

Department of Family and Community Services

Department Legislative Overview

Kim Kovol, Commissioner

Clinton Lasley, Deputy Commissioner

Marian Sweet, Assistant Commissioner

House Health and Social Services Committee

January 30, 2025



AK | **DFCS**
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES



Established July 1, 2022 by Executive Order 121



- ✓ Commissioner's Office
- ✓ Finance & Management Services
- ✓ Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API)
- ✓ Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- ✓ Alaska Pioneer Homes (APH)
- ✓ Office of Children's Services (OCS)



- ✓ Commissioner's Office
- ✓ Finance & Management Services
- ✓ Health Care Services
- ✓ Behavioral Health
- ✓ Senior & Disabilities Services
- ✓ Public Assistance
- ✓ Public Health

To provide support, safety, and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans.

- Alaska Pioneer Homes
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute
- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Office of Children's Services

Department of Family and Community Services

Commissioner Kim Kovol

Deputy Commissioner
Clinton Lasley

Assistant Commissioner
Marian Sweet

ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
Director: Heidi Hamilton

- Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance
- Alaska Pioneer Homes Management
- Pioneer Homes

**Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board*

ALASKA PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE
Chief Executive Officer: Scott York

- Acute, Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment
- Forensic Restorative Treatment
- Out-Patient Restorative Treatment
- Jail-Based Restorative Treatment

**Governing Body*

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Director: Kim Guay

- Children's Services Management
- Children's Services Training
- Front Line Social Workers
- Family Preservation
- Foster Care Base Rate
- Foster Care Augmented Rate
- Foster Care Special Needs
- Foster Care Licensing
- Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship
- Tribal Child Welfare Compact
- Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) & Tribal Partnerships

JUVENILE JUSTICE
Director: Matt Davidson

- Long-Term Treatment
 - Detention
 - Probation Services
 - Delinquency Prevention
 - Youth Courts
 - Juvenile Justice Health Care
- *Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee*

- Budget
- Grants & Contracts
- Facilities
- Information Technology
- Allocations & Audit Services
- Finance: Revenue/Fiscal
- Human Resources
 - Talent Acquisition
 - Recruitment Services

Coordinated Health & Complex Care

- Designated Health & Complex Care
- Complex Care Unit

Executive Core Services

- Communications
- Legislative
- Policy
- Regulations
- Tribal Relations



Alaska Pioneer Homes (AKPH)



Heidi Hamilton
Director

Mission: Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.

Locations:

Sitka - **1913**

Fairbanks - **1967**

Palmer - **1971**

Anchorage - **1977**

Ketchikan - **1981**

Juneau - **1988**

Staff: 427 Full Time Positions

Capacity: 506 residents

FY2025 Budget: \$112,138.8

Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API)



Scott York
Chief Executive Officer

Mission: Providing compassionate health care to support Alaskans in living their best possible lives.

Capacity and Staff:

- 5 inpatient units
 - Civil
 - Youth
 - Forensic
- 80 licensed beds
- 322 Full Time Positions

FY2025 Budget: \$62,678.7

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)



Matt Davidson
Director

Mission:

Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior.

Promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities.

Assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Facilities / Offices / Staff:

- 6 Youth Facilities
- 13 Probation Offices
- 422 Full Time Positions

FY2025 Budget: \$66,990.3

Office of Children's Services (OCS)



Kim Guay
Director

Mission: Ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children by strengthening families, engaging communities, and partnering with Tribes.

Offices and Staff:

- 5 regions with 21 offices statewide
- 609 Full Time Positions

FY2025 Budget: \$205,425.1

Coordinated Health and Complex Care

Established in July 2022

Six staff in the
Coordinated Health and
Complex Care Unit

Identifies solutions to
address systemic gaps
in care for individuals
with complex needs

Makes data-informed
decisions, streamlines
state system processes,
and improves case
outcomes


Provides support and
technical assistance for
our divisions serving
individuals with complex
needs

Oversees the designated
facility program and
coordination of T47
respondents





At DFCS we are:

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- **S**trengthening lives through meaningful connections with families, communities, Tribes, and providers
 - **P**roviding safe, person-centered care with integrity and dignity to the Alaskans we serve
 - **A**dvancing an agency culture that prioritizes the well-being of our workforce
 - **M**obilizing innovative solutions to complex challenges

We strengthened lives by:

- Collaborating with Tribes and community partners
- Prioritizing culturally appropriate services and treatment planning
- Connecting individuals to community services
- Serving meals that honor and reflect cultural traditions
- Expanding our volunteer programs
- Increasing opportunities for family visits



We have provided safe, person-centered care by:



- Fostering interagency collaboration
- Providing trainings on stigma awareness and trauma-informed care
- Ensuring screenings and assessment of needs
- Listening to the voices of lived experience to guide our work
- Implementing evidence-based programs to guide our work

We advanced an agency culture that prioritizes workforce well-being by:

- Celebrating the achievements of our employees and facilities
- Investing in training and professional development
- Prioritizing mental health and offering wellness programs
- Fostering open communications in the workplace to create a supportive environment
- Ensuring safe working conditions for all



We have mobilized innovative solutions by:

- Implementing successful recruitment and retention initiatives
- Utilizing effective and innovative therapies for treatment
- Improving technology
- Establishing data-driven approaches
- Developing flexible service models
- Centralizing services to decrease burden on frontline staff
- Creating early intervention programs and processes



Updates on Ongoing Department Initiatives



Renovations at our facilities

Technological improvements

Continued emphasis on workforce well-being

Talent acquisition team

Cross-agency collaborations

Future opportunities

- Increase foster home recruitment
- Regulation review and update
- Expanding treatment foster care
- Youth services transformation
- Expanding programming at API
- Increase data management capacities



Thank you!

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