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To: [Daniel George](#)
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Subject: Follow-up DOA Subcommittee
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:10:54 PM
Attachments: [2016 ALMR Metrics.pdf](#)
[history of 37.5 hour workweek.pdf](#)

Good evening Daniel!

Please find below the responses to the questions from your email dated March 16th. A response to question #4 will be provided at a later date.

- 1. Sen. Dunleavy Asked about air miles which the state has, and Sen. MacKinnon asked if the miles spike at any specific times of the year. I believe Cheri had an estimate of the air miles in the state's possession presently, and might be able to speak to how much they accrue presently—if at all.**

The Alaska Airlines contract eliminated mileage accrual in exchange for discounted airfares on flights operated by Alaska Airlines for purchases made through the E-Travel Office. All administrative overhead for tracking/using mileage was eliminated when the old mileage balance was fully redeemed. The Alaska Airlines discount is confidential; however, the data represented in the table below reflects a heightened savings in FY 2017 due to the State's market share performance. While there is no peak in mileage accrual, as the state doesn't accrue miles, an increase in spend typically occurs July-October, the construction season, but the overall air spend is down in FY 2017.

Branch	FY 2016 Contract Savings	FY 2017 Contract Savings (through Dec)
<i>Executive Branch</i>	<i>\$472,293</i>	<i>\$314,482</i>
<i>Medicaid</i>	<i>\$1,201,251</i>	<i>\$810,141</i>
Statewide Total	\$1,673,544	\$1,124,624

This information is for Executive Branch and Medicaid travel only. Quasi corporations and the University may have mileage, but we are unable to provide any information because they do not use the E-Travel Office.

- 2. Sen. Dunleavy: Asked about the inflationary rate over past years of healthcare, as well as the projected rate going forward. Commissioner Fisher noted that it was about 9% year over year increase. Any estimate on future growth would be appreciated.**

Per our actuary, If we continue to aggressively manage the plan as we have through implementing the changes effective in 2017 and those planned for 2018, we can aim for a trend of 4-5%. However, if those tactics are not successful, or if there is substantial change in experience, we could expect to experience trends along the lines of what we have seen historically which are between 8-9%.

3. **Sen. Dunleavy: Has a 40 hour work week been explored? Has the work week always been 37.5 hours, and is this statutorily directed, or simply negotiated?**

Please see attached work week history memorandum.

4. **Sen Dunleavy: Asked about salary overrides. Are step, range, etc. overrides tracked? How often do they occur, who gets them, and what is the cost to the state in FY18? For instance, there are employees in the executive office who have been hired stepped out several steps.**

The Division of Personnel and Labor Relations (Kate Sheehan) is working on a separate response.

5. **Sen MacKinnon: Asked what the sunset of ALMR would look like, and if there is any redundancy in the system.**

The question about contingency plans for backup communications is best answered by the operational users of SATS and ALMR. From the technical perspective, there is not a backup system with the capabilities of ALMR. There may be situations where local area radio communications can function but, wide-area, 9-1-1 dispatch connected first responder communications will not exist without SATS and ALMR functioning. The ALMR system is designed to public safety grade level of service with appropriate redundancies built into the system design. In order to maintain system reliability, adequate resources must be available to respond to failures to restore service as quickly as possible. If a natural or man-made event occurred that interrupted ALMR service, chances are the commercial systems available to the public such as cell phone or satellite phone would also likely be interrupted. SATS and ALMR are designed to public safety standards, which helps ensure reliable emergency services to Alaska's first responders and the public they serve.

As noted above, the system including SATS and ALMR equipment is designed to public safety grade standards which means it should operate at a 99.999% reliability rate when its components are adequately maintained. There are several layers of redundancy designed in the different components of the system. For example, the Motorola radio equipment at the sites has redundant hardware that continues to provide service, if one component fails. A radio frequency site may have 3-10 talk channels located at it, and if one fails, the rest will still function. The SATS system includes redundant connectivity to many locations and provides backup power in most locations. Commercial power failures, planned and unplanned, are common in many locations in Alaska. The SATS and ALMR systems are protected from commercial power failures by a battery backup system and emergency generators.

6. **Sen. MacKinnon: Asked for call statistics for users on ALMR**

The ALMR system processes between 1 and 1.2 million calls per month. The attached slides (2016 ALMR Metrics) show the calendar year 2016 monthly voice call statistics. As of February, 2017 there are 126 agencies on ALMR, 25,477 subscriber unit radios (ALMR and AWARN users) and, in calendar 2016 the total talk time was 41,606 hours (ALMR and AWARN users).

7. Sen. Hughes: Asked for viewership & listening audience information for communities which have public broadcasting.

While we do not have the financial horsepower to conduct audience research to the level of granularity that was mentioned by Senator Hughes (number of households, hours spent listening/viewing, etc.), we do know that in many rural villages ARCS and/or public broadcasting are the only over-the-air signals available, without subscription or ongoing rented equipment costs as would be the case with direct to home satellite. In areas served by cable TV operations, and some satellite subscribers, that is how audiences get their Alaska public radio and television signals as well. In fact, virtually all of Alaska's public media organizations make good use of as many distribution platforms as possible to get the programs and services they provide out to as many Alaskans as possible.

For further reference, here are a couple of excerpts from the information APBI provided in the FY18 budget preparation documents:

- Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC) grants to eligible entities support delivery of non-commercial broadcasting programming by 26 public radio stations throughout Alaska. In addition to the main stations Alaska public radio operates some 60 signal translators throughout the state reaching 95% of Alaskans. These stations and their widespread network of translators are a key component of Alaska's information and emergency response dissemination infrastructure.*
- The Public Broadcasting TV budget component contains funding for operating grants to four private non-profit independently owned and operated public television stations that deliver public television programming to 87% of Alaska's population. These stations share a collective mission of providing un-served and underserved audiences with free over the air programming available to all Alaskans regardless of their ability to pay.*

ARCS performs on a variety of levels. Its most important role is as an emergency communications network as it is freely available to any viewer within reach of either its satellite or its terrestrial transmission: virtually the entire state. In the villages, for those who cannot afford subscription services it is the TV available. In some rural communities it provides their only access to Alaska news and weather where the available cable or satellite subscriptions do not. For many on fixed incomes or cyclical employment it provides a backstop to those who cannot afford subscriptions services.

Thank you!

Cheri