

Questions from the Committee

Responses from the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes



Alaska Department of
Health and Social Services

Questions From The Committee

Budget information

About 60% of the Pioneer Homes operating budget is supported by the state (UGF appropriations).

Waiting list questions

Does the department have a plan to address the impact of the burgeoning senior population and the growing Pioneer Homes wait lists?

Response:

- The Alaska Commission on Aging is one of the Department and State's agencies that focuses on public policy planning for older Alaskans. Specifically, the commission's mission is:

[T]o ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.

- ✓ The commission hosted a summit on senior housing in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on December 12, 2012 in Anchorage.
 - The summit brought together policy makers, real estate developers, providers, seniors and community stakeholders to discuss the pressing needs for more affordable, appropriate and sustainable senior housing throughout the continuum of care that includes:
 - Independent senior housing,
 - Senior housing with support services; and
 - Long-term care housing such as assisted living facilities and nursing homes.
- The Department has recently published a report, assisted by Agnew Beck Consulting:

“Alaska’s Long-Term Services + Supports | Recommendations For A Strategic Plan”

This report has a series of recommendations dealing with the issues surrounding Alaska’s aging population.

- The Department published a report and study in 2006, assisted by the Public Consulting Group:

“Alaska’s Long Term Care and Cost Study”

- ✓ This study provided an analysis of existing long term care services in Alaska in 2006, a comparison of those services to long term care systems in selected other states, and recommendations for improving Alaska's long term care delivery system.
- ✓ Accompanying the recommendations was a cost comparison of Alaska's system with and without the recommended changes, as well as a transition plan for implementing changes.

- The Pioneer Homes have published two different reports:

- ✓ “Alaska Pioneer Homes, Planning for Tomorrow”, published December 2009
 - The report recommended expanding the Pioneer Home resident capacity by 729 residents.
- ✓ “Looking Forward, Alaska Pioneer Homes”, published October 2010
 - The report provided a cost estimate and ten year timeline to add capacity by 205 residents.
- ✓ At this time, the Pioneer Homes has not put forward a recommendation to expand its resident capacity.

What is the average time between getting on the active wait list and getting into a Pioneer Home?

Response:

Average Days on Waitlist – FY 2011 Data

	Sitka	Ketchikan	Juneau	Fairbanks	Palmer	Anchorage
Average No. of Days on Active Waitlist	70	123	98	136	123	87

Average Days on Active Waitlist – Current Data Division-Wide Sample

212 Days: Sample survey—most recent 3 admissions at each home

Level of Services Questions

What options are available for a senior if he or she needs Level II or Level III care but can't get into the Pioneer Home?

Response:

- The options will vary depending on other services available in the resident's community. Typical options would be:
 - ✓ Other assisted living or nursing homes, currently in Alaska there are:
 - 280 licensed assisted living homes; and
 - 15 licensed nursing homes
 - ✓ Home & Community Based Services: Managed by the Division of Senior and Disability Services (SDS)

What are the typical costs for the other alternatives?

Response:

- Assisted Living costs range from \$3,285 to \$8,775 per month
- Nursing home costs range from \$14,000 to \$26,000 per month
- The Division of Senior and Disability Services which manages Home and Community Based services can provide much better and more comprehensive cost figures.

What are the advantages of having Level I people living in the homes if there is such a shortage of Level II and Level III beds?

Response:

- Level I is still a need within the continuum of care for elders, even if there is higher demand for the Pioneer Homes' higher levels.
- The Pioneer Homes are currently licensed assisted living facilities, not licensed nursing homes and within that model it still makes sense to offer Level I services.
 - ✓ Some residents may be quite capable physically at Level I but still be failing in their own homes. Level I provides an environment of minimal assistance or nutrition that can allow residents to thrive.
 - ✓ Currently, Level I residents provide a dynamic to the homes that stimulates the environment and many are very active engaging with other residents or in the community at large.
- The Pioneer Homes will continue to assess the needs and demands for its services and consider changing its services to meet the highest needs of the state's residents.

Alaska Commission on Aging Continuum of Care

Community-Based Services	Home-Based Services	Intensive Home and Community-Based Services	Services in a Residential Care Setting	Most Intensive Institutional Services
* Congregate Meals	* Home Delivered Meals	* Adult Day Services	* Assisted Living	* Acute Care
* Public Transportation	* Assisted Transportation	* In-Home Respite Care	* Facility Respite Care	* Nursing Home Care
* Information/Referral/Personal Advocacy	* Shopping Assistance	* Home Health Care	* Pioneers' Home	* Residential Hospice Care
* Physical Fitness	* Congregate Housing	* Personal Care	* Adult Foster Care	
* Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Classes & Activities	* Supported Housing	* Hospice Care		
* Senior Employment Services	* Home Repair & Renovation	* Family Caregiver Support		
* Independent Living	* Senior Companion Volunteers	* Outpatient Care		
* Senior Centers	* Homemaker/Chore Service	* Rehabilitation		
* Senior Volunteer Programs	* Companion Programs	* Counseling		
* Legal Services		Long Term Care Ombudsman: Advocacy for Residents of Long Term Care Facilities		
* Health Screening		Care Coordination (Case Management): Personal Assessment/Plan of Care/Follow-Up		
*Social & Recreational Activities		Adult Protective Services: Investigation and Services to Abuse/Neglect Victims		

What would it cost to renovate the homes to accommodate more level II and III beds?

Response:

- Our assumption is that this is in reference to the Anchorage Pioneer Home. This is the response the division provided earlier this year:

“The Department’s Facilities Section contracted for a study to analyze converting level I beds in the south building of the Anchorage Pioneer Home to Level III beds. To comply with building codes for Level III residents, the study projected the renovation would cost between six and eight million, excluding design and administrative costs.”

- ✓ The Pioneer Homes’ 2010 “Looking Forward” report estimated:
 - \$42.5 million for constructing two new structures each housing 60 residents and renovating existing space at the Anchorage home;
 - \$11.9 million to expand the Juneau home by 25 residents;
 - \$31.8 million to expand the Fairbanks home.

Why is there a decline in Level I beds?

Is it due to:

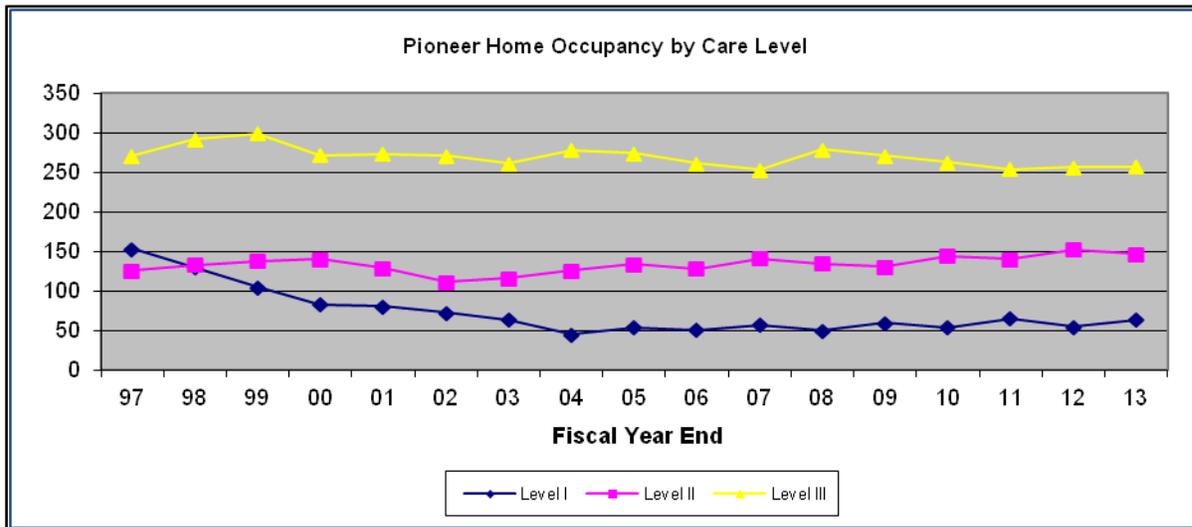
More programs available to seniors?

If so, do the seniors pay anything for the other services? After all they would be paying for services if they lived in Level I beds in the Pioneer Homes.

Rate increases?

Response:

We will group these questions together and will provide responses grouped as well. Below is the graphic showing the Level I occupancy decline:



- The Department’s Medicaid waiver program was created in December, 1993 and by 1997 was offering a greater option of services than had been available prior to its existence;
 - ✓ Do seniors pay for “other services”?
 - The Senior and Disability Services Division (SDS) are the experts in this area and can provide much more comprehensive and accurate data. We would be happy to coordinate further responses if that is desired.
 - In general, if a resident qualifies for the Home and Community Based Services provided through SDS, those programs will pay for the services.

- Anecdotally, from working with our residents, we know that some pay out of pocket for services while they are on our waiting list.

➤ Pioneer Homes Rate Increases:

Rate History:

Effective Date	Residential	Assisted Living	Skilled Nursing
1954	\$150		195
July 1966	\$180		225
July 1976	\$225		275
October 1983	\$425		525
December 1989	\$525	\$630	800
February 1993	\$600	\$700	880
February 1994	\$665	\$780	975
February 1995	\$735	\$860	1100

Effective Date	Coordinated Services	Basic Assisted Living	Enhanced Assisted Living	Alzheimer's & Dementia Related Disorders	Comprehensive Care
July 1996	\$934	\$1,289	\$1,553	\$1,579	\$1,864
July 1997	\$1,140	\$1,720	\$2,140	\$2,200	\$2,630
July 1998	\$1,340	\$2,150	\$2,730	\$2,815	\$3,395
July 1999	\$1,540	\$2,580	\$3,315	\$3,430	\$4,160
July 2000	\$1,735	\$3,005	\$3,905	\$4,040	\$4,920
July 2001	\$1,935	\$3,435	\$4,490	\$4,655	\$5,685
July 2002	\$2,135	\$3,865	\$5,080	\$5,270	\$6,450
July 2003	\$2,135	\$3,865	\$5,080	\$5,270	\$6,450

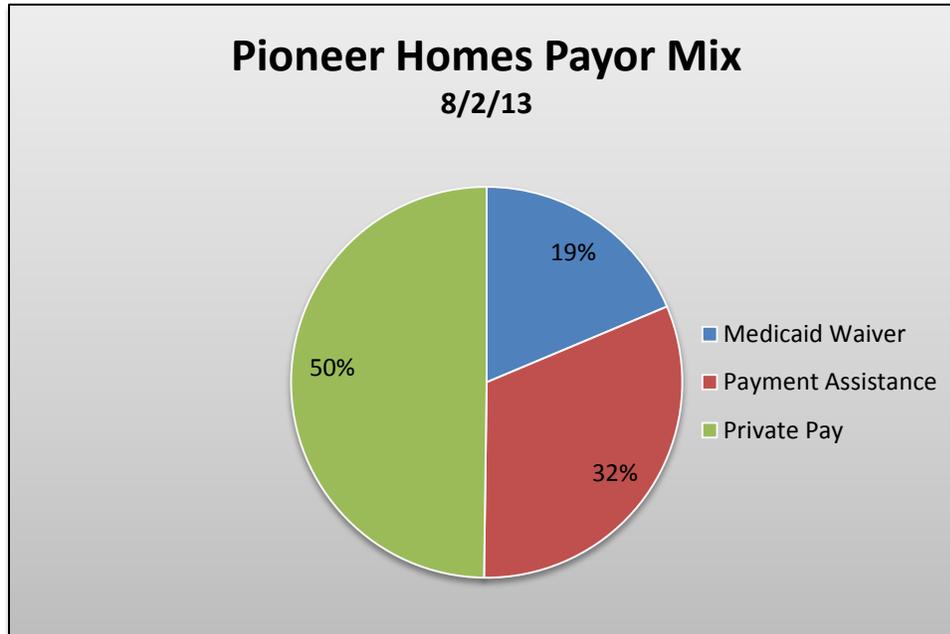
Effective Date	Level #1	Level #2	Level #3
July 2004	\$2,240	\$4,060	\$5,880
July 2005	\$2,240	\$4,060	\$5,880
July 2006	\$2,240	\$4,060	\$5,880
July 2007	\$2,240	\$4,060	\$5,880
July 2008	\$2,240	\$4,060	\$5,880
July 2009	\$2,350	\$4,260	\$6,170
July 2010	\$2,350	\$4,260	\$6,170
July 2011	\$2,350	\$4,260	\$6,170
July 2012	\$2,350	\$4,260	\$6,170

- ✓ This chart shows that the Pioneer Homes steadily raised its rates for Level I services from 1997 through 2004. These increases match the decline in Level I admissions.
- Given the increase of other home services available and the increase in Pioneer Homes Level I rates it seems to be a supportable conclusion that both of the factors have lead to a decline in Level I admissions.

Medicaid

What is the percentage of clients on Medicaid?

Response:



Does the Pioneer Home ensure that everyone that qualifies for Medicaid is enrolled?

Response:

- By regulation, every resident that is on payment assistance is to also apply for every alternate source of aide. Our staff do everything they can to encourage residents to apply for Medicaid.

How much does the Pioneer Home receive in Medicaid funding?

Response:

- \$5.4 million in FY 2013