are continued efforts from last year, priorities established at 2008 October board meeting, priorities shared with other boards, and existing efforts led by other agencies, such as the Trust, the Administration and other boards, that we support:

- Behavioral Health Services (AMHB/ABADA, DBH, AMHTA). FY10 Budget request: \$3.5M (MH/SA) for grants to community behavioral health services providers to maintain existing mental health services and for substance abuse services for Alaskans without resources.
- Secure DeTox Treatment (ABADA). FY10 Budget request: \$1,025K (SACC) for continuation of six-month pilot program for Title 47 secure detox services for chronic inebriates at Clithroe Center (Salvation Army) in Anchorage. FY10 Budget request: \$100K for continued planning for Title 47 secure detox in rural communities in FY10 and planning and implementation in FY11. Services for individuals committed under Title 47 only.
- Psychiatric Emergency Services (AMHB). FY10 Budget request (leveraging): \$950K (GF)/\$300K (MHTAAR) for maintenance of existing system of designated evaluation and stabilization or treatment (DES/DET) services piloting of acute stabilization services capitalizing on existing tele-medicine resources.
- Suicide Prevention Resources (AMHB). Budget request: \$75K (MHTAAR) for suicide prevention resources (website, telephone, etc.) to support existing Alaska Gatekeeper Training and prepare for implementation of the statewide Suicide Prevention Plan.
- Senior Mental Health/Substance Abuse (ACoA, AMHB/ABADA, AMHTA, DBH). 1) IMPACT (Improving Mood, Promoting Access to Collaborative Treatment) Budget request: \$80K MHTAAR and \$150K GF/MH. Project proposes collaborative intervention treatment model to treat senior depression in primary care setting. Trust approved \$100K seed money to leverage grand funds. 2) SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, Treatment). Budget request: \$100K GF/MH. Builds on IMPACT model to provide treatment for senior alcohol and substance abuse in primary care setting. Funds to be used to leverage additional funding from private foundations sources by the Trust.
- Denali Kid Care (AMHB/ABADA, DHSS, GCDSE). Raise the eligibility ceiling to 200% of the federal poverty guideline from 175%.
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (DHSS, AMHTA, AMHB/ABADA, SADA). Anonymous survey monitors prevalence of behaviors that put Alaskan youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems; results assist in prevention and intervention planning and evaluation.
- Recovery Awareness Month (September) (ABADA, Governor). Establish September as Recovery Awareness Month statewide.

Existing efforts we support

These are efforts led by other agencies, such as the Trust, the Administration, or other boards, that we support:

- BTKH (Bring/Keep the Kids Home) (AMHTA) Support efforts and budget requests to bring (and keep) youth home from out-of-state placements.
- Self-Employment for Alaskans with Disabilities (GCDSE). Support efforts to build self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Therapeutic Courts (COURTS, DHSS). Support efforts to maintain and develop therapeutic courts statewide.

In progress

These are priorities in development for this legislative session requiring more data and input:

- Prisoner Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment (Corrections, AMBH/ABADA, AHFC). Support efforts to provide short term and RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) programs in all detention facilities. Support “Bridging the Gap.” Possible development of voucher system.
- Veterans Substance Abuse/Mental Health Services (DMVA, AMHB/ABADA, AHFC). Develop services for returning veterans serving in the Alaska National Guard.
- Drug Screening (ABADA) Require drug screening for people employed on public projects and with state contractors (ABADA).
- Early childhood intervention/screening (GCDSE, AMHB/ABADA) Develop programs and Early Childhood Comprehensive Screening.
- ECCS (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Project) (OCS, GCDSE, AMHB/ABADA). Engages medical providers to increase developmental screening for children (0-8 years) to identify developmental and mental health concerns. Also working to ensure quality child care settings for vulnerable populations.
- Community-Based Detox (AMHB/ABADA). Increase availability of community-based detox services statewide with high degree of readiness.
- Mandatory community service requirement for high school graduation (DHSS, DEED, DOLWD, AMHB/ABADA). Establish statute or regulation to require Alaska students to have community service credit before graduation.
- Mandatory health requirement for high school graduation (DHSS, DEED, AMHB/ABADA). Establish statute or regulation to require Alaska students have mandatory health credit before graduation.
- Training Programs (OCS, AMHB/ABADA). Working with beneficiaries, vocational rehabilitation, small business associations, vocational apprenticeship program, schools and others in a comprehensive effort to develop customized return-to-work programs that include training, certification and credential

programs. Also, developing programs for direct service workers, e.g. Early Childhood Mental Health, Natural Helpers, Prevention Specialists, Behavioral Health Certified, Mental Health First Aide, Gatekeepers (suicide prevention), Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

- Expand Detox/Secured Residential Treatment (ABADA, SADA). Expand detoxification and secured residential treatment to Fairbanks, Juneau and Nome (modeled off pilot programs in Anchorage and Bethel). Resubmit HB 100.
- 211 System (AMHB/ABADA, DHSS). Develop policy change with the Administration to require all DHSS grantees to register with 211 system.
- Substance Abuse Awareness (ABADA, DHSS, Governor). Encourage governor to address substance abuse as underlying many of Alaska's most important social problems, including crime, domestic violence, suicide and health.
- State Alcohol Tax (ABADA, DHSS, AMHTA, SADA). Revive campaign to steer more funds toward prevention and treatment based on argument the state should supplement and not supplant alcohol tax funds.

Future Initiatives

These are initiatives requiring more development for introduction at a future time:

- Strengthening Families Initiative Working with OCS, DHSS/Governor, GCDSE, AMHB/ABADA to develop increased access to family support services, including access to mental health services to children and families through child care settings. Include family wellness training to parents, parent support services, awareness campaign related to early childhood issues, mandatory health requirement for high schools, mandatory community service requirement for high schools, prevention programs for youth and adults.
- Reentry Services Initiative Working with Corrections, DMVA, DHSS, AMHB/ABADA, AHFC on initiative to address services for people returning to the community after military service, treatment, institutionalization or incarceration.