

SENATE BILL NO. 72

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/30/97

Referred: State Affairs, HESS, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Healthy Families Alaska program; relating to Medicaid
2 coverage for targeted case management services for pregnant women and for
3 eligible children under the age of five; and providing for an effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 47.07.030(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) In addition to the mandatory services specified in (a) of this section, the
7 department may offer only the following optional services: case management and
8 nutrition services for pregnant women; personal care services in a recipient's home;
9 emergency hospital services; long-term care noninstitutional services; medical supplies
10 and equipment; advanced nurse practitioner services; clinic services; rehabilitative
11 services for substance abusers and emotionally disturbed or chronically mentally ill
12 adults; targeted case management services for substance abusers, chronically mentally
13 ill adults, and severely emotionally disturbed persons under the age of 21; **targeted**
14 **case management services for pregnant women and for children under the age of**

1 **five;** inpatient psychiatric facility services for individuals age 65 or older and
 2 individuals under age 21; psychologists' services; clinical social workers' services;
 3 midwife services; prescribed drugs; physical therapy; occupational therapy; chiropractic
 4 services; low-dose mammography screening, as defined in AS 21.42.375(e); hospice
 5 care; treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders; adult dental services;
 6 prosthetic devices and eyeglasses; optometrists' services; intermediate care facility
 7 services, including intermediate care facility services for the mentally retarded; skilled
 8 nursing facility services for individuals under age 21; and reasonable transportation to
 9 and from the point of medical care.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07.900(19) is amended to read:

11 (19) "targeted case management services" means case management services
 12 (A) for substance abusers, chronically mentally ill adults, and
 13 severely emotionally disturbed persons under age 21 that are provided by

14 (i)[(A)] a drug or alcohol treatment center that is funded
 15 with a grant under AS 47.30.475; or

16 (ii)[(B)] an outpatient community mental health clinic
 17 that has a contract to provide community mental health services under
 18 AS 47.30.520 - 47.30.620; or

19 (B) that will assist pregnant women and families of children
 20 under the age of five in gaining access to needed medical, social,
 21 educational, or other services under AS 47.19.

22 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

23 **Chapter 19. Healthy Families Alaska Program.**

24 **Sec. 47.19.010. Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to prevent poor
 25 childhood outcomes, including abuse and neglect, by making available education and
 26 support services to all pregnant women and families of children under the age of 5,
 27 including newborn infants, by providing early intervention family support services to
 28 pregnant women and families eligible under this chapter and facing the greatest
 29 challenges.

30 **Sec. 47.19.020. Establishment of program.** (a) The department shall
 31 establish a coordinated, comprehensive, statewide Healthy Families Alaska program

1 that provides appropriate prevention and early intervention family support services to
2 pregnant women and families of children under the age of five.

3 (b) The Healthy Families Alaska program shall

4 (1) be centered on the family and focused on individual family needs;

5 (2) serve eligible pregnant women and families who volunteer for the
6 program;

7 (3) provide education and support services to families to reduce the risk
8 of poor childhood outcome, including child abuse and neglect, and to contribute to
9 positive, healthy, child-rearing practices;

10 (4) provide targeted case management and assist pregnant women and
11 families in accessing needed services;

12 (5) initiate services during pregnancy or as early as possible after the
13 birth of an infant; and

14 (6) continue services to the family for up to three to five years, using
15 criteria defined in regulation to increase or decrease the scope or type of services.

16 (c) Program services shall be provided in a culturally appropriate and
17 collaborative manner by community-based private, nonprofit corporations, including
18 regional Native health corporations; Indian Reorganization Act and traditional
19 councils; municipal governments; or a combination of these entities.

20 **Sec. 47.19.030. Eligibility.** Pregnant women, children under the age of five,
21 and families of children under the age of five are eligible for services under this
22 chapter if they or their families volunteer for the program and are determined to be
23 able to benefit from the services provided under the program.

24 **Sec. 47.19.040. Duties of the department.** The department shall

25 (1) organize and encourage training programs for persons who provide
26 services under this chapter;

27 (2) establish a training program for paraprofessionals who provide
28 services under this chapter;

29 (3) identify and use all appropriate public and private resources
30 available to the state to provide needed services to the families eligible for this
31 program;

1 (4) issue contracts or grants for the provision of services under this
2 chapter;

3 (5) establish a comprehensive system for screening pregnant women
4 and families of children under the age of five who are eligible for services under this
5 chapter;

6 (6) establish the priority of services provided if available money is
7 insufficient to provide services to all persons who are eligible under this chapter;

8 (7) facilitate the coordination among public agencies or service
9 providers supplying services under this program, the resolution of disputes among
10 those agencies or providers about the provision of services under the program, and the
11 determination of financial responsibility of the respective persons for those services;

12 (8) ensure that services under the program are provided in a timely
13 manner pending the resolution of disputes among public agencies or service providers
14 as to the provision of or payment for those services;

15 (9) monitor and evaluate the services provided under the program and
16 establish a system for compiling data on the pregnant women, children, and families
17 in the state who are eligible for services, the numbers being served, and the types of
18 services provided; and

19 (10) adopt regulations necessary to implement or interpret this chapter.

20 **Sec. 47.19.050. Individualized family support plan.** (a) In consultation
21 with, and based on an assessment of, the eligible pregnant woman or the eligible
22 family, a written individualized family support plan shall be developed. The plan shall
23 include

24 (1) a description of the pregnant woman's or family's concerns,
25 priorities, resources, and goals for the child and family; and

26 (2) a description of the specific early intervention services that are
27 planned to help meet the unique needs of the child and the family.

28 (b) The plan required in (a) of this section shall be prepared within 45 days
29 after the initiation of service under the program. The plan shall be reviewed and
30 updated every six months that the pregnant woman, child, or family participates in the
31 program.

1 **Sec. 47.19.050. Confidentiality and access to records.** Medical, social, and
2 other client records received or developed under this chapter are confidential and are
3 not open to inspection, except as provided in regulations of the department to further
4 the purposes of the program or to better coordinate services. Nothing in this section
5 prohibits the department from releasing non-identifying information in aggregate form
6 for research or other purposes.

7 **Sec. 47.19.900. Definitions.** In this chapter

8 (1) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;

9 (2) "program" means the Healthy Families Alaska program.

10 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1997.