

**\*\*Disclaimer** – *As many of you know, if Wellpath is successful over the course of the next several months, they may take over API services and functions effective July 1, 2019. Below are commonly asked questions with general answers given the hypothetical nature of this transition. This information is meant to be educational. Please know, no final decisions have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services as this time. \*\*While you are employed as a State employee, all bargaining contracts will remain in effect and your Union will be your sole and exclusive representative.*

**If API is privatized, who does this impact?**

All Alaska Psychiatric Institute Employees.

**If API is contracted out on July 1, 2019, will I still be a State employee?**

If you do not obtain other State employment before July 1, 2019 and if API is privatized you will no longer be a State employee.

**If API is contracted out, will I have a break in State service?**

If API becomes privatized and you are still a State employee working at API, you will have a break in State service because the positions will no longer exist in the State service as of July 1, 2019.

**What if I do not want to work for the contractor if API is privatized?**

You are not required to apply for and work for any contractor which takes over the management of API. You may choose to look for other employment, resign from State service or be laid off from your current position.

**What if I am not hired by the contractor if API is privatized?**

You may choose to apply for other State jobs, resign from State service or be laid off from your current position.

**Do I have bumping rights within the State of Alaska system?**

If you are laid off as a State employee, you will be issued layoff rights in accordance with contractual provisions of your current collective bargaining agreement. This will be managed by your departmental Human Resources. Your departmental Human Resources staff will issue layoff letters and administer any applicable bumping procedures in accordance with collective bargaining unit agreements.

**Can I get a lateral transfer?**

Employees can apply for other positions at any time and can pursue lateral transfers at any time during their State employment, in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining unit agreements. Please know that transfer opportunities are not a guarantee. If there is a job opening you are interested in, you are encouraged to apply.

**If I transition to a private contractor on July 1, 2019, what happens to my State benefits?**

If you are no longer a State employee, you will no longer accrue any additional State benefits.

**What happens to my leave accrual? Will I get cashed out at separation from State service?**

Yes, your leave will be cashed out at separation from State service. Please see your collective bargaining agreement for the timelines.

**I am only a few months from retirement, how can I stay in PERS?**

You can apply for other PERS qualifying positions to not have a break in service if you are close to vesting.

If you are a few months from retirement you can apply for other PERS qualifying positions or contact the Division of Retirement and Benefits to explore other options available to you.

**Can I cash out my retirement?**

You are encouraged to meet with a Retirement and Benefit Counselor regarding your options. You can set up an appointment here:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/rep/makeAppointment.html>

Information regarding the various retirement plans can be found at:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/retirement/index.html>

**What does it mean to be vested and what happens to my retirement if I am not vested by July 1, 2019?**

You can find information regarding PERS Tier IV here:

[http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/pdf/fin\\_footnotes/dcrp/ak\\_financial\\_footnotes\\_spring08.pdf](http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/pdf/fin_footnotes/dcrp/ak_financial_footnotes_spring08.pdf)

**What if I am within 1 or 2 years of retirement? What is the cut off line?**

You are encouraged to meet with a Retirement and Benefit Counselor regarding your options. You can set up an appointment here:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/rep/makeAppointment.html>

**Will the State be offering any early retirement or severance packages?**

At this time, the State will not be offering early retirement or severance packages.

**Who do I contact for information about my current State retirement benefits?**

The Division of Retirement and Benefits can be reached at:

Division of Retirement and Benefits

6th Floor State Office Building, P.O. Box 110203, Juneau, AK 99811-0203

Fax: (907) 465-3086 • TDD: (907) 465-2805 • Telephone: (907) 465-4460 • Toll-Free: (800) 821-2251

**If I retire from the State can I work for the contractor if API is privatized?**

A members retirement benefits will not be effected if a member retires from the State and hires on to a private firm.

**If I am unemployed on July 1, 2019, how do I pursue unemployment benefits?**

You can consult the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Unemployment Insurance Program resources can be contacted by phone at (907) 465-2712.

Additional information and filing procedures are available on their website at:

<http://labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/>

**What is COBRA and how does it work?**

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) is a health insurance program that allows an eligible employee and his or her dependents the continued benefits of health insurance coverage in case that employee loses his or her job or experiences a reduction of work hours.

Additional information can be found the following links:

SU and noncovered employees: <http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/cobra/cobraInfo.html>

GGU: <https://www.aseahealth.org/more-notices/cobra>

LTC: Please call your health trust

**What happens if API is not privatized on July 1, 2019?**

If API continues to be a State operated hospital, there is no change to your employment, provided there is no change in factors such as, funding, licensing and certification.

**What will State Departmental Human Resources do to assist me?**

Human Resources is currently in discussion with other agencies in regards to re-training opportunities and job transfer opportunities (within State service for those desiring to stay in State service).

Human Resources is also willing to assist API employees with reviewing their resumes and cover letters for positions they desire.

**How will the State communicate with me?**

Primarily through State email. There will be some face-to-face meetings occurring but you will be notified via your State email address. It is important to check your email frequently.

**Who should I contact if I have additional questions?**

Please direct state related questions to: [api.info@alaska.gov](mailto:api.info@alaska.gov)

Please direct Wellpath related questions to: [HRAPI@wellpath.us](mailto:HRAPI@wellpath.us)