

# Department of Health & Social Services *Department Overview*

Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
March 13, 2019



Adam Crum, Commissioner

Sana Efird, Assistant Commissioner

## Mission & Vision

The mission of the department is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans.

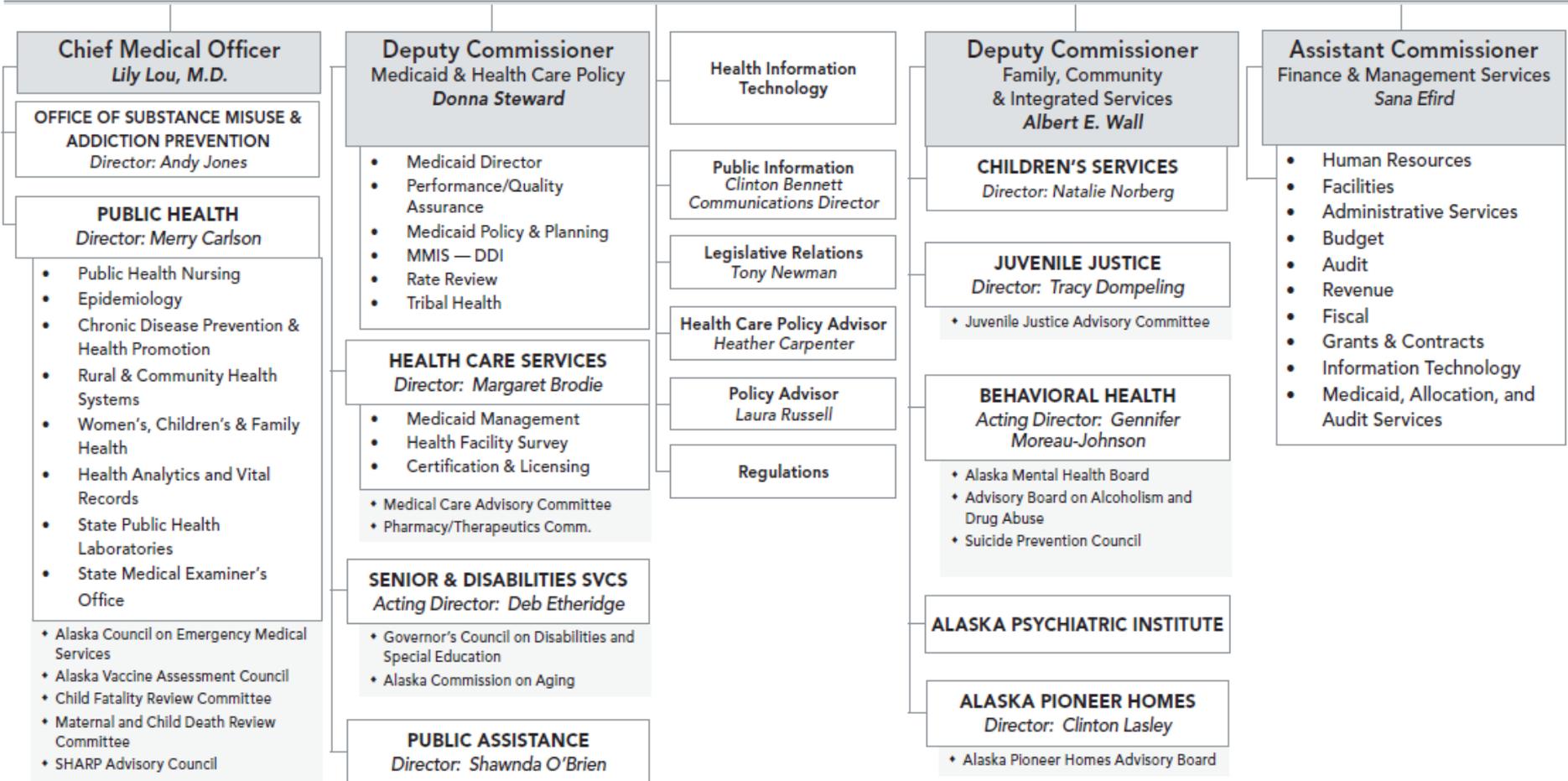
This authority is outlined in Article 7, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

- Department Home and Resource Links
  - <http://dhss.alaska.gov>
- Constitutional Authority – Article 7, Sections 4 and 5:
  - <https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution/>
  - Duties of the Department
    - <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/statutes.asp#47.05>



# Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

## Adam Crum, Commissioner



# DHSS Department Overview

## Department of Health and Social Services FY2020 Operating Budget: Core Services Alignment

*Mission: To promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans*

Core Services	Combined General Fund	Other	Federal	Total	% GF
Protect and promote the health of Alaskans	288,834.5	47,739.2	675,843.9	1,012,417.6	28.53%
Provide quality of life in a safe living environment for Alaskans	356,326.3	21,939.1	444,922.8	823,188.2	43.29%
Manage health care coverage for Alaskans	19,771.3	8,191.2	67,357.7	95,320.2	20.74%
Facilitate access to affordable health care for Alaskans	20,197.5	20,889.9	68,450.6	109,538.0	18.44%
Strengthen Alaska families	63,508.5	6,218.6	59,538.2	129,265.3	49.13%
Protect vulnerable Alaskans	128,551.6	13,547.7	108,183.7	250,283.0	51.36%
Promote personal responsibility and accountable decisions by Alaskans	31,465.4	1,934.6	15,386.1	48,786.1	64.50%
<b>FY2020 Governor's Amended</b>	<b>908,655.1</b>	<b>120,460.3</b>	<b>1,439,683.0</b>	<b>2,468,798.4</b>	<b>36.81%</b>

# DHSS Department Overview

## DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget

	FY2019 Mgmt Plan	FY2020 Governor Amended	Difference	% of Change
UGF	\$1,146,733.1	\$810,083.3	(\$336,649.8)	-29%
DGF	\$87,213.1	\$98,571.8	\$11,358.7	13%
Other	\$123,855.6	\$120,460.3	(\$3,395.3)	-3%
Federal	\$1,892,149.7	\$1,439,683.0	(\$452,466.7)	-24%
Total Budget	\$3,249,951.5	\$2,468,798.4	(\$781,153.1)	-24%

### Budget was based on the Governor's core tenets:

- Focus on core services
- Expenditures cannot exceed existing revenue
- Maintain and protect our reserves
- Does not take additional funds from Alaskans through taxes or the PFD
- Must be sustainable, predictable, and affordable

## Alaska Pioneer Homes

- *Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.*
- Clinton Lasley – Director
- 611 Positions
  - \$79,104.0 (\$16,405.1 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## Alaska Pioneer Homes Highlights

- 9 new beds in the Anchorage Pioneer Home
  - Serving senior 65 years and older with dementia and complex behaviors
  - Providing services to seniors that are inappropriately placed in emergency rooms or at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute
- Transitioning 14 beds at the Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home to Veterans Skilled classification
  - Increasing VA per diem reimbursement from \$47.36 to \$107.16 per day.
  - Goal is to be certified within the next 30 days.

## Alaska Psychiatric Institute

- *To provide emergency and court-ordered inpatient psychiatric services in a safe environment using culturally-sensitive, effective, person-centered treatment followed by a referral to an appropriate level of care and support for recovery from mental illness.*
- Reporting Directly to Deputy Commissioner Wall
- 0 Positions
  - \$33,655.5 (\$7,313.4 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## Division of Behavioral Health

- *Manage an integrated and comprehensive behavioral health system based on sound policy, effective practices and open partnerships.*
- Gennifer Moreau-Johnson – Acting Director
- 109 Positions
  - \$103,861.5 (\$51,403.4 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget





# DHSS Department Overview

## 1115 Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Project Infrastructure Analysis

- Contractors are funded through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority with staffing assistance provided by the Division of Behavioral Health and the Office of Children's Services.
- Project started in January 2019 and visits to regional hubs will conclude in May.
- Behavioral Health service providers are being surveyed to determine infrastructure needs to provide the proposed services for each of the 1115 Waiver population groups
- Office of Children's Services is also participating

# DHSS Department Overview

## **Why OCS is being included in the needs assessment/gap analysis process:**

- A 2017 Federal Audit of Alaska's child welfare system identified that the services that OCS purchases through grants family support, preservation and reunification are not adequate and additionally, the availability of a continuum of community based substance abuse and mental health services needed for families in the child welfare system is not adequate.
- Drawing attention to the unique service needs of child in protective services (CPS) involved families.
- Identifying provider capacity and interest for providing prevention services that will be available through the new Family First Prevention Services Act.
- Combining these efforts strengthen intradepartmental working relationships; and, reduce interruption of services at the community level since providers need only set aside time for one meeting instead of two.

## Office of Children's Services

- *To work in partnership with families and communities to support the well-being of Alaska's youth and children.*
- Natalie Norberg – Director
- 586 Positions
  - \$167,463.7 (\$90,734.6 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## HB 151 Implementation

- All of the new positions appropriated in 2018 have been filled at least once
- It takes approximately 6 months for newly hired staff to be trained and ready to carry a caseload. It is too soon to see an impact on caseloads from a statewide perspective, however we are seeing some successes in the Wasilla Office.
- Of the 31 positions that were allocated in 2017, a majority the positions went to the Wasilla office
  - That office is maintaining caseload caps at around 13 cases;
- We are seeing improved casework outcomes (timely caseworker visits, investigations and completed case plans)
- Staff Turnover is stabilizing



## Division of Juvenile Justice

- *To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.*
- Tracy Dompeling – Director
- 450 Positions
  - \$57,013.6 (\$54,103.3 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## DJJ Successes

- *Trauma Informed Effective Reinforcement (TIERS) Program*
  - With technical assistance from national experts, implemented (TIERS) program at the McLaughlin Youth Center, Girls Detention and Treatment Units.
  - The TIERS program is a gender and trauma responsive approach to working with female youth.
  - In the past 12 months these units have seen a 30% reduction in the number of youth restraints per month compared to the previous year.
- *DJJ job training success*



## Division of Public Assistance

- *To promote self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses for Alaskans in need.*
- Shawnda O'Brien – Director
- 597 Positions
  - \$224,722.8 (\$76,829.7 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## DPA Updates

- *Backlog*
  - *Highest Point – 28,991 on June 12, 2017*
  - *12 months ago – 20,157*
  - *Current – 9,995*
- *Out-stationing 5 staff at ANMC*
  - *Took less than 8 weeks of development*
  - *Could be replicated if successful with outcomes*
- *Modernization efforts*



## Division of Health Care Services

- *To provide health coverage to Alaskans in need.*
- Margaret Brodie – Director
- 123 Positions
  - \$21,458.0 (\$8,238.5 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## Senior & Disabilities Services

- *To promote health, well-being and safety for individuals with disabilities, seniors and vulnerable adults by facilitating access to quality services and supports that foster independence, personal choice and dignity.*
- Deb Etheridge – Acting Director
- 175 Positions
  - \$61,084.3 (\$36,561.4 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



## Division of Public Health

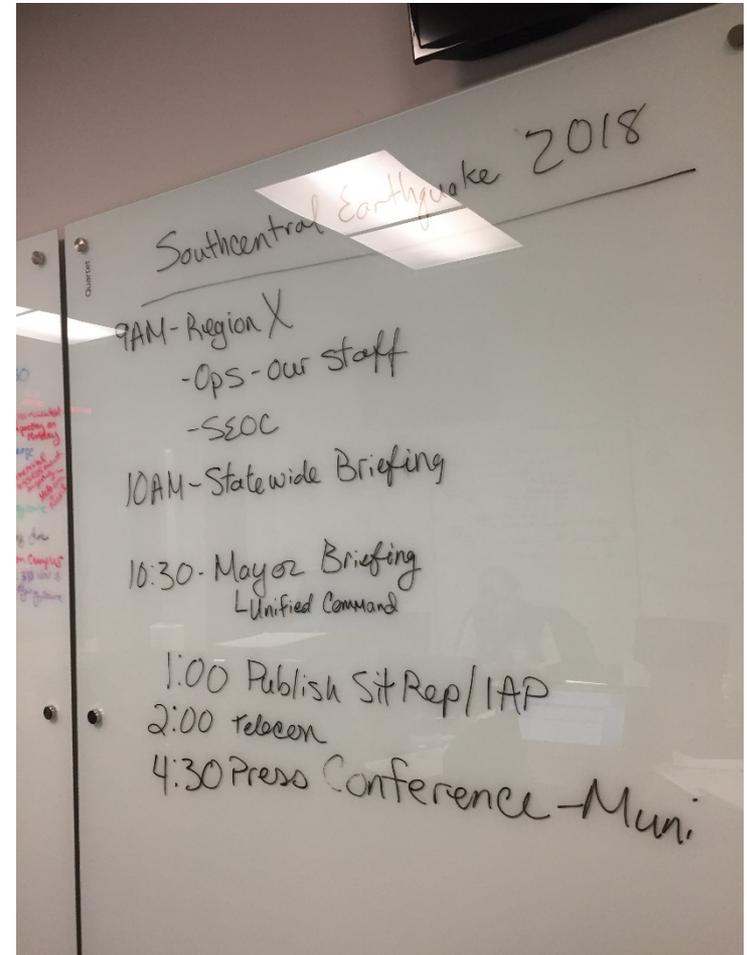
- *To protect and promote the health of Alaskans.*
- Merry Carlson – Director
- 427 Positions
  - \$126,201.6 (\$40,713.8 UGF) – DHSS FY2020 Operating Budget



# DHSS Department Overview

## November 30<sup>th</sup> Earthquake Response DHSS Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Following the November 30<sup>th</sup> Earthquake, the DHSS EOC activated immediately, gathered status information from healthcare facilities in the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Kenai Peninsula regions, and facilitated the first healthcare statewide teleconference within 3 hours of the earthquake occurring.
  - Teleconferences continued to occur regularly during the following days to ensure that the healthcare system had access to updated, verified information.



# DHSS Department Overview

## November 30<sup>th</sup> Earthquake response DHSS Emergency Operations Center (EOC)



- EOC fulfilled multiple resource requests to assist communities with health response. Most requests focused upon the deployment of behavioral health personnel. Deployment locations included offices as well as schools in both Anchorage and Mat-Su.
- EOC continues to support earthquake recovery efforts through coordinated work with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Division of Behavioral Health, and other key state and local agencies.

*Picture: Crisis Canines responding to state office building to support returning employees*

## Addressing Alaska's Opioid Epidemic

- Since the disaster declaration (February 2017) the Alaska opioid response incident command system and the State of Alaska has secured over **\$35 million dollars** in federal grants to addresses the opioid epidemic by providing community based services and grants focusing on prevention, treatment, and recovery, that contributes to the substance use disorder continuum of care.

### *Overdose Death Reductions (Numbers below are preliminary)*

- In 2018 a 26% decrease in drug overdoses (104) occurred compared to 2017 (141).
- In 2018 a 36% decrease in opioid overdoses (included prescription opioids and heroin)(64) occurred compared to 2017 (100).
- In 2018 a 67% decrease in fentanyl overdoses (9) occurred compared to 2017 (28).
- Reductions across the board for all drug overdoses can be contributed to the increased distribution of naloxone (overdose reversal medication), increase in drug reduction and disposal demand, education and awareness, and enforcement efforts. All requiring a cross sectorial collaboration from local, tribal, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations.

## Tribal Health Reclaiming Efforts

What is Tribal Reclaiming?

- Tribal Medicaid beneficiary claims have been reimbursed at 100% federal match for services provided by or through a tribal health facility.
- State Health Official Letter #16-002; 2/26/16 distribution requiring 3 elements:
  - Care Coordination Agreements
  - Referrals
  - Exchange of Records



## 3 Year Snapshot of Efforts

- SFY17: Look at high dollar/low volume claims to meet target:
  - Transportation (air and ground ambulance, travel broker services)
  - Hospital inpatient/outpatient, case managed complex kids
  - Accurate IHS Coding in MMIS
- SFY18: Continue to add care coordination agreements and strategize
  - Continue with services from SFY17 plus:
  - Pharmacy, Long-Term Care, Out of State Residential Psychiatric Treatment Facilities
  - Tribal Providers in Non-Tribal Facilities
  - Non-IHS Mothers with IHS Newborns
- SFY19
  - Continue with services from SFY17 and SFY18 plus:
  - Waiver Services
  - Service Authorizations with date spans on travel itineraries
  - Optical Services



# DHSS Department Overview

## Savings

SFY	ORIGINAL TARGET	ADDITIONAL FMAP ACHIEVED
SFY17	\$ 32,000,000.00	\$ 34,781,839.28
SFY18	\$ 42,000,000.00	\$ 45,186,960.05
SFY19	\$ 84,000,000.00	\$ 44,275,209.18
Grand Total	\$ 158,000,000.00	\$ 124,244,008.51

*\*\* Note: Total Additional FMAP achieved for SFY19 only includes two quarters to date*



# DHSS Department Overview

*Promoting and protecting the health and well-being of Alaskans*

**Thank You**

