

ALASKA  
BEHAVIORAL  HEALTH

*Wellness for Everyone!*

**Mission:** To strengthen Alaska communities and improve the lives of our clients by delivering exceptional behavioral healthcare services.

# Support and Protect Medicaid in Alaska

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# Alaska has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of suicide in the US

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Suicide is the leading cause of death in 10- to 24-year-olds.

Untreated mental illness is the principle causal factor.

SOURCE: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



# Access is a virtuous circle



Increasing service capacity



Timely access to treatment

Reduce wait-times

Eliminate wait lists



More effective & efficient treatment



Better outcomes



# Medicaid is key to access



Most Alaskans we serve use **Medicaid**.

We will serve **10,000** Alaskans this year.

Loss of adequate Medicaid coverage will push Alaskans who depend on it for outpatient care into emergency rooms.

Annual Medicaid cost of outpatient treatment is about \$5,000 per patient.

**This is roughly equivalent to the cost of two nights at Alaska Psychiatric Institute.**



# All Alaskans will be impacted



Access will decrease



Costs will increase



## Can they count on us?



Thank you!



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