



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

P.O. Box 112650
240 Main Street, Fifth Floor
Main: 907.465.3082

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Andy Josephson
Chair, House HSS Finance Subcommittee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Josephson:

The Department of Family and Community Services received the following questions during the February 13, 2025 budget presentation to the House Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee:

Alaska Pioneer Homes (AKPH)

How much money does AKPH save as a result of receiving revenue from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA)?

In FY2024 the division collected (saved) \$1,980,997.56 from the VA. In FY2025, the division is projecting to collect \$2,094,297.78 from the VA.

What is the cost of the services contracted out by AKPH, and what would the cost be if those services were managed in-house?

In FY2025, the division's contract with Nana Management Services for Hospitality Services is \$12,633,085.08. If the services were still provided in-house, the cost would be \$14,875,407 in fiscal year 2025. This estimate is inclusive of wage increases as well as food and supplies.

Before contracting out, bargaining union agreements require the State complete a feasibility study. This was conducted six years ago and demonstrated there would be significant cost savings to the State with the contract.

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

What are the average Probation Officer caseloads in DJJ and how do they compare to the national average?

The average case load for a Juvenile Probation Officer is currently 13.3 youth per staff, but there is considerable variation in the staff time and resources required in each case. Some of the factors that impact case workload include: the youth's assessed risk/supervision level, legal

complexity of the case, necessary victim services, the youth's placement stability, and the youth's location.

A national comparison of case load is not appropriate due to the differences in supervision standards and the unique expectations for Alaska juvenile probation staff. As noted in the presentation, Juvenile Probation Officers provide intensive restorative justice services and youth competency development, in contrast to the punitive, compliance-monitoring based supervision still practiced in some parts of the country.

Provide more information about what sort of youth perform well within the DJJ system, and what sort of youth would benefit from additional services that are not currently provided?

The eight factors most closely linked to recidivism are: offense history, family/parenting, education/employment, peer relations, substance abuse, leisure/recreation, personality/behavior, and attitudes/orientation. The division assesses these risk factors for all adjudicated youth utilizing the Youth Level of Service-Case Management Inventory assessment tool. Statistically, youth with lower risk scores in these areas perform better within the DJJ system and have lower rates of recidivism. While these risk areas are the most accurate predictor of success, additional responsibility factors can impact a youth's ability to respond to treatment and interventions and negatively impact outcomes if left unaddressed (e.g. mental health, trauma history, transportation needs, etc.)

As mentioned during the presentation, Alaska is currently limited in the number of providers that serve juvenile sex offenders. This specialized population has a low recidivism rate when adequately treated and would benefit from additional outpatient and residential treatment providers.

Provide more statistics related to key performance indicators at DJJ.

The department is considering the types of additional performance indicators that would be useful for decision makers and the public. As discussed in the presentation, DJJ facilities participate in the national Performance Based Standards (PbS) accreditation program. The division is seeking to develop suitable outcome measures based upon this information.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at (907) 465-1613.

Sincerely,

Marian Sweet
Assistant Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Valerie Rose, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance
Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office
Tim Hess, Office of Management and Budget
Kim Kovol, Commissioner

The Honorable Representative Josephson
February 21, 2025
Page 3 of 3

Heidi Hamilton, Director, Alaska Pioneer Homes
Matt Davidson, Director, Division of Juvenile Justice
Kyle Scherrer, Budget Manager
Raymie Matiashowski, Legislative Liaison
