

Alaska's SHARP Program

SHARP Council – Member Statement

Organization Representative Alaska Behavioral Health Association
Tom Chard, Chair

Membership Voting Member

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Occupation Categories Behavioral Healthcare

Practice Setting Types Hospitals, Clinics & In-Community

Experience Thus Far

Occupations To-Date Psychiatrist, Psychologist, LCSW, LPC, LMFT, PA and NP with Psy Specialty

Practitioner Contracts #: 83
Practice Sites: Examples ACMHS, AICS, API, BBAHC, CCS, CODI, Copper River, DOC, NSB, Providence, SCF

Regions Thus Far Anchorage, Gulf Coast, Interior, Mat-Su, Northern, Southeast, Southwest & Statewide

Testimony

SHARP's Success To-Date The SHARP Loan Repayment Program has helped provide access to healthcare throughout Alaska for over 10 years. To date, the program has supported over 250 health care practitioners operating in 57 sites across the state. That support for service translates into thousands of Alaskans getting access to the health care they need. Indian Health Service beneficiaries, Veterans, Medicaid beneficiaries, Medicare recipients, Alaskans in rural and remote communities, and those seeking specialty care have all benefited from the SHARP program.

Need for SHARP-3 The original SHARP program started as a Federal-State collaboration. State Legislators and other leaders in healthcare improved the program by creating a version that works better here in Alaska. Now in its third iteration, the SHARP-3 concept envisions a PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP that offers all the benefits of the original program, adds greater flexibility for practitioner participation, and DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY STATE GENERAL FUNDING.