



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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March 10, 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 and requests for more information during the February 25, 2025, budget presentation to the House Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee:

Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API)

Provide more information regarding patient-on-patient and patient-on-staff assaults, including a breakdown by level of severity.

- In 2024, there were 80 reported incidents of patient-on-patient assault. One patient was sent to the emergency room as a precautionary measure due to getting hit in face by a basketball. There were no injuries as a result of these incidents.
- In 2024, there were 320 reported incidents of patient-on-staff assaults. Of those 320 incidents, six resulted in lost workdays related to Workman's Compensation claims:
 - One staff member was punched in the head multiple times
 - A patient attacked and stomped on a staff member's ankle
 - One staff member was hit in the neck multiple times
 - A patient charged and hit a staff member in the head and arm
 - A patient slammed a door on a staff member's hand
 - A patient punched a staff member in the face

How many patients are placed (discharged) out-of-state?

None.

Provide additional information regarding cognitive behavioral therapy for psychosis.

The following links provide additional information regarding cognitive behavioral therapy for psychosis.

<https://www.cbtforphychosis.com/about-sally/>

<https://uwspiritcenter.org/cognitive-behavioral-therapy-for-psychosis-cbtp/cbtp-trainings/>

<https://med.stanford.edu/inspire-training/cbtp.html>

How do the HB172 data reporting requirements impact API?

This legislation does not have an impact on API reporting requirements.

Office of Children's Services (OCS)

What is the vacancy rate for case carrying positions in OCS?

The vacancy rate is 25%.

What are some of the factors that contribute to the lower numbers of children in out-of-home care in recent years?

There are several factors that have contributed to less children being in care. Some of those factors include prevention-based services such as Safe Families through Beacon Hill and kinship care, both of which occur outside of OCS involvement. There are several programs that support kinship care providers. Our department is also seeing an increase in Tribal jurisdiction in Western Alaska. Another contributing factor is that in the past years, OCS has seen a trend of less protective services reports, resulting in less kids in care. The division is now seeing the number of protective services reports increase, which may increase the number of kids in care in future years. Additionally, there has been a small increase this last year in the number of children exiting care through adoption and guardianship.

How many positions are allocated to Front Line Social Workers?

545 permanent full-time positions and two non-permanent positions are allocated to Front Line Social Workers.

What makes up the apparent reduction to the overall OCS budget?

The difference is comprised of the following adjustments (\$ in thousands):

- Reversal of one-time funding for OCS legal costs: -\$1,000.0
- Decrement of uncollectible interagency receipt authority: -\$2,122.6
- Two decrements for positions that transferred to Administrative Services: -\$514.7
- Reversal of four Mental Health Trust Authority appropriations: -\$485.0
- Increment for technical salary adjustments: \$1,340.4

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

Sincerely,

Marian Sweet
Assistant Commissioner

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