

Adam Crum
Commissioner

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Department of Health
and Social Services

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DHSS becomes DOH and DFCS on July 1

June 30, 2022, ANCHORAGE – This Friday, July 1, Governor Mike Dunleavy’s Executive Order 121 will take effect and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) will reorganize into the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS).

“We’ve been planning and preparing for this historic day both internally and in meetings with stakeholders for many months,” said DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum, “The work of creating two smaller, more nimble departments will continue for months to come, but we’re excited to be at this point in the process and for the path ahead.”

Governor Dunleavy has named DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum as the commissioner for DOH and Kim Kovol as the acting commissioner for DFCS.

Both departments will continue to serve Alaskans as they have before, but each department has different focus areas and missions:

DOH’s mission statement: Promoting the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of Alaskans.

DOH aligns divisions that focus on payments, processes and programs. This alignment will facilitate future innovations within Medicaid and public health, improving health outcomes for all Alaskans. Oversight includes program eligibility, public health and the Medicaid program. The Division of Public Health, Division of Public Assistance, Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Health Care Services and Division of Senior and Disabilities Services are the DHSS divisions forming DOH.

DFCS’ mission statement: To provide support, safety and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans.

DFCS will oversee and improve our child welfare system and 24/7 facilities providing direct services to Alaskans. DHSS divisions transitioning to DCFS are the Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Pioneer Homes and the Office of Children’s Services.

“This is an exciting time for the State of Alaska, and we realize there will be many concerns and questions as each department becomes independent,” Crum added. “DOH and DFCS are

committed to providing services with no disruptions to Alaskans. This will be each department's highest priority."

Individuals with questions regarding the reorganization may send them via email to dhssreorg@alaska.gov.

For more information, visit reorg.dhss.alaska.gov.



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