

Div. of  
pub. Asst.



**ALASKA CHAPTER**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC.**  
P.O. Box 3-3794  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

April 1, 1976

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Governor J. S. Hammond  
Pouch A  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond,

The Alaska Chapter, National Association of Social Workers is writing to express to you our members' concern regarding the lack of assistance being rendered to people in need by the Division of Public Assistance, Department of Health and Social Services, and to request the establishment of a special commission or board to serve you in reviewing and monitoring that Division's operations.

For four long years the Alaska Chapter NASW has involved itself in a variety of ways with attempts to correct inadequacies of this Division, the former Division of Family and Children Services, and we have come to believe firmly that without a consistent and on-going assessment of these operations, the problems people experience will never be resolved.

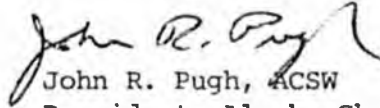
We have followed closely the recent problems, complaints, and attempts at resolution of the difficulties with food stamps, public assistance, and general relief. While some improvements may have taken place, long lasting change is by no means assured. We have seen "temporary" improvements before and people in need continue to suffer from the inadequacies of the Division of Public Assistance.

Clients and other concerned citizens need to have a mechanism which works to ensure their fair and equal treatment, as well as proper administration of assistance programs. As such an entity does not now exist, our organization requests consideration of its creation.

It is our hope that, as soon as possible, a representative from your office can meet with us to consider the appointment

of a special commission, council, or board for the Division of Public Assistance. We are at your disposal as to time and place, and await word regarding such details.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Pugh, ACSW

President, Alaska Chapter of NASW



Cecilia Kleinkauf, ASCW

Chairperson, NASW

Social Action and Policy Committee

JRP:dld

cc: Frank Flavin, Ombudsman  
Francis Williamson, Commissioner of Health & Social Services  
Larry Sullivan, Director, Div. of Public Assistance  
Senators Chancy Croft, Genie Chance, John Sackett,  
and Frank Ferguson  
Representatives Susan Sullivan, Helen Beirne, and  
Kathryn Ostrosky  
Loyett Goodell, Alaska Legal Services



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

April 20, 1976

Mr. John R. Pugh, ACSW  
President, Alaska Chapter, NASW  
P.O. Box 3-3794  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Pugh:

I appreciate your expression of concern that recipients of assistance and other citizens concerned with, and affected by, the programs and operations of the Division of Public Assistance lack a formal mechanism by which the Division might recognize their problems and benefit from their suggestions. I wholeheartedly agree that the creation of a board or commission to Aid the Division in reviewing and improving its delivery of benefits is both necessary and desirable.

It was not my intent, nor was it Commissioner Williamson's intent, that the recent reorganization within the Department of Health and Social Services would or should obviate the necessity for an advisory body which could focus primarily upon public assistance programs and delivery systems. The dissolution of the Welfare Advisory Board, which had been of so much benefit to the supplanted Division of Family and Children's Services, was a result of the reorganization, and it was intended to precede and promote the development of new advisory bodies better suited to the separated functions of the newly-created Division of Social Services and Division of Public Assistance.

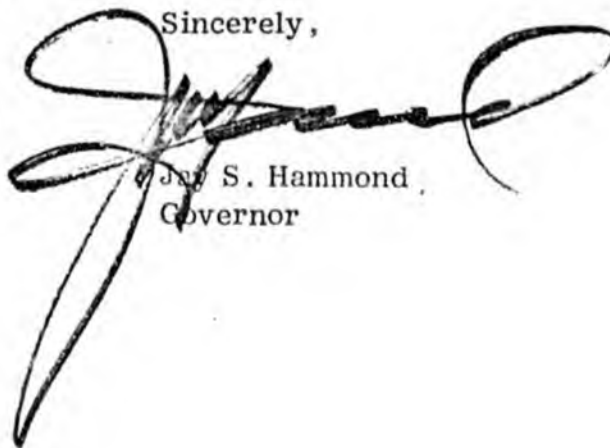
In mid-October of 1975, the Director of the Division of Public Assistance, Mr. Lawrence Sullivan, proposed to Commissioner Williamson the creation of an advisory board for his Division, and Commissioner Williamson strongly supported this proposal. However, we jointly agreed to postpone the creation of that body until completion of a review of the Department's entire operations, including those of all advisory boards, by the Governor's Management and Efficiency Review team.

That group has now completed its work, and I am reviewing its extensive recommendations. In the near future, Commissioner Williamson shall be taking steps

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to establish an advisory board for the Division of Public Assistance, and he will most certainly consider the concerns of the Alaska chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in bringing this board into existence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay S. Hammond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jay S. Hammond  
Governor