

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 3, 2010
1:37 p.m.

1:37:59 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hawker called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Allan Austerman
Representative Mike Doogan
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Les Gara
Representative Mike Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Woodie Salmon
Representative Anna Fairclough
Representative Bill Thomas Jr., Vice-Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Jake Metcalfe, Executive Director, Public Safety Employee Association (PSEA); Jeff Stephan, Manger, United Fisherman's Marketing Association, Kodiak;

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Pricilla Rice, 4-H, Fairbanks, Tanana District Leaders; Fred Schlutt, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Director, Cooperative Extension Service; Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief, North Star Fire Department; Kimberlee Jones, Careline Crisis Intervention; Ty Tigner, Program Director, Presbyterian Hospitality House; Ashley Nukwak, member of Presbyterian Hospitality House; Mike Sexton, PHA, Presbyterian Hospitality House; Cheryl Keepers, Fairbanks Northstar Borough (FNSB) Child Care Assistant; Robin Frank, Tanana Chief Conferences; Marla Lowder, UAF, Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H; Brenda Stanfill, Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living (IAC); Michaella Rice, Self; Angel Dotomain, President, AK Native Health Board; Jackie Debevec, Career Services Coordinator, Career Services Department, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Annette Becker, Executive Director, Youth Advocate, Sitka; Chris Bauman, Executive Director, Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV), Sitka; Jerry Dzugan, Director, Alaska Marine Safely Education

Association, Sitka; Julianne Curry, Executive Director, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, Petersburg; Liz Cabrera, Petersburg Economic Development Council, Petersburg; Barry Bracken, Petersburg Marine Mammal Center, Petersburg; Robert Thomason, Superintendent, Petersburg City Schools, Petersburg; Fritz Johnson, Regional Fisheries Coordinator, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Dillingham; Ginger Baim, Director, Safe and Fear Free Environment, (SAFE), Dillingham; Susan Flensburg, Bristol Bay Native Association, Dillingham; RJ Kopchak, Development Director, Prince William Sound Science Center, Cordova; Rochelle Van Den Broek, Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), Cordova; Beth Poole, Executive Director, Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound, Marketing Association; Eileen Sylvester, Vice President, South Central Foundation; Greg White, Sitka Prevention, Sitka; Joni Johnson, Student, Petersburg High School, Petersburg; Michelle Dewitt, Bethel; Cynthia Berns, Old Harbor, Alaska; Desiree Compton, Best Beginnings, Mat-Su; Linda Conover, Mat-Su; James Garhart, Mat-Su; Pat Holmes, Kodiak; Barb Zimmerman, 4-H clubs, Kodiak; Julie Kvanaugh, staff, University Cooperative Extension Service, Kodiak; Marie Rice, Kodiak; Al Burch, Executive Director, Alaska Whitefish Crawlers Association, Kodiak; Murat Balaban, Director of Fishery Industrial Center, Kodiak; Barbara Bolson, Kodiak College; Karen Lambert, Kodiak; Wendy Gierard, Assistant Director, University of Alaska Southeast, Ketchikan; Sandra Rusin McCray, National Sales Manager for CBS TV for Southeast Alaska, Ketchikan; Nina Allen, CEO of the Mental Health Center, Homer; Glenn Seaman, Homer; John Devens, Founding President of the Prince William Sound Community College, Representative on the UAA advisory board, Valdez; Carrie Beeman, Chair of the Upper Tanana Imagination Library, Tok; David Squires, Fire Chief, Seward; Bill Burton, owner Kodiak Game Ranch; Donn Bennice, President for Alaska Family Services in Palmer, Mat-Su;

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 26th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 26th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

#hb300

#hb302

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; making supplemental appropriations; making appropriations under art. IX,

sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

HOUSE BILL NO. 302

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
1:39:3 PM	JAKE METCALFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION (PSEA),	Addressed the Department of Public Safety budget. He testified in support of 15 new Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) positions. He stated that additional oversight troopers are necessary. He pointed out that VPSO increases are a valuable crime deterrent, but add to the need for state troopers.
1:43:9 PM	Representative Gara	Asked about the number of troopers requested and how it was decided upon.
1:44:3 PM	Mr. Metcalfe	Suggested that the numbers of statewide VPSOs are eighty or greater. Testimony, and department study about the appropriate number of necessary troopers has occurred. Additional troopers provide a deterrent to crime and allow for better investigation of cases.
1:46:9 PM	Representative Foster	Appreciated the information regarding the impact of state troopers. He asked if the numbers of troopers requested will continue to rise.
1:47:2 PM	Mr. Metcalfe	Suggested that the troopers must be trained to perform the investigations as some of the cases will not warrant persecution. He noted that VPSOs do not have the training necessary to investigate felony crimes. The need for oversight will exist as the trooper is the trained investigator.
		FAIRBANKS
1:49:4 PM	PRICILLA RICE, 4-H, FAIRBANKS, TANANA DISTRICT LEADERS (via teleconference)	Testified in support of the Cooperative Extension Service and the finance budget. She stated that she utilizes the Cooperative Extension Service. She explained that she is active with the Cooperative Extension Service 4-H aspect.

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1:50:7 PM	FRED SCHLUTT, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS (UAF) DIRECTOR, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the Cooperative Extension Service and the University's energy outreach efforts. He wished to reduce dependence on fuel and increase efficiency of utilities. He was in favor of funding the Marine Advisory Program (MAP) service.
1:52:1 PM	JEFF TUCKER, FIRE CHIEF, NORTH STAR FIRE DEPARTMENT (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of funding for the Alaska Line Mobile Radio System budget. He encouraged that the house include full funding of the local share into the final budget.
1:53:8 PM	KIMBERLEE JONES, CARELINE CRISIS INTERVENTION (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of HB 302. She shared a story about a suicidal gentleman. A phone call to Careline Crisis Intervention resulted in prevention of suicide. She highlighted the strengths of the program.
1:56:3 PM	Representative Gara	Asked about the waitlist navigated through the intervention process.
1:56:9 PM	Ms. Jones	Responded that unless a caller is acutely suicidal, they are placed on a mental health care waitlist, which can span weeks. Follow up care and connection with Careline is performed until an appointment with a clinician is available.
1:57:0 PM	TY TIGNER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITALITY HOUSE (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the Bring the Kids Home initiative. He stressed that the initiative is crucial. He spoke to the quality of care at Presbyterian Hospitality House and the importance of having the kids in Alaska.
1:58:5 PM	ASHLEY NUKWAK, MEMBER OF PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITALITY HOUSE (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the Bring the Kids Home initiative. She spoke of her positive experience in the Presbyterian Hospitality House.
1:59:3 PM	MIKE SEXTON,	Testified in support of ongoing funding

	PHA, PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITALITY HOUSE (via teleconference) ,	for the Bring the Kids Home program. He advocated for living in state as family connections aid in success.
2:02:7 PM	CHERYL KEEPERS, FAIRBANKS NORTHSTAR BOROUGH (FNSB) CHILD CARE ASSISTANT (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the rate change made last year by the legislature. Working parents and their employers will benefit from the change. The income guidelines have not been updated since 2002 and many parents cannot make use of the program. She encouraged additional funding for Department of Health and Social Services allowing the necessary update.
2:03:8 PM	ROBIN FRANK, TANANA CHIEF CONFERENCES (via teleconference) ,	Spoke in support of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development funding. She mentioned that the funding increased apprenticeship opportunities for Alaskans.
2:05:4 PM	MARLA LOWDER, UAF, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, 4-H (via teleconference) ,	Expressed gratitude for the Cooperative Extension Service budget. She stated that 4-H reaches 15 thousand children per year with informal education and 2 to 3 thousand through the traditional 4-H clubs.
2:07:3 PM	BRENDA STANFILL, INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT LIVING (IAC) (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the governor's initiative to reduce the rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. Victim's services provide prevention services which require funding. She spoke about targeted education as a form of prevention. She stated that there is a deficit for victim's services of \$350 thousand this year.
2:12:2 PM	Co Chair Hawker	Stated that he wished to make 2010 the year of public safety. He stated that the committee recognizes the need for a balanced approach including preventative efforts. He recognized that Representative Kelly has been instrumental in retaining the focus of the committee.
2:13:4 PM	MICHAELLA RICE, SELF (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of the Cooperative Extension Service. She explained that she recently visited Juneau with 4-H and learned about the legislative process.
2:14:8 PM	ANGEL	Testified in support of the governor's

	DOTOMAIN, PRESIDENT, AK NATIVE HEALTH BOARD (via teleconference) ,	initiative on domestic violence and sexual assault. She spoke in support of funding for prevention and programs that reach various Alaskans. Community support is crucial.
2:17:6 PM	Co Chair Hawker	Stated that he looked forward to a comprehensive approach to the governor's initiative.
2:18:8 PM	RECESS	
3:01:9 PM	RECONVENED	
3:02:0 PM	JACKIE DEBEVEC, CAREER SERVICES COORDINATOR, CAREER SERVICES DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS (via teleconference) ,	Testified for the full funding of the university request in the budget, the Life Sciences Facility, in particular. The current lack of space and outdated equipment weakens the university's ability to attract top students, faculty, and researchers. She thought that the facility could bring in more federal dollars for grant funding and eventually support a pharmacy, vet school or nursing program. Co-Chair Hawker pointed out funding for the projects mentioned would be found in that stand alone appropriation bills or the capital budget, and not in the operating budget.
3:06:9 PM		Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Dillingham, Cordova
3:06:5 PM	ANNETTE BECKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOUTH ADVOCATE, SITKA (via teleconference) ,	Urged support for the Bring the Kids Home Initiative. She relayed funding for the program keeps the youth, and the money spent, in the state.
3:08:9 PM	CHRIS BAUMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE (SAFV), SITKA (via teleconference) ,	Urged support for child abuse prevention programs. He stressed the need for Primary Prevention efforts in order to prevent victimization and perpetration from occurring. With the states commitment and investment in Primary Prevention efforts, both rural and urban communities throughout the state, could experience lower rates of domestic, sexual and teen dating violence in Alaska.
3:10:5 PM	JERRY DZUGAN, DIRECTOR,	Testified in support for full funding of the university request for the 6

	ALASKA MARINE SAFELY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, SITKA (via teleconference),	positions for the Marine Advisory Program (MAP). He opined the closing of program offices in the state. He stressed that MAP agents were a valuable gift to Alaska.
3:12:8 PM	JULIANNE CURRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PETERSBURG VESSEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, PETERSBURG (via teleconference),	Urged support for full funding of the university request in the budget. She strongly supported funding for the Marine Advisory Program, and detailed the many ways the program had enhanced the community of Petersburg.
3:14:9 PM	LIZ CABRERA, PETERSBURG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PETERSBURG (via teleconference),	Strongly encouraged support for the 6 Marine Advisory Positions listed under the university request in the budget. She considered the program a smart investment for the marine education of the youth of Alaska.
3:15:1 PM	BARRY BRACKEN, PETERSBURG MARINE MAMMAL CENTER, PETERSBURG (via teleconference),	Advocated support for the Marine Advisory Program. He detailed the many partnership programs that the community had benefited from because of the program. He felt it that the program was a bastion of high quality marine research information and was too valuable to lose.
3:18:1 PM	ROBERT THOMASON, SUPERINTENDENT , PETERSBURG CITY SCHOOLS, PETERSBURG (via teleconference),	Testified to the positive impact the Marine Advisory Program had benefited the aquamarine and fisheries programs within the Petersburg school district. The opportunities provided by the program were unique and important. He urged full support for the university funding.
3:19:1 PM	FRITZ JOHNSON, REGIONAL FISHERIES COORDINATOR, BRISTOL BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, DILLINGHAM	Expressed strong support for university funding for the Marine Advisory Program. The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation works closely with the program. The program is a critical function in the state commercial fishing industry.

	(via teleconference),	
3:22:4 PM	GINGER BAIM, DIRECTOR, SAFE AND FEAR FREE ENVIRONMENT, (SAFE), DILLINGHAM (via teleconference),	Urged full funding of the governor's request for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. She stated that Primary Prevention programs were the most effective way to end domestic violence and sexual assault in the state. She said that Primary Prevention was making a difference in the state by preventing the first incident of victimization or perpetration of violence. Co-Chair Hawker said the committee was working diligently on the issue.
3:27:8 PM	SUSAN FLENSBURG, BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, DILLINGHAM (via teleconference),	Testified in support of funding for the Marine Advisory Program through full funding for the university budget request. She shared the benefits brought to the community by the program agent placed in Dillingham. The program has generated both educational and economic growth in the community.
3:32:5 PM	RJ KOPCHAK, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SCIENCE CENTER, CORDOVA (via teleconference),	Urged full funding for the university budget request, the Marine Advisory Program in particular. The Marine Advisory Program plays a critical role in coastal communities. He said that the program out of Cordova had been instrumental in establishing the Prince William Sound Science Center. The program has assisted the community in begin fully involved in the fisheries management and governance. The port of Dutch Harbor generates huge amounts of money for the state, and greatly benefits from the program.
3:36:5 PM	ROCHELLE VAN DEN BROEK, CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED (CDFU), CORDOVA (via teleconference),	Testified in support for the full funding of the university request in the FY11 budget. She detailed several ways that the local MAP agent had helped the community. The program has helped with fleet safety, efficiency of operations, fishing business management, sustainable business practices, and economic development. She said that the program introduced the CDFC to the Alaska Young Fisheries Summit, which proved to be fruitful for the fishing fleet. She said that she typically checks in with the local

		agent once a week. She stressed that the collaborative nature of the relationship cannot be duplicated from an office outside the community.
3:39:1 PM	BETH POOLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COPPER RIVER DELTA, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, MARKETING ASSOCIATION (via teleconference) ,	Spoke in support of full funding for costal Marine Advisory Program offices through the full funding of the university request. She expressed appreciation for the role of the program in Cordova, and in the commercial fishing and seafood industry.
3:41:1 PM	EILEEN SYLVESTER, VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTH CENTRAL FOUNDATION (via teleconference) ,	Spoke in support for funding to end domestic violence and child abuse. She mentioned the specific needs of Alaska Native people in rural and native communities. She said that the goal of the foundation was to end domestic violence, child abuse, and child neglect in this generation. The grassroots program is over 10 years old. She requested specific funds of \$200,000 for the implementation of the program in the Bristol Bay Region and another \$200,000 to provide training in other regions of the state. Co-Chair Hawker assured her that the committee would continue to discuss the issue.
3:45:9 PM	GREG WHITE, SITKA PREVENTION, SITKA (via teleconference) ,	Testified in favor of funding for the Bring the Kids Home program. He mentioned the Alaska Youth Initiative, and the positive impact it has had on members of his community. He strongly advocated continued funding for programs that help at-risk children. He expressed his belief that the children should be allowed to stay in their home communities to receive the help that they need.
3:49:8 PM	JONI JOHNSON, STUDENT, PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL, PETERSBURG (via teleconference) ,	Urged support for continued funding for the Marine Advisory Program. She spoke of the benefits of the program within her community. She stressed that the program was multi-faceted and was important in many circles of her community.
3:51:8 PM	MICHELLE DEWITT, BETHEL (via	Spoke in support for funding of the Domestic Violence Initiative. She encouraged the legislature to invest in

	teleconference),	prevention programs. She felt that effective prevention programs would greatly serve her region to bring down the high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Teens Acting Against Violence program, which began in 1996, had not received state funding since 2002. She hoped the committee would consider making an investment in the program and others like it.
3:54:4 PM	CYNTHIA BERNES, OLD HARBOR, ALASKA (via teleconference),	Thanked the committee for the increased funding for Best Beginnings. She said that parents in her community were reading more to their children due to the Imagination Library Program offered by Best Beginnings. She felt that rural areas often had difficulty getting books to their youth and that the Best Beginnings program had been helpful.
3:56:7 PM	AT EASE	
4:18:8 PM	RECONVENED	
		Homer, Kenai, Valdez, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, Matsu, Glennallen, Tok
4:19:5 PM	JEFF STEPHAN, MANGER, UNITED FISHERMAN'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, KODIAK,	Urged support of the MAP program. He testified in support of the governor's original budget for this funding. He supported the inclusion of \$614,000 in the university of Alaska budget for the marine advisory program. He noted the position in Kodiak has been unfunded 13 years. He explained the MAP program and the importance of this program to local communities. He stated the importance to the five positions affected by this funding. He noted MAP works in partnership with local communities, residents, organizations, businesses on subjects relevant to cultural, social, and economic well being of the communities.
4:23:9 PM	Co-Chair Stoltze	Wondered why this was not in the commercial fisheries section of the Department of Fish and Game budget.
4:24:3 PM	DESIREE COMPTON, BEST BEGINNINGS, MAT-SU (via teleconference),	Thanked the subcommittee for increasing the Best Beginnings budget. She noted the importance of the investment in young people increase their chance for success in school and life. They want to focus on the youngest members and their families.
4:26:1 PM	LINDA CONOVER,	Thanked the subcommittee for increasing

	MAT-SU (via teleconference),	the funding for Best Beginnings in the governor's budget. She also supported the Imagination Library and noted that by reading to children in their early years will give them the biggest boost to future success.
4:27:3 PM	JAMES GARHART, MAT-SU (via teleconference),	Supported a forward funded budget. He believed in a smaller fiscal conservative government. He thought the Department of Revenue funding should be cut because of its inaccuracy. He found mistakes in their revenue forecasting. He indicated that a phone number given to him by Co-Chair Stoltze had proved unproductive with no response.
	Co-Chair Stoltze	Apologized that his calls have not been returned. He will straighten this problem out for him.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Offered if questions had been sent to the DOR that have not been returned, please contact his office.
4:31:2 PM	PAT HOLMES, KODIAK (via teleconference),	Supported a need for additional funding for ADFG. Over the past 12 years they have gone from 12 state funded weirs to 4. There are serious problems with subsistence. He supported the budget request for western region sonar. He urged support for the \$100,000 funding for this sonar and other funding for fisheries.
4:34:4 PM	BARB ZIMMERMAN, 4-H CLUBS, KODIAK (via teleconference),	Testified for an increase in the budget for the Cooperative Extension Service program. She told of the success of the 4-H programs within the community. She noted the importance of the 4-H program in helping the children in smaller communities. She expressed delight with the help provided by 4-H information pamphlets. She would also like the funding of the agent position in Kodiak.
4:37:7 PM	JULIE KVANAUGH, STAFF, UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, KODIAK (via teleconference),	Testified in support of the Cooperative Extension Service program. She believed this was important to retain and capture local youth for Alaska's future. She referred to positions scheduled to be terminated due to lack of funding. The governor's budget shows funding for these positions. The legislature needs to look at the positive aspect of these MAP positions for Alaska and continue the funding. Kodiak wants to strengthen the UA bond.

4:39:3 PM	MARIE RICE, KODIAK (via teleconference) ,	Supported the Cooperative Extension Service program with the university. She related her personal experience and help with this program. She helped get the program started in Kodiak and the use of the agent was vital. This full time agent position was lost 13 years ago, but would really like that full time position refunded.
4:42:2 PM	AL BURCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA WHITEFISH CRAWLERS ASSOCIATION, KODIAK (via teleconference) ,	Supported the testimony for the Cooperative Extension Service program. He supported the continued funding of the MAP program. He reported his personal experience in his early years in Kodiak. He supported the research and help with students over the years. He has heard of more offices being closed and urged support for them to reopen.
4:44:5 PM	MURAT BALABAN, DIRECTOR OF FISHERY INDUSTRIAL CENTER, KODIAK (via teleconference) ,	Spoke to the importance of the fish industry to Alaska. He strongly supported the MAP program by making the 6 reported positions permanent. The agents are the ears, eyes, and hands of the university and they help communities sustain an economically viable industry and a way of life. Co-Chair Hawker spoke of the underutilized office in Kodiak and would like to see more people working with it. Mr. Balaban reported that all the student rooms are full and student apartments are full.
4:46:7 PM	BARBARA BOLSON, KODIAK COLLEGE (via teleconference) ,	Thanked the committee for the support given to the Cooperative Extension program with the university and Kodiak College. She urged the committee members to visit the college and the good works being accomplished. She noted workshops and programs available. She stated that they are trying to improve college readiness to students in high schools.
4:49:6 PM	KAREN LAMBERT, KODIAK (via teleconference) ,	Spoke in support for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation. The best way to keep budgets in check is to invest the state's money wisely and she believed that the local legal services program was a cost efficient program.
4:50:2 PM	WENDY GIERARD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF	Thanked the committee for support to the university. She urged the committee to reconsider the governor's budget for funding the university in Alaska. The

	ALASKA SOUTHEAST, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference),	university helps students prepare to be the next generation of leaders for Alaska. The university partners with industries in the region for workforce placement in Alaska jobs. The enrollment in Ketchikan campus and the university as a whole is up and the benefits are becoming more evident. Students and parents are seeing the benefits of the system and more students are choosing to stay in the state of their education. They are training for jobs that will be beneficial to the state.
4:53:3 PM	SANDRA RUSIN MCCRAY, NATIONAL SALES MANAGER FOR CBS TV FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference),	Urged support of the Bring the Kids Home program and related a personal story of her step-child who had to go out of state for long term care. Her daughter was gone over 4 years and moved to 3 different states to receive the proper care. The long term effect of being away from home has had a long term effect on her and the family as well as the difficult financial costs. She added that regular communication with the child and family was limited and often it is too expensive for the family to travel and visit the child. She believed it made more sense to keep the money in state. She believed it would be cheaper in the long run to keep the children home.
4:59:6 PM	Representative Gara	Questioned the cost of youth in state and asked how often Medicaid would approve travel for a parent to visit the child.
	Ms. Rusin	Answered that Medicaid approved 4 visits a year for no longer than 3 days. She added that it is restricted to one parent and it must be in regard to working one on one in the child's treatment. It is not for a family visit. She noted that when the children are sent to these centers the parents cannot come for a visit during the first 6 months.
5:01:1 PM	NINA ALLEN, CEO OF THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, HOMER (via teleconference),	Urged support of the Bring the Kids Home initiative and thanked the committee for their support. The program is successful for its many accomplishments. This program has been successful due to its multi-pronged approach to the issue. She urged the

		committee to adopt in full the governor's full increment for this program.
5:03:8 PM	GLENN SEAMAN, HOMER (via teleconference) ,	Supported the MAP program. He related his personal experiences in seeing the help the program has done for the coastal communities. He mentioned the excellent help in the training programs and the effectiveness of addressing the needs of the communities. He supported the addition of the new offices in the state.
5:06:3 PM	JOHN DEVENS, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UAA ADVISORY BOARD, VALDEZ (via teleconference) ,	Urged support of the UAA budget as presented by the Board of Regents. He also wanted to draw attention to the value of the small rural colleges in Alaska. He related the importance for rural students to have access to this higher learning as a bridge to the university. These students who go to school in Alaska are the ones most likely to stay in Alaska and contribute to its future.
5:08:9 PM	CARRIE BEEMAN, CHAIR OF THE UPPER TANANA IMAGINATION LIBRARY, TOK (via teleconference) ,	Testified in support of continued funding of the Imagination Library. It is so important to all communities but especially in the small communities in Alaska. She communicated that reading to young children is the single most important things parents can do to insure their child success in school. She noted that Best Beginnings is the umbrella organization for the Imagination Library in Alaska. She noted that over 100 children are enrolled in the Upper Tanana region Imagination Library.
5:10:2 PM	DAVID SQUIRES, FIRE CHIEF, SEWARD (via teleconference) ,	Reads from a letter by the City Manager. He spoke to the deletion of \$150,000 by the house finance subcommittee from the state's proposed Department of Administration budget for maintaining Alaska land mobile radio system. The committee directed that the funds be collected from local users. He derided the inoperable communication between public safety agencies. He continued that Alaska was the first state to adopt an operable statewide communication system, ALMAR. The

		mandated fees for Seward would force the city to abandon plans to join ALMAR or abandon the current use of the ALMAR system and return to the legacy system. This would endanger the future of emergency communication in Alaska causing an overall adverse impact on public safety in Alaska. The estimated cost to Seward would be \$28,800 per year with additional yearly costs.
		Co-Chair Hawker requested the City Manger testimony be faxed to the house finance committee.
5:15:6 PM	BILL BURTON, OWNER KODIAK GAME RANCH (via teleconference) ,	Urged support of the Community Extension agent and the help they have provided to his company and the community. He noted that the community welcomes the research and knowledge of the agents working with the 4-H and local residents. He encouraged continued funding of this program.
5:19:2 PM	DONN BENNICE, PRESIDENT FOR ALASKA FAMILY SERVICES IN PALMER, MAT-SU (via teleconference) ,	Thanked the committee for their continued fiscal responsibility to the budget process. He reported that the Alaska Family Services is a multi-dimensional social service agency in the MatSu borough and operates the only domestic violence emergency shelter in the valley. He added they also operate a full service behavior health treatment center. He strongly supported the governor's domestic violence initiative, but thought a strong component is to deal with the problem in its entirety by adding a strong preventative component to that initiative. He believed the need for a primary local planning process, more local law enforcement and a base line for data. He believed in education and domestic violence treatments and that substance abuse is often a major contributor to domestic violence.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Related that the committee has had several long conversations on the consequence and causes of domestic violence. The substance abuse issue was probably one of the most causal effects of domestic violence. He added jobs and work opportunity plays a major role.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM