


Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

September 22, 2014

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Concurrent Efforts for Public Safety and Reducing Recidivism

- Criminal Justice Work Group
- Mental Health Trust: Disability Justice Focus Area
- SB64
 - Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
- HB266: Legislative Intent

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HB266: Legislative Intent

- Gather and analyze data on the substance abuse, mental health, employment, and housing services needed and the services provided to the released clients
- Propose effectiveness and efficiency measures
- Develop and implement a comprehensive, complementary plan for providing substance abuse, mental health, housing, and employment services to those who are released from correctional institutions
- Use the plan to assist the Departments of: Corrections, Health and Social Services, Labor and Workforce Development, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and Alaska Court System in improving treatment and outcomes for recently released inmates with the goal of reducing recidivism rates
- Report on plan implementation and data findings to the legislature by February 2, 2015

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Named Participants:

- DOC Commissioner Schmidt
- DHSS Commissioner Streur
- DOLWD Commissioner Blumer
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, CEO,
Bryan Butcher
- Alaska Court System, Administrative Director,
Christine Johnson
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, CEO,
Jeff Jessee

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Process

The Trust, on behalf of all members, hired a contractor to help with workgroup facilitation, assist with data collection, gather information, and develop the final report.

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Recidivism Definition

The group agreed that its efforts should include both felony and misdemeanor populations.

“An individual who is released from incarceration and returns to incarceration as the result of a conviction for any offense type - felony, misdemeanor, or parole/probation violation - within three years of release.”

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Objectives

1. Delay or prevent the construction of a new correctional facility
2. Encourage continued and expanded collaboration across departments to reduce recidivism
3. Identify best practices to reduce recidivism
4. Ensure appropriate use of prison beds

"Keep the ones you're afraid of inside, not the ones you're just mad at." Texas State Representative Madden

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Objectives

5. Ensure re-entering prisoners have the tools and resources required to successfully return to their community
6. Promote government, business and community partnerships to reduce recidivism

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Timeline

- Draft plan completed by December 1, 2014
- Afterwards, an executive summary and legislative presentation will be prepared

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Thank you

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