

AMENDMENT #2

by Rep. Cissna

OFFERED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

To: FY 09 DHSS Operating Budget Recommendations - CSHB 312 (FIN)

Appropriation: Behavioral Health
Allocation: Services for Severely Emotionally Disturbed Youth
ADD: MH Trust: BTKH Community Behavioral Health Centers
Outpatient Grants
\$750.0 GF/MH

Explanation:

These grants provide for innovative outpatient residential programs and training that help alleviate the need for intensive residential level services. Special populations are emphasized, such as children with severe emotional disturbances and a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, children aged 0-6; and other groups of children for whom in-state services are lacking.

Outpatient services are a critical step in laying the foundations for providing better services for children who need treatment, and ensuring that they can remain in-state or in a community setting instead of moving to a higher level of care. Furthermore, outpatient treatment provides a less costly way, when compared to inpatient care, to treat children in rural Alaska and to ensure that children being treated outside Alaska can return to their communities.