

# Department of Health Annual Overview

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Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner

Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner

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# Department of Health Overview



## MISSION

*Promoting the health, well-being,  
and self-sufficiency of Alaskans*

## Divisions

Senior &  
Disabilities  
Services

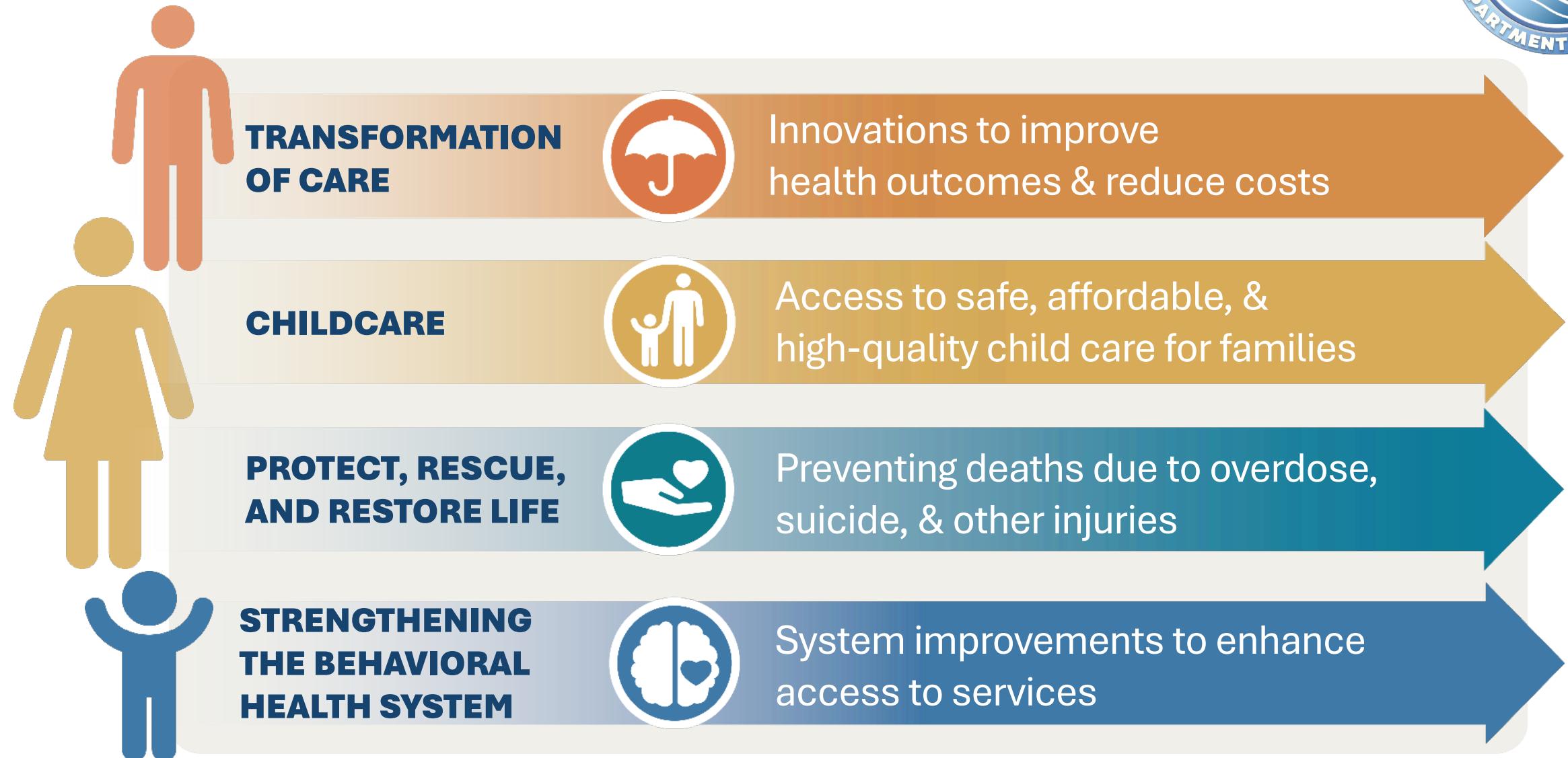
Behavioral  
Health

Health Care  
Services

Public  
Health

Public  
Assistance

# Arcs of Effort



# Division of Senior & Disabilities Services



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- InterRAI implementation
- Completed rate methodology study
- Variety of changes adopted to better serve individuals with complex care needs



## MOVING FORWARD

- Renew Home and Community Based Services Waivers
- Adoption of interRAI for two waivers fall 2026
- Evaluate and potentially expand RingMD services for waiver recipients

# Division of Behavioral Health



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Completed rate methodology study
- Preliminary implementation for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers
- Identify enhancements for crisis continuum
- Completed subacute licensing regulations

## MOVING FORWARD

- Implement behavioral health rate recommendations
- Apply for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers demonstration
- Expand provider technical assistance
- Implement crisis services expansion
- Support subacute facility launch

# Division of Health Care Services



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Implementing provider enrollment portal
- Automating service authorization processing
- Launch mobile app for Medicaid ID card
- Fixing multi-rendering provider enrollment
- Improved background check efficiency

## MOVING FORWARD

- Finalize provider enrollment portal
- Implement service authorization portal
- Reduce number of paper travel vouchers
- Improve analytics, including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting

# Division of Public Health



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Increase overdose prevention
- Electronic lab information system
- Modernizing Public Health Nursing
- Connecting residents experiencing homelessness to services

## MOVING FORWARD

- Infectious disease surveillance and response
- Public health center transformation
- Investing in the State Medical Examiner's Office

# Division of Public Assistance



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Increased number of served clients
- Improved timeliness from 60 days to 44 days
- Continue to meet IT milestones
- Launched the Alaska Connect Portal
- Launched Division of Public Assistance in a Box
- Managing federal changes
- Launched the job class study



## MOVING FORWARD

- Implementing
  - All Program Application
  - Moving Medicaid off legacy system
  - SNAP Modernization Module
  - Work Assistance tool

# DPA – Integrated Eligibility Platform



## DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (DPA) **INTEGRATED ELIGIBILITY PLATFORM (IEP)**



Alaska Client

DPA Staff



ALASKA CONNECT

VIRTUAL CONTACT CENTER



## INTEGRATED ELIGIBILITY PLATFORM

ELIGIBILITY  
INFORMATION  
SYSTEM (EIS)

RANDOM  
MOMENT  
SAMPLE (RMS)

INSTANT  
ELIGIBILITY  
VERIFICATION  
SYSTEM (IEVS)

ILINX

MOBIUS  
VIEWDIRECT  
REPOSITORY

ALASKA'S  
RESOURCE FOR  
INTEGRATED  
ELIGIBILITY  
SERVICES  
(ARIES)

CURRENT

QUALTRICS

QUALITY  
ASSURANCE

ENERGY COST  
OFFSET SYSTEM  
(ECOS)

FRAUD CASE  
MANAGEMENT

SPIRIT  
WEB

ALASKA CHILD  
CARE  
INFORMATION  
SYSTEM  
(AKCCIS)

# Division of Public Assistance – Childcare



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- The Alaska Child Care Information System technology improvements
- Increased base funding formula for childcare grants
- Increasing income eligibility for childcare assistance (SB95)
- Workforce pathways and support



## MOVING FORWARD

- Reducing copay from 9% to 7%
- Friends, Family, and Neighbors provider type
- Childcare workforce subsidies



## H.R. 1 Impacts on Alaska

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



## Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

1. Work Requirements
2. State Penalties for Payment Errors
3. Administrative Cost Sharing for the State



# Medicaid: Alaska Impacts



## Our core Medicaid funding remains stable.

- Alaska will experience different impacts than many other states due to the **unique structure** of our Medicaid program and the bill's built-in exemptions.
- Alaska does not rely on provider taxes or state-directed payments, which are significantly affected by the bill and drive some of the largest projected funding losses elsewhere.



# Community Engagement Requirements



- Most able-bodied adults ages **19–64** will now need to complete 80 hours per month of **work** or other qualifying activities.
- Qualifying activities include
  - Job training
  - Education
  - Volunteer service
- Seasonal income flexibility: Averaged income over six months in lieu of 80 hours/month requirement.
- Effective December 31, 2026, but the state may apply to phase in implementation through 2028 under a good faith waiver.



# Mandatory Exemptions



- Many Alaskans are **exempt** from the work requirements
- The bill includes mandatory exemptions for individuals who are:
  - Pregnant or within the postpartum coverage period
  - Alaska Native or American Indian
  - Have a significant physical, intellectual, or developmental disability
  - Are blind or disabled
  - Experiencing a substance use disorder or disabling mental health condition
  - Have a serious or complex medical condition
  - Medically frail individuals
  - Veterans with a total disability rating
  - Enrolled in Medicare
  - A parent or caregiver for a child under 13 or someone with a disability
  - Recently incarcerated (within 90 days)
  - Under age 26 and formerly in foster care
  - SNAP or TANF eligible



# Optional Exemptions



States may also grant short-term hardship event exemptions for:

- People living in areas with high unemployment
- Those in federally declared disaster areas
- Individuals receiving inpatient or residential care
- Those traveling for medically necessary care that is not locally available

# Thank you



# Questions?

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