



Alaska Psychiatric Institute Fact Sheet: November 2019

ABOUT API

- API provides emergency and court-ordered inpatient psychiatric services.
- This 80-bed facility is operating on reduced capacity due to limited staff and complexity of patients' needs. Current number of patients receiving treatment, as of Oct. 14, 2019, is 40; up from a low of 25 in December 2018. The capacity of API can fluctuate daily – or even hourly – depending on the complexity of the patients being treated.
- A joint team of API and Wellpath employees are currently managing the daily operations of the facility. Wellpath is under contract to provide hospital administration services on a month-to-month basis through March 31, 2020.

RELEVANT REGULATORY AGENCIES

- *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)*: The federal agency which certifies that health care facilities meet standards – also known as conditions of participation – in order to receive federal payments from Medicare or Medicaid programs. In January 2019 CMS notified API of their intent to terminate the hospital's participation in Medicare and Medicaid; that termination action was withdrawn on July 29, 2019 when API was fully certified by CMS.
- *The Joint Commission (TJC)*: An independent, nonprofit organization that evaluates and accredits health care organizations on standards related to care, treatment and services; environment of care; leadership; and screening procedures. TJC renewed API's three-year accreditation to provide psychiatric care on April 3, 2019.
- *Alaska Health Facilities Licensing & Certification*: A unit within the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services Division of Health Care Services that inspects and licenses health care facilities to operate in the State of Alaska. Also the CMS-designated state survey agency that inspects health-care facilities and investigates complaints to ensure that health and safety standards are met for the federal agency.

TIMELINE OF KEY DATES

March 8, 2018 – DHSS requests independent investigation of workplace safety at API.

Sept. 12, 2018 – Dept. of Law and DHSS release findings of independent workplace safety investigation at API.

Oct. 13, 2018 – DHSS Emergency Operations Center activated to respond to psychiatric care capacity emergency.

Nov. 30, 2018 – DHSS contracts with North Star Behavioral Hospital to provide 14 beds for emergency mental health needs.

Jan. 3, 2019 – CMS notifies of their intent to terminate API's participation in Medicare and Medicaid.

Feb. 8, 2019 – DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum invokes authority under AS 47.32.140 to assume management of API.

Feb. 8, 2019 – DHSS contracts with Wellpath Recovery Solutions for hospital administration services at API in two phases (stabilization and on-going operations).

March 18, 2019 – Findings of the Alaska Ombudsman investigation released.

April 3, 2019 – API accreditation renewed by The Joint Commission.

April 22, 2019 – Contract with Wellpath amended to remove phase 2 and extend phase 1 through Dec. 31, 2019.

April 22, 2019 – New CEO, Matt Dammeyer, chosen for API.

June 10, 2019 – API's state license removed from provisional status and reinstated as a full license to operate in Alaska.

July 29, 2019 – API meets CMS certification requirements and secures eligibility for receiving Medicare/Medicaid funds.

Aug. 5, 2019 – Request for Proposals 200000010 issued for a study of the feasibility of privatizing API.

Sept. 6, 2019 – John Lee, current director of the DHSS Senior & Disabilities Division, appointed acting CEO after Matt Dammeyer resigns to pursue work out of state. A broad search for a permanent CEO is ongoing.

Sept. 24, 2019 – After an unannounced survey based on a complaint, CMS imposed a Dec. 23, 2019 date to correct deficiencies or have API's participation in Medicare/Medicaid terminated.

Oct. 2, 2019 – Notice of Cancellation issued for RFP 200000010 as the solicitation did not provide for consideration of all factors of significance to the state and the award was not in the best interest of the state.

Oct. 2, 2019 – Request for Proposals 200000024 issued – replacing RFP 200000010 – for a study of the feasibility of privatizing API.

Oct. 4, 2019 – Plan of Correction addressing issues raised at the Sept. 24 survey submitted to CMS.