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State temporarily closes Clitheroe detox program

State Division of Behavioral Health will work to reinstate detoxification program in Anchorage

(Anchorage, AK) — The state Division of Behavioral Health withdrew Salvation Army Clitheroe Center's approval to provide detoxification services Monday, May 24, based on health and safety concerns. Clitheroe's residential substance abuse treatment program is separate and not affected by this action.

The division will work to reinstate detoxification services as soon as possible, either with Clitheroe or another grantee.

"We can't effectively address Alaska's alcohol addiction problems without detoxification programs," said Behavioral Health Division Deputy Director Stacy Toner. "While we had to close this program because we and our grantees are bound by strict standards for client safety, we are committed to working with our valued grantee partners to ensure that Alaskans have access to state-funded detoxification programs that meet those standards."

Major Doug Tollerud, divisional commander for The Salvation Army Alaska Division, said "The Salvation Army is committed to working with the Division of Behavioral Health through this review process for the benefit of the individuals we serve."

There were six patients in Clitheroe's detoxification program Monday. They were discharged to other treatment programs, hospitals or released from the program, based on their desire for treatment and a doctor's evaluation, said Robert Heffle, executive director of The Salvation Army Clitheroe Center.

In addition to residential programs, detoxification options in Alaska include "out-patient" treatment at home overseen by a personal physician or emergency room staff. Medical teams determine which detoxification option is most appropriate based on a number of factors, such as the severity of a patient's withdrawal and whether he or she has support at home.

For alcohol abuse statistics, 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/dhcs/healthplanning/scorecard/assets/scorecard.pdf>

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