



February 12, 2026

The Honorable Andy Josephson
Chair, House Health & Social Services Finance Subcommittee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Josephson:

During the Health and Social and Social Services Budget Subcommittee on February 5, 2026, the Department of Family & Community Services (DFCS) received the following questions from committee members.

1. Representative Ruffridge requested actual spending information for the Office of Children’s Services.

The following table is a lookback at actual spending for the Office of Children's Services, Front Line Social Workers for the last five years. All dollar figures are expressed in thousands.

	FY2025 Actuals	FY2024 Actuals	FY2023 Actuals	FY2022 Actuals	FY2021 Actuals
Front Line Social Workers	\$77,813.9	\$73,257.4	\$74,031.5	\$71,202.0	\$65,428.4

2. Representative Ruffridge requested actual FY2025 spending information for the Alaska Pioneer Homes’ Pharmacy Operations.

The final amount for FY2025 was \$3,096.6 thousand.

3. Representative Fields requested the cost of raising wages for direct services workers in the Alaska Pioneer Homes by \$2 per hour.

The cost for increasing the Assisted Living Aide and Certified Nurse Aide job classes by \$2/hour is estimated at \$1,576.9 thousand.

4. Representative Gray inquired about the cost to provide care at the Alaska Pioneer Homes.

The monthly cost of providing care at the homes for FY2026 is as follows (expressed in whole dollars):

	Monthly Occupied Bed Cost to Provide Care FY2026
Level 1	\$ 4,415.00
Level 2	\$ 8,243.00
Level 3	\$ 14,505.00
Level 4	\$ 17,345.00
Level 5	\$ 19,620.00

5. Representative Ruffridge inquired about the timeframe and cost of pharmacy cloud hosting, and the benefit of cloud hosting given that there's only one pharmacy.

The project is anticipated to take six weeks to complete. Annual costs for the division will be approximately \$40,000.00, resulting in a \$15,000.00 annual savings. This project aligns with the Governor's Cloud First" initiative and provides more efficient and effective support to the pharmacy program. Additionally, migration to the cloud provides linear capability for increased user capacity no matter the location.

6. Representative Ruffridge inquired the average length of time individuals are on the waitlist for forensic beds at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API).

The average wait time is between 120-150 days.

7. Representative Ruffridge inquired about the cost of care per day at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

The cost of care per day is \$2,555.78 (whole dollars).

8. Representative Ruffridge requested clarification on the number of workplace incidents as compared to the OSHA reporting.

The figure of 329 represents total reported incidents. This includes all documented events regardless of severity. These reports capture a broad range of occurrences, including minor events, near misses, and situations that did not result in injury or time away from work. API encourages this reporting to maintain visibility and trend analysis, which increases overall incident counts.

The OSHA figure of 3 refers specifically to recordable cases involving lost workdays. OSHA reporting standards focus on cases that meet defined criteria under 29 CFR 1904, including days away from work, restricted duty, or medical treatment beyond first aid. Out of the 329 total reported incidents, only 3 involved employees who lost work time.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Marian Sweet".

Marian Sweet
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

