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OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Committee

TO: House CS for CSHB 81(FIN)/CSHB 83(FIN)

OFFERED BY: Representative Gara

DEPARTMENT: Health and Social Services
APPROPRIATION: Behavioral Health
ALLOCATION: Behavioral Health Grants

ADD: \$210,000 General Fund/Mental Health (1037)

ADD INTENT: It is the intent of the legislature that at least \$210,000 be expended to serve individuals on waiting lists for Heroin addiction treatment at facilities that have a waiting list. The funding is to be utilized in addition to any other behavioral health grants that a heroin addiction treatment facility may qualify for, and it shall not prevent such a facility from qualifying for any additional behavioral health grant funds.

EXPLANATION: The funding is intended to expand the capacity of Heroin treatment facilities for individuals that are on a waiting list. This supplemental funding is to be targeted to Heroin addiction treatment facilities that have a waiting list and not prevent those facilities from qualifying for other behavioral health grant funds.



NARCOTIC DRUG TREATMENT CENTER, INC.

CENTER FOR DRUG PROBLEMS

CHEMICAL SCREENING PROJECT • S.T.O.P. AIDS PROJECT

March 10, 2009

Representative Les Gara
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gara,

Narcotic Drug Treatment Center Inc. is submitting the following information regarding the on-going heroin addiction problem in the state of Alaska.

Narcotic Drug Treatment Center is an out-patient methadone clinic that is currently funded to provide 75 treatment slots for opioid addiction in the Anchorage Bowl.

As you are aware, seizures of heroin by the state troopers has increased from 113.3 grams in 2004 to 4,970.18 grams in 2008. The waiting list and demand for treatment at NDTC, Inc. has increased due to the drastic influx of heroin into the community.

Currently we are operating beyond capacity and are only able to admit pregnant women. During the last quarter we admitted 11 pregnant women on demand, and average 8 pregnant women in treatment at all times.

With an additional \$120,000 of state funds we will be able to increase treatment slots to provide services for 100 patients. This would allow us to continue to provide treatment on demand to pregnant women and clear our waiting list, allowing all individuals access to treatment on demand for opioid dependency in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

Any assistance you can give in helping us treat this threat to public health and safety would be appreciated. Please contact me at your convenience if you need further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Aiken, MS, LPA, DAPA, FAPA, MAC
Executive Director





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March 10, 2009

Representative Les Gara
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gara,

Project Special Delivery, a methadone program sponsored by the Interior AIDS Association, is the only substance abuse treatment program in the Interior that focuses solely on opiate addiction, including the growing problem with heroin in our region.

Project Special Delivery receives state grant funding and is approved for 29 outpatient treatment slots to serve the Fairbanks area.


During the last few months, we have received more applications from individuals citing Heroin as their primary drug of abuse than during the past seven years. Currently, we have 12 applications in process, and we receive calls frequently asking about the availability of services. For most, when they find out that it may be six months before they get into the program, they do not even follow through to fill out an application.

With an additional \$90,000 of state funds we would be able to increase available treatment slots to provide services to 49 individuals. This would provide services to all current applicants and open the window of opportunity for those who have given up hope of getting treatment in Fairbanks. The number of heroin users who reach the point where they seek treatment will only increase as heroin becomes more available.

We certainly appreciate your consideration. We have grown accustomed to turning people away – and that is never a good place to be when your mission is to help people get their lives back.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,


Anna Nelson
Executive Director