

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1
Bill Ver: 1: SB97
(S) Publish Date: 4-21-99

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
Title: Mental Health Evaluation and Treatment and
confidential mental health records BRU: Community Mental Health Grants
Sponsor: Senator Pete Kelly Component: Designated Evaluation and Treatment
Requestor: (Senate) HESS COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1014
See also (SN#): _____

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL		150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS		1,544.7	2,641.7	2,641.7	2,641.7	2,641.7
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	1,694.7	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts		1,544.7				
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health		150.0	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7
Other (please specify)						
TOTAL	0.0	1,694.7	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7	2,791.7

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: \$0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Fiscal Assumptions:

SB 97 serves two functions: It clarifies the client eligibility for Designated Evaluation and Treatment (DET) Services and establishes procedures for determining that eligibility, processing applications, and paying claims; it also creates an entitlement to those services for eligible clients.

These clarifications are necessary due to a current lawsuit related to these services and due to the downsizing of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). The plaintiff in the current litigation requests that the court interpret current statutes to mean that the department must determine every patient's ability to pay; and, that if it is detrimental to the patient's rehabilitation, the department has to relieve the patient of their obligation to pay. If the court agreed with this interpretation, the department would pay for a far greater number of people than are currently eligible for this program. Additionally, the downsizing of API will require that these services be provided in Anchorage beyond those currently provided in other communities throughout Alaska. This necessary expansion will require explicit eligibility and payment procedures to maintain consistent administration of the program.

3/12/99
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Division: Mental Health and DD Date: 03/12/99
Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue, Commissioner Date: 3/15/99
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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ANALYSIS (cont.):

As stated above, current plans to downsize API require that private hospitals in Anchorage provide some inpatient psychiatric services through the Designated Evaluation and Treatment program. This results in impending additional costs regardless of legislation. The lawsuit also has implications for undetermined costs as eligibility for the program could be determined (and possibly expanded) through the courts. This legislation will allow reasonable expansion of the program while establishing program controls through setting clear criteria and formalizing payment procedures. New costs to the program will be covered transitionally by federal grant funds in FY 2000. An increment will be required to enable this program to become an entitlement beginning FY 2001.

Existing Program

There is \$1046.3 GF/MH in the base for the DET program. These funds provide a limited amount of 72-hour psychiatric evaluations in eight hospitals in Alaska, up to 30 days of psychiatric treatment in two hospitals, physicians' services, and transportation to the hospitals. In addition, it pays for enhanced detoxification at two facilities for persons who are intoxicated and expressing suicidal ideation. Historically, client eligibility for this program has been budget driven. The definition of an eligible client was chosen so that all eligible clients could be served within the existing budget. The law suit has demanded that, among other things, the definition of eligibility be expanded to a larger population.

Eligibility Expansion

Payment for DET services will be expanded to all persons who are a danger to themselves or others or gravely disabled due to a mental illness, who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines, and who have no other source of payment.

The FY2000 Governor's Budget includes a request of \$1097.0 in federal receipt authority for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) grant as a part of the Community Mental Health/API 2000 project. Prior experience with a larger population indicated that the expanded eligibility would result in increased cost of at least \$300.0. Part of the SAMSHA federal grant will cover these increased costs and another portion would allow limited expansion of the current program. The total cost of these changes is \$582.1. None of these costs are reflected in the fiscal note, but are critical to its understanding. Hospital costs are based on a rate of \$930 per day, and detox costs are based on a cost of \$275 per day.

Community Mental Health/API 2000 (related to downsizing API)

The Community Mental Health/API 2000 project depends upon a fully functional DET program. The current DET program operates outside of Anchorage. For the Community Mental Health/API 2000 project related to the downsizing of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute to work, the DET program must include Anchorage hospitals. The final portion of the \$1097.0 in the FY2000 Governor's Budget, \$514.9, expands DET services to Anchorage. Services in Anchorage will not begin until the last quarter of FY 2000 as they will coincide with the adjustment of the emergency service system to accommodate a smaller API. The annualized cost in Anchorage assumes the passage of SB 97 that establishes the entitlement and clarifies procedures by which the department pays for these services.

DET Payments

	FY92	FY00	FY01	FY02
GF/MH				
Base	1,046.3	1,046.3	1,046.3	1,046.3
SB97	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,641.7
Federal (SAMSHA)				
Governor's FY2000 Req	0.0	1,097.0	1,097.0	0.0
SB97	0.0	0.0	1,544.7	0.0
	<u>1,046.3</u>	<u>2,143.3</u>	<u>3,688.0</u>	<u>3,688.0</u>
DET Eligibility Determination	0.0	0.0	150.0	150.0
DET Program Total	1,046.3	2,143.3	3,838.0	3,838.0

ANALYSIS (cont.):**Costs of Expansion**

For FY2001, the costs in the Grants/Claims line reflect the cost of annualized DET services in Anchorage. These costs are directly related to the passage of SB 97. The costs assume full implementation of the new definition of eligibility, and serving all eligible clients as an entitlement. In addition, there is a related cost of \$150.0 in GF/MH funds for the purchase of eligibility determination. A more complex eligibility process will be necessary, based on the procedures used by the DHSS Division of Public Assistance to process welfare applications. The cost assumes a large volume of applications. The costs in the "Contractual" line will be necessary to process the applications and pay the cost of processing the bills. For FY2001, all new costs are funded through federal receipts.

The expansion of DET services to Anchorage will purchase an additional 2,984.8 bed days per year, or an average of 8.2 DET patients per day. The eligibility expansion is projected to require an additional 843.6 bed days per year or an average additional 2.3 patients per day.

The costs in FY2002 and beyond are all GF/MH due to the SAMSHA grant expiration.

If SB 97 does not pass, the FY2000 funds in the Governor's Budget would cover the anticipated service demands of the new eligibility definition outside of Anchorage, and permit limited services to remain in Anchorage indefinitely. However, there would not be sufficient funds to meet the demand to allow the Community Mental Health/API 2000 project to work. Services would be suspended at the point funds were exhausted, probably in mid-spring of FY2001. The department could anticipate additional litigation regarding the responsibility of the department to pay for these services. Court action could include further expansion of the definition of the population eligible to receive services under this program.