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Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

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SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 412

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the chronically mentally ill."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 47.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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Sec. 47.30.545. TREATMENT OF THE CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL. The

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department shall provide for community based and locally or regionally

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coordinated care and treatment of the chronically mentally ill. The

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department may enter into a contract with an eligible community entity

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under which the department purchases community mental health services

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for the chronically mentally ill from the entity if the local commu-

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nity plan also provides for meeting and maintaining the following

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treatment standards:

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(1) facilities shall consist of small residential or day

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treatment centers, in as close to a normal home or non-institutional

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environment as possible without sacrificing client safety or care;

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(2) staffing patterns shall reflect the cultural, linguis-

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tic, sexual, and other social characteristics of the community, and

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shall incorporate multidisciplinary professional staff to meet client

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diagnostic and treatment needs;

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(3) programs shall be designed to encourage self-sufficient

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and independent functioning through prevocational and vocational

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training; programs shall promote client participation in planning,

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operating, and evaluating daily treatment and rehabilitation;

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(4) programs shall be designed to coordinate with the

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social service system as a whole and in particular shall be designed

1 to include the following two elements: (A) an acute hospital or a
2 crisis unit for evaluation, diagnosis, and disposition planning for
3 persons in psychiatric crisis; and (B) a case management system in
4 which the case manager serves as a coordinator of the various elements
5 of the system and as an advocate for the clients in the system; all
6 case managers shall be under direct supervision of a psychiatrist,
7 psychologist, or a mental health clinician with a master's degree;

8 (5) programs shall contain standards for staff training,
9 including training in community outreach services.

10 Sec. 47.30.547. COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE CHRONICALLY
11 MENTALLY ILL. Communities that provide eligible mental health ser-
12 vices for the chronically mentally ill may receive funds from the
13 department for the following program elements:

14 (1) a short-term residential treatment program for indivi-
15 duals experiencing an acute episode or a situational crisis requiring
16 temporary removal from their home environment;

17 (2) a long-term residential treatment program with a full
18 day treatment component for persons who require intensive support;

19 (3) a transitional residential treatment program designed
20 for persons who are able to take part in programs in the general
21 community, but who without continued support would be at risk of
22 returning to a hospital;

23 (4) a semi-supervised, independent, but structured living
24 arrangement for persons who without some support and structure would
25 be at risk of returning to the hospital;

26 (5) a day treatment program capable of providing services
27 for clients whose residential needs are being met but who require
28 additional or extended treatment services;

29 (6) sheltered workshops that provide opportunities for

1 clients to experience the benefits of meaningful and productive work
2 experiences with graduated levels of skill and energy required;

3 (7) socialization centers designed to serve a broad range
4 of clients, as well as persons living in the community in general.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 47.30.550 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the department shall
7 purchase 100 percent of the eligible costs of services provided for
8 the chronically mentally ill, subject to the availability of state
9 funds to the department for implementing AS 47.30.520 - 47.30.620.