

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Physicians and psychiatrists (CSSB 169());
Work Order No. 30-LS1283J.1)

TO: Senator Tom Begich
Attn: Joshua Spring

FROM: Kate S. Glover *KSG*
Legislative Counsel

You requested an amendment that adds physicians to the list of medical professionals who may supervise behavioral health clinic services for the purpose of medical assistance coverage. The attached amendment accomplishes that by substituting "physician" for "psychiatrist." The term "physician" includes both physicians and psychiatrists. A psychiatrist is a physician licensed under AS 08.64 who specializes in psychiatry. There are no separate licensing statutes for psychiatrists. Therefore, including both psychiatrists and physicians would be duplicative. For that reason, the amendment would substitute the broader term, physician, for the term psychiatrist, allowing either a physician or a physician who is a psychiatrist to provide the required supervision.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

KSG:dls
18-105.dls

Attachment