



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 20, 2014

Representative Bill Stoltze
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

RE: Competitive Grants for Chronic Inebriate Anti-Recidivism Treatment Programs (HD 1-40)

Under the direction of Department of Health & Social Services Commissioner Streur and in consultation with Jeff Jessee at the Alaska Mental Health Trust, I offer the following explanation of the above referenced project in the 2014 Capital Budget.

First I would like to state that public inebriates and constant recidivism are issues of concern for the Department and those issues need to be addressed not only in Anchorage, but statewide. We are encouraged by the various groups that have begun to organize behind finding a solution and joining forces towards a common goal.

The original proposed project was for three years at a cost of over \$5 million. The exact plan for these funds is still being developed and is not yet fully defined. Appropriations in the budget included grants to Akeela and Partners for Progress. These funds total \$5,600,000.

The Department is supporting an amendment that defines a two year project at a cost not to exceed \$2 million per year. These programs will be housed in the Department of Health & Social Services to provide for a competitive bidding process with measureable outcomes to determine efficacy. In addition we commit to provide a report to the Legislature in time for the 2016 session so that a proper evaluation of the programs could be made and determination of any future funding could be considered with the best information and data available.

Thank you, Chairman Stoltze for offering this amendment and assisting the Department in addressing the issues concerning chronic inebriates and anti-recidivism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Applebee".

Josh Applebee
Deputy Director for Health Care Policy
Department of Health & Social Services