

Tom Chard
Chief Executive Officer
Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA)
P.O. Box 32917 Juneau, Alaska 99803
907-321-5778
tom@alaskabha.org



February 16, 2022

Adam Crum, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
3601 C St., Ste. 902, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
BY EMAIL AT: adam.crum@alaska.gov

Re: ABHA Supports Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 121 – The Reorganization of DHSS

Dear Commissioner Crum:

The Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) is a membership organization with over seventy statewide mental health and substance abuse treatment providers who constitute the core of behavioral health treatment services in Alaska. We are committed to advancing access to quality, cost effective behavioral health treatment services to all people in need across the state, whether in remote, rural, or urban areas.

ABHA would first like to thank you for spending time with us on February 7th to provide an overview of Executive Order 121 and to share the Department's plan to reorganize DHSS. We would also like to thank you and the administration for taking the time to answer all of our questions and for providing specific detail on how the proposal might affect behavioral health services in Alaska. Finally, we both recognize and appreciate the Department's engagement with a broad range of stakeholders on this important decision.

ABHA is especially interested in two benefits of the reorganization. First, we are hopeful that the reorganization will provide better opportunity to partner and collaborate with leaders at the State. We recognize this is a goal of the reorganization and suggest formalizing opportunities for partnership where possible. Second, ABHA has long-recognized that sharing data with policymakers, system leaders, and the Alaskans served by our programs can enlist everyone in continuous quality improvement. It is apparent from the thoughtful approach to rethinking how data is collected, analyzed, and shared that this reorganization shares that priority.

ABHA looks forward to continuing our collaboration and partnership with leaders at the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services to achieve the goals of the reorganization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Chard".

Tom Chard
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA)