



ANCHORAGE PUBLIC INEBRIATES

A Coordinated and Accountable solution

The Fairview Business Association, in association with other community organizations and alcohol treatment providers has organized a coordinated and accountable approach to Anchorage's longstanding public inebriate problem. Although Fairview is most strongly impacted, this is an issue that affects all of Anchorage, both in terms of community and business impacts and the health and safety of the inebriates themselves. It is an unacceptable situation on all levels.

PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Restrictions on liquor sales, both in terms of types of products sold and restrictions on the ability of chronic inebriate's ability to purchase alcohol are an important tool to move people into treatment. Chronic inebriates are also frequently arrested or taken into protective custody and this creates an opportunity to offer people the choice of either going into treatment rather than incarceration. This will also offer the benefit of reducing the substantial recidivism of this group.

The other critical element is coordinated and case managed treatment of this group. The flow of treatment includes: outreach and diversion into treatment, detoxification, residential and outpatient rehabilitation, re-entry job training and placement, and transitional housing. Case management means that one agency will follow each person through the treatment program to ensure compliance. This type of focused program has never been implemented before.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The performance standards that will be reported from this initiative are as follows:

- ◆ Reduced incidence of recidivism and prison days
- ◆ Reduced Title 47 involuntary commitments
- ◆ Former public inebriates living sober in stable housing

PROJECT ORGANIZATION

We are proposing that this project will be a grant to a named recipient through the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development who would handle administrative aspects of the grant. The project performance standards and accountability would be overseen by the Department of Corrections. Akeela will provide overall project

Creating a healthy business climate in a healthy community

www.fairviewrising.com | Box 201262, Anchorage, AK 99520-1262 | Tel. 907-351-0407 or 907-947-9438



management, accounting and reporting on financial aspects to the Department of Commerce. The project would either be included in the State's Capital budget or included as a fiscal note to Senate Bill 64, the Omnibus Crime bill currently being considered by the Alaska Legislature.

The key partners in providing this treatment continuum are the premier providers of these services in Anchorage: The Alaska Native Justice Center, Akeela, Partners for Progress and Rural Cap. Project contact: Paul Fuhs, Fairview Business Association, 351-0407, Paulfuhs@earthlink.net

FUNDING SOURCE

We are proposing that the funding for this initiative would come from the State's alcohol taxes, which amount to approximately \$40 million per year. About half this amount is currently spent on alcohol treatment programs. When the alcohol tax was almost doubled in 2003, it was stated that this money should go toward alcohol treatment. Other Alaskan organizations agree with this approach:

Municipality of Anchorage 2014 State Legislative Program:

Alcohol Beverage Tax: There is an unmet need for additional substance abuse treatment. Currently, 50% of the taxes collected under the Alcoholic Beverage Tax (AS 43.60.050) is allocated to treatment and prevention. The Municipality of Anchorage recommends 100% of the tax be devoted to funding additional treatment services.

Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailer's Association 2014 Legislative Priorities

CHARR recommends use of alcohol tax funds "to make alcohol detox and rehab treatment available to those who need it." They call for "detailed plans" that are "accountable" and "show quantifiable results." Their specific action request is to **"Ask the DHSS to develop rational plans to help Alaskans with detox and treatment and consider providing funding to other groups to address the state's problems."**

BUDGET

The total budget for this initiative is \$5,043,697. This includes outreach and court diversion, increased detox services, residential and outpatient rehabilitation, reentry job training and placement, case management and project management, outcome evaluation and reporting.

Creating a healthy business climate in a healthy community

www.fairviewrising.com | Box 201262, Anchorage, AK 99520-1262 | Tel. 907-351-0407 or 907-947-9438