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Fairbanks detox program reopens

State Division of Behavioral Health and Fairbanks Native Association reopen program

(Anchorage, AK) —Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) reopened its Gateway to Recovery Enhanced Detoxification Center Wednesday after working with the state Division of Behavioral Health to verify that staffing and procedural requirements were in place.

“We’re very happy to see this program reopen,” said Stacy Toner, deputy director for the state Division of Behavioral Health. “Enhanced detoxification services are a crucial part of the prevention, treatment and recovery spectrum.”

The Center closed in August when its advanced nurse practitioner providing medical oversight resigned and a replacement was not immediately available. The Center has since entered into a contract with Tanana Chiefs Conference to provide medical oversight.

“It’s great news that Fairbanks Native Association can now reopen the Center after being closed for three months,” said FNA Chief Executive Steve Ginnis. “We would like to thank the FNA enhanced detox staff who have overcome many challenges in preparing to reopen and are anxious to provide this valuable service to the community again.”

During the closure, a Division of Behavioral Health physician provided several trainings for Center employees, and Behavioral Health program managers provided technical assistance on appropriate patient care and medication administration procedures.

“We and our partners in Fairbanks have worked for years to develop an enhanced detoxification program that can treat people with co-occurring substance abuse detox and mental health needs,” said Melissa Stone, director, Division of Behavioral Health. “We remain committed to making high quality detoxification services available there.”

For statistics on alcohol abuse, see the “Substance Abuse” category of the Department’s “Alaska Scorecard,” developed in cooperation with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/healthplanning/scorecard/assets/scorecard.pdf>

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