

AMENDMENT #5

by Rep. Cissna

OFFERED ON THE FLOOR
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

BY: REPRESENTATIVE SHARON CISSNA
To: FY 09 DHSS Operating Budget Recommendations - CSHB 312 (FIN)

Appropriation: Behavioral Health
Allocation: Behavioral Health Administration
ADD: Suicide Prevention Statewide Initiative
\$800.0 GF/MH

Explanation:

Alaska suffers from the highest suicide rate in America, at almost double the national average. It is a fundamental quality of life issue that Alaska foster communities in which residents want to continue to live. In FY08, the Suicide Prevention Council received \$125,600, enough for one part-time position. The Suicide Prevention Statewide Initiative will greatly improve the depth of Alaska's suicide prevention resources.

Initiative funds will be focused on regions and communities identified as high risk, with one Project Coordinator working in cooperation with groups such as Alaska Native Tribal Health corporations, faith-based organizations, and others. The funding horizon extends over a 5 year initiative at \$1 million per year, primarily allocated at the community grant level to provide effective, area-specific service. All grant programs will be evidence-based with clear outcome measures developed to track improvements in their community.