

Alaska Mental Health Board  
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

July 2013

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

Advisory Board on Alcoholism  
and Drug Abuse



Alaska Mental Health Board

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## ***In this Report:***

- Bills that passed in 2013
- Bills still on the table for next year
- Results of FY14 Operating/Mental Health Budget
- Results of FY14 Capital Budget

*This report contains bills and budget items that affect Mental Health Trust beneficiaries that passed during the 2013 legislative session. To read more about these bills, go to [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov) and type in bill number in Search box. To read more about budget items, go to [www.legfin.state.ak.us](http://www.legfin.state.ak.us).*

## **Bills that Passed in 2013**

**SB 37 – Extend Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (SSPC)**, by Sen. Fairclough. This bill extends the termination date of the SSPC to June 30, 2019.

**HB 50 – Multi-Unit Housing: Commercial Use**, by Rep. Costello. This bill bars AHFC from authorizing the commercial use of space in a multi-unit resident housing development it owns or finances for substance abuse treatment, sale of alcohol beverages (unless in a restaurant), tobacco products, or adult entertainment.

**HB 59 – Missing Vulnerable Adult Response Plan**, by Rep. Gruenberg. This bill requires DPS and DMVA to coordinate a missing vulnerable adult response plan with the statewide media and law enforcement. Vulnerable adult is defined as a person with physical or mental impairment.

**HB 84 – Military Training Credit**, by Rep. Saddler. This bill allows successful completion of military training programs to be considered

as credit toward job and licensing requirements, or college transfer credits.

**HB 87 – Extend Special Education Service Agency (SESA)**, by Rep. Higgins. This bill extends SESA until June 30, 2021, maintains Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education as the governing agency, and increases SESA funding.

**HB 88 – Statutory References to Mental Retardation**, by Rep. Millett. This bill (originally introduced by Sen. Meyer) updates Alaska’s statutes by removing the term “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” and replaces them with “intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

**HB 147 – Extend Autism Early Diagnosis Task Force**, by Rep. Saddler. This bill extends the termination date for the Comprehensive Autism Early Diagnosis and Treatment Task Force to January 15, 2015.

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## Bills Still on the Table for Next Year

**HB 3 – Photo Identification Voting Requirement**, by Rep. Lynn. This bill would require an Alaskan to present identification with a photograph in order to vote, with some exceptions.

**HB 44 – Advance Health Directives Registry**, by Rep. Holmes. This bill directs DHSS to establish and maintain a health directives registry, including procedures and protocols for its use.

**HB 45 – Electronic Bullying in Schools**, by Rep. Costello. This bill would redefine definitions in statute to include electronic or oral communications that are threatening, harassing, intimidating, or frightening.

**HB 53 – Consultation for Opiate Prescription**, by Rep. Keller. This bill would require certain physicians and nurse practitioners to consult with pain management specialists before prescribing opiates of 120 milligrams or more.

**HB 54 – Placement of Child in Need of Aid**, by Rep. Gara. This bill would require OCS to attempt a “diligent” search for family members and appropriate friends within 30 days of the child’s removal, and for supervisor certification that this was done.

**SB 56/HB 178 – Reclassifying Certain Drug Offenses**, by Sen. Dyson/Rep. Isaacson. These bills would reclassify possession of small quantities of Schedule IA and IIA substances from Class C felony to Class A misdemeanor, exempting “date rape” drugs, and requiring an assessment for treatment.

**SB 64 – Omnibus Crime/Corrections Bill**, by Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill would create the Alaska Sentencing Commission to evaluate the effect of sentencing laws and practices on the criminal justice system. It includes provisions that address court-ordered treatment, drug and alcohol testing, and felony driver revocation.

**SB 66 – Imitation Controlled Substance**, by Sen. Egan. This bill amends definitions related to imitation drugs and addresses possession of a substance with intent to manufacture.

**SB 70 – Civil Legal Services Fund**, by Sen. Micciche. This bill would allow the Legislature to appropriate up to 25% of court filing fees to the Civil Legal Services Fund, and make specific appropriations to organizations that serve veterans and seniors.

**SB 72/HB 127 – Ombudsman**, by Sen. Coghill by request. This bill would amend several aspects of the Ombudsman Act, including extending the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction to contract providers of prisons and halfway houses, including youth in DJJ and OCS custody.

**HB 75 – Contribution from PFD: audits, University**, by Rep. Seaton. This bill would repeal the audit requirement related to certain entities applying to receive contributions from PFDs under the Pick-Click-Give program.

**HB 134 – Medicaid Payment for Mediset Prescription**, by Rep. Costello. This bill would establish the circumstances under which DHSS must pay pharmacists “a reasonable fee” for dispensing prescriptions to Medicare patients in schedule unit doses as a “mediset.” ♦

# FY14 Operating/Mental Health Budget Items

## DEFINITIONS:

**MHTAAR** = a state funding source, Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts  
**GF/MH** = a state funding source, General Funds found in the Mental Health budget bill (HB 66)  
**GF** = a state funding source, General Funds in the Operating budget bill (HB 65)  
**GF/PR** = General Funds and Program Receipts  
**Inc** = Increment (added to the base budget)  
**OTI** = One Time Increment  
**IncOTI** = Reflects Trust's annual zero-based budgeting  
**IncM** = Maintenance increment  
**DHSS** = Department of Health & Social Services  
**DBH** = Division of Behavioral Health  
**DJJ** = Division of Juvenile Justice  
**OCS** = Office of Children's Services  
**SDS** = Division of Senior and Disabilities Services  
**DOC** = Department of Corrections  
**DOA** = Department of Administration  
**DOR** = Department of Revenue  
**DLWD** = Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
**DPS** = Department of Public Safety  
**DMVA** = Department Military & Veterans Affairs  
**COURTS** = Alaska Court System  
**UAA** = University of Alaska  
**Trust** = Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
**AHFC** = Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

## MENTAL HEALTH

**Impact Model of Treating Depression**  
\$75,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Complex Behavior Collaborative**  
\$450,000 (GF/MH) IncOTI (DHSS).

**Behavioral Health Services**  
\$6.4 million (GF) (-\$2 million decrement) (DHSS).

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**Pre-Development for Sleep Off Alternatives in Nome**  
\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**ABC Board: Under Age Drinking Compliance Program**  
\$100,000 (GF/PR) IncOTI (DCCED).

**Fairbanks 24/7 Sobriety Project**  
\$40,000 (GF) IncOTI (COURTS).

## PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

**Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program Positive Parenting Training** \$80,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Integration (CAFTA)** \$1.5 million (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

## YOUTH & FAMILY

**Evidence-Based Family Therapy Models** \$270,000 (GF/MH) Inc and \$400,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Early Intervention for Young Children** \$400,000 (GF/MH) Inc and \$200,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Transitional Aged Youth**  
\$200,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Traumatic Brain Injury Program**  
\$150,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

**Sustaining Alaska 211**  
\$50,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

**Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)**  
\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DEED).

**Telehealth Strategic Capacity Expansion, Phase II**  
\$100,000 (Fed Rcpts) and \$100,000 (GF) IncOTI (DHSS).

**Mini Grants for Beneficiaries with Disabilities**  
\$250,300 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

See "Independent Living Services Grants in Rural Communities" under **RURAL SERVICES**

See "Medical Appliances for People Experiencing Sensory Impairments" under **CAPITAL BUDGET**

See "Coordinated Transportation and Vehicles" under **CAPITAL BUDGET**

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## SENIORS

### **Senior Fall Prevention Program**

\$150,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

### **Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)**

\$125,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

### **Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementia Education & Support Program**

\$230,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

### **Long Term Care Ombudsman**

\$107,400 (GF/MH) Inc (DOR).

### **Alaska Medicare Clinic**

\$861,700 (GF) Inc (DHSS).

### **See "Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund" under CAPITAL BUDGET**

## DISABILITY JUSTICE

### **Sustaining Wellness Courts (DUI Therapeutic Courts)**

\$689,000 (GF/MH) Inc (COURTS).

### **Discharge Incentive Grants**

\$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncM and \$200,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

### **Fairbanks Juvenile Therapeutic Court**

\$245,900 (MHTAAR) IncM (COURTS).

### **Juneau Mental Health Court**

\$204,400 (MHTAAR) IncT (COURTS).

### **Training for Therapeutic Court Clinical Staff**

\$15,000 (MHTAAR) Inc (COURTS).

### **Therapeutic Case Management and Monitoring at Barrow Alaska Safety Action Program (ASAP)**

\$139,900 (MHTAAR) IncM (COURTS).

### **Implement APIC Discharge Planning Model**

\$260,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (DOC).

### **Mental Health Clinical Positions in Corrections**

\$164,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DOC).

### **Training for Mental Health Staff in Corrections**

\$15,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DOC).

### **Mental Health Clinician Oversight In Youth Facilities**

\$152,9000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Trauma Informed Care in Juvenile Justice** \$75,000 (MHTAAR) IncM and \$75,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

See "Pre-Development for Sleep-Off Alternatives in Nome" under **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

See "Bridge Home Program" under **SUPPORTED HOUSING/EMPLOYMENT**

See "Partners for Progress: Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage" under **CAPITAL BUDGET**

See "Rural Re-Entry Specialist" under **RURAL SERVICES**

See "Fairbanks 24/7 Sobriety Project" under **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

## RURAL SERVICES

### **Rural Long Term Care Development**

\$140,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (DHSS).

### **Rural Re-entry Specialist**

\$110,900 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

See "Trust Training Cooperatives & Alaska Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy" under **UAA**

## SUPPORTED HOUSING/EMPLOYMENT

### **Bridge Home Program**

\$750,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

### **Office of Integrated Housing**

\$225,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (DHSS).

**Microenterprise Capital** \$125,000 (MHTAAR) IncM and \$25,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

### **Employment of People with Disabilities**

\$150,000 (MHTAAR) IncOTI (DHSS).

See "Home Modifications and Upgrades to Retain Housing" under **CAPITAL BUDGET**

See "Rural Long Term Care Development" under **RURAL SERVICES**

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See “Homeless Assistance Program”  
under CAPITAL BUDGET

See “Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing”  
under CAPITAL BUDGET

## PLANNING / RESEARCH

**Behavioral Health Follow-up Survey**  
\$119,200 (MHTAAR) Inc (DHSS).

**Mental Health Research Analyst in Corrections**  
\$67,200 (MHTAAR) IncM (DOC).

**Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program & Registry Support** \$136,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

**Alaska Safety Planning & Empowerment Network (ASPEN)** \$150,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DHSS).

See “Technical Assistance & Implementation of D.A.R.T. Teams in Targeted Communities” under UAA

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Training for Defense Attorneys**  
\$15,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (DOA).

**Public Defender Agency Protective Service Specialist**  
\$138,800 (MHTAAR) IncM (DOA).

**Assisted Living Home Training and Targeted Capacity for Development** \$100,000 (MHTAAR) IncT and \$100,000 (GF/MH) Inc (DHSS).

See “Training for DOC Mental Health Staff”  
under DISABILITY JUSTICE

See “Training for Therapeutic Court Clinical Staff”  
under DISABILITY JUSTICE

See “Skills and services training on serving cognitively impaired offenders” under UAA

See “Trust Training Cooperatives & Alaska Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy” under UAA

## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

**Workforce Development Coordinator**  
\$180,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (UAA).

**Partners in Policymaking**  
\$200,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (UAA).

**Serving Cognitively Impaired Offenders Conference**  
\$65,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (UAA).

**Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology (ANCAP)** \$50,000 (GF/MH) Inc (UAA).

**Technical Assistance & Implementation of Disability Abuse Response Teams (DART) Teams in Targeted Communities** \$210,000 (MHTAAR) IncM (UAA).

**Trust Training Cooperative: Alaska Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy** \$955,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (UAA).

**Center on Alcohol and Addiction Studies**  
\$30,000 (MHTAAR) IncT (UAA).

## FY14 Capital Budget Items

**Home Modifications and Upgrades to Retain Housing**  
\$500,000 (GF/MH) and \$300,000 (MHTAAR) and \$250,000 (AHFC Rcpts).

**Homeless Assistance Program** \$8.35 million (GF) and \$850,000 (GF/MH) and \$850,000 (MHTAAR).

**Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing**  
\$1.75 million (AHFC Rcpts).

**Coordinated Transportation and Vehicles**  
\$800,000 (GF/MH) and \$250,000 (MHTAAR).

**Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund in AHFC**  
\$4.5 million (GF).

**Partners for Progress: Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage** \$600,000 (GF).

**Medical Appliances for People Experiencing Sensory Impairments** \$500,000 (GF/MH). ◇