

AMENDMENT #3

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: Behavioral Health Grants
ADD: Services for Substance Use Disorders Comprehensive System of Care
\$1,000.0 GF/MH

Explanation:

Alcoholism and chemical dependency have long been recognized as Alaska's number one behavioral health problem. Without adequate funding levels and services, the health and safety of Alaskan beneficiaries struggling with addiction, their families, and the community are compromised. Long waitlists for treatment at Alaska's facilities prevent time sensitive cases, such as women who are pregnant or potentially pregnant, from being treated. This is especially critical considering Alaska's high rates of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Substance abuse treatment services provide a crucial form of support. These additional funds will give Behavioral Health the funds to expand and improve existing services, provide services to more individuals, and allow for rate increases to assist with non-Medicaid treatments and employee retention.