



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Juneau Office

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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Mark Neuman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Newman:

On January 27, 2016, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) received the following questions throughout the Department's House Finance Committee presentation. The DHSS responses are as follows:

➤ ***Alaska Pioneer Homes***
Cost per levels of care.

The monthly rate for Alaska Pioneer Homes' services as of February 1, 2016 are:

- Level I: \$2,549.75
- Level II: \$4,622.10
- Level III: \$6,694.45

The cost of the levels of care to the residents and/or their representatives can vary depending on the payment type utilized by the resident. Residents who are private pay have agreed to pay the full rate charged them at the above amounts. Residents who have been approved for AKPH payment assistance pay a monthly rate that has been calculated for them and the remainder is booked as indebtedness to the state. When a resident passes away, the indebtedness is put as a claim against their estate should an estate be processed through the court system. Residents who are receiving Medicaid Waiver services through the Alaskans Living Independently (formerly the Older Alaskans) waiver pay a room and board charge and any calculated cost of care determined by Division of Public Assistance. Medicaid is then billed for the remainder.

Numbers Serving.

Unduplicated Counts: As of December 31, 2015, there are 453 residents within the homes. There are 335 elders who have indicated they are ready to move into a home and are thus on the active waiting list. There are 5,132 individuals on the inactive waiting list which indicates that a person may eventually wish to move into a home. During FY 2015, 535 unduplicated residents were served within the homes.

Cost per level with numbers serving.

Level of Care	Number Within Homes (As of 12/31/15)	Monthly Rate (As of 2/1/16)
I	64	\$2,549.75
II	137	\$4,622.10
III	252	\$6,694.45

**Approximately 50% of the residents listed above are private pay, i.e. paying the full rates listed above. However, the remaining 50% are either payment assistance recipients or Medicaid Waiver recipients, i.e. paying less than the above listed rates.*

➤ ***Division of Public Assistance******Provide detail on the Senior Benefits program reductions and number of those impacted.***

The Division of Public Assistance received a reduction in the Senior Benefits program in SFY2016. Based on existing caseloads and expenditures to date, the Division will not have sufficient funding to maintain the existing payment levels of \$125 per month to the recipients in the lowest payment category who have the highest income. There are 5,348 participants who receive benefits in this payment category.

➤ ***Office of Children's Services******Can we change the mission of OCS to include success of the children?***

Thank you for the suggestion. OCS will take this under consideration.

Of the 26 positions received last year:***a. How many are case workers vs social workers?***

OCS's Protective Services Specialist job class series is considered a case worker. Social work licensure is not a minimum requirement of the Protective Services Specialist job class series.

See table to the right.

b. Where are the positions located?

See table to the right.

Row Labels	Count of PCN
Anchorage Central Office - Evaluation	
Office Assistant II	1
Anchorage Licensing	
Community Care Licensing Specialist I	1
Anchorage Regional Office	
Eligibility Technician II	1
Protective Services Specialist I/II	4
Central Office - Evaluation	
Office Assistant II	1
Social Services Program Coordinator	3
Fairbanks Field Office - Initial Assessment	
Social Service Associate I/II	1
Nome Field Office	
Protective Services Specialist I/II	1
SCRO Licensing	
Community Care Licensing Specialist I	2
SCRO Regional Office	
Office Assistant II	1
SERO Regional Office	
Protective Services Specialist I/II	1
State Office	
Eligibility Technician II	1
Wasilla Field Office	
Independent Living Specialist	1
Protective Services Specialist I/II	3
Western Regional Office	
Protective Services Specialist I/II	4
Grand Total	26

c. *How many families per case worker?*

Gathering information and will provide data at a later date.

d. *Of the total number of reunifications, how many are with the parents?*

Reunification is defined as being reunified with the parent or the primary caregiver the child was removed from. FY2015, 519 of the reunifications were with the parent or the primary caregiver the child was removed from.

If you have any additional questions regarding this issue, please contact me at 465-1630.

Sincerely,



Sana Efird
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Amanda Ryder, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance
Neil Steininger, Office of Management and Budget
Valerie Davidson, Commissioner
Jay Butler, Chief Medical Officer
Jon Sherwood, Deputy Commissioner
Karen Forrest, Deputy Commissioner
Melissa Ordner, Budget Manager
Anthony Newman, Legislative Liaison
Sarah Woods, Deputy Legislative Liaison
Vickie Wilson, Director, Alaska Pioneer Homes
Randall Burns, Acting Director, Division of Behavioral Health
Christy Lawton, Director, Office of Children's Services
Margaret Brodie, Director, Division of Health Care Services
Rob Wood, Director, Division of Juvenile Justice
Sean O'Brien, Director, Division of Public Assistance
Duane Mayes, Director, Senior and Disabilities Services

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