

FAMILY  
& CHILD  
SERVICES

Foster  
Homes

March 31, 1975

There is a great need for foster parents in Alaska, especially in the Anchorage area. The cost to the State for a foster home is so much less that keeping the same child at API or Hope Cottage, Inc. Foster parents are hard to recruit and hard to keep.

The Foster Parent Association of Anchorage is very concerned with what is happening with our mentally and physically handicapped children. We have been doing some research and felt that you would profit from our findings.

API - There are 29 retarded children at this unit now. All 29 of these patients could be placed in trained foster homes, if they were available. The cost of this routine care is approximately \$55.00 per day, or \$1650.00 per month. This makes a total of \$19800.00 per year. Special services such as Physical Therapy, etc. are added to this cost.

Hope Cottage, Inc. - Within the next two months, 6 children could be ready to leave the Cottage Units and go into foster homes, if they were available. The cost of care for these patients is \$22.75 per day, or \$682.50 per month. This makes a total of \$8190.00 per year.

Foster Home Care.- The cost to the State is \$176.00 for the child from birth to 13 years of age. \$247.00 for children 13-18 years of age. This rate is the same whether the child is normal or handicapped. This means that the State pays the Foster Parent of the mentally or physically handicapped foster child a total of \$2112.00 per year, for the young child and \$2964.00 per year for the teen-ager. This total covers all costs of the child except medical costs.

In recent years, we have gone before Rate Hearing Boards and explained these same facts. We have tried to show the difference in cost between keeping a normal child and one with special needs. The community is beginning to understand and accept the concept of normalization. They all understand the meaning of saving the tax dollar. Foster homes can prove a great saving to the State. These children who are now in institutions because there are no foster homes, are costing the State a great deal of money.

Now, let's get down to the greatest question of all. Why can't we recruit foster homes for these children? The number one reason is that these children take a great deal of time and extra expense compared to a normal child. If the foster parent is given a choice, they will select the normal child. In this day of inflation, the parent has a hard time keeping their head above water without adding extra expenses that a handicapped child presents, especially if the child is not legally theirs.

The State could afford to pay the foster parent double the amount that they are now paying and still save \$4014.00 over what is now being paid to Hope Cottage, Inc. and \$15,624.00 over what is now being paid to API. This makes budget sense to me.

At a time when money is scarce and our Governor has asked us all to be careful with the money spent, we would like your reaction, in writing, to this situation.

We want what is very best for the children of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Jo Darnell  
President

Anchorage Foster Parent Association  
4709 Grumman Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Copy 1 to  
George, 1 for Eric

Confidential

LAW OFFICES OF  
ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION  
318 FIFTH STREET, SUITE B  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
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MEMORANDUM

February 15, 1975

To: Sen. Hohman and Rep. Sullivan

From: Don Clocksin

Subject: Questions to be asked of Commissioner-designate of the  
Dept. of Health and Social Services

These questions are addressed primarily to programs operated by the Division of Family and Children's Services. They are fairly specific, and, as a result, cannot all be answered by a person new to the Department. However, even the unanswerable questions will serve an educational purpose. It should also be noted that the answers I'd like to hear are not necessarily the ones some legislators would like to hear.

1. Recent news reports reveal a long-term problem of inadequate staffing in the Anchorage food stamp office. Apparently, people must wait in line for hours and even days, often in the cold, in order to apply for food stamps. Will you act to solve that problem, and do you think the top staffing priority should be those people directly helping consumers or others in the beaurocratic labyrinth?
2. The Division of Family and Children Services Staff Manual, which is the basic document used to determine eligibility for DFCS programs, is not adopted pursuant to the notice and hearing provisions of the state Administrative Procedures Act (AS 44.62). Do you believe that is right? More generally, do you believe a state administrative agency has a responsibility to provide consumer input into its decision-making process?
3. On the question of citizen input, do you favor the continuation of a citizens' welfare advisory committee with access to agency information and the agency decision-making process? Do you favor the creation of a statutory committee of that type? (The present welfare advisory committee has been very effective in reviewing the activities of the DFCS and pointing out ~~XXX~~ their inadequacies.)
4. The Department of Health and Social Services has the responsibility for inspecting and licensing foster care and day care facilities. As a general rule, there are not nearly enough of those homes and centers which can satisfy the dept's requirements. It is especially difficult in rural areas where the standard of living is generally lower and the homes smaller and more substandard. However, many residents of small villages would like to be able to care for their own elderly and children in the village and not have to send them away to be cared for. If they could get their homes licensed, they could receive state reimbursement (foster care or day care payments) and be able to care for their own. What do you think about easing the requirements for

and that they should not be hassled by that additional eligibility barrier? Do you believe that women alone with children should have to go to work outside the home, or do you think that raising the children is sufficient "work" in itself? What about providing day care and other help for women who want to work outside the home but not requiring that they do so? As a philosophical matter, do you believe your primary responsibility is to the Legislature and to keeping the costs of your programs as low as possible, or to the people who depend on your programs, to see that they receive the maximum possible benefits under the law?

10. If you see a need that your agency is not satisfying, would you support legislation to satisfy that need, even though the legislation and appropriation necessary to fund it exceed the limits put upon your agency by the administration? In other words, if you are asked by this committee or another to comment on a bill affecting your agency, will your testimony reflect your belief as to the need for the bill or will other considerations apply?

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

8. 62?  
cost of care

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

POUCH H - JUNEAU 99801

April 11, 1975

The Honorable George Hohman  
Chairman, Senate Health, Education &  
Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Hohman:

Pursuant to AS 47.05.010 (14), the Department of Health and Social Services held public meetings (rate hearings) in February 1975. The Department is herewith complying with that portion of the statute requiring that the proposed levels of care and rates of payment be submitted to the Legislature annually, while in session. The proposed rates for Institutional Care and Foster Care, and the proposed Levels of Care are attached.

The proposed institutional rates are based on reported expenditures and occupancy for the institutions during the period July 1 through December 31, 1974, plus an 11.56 percent cost of living and incremental salary increase allowance. These rates are subject to adjustment when the entire FY 1975 expenditure and occupancy figures are known.

The proposed foster home rates are based on the FY 1975 rate, plus a 10 percent cost of living allowance. In addition, based on testimony given at the rate hearings, a third age level rate has been developed. The "twelve and below" group from past years has been divided to age groups "five and below" and "six through twelve." The new age grouping should more accurately reimburse foster parents for costs incurred on behalf of the foster children in their care.

The following table contains the funding identification for institutional care within the Governor's Budget Request:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Program (BRU)</u>	<u>Governor's Budget Request</u>
Family and Children Services	Program Services	\$1,620,100
Family and Children Services	Protective Services	104,500
Corrections	Juvenile Confinement	1,101,000
Mental Health	Contract Institution	846,100
		<u>\$3,671,700</u>

George Hohman  
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The budget contains funds for foster care projected expenditures.

Attached for your information are tables indicating the three items specified in the statute for this report: (1) Proposed Institutional rates; (2) Proposed rates of payment, foster homes; (3) Proposed Levels of Care.

Sincerely,

*Francis S. Williamson*  
Francis S. L. Williamson  
Commissioner

PROPOSED LEVELS OF CARE  
INSTITUTIONS

1. Basic Level of Care

Purpose of this level is to provide the following:

1. Lodging shall meet the requirements of health and safety code pursuant to Institution regulation 7AAC50.028.
2. Food availability, quality and preparation to comply with Institution regulation 7AAC50.066.
3. Clothing shall comply with Institution regulation 7AAC50.068.
4. Educational provisions shall comply with Institution regulation 7AAC50.072.
5. Transportation shall be limited to routine family use.
  - A. Program Travel Transportation and escorting of children that is an integral part of program while the child is residing in the facility is the responsibility of the applicable facility. This stipulation excludes travel on commercial transportation.
  - B. Transportation and Escorting for Reasons of Transfer
    1. The Department of Health and Social Services will provide transportation and escorting for all children traveling on commercial transportation and all transfer of children that warrants travel outside the population area in which the child resides or is housed at the time of transfer.
    2. Private facilities will transport and escort all transferring children if travel is restricted to the population area in which the private facility exists.
6. Recreational activities shall comply with Institution regulation 7AAC50.074 and 7AAC50.082(c).
7. Family services shall include residential care to fulfill the needs of children placed in a facility offering this level of care.
8. Medical and Dental
  - A. It is the responsibility of the institution to maintain and promote the health of the children for whom it assumes responsibility, and to make provision for the care and treatment for children who are ill.

B. Each child shall have an annual physical and dental examination and booster immunization as recommended by the physician or health department.

C. The institution shall provide for prompt medical or dental care in cases of suspected illness and emergency situations.

9. Full utilization of applicable state services.

10. Active participation with organizations in the community for the social and cultural development of the individual.

11. Limited contractual services as determined by the Department of Health and Social Services.

## II. Intermediate Level of Care

This level of care includes all services in the Basic Level of Care, plus providing contractual and state supplied service for those children needing more than emergency and routine care.

## III. Specialized Level of Care

This level of care includes all services included in Levels 1 and 2, plus those required to meet the specialized needs of the individuals as determined by professional evaluations. Only those services which cannot be provided directly by the State of Alaska shall be provided within the private care facility.

STATE OF ALASKA  
IN-STATE FOSTER AND GROUP FOSTER HOMES  
RATE SCHEDULE  
(Effective July 1, 1975)

		JUNEAU AREA (SE)		KETCHIKAN AREA (SE) <sup>3</sup>		SOUTHCENTRAL AREA		NORTHERN AREA <sup>4</sup>	
		<u>F O S T E R H O M E S</u>							
		<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
5 & Under	(Month) (Day)	\$180.00 5.92	\$198.00 6.51	\$176.00 5.79	\$194.00 5.38	\$176.00 5.79	\$194.00 6.38	\$187.00 6.15	\$206.00 6.77
6 Thru 12	(Month) (Day)		240.00 7.89		233.00 7.66		233.00 7.65		248.00 8.15
13 & Over	(Month) (Day)	255.00 8.38	281.00 9.24	247.00 8.12	272.00 8.94	247.00 8.12	272.00 8.94	263.00 8.65	289.00 9.50

- NOTES:
1. New rates represent a 10% C.O.L.A. over FY 1975 rates.
  2. Monthly rates x (12/365) = Daily rates
  3. Includes Petersburg, Kake and Wrangell
  4. Includes Bethel
  5. The rate schedule includes a new age grouping, 6 through 12 years, to more accurately reflect costs for this age group.
  6. The above rate schedule is applicable only to foster parents residing in Alaska. The rates to be paid foster parents residing in the contiguous United States will be the same rate paid by the city, state, or county Welfare Department in which the foster parent resides.
  7. The new rates apply to the geographic location (city or regional area) of the foster parent--not to the District or Region to which the case is assigned. The mailing address of the foster parent is the determining factor in all questionable cases.
  8. Crippled and handicapped children placed in foster homes by the MCH program of Division of Public Health are exempt from provisions of above schedule. Foster parents caring for these special category short-term placements will be authorized \$9.27 per day per child without regard to age in the Southeastern and Southcentral regions. The rate of \$10.00 will be paid in the Northern Region.

COST OF CARE  
COST PROJECTIONS FOR FY 75/76

<u>Name of Home</u>	<u>Rate FY 1975</u>	<u>Projected Rate FY 1976*</u>
Alaska Children's Services		
Aquarius	\$22.50	\$41.29
North Star	21.35	26.37
Colletti	26.46	29.52
Jesse Lee	36.61	40.78
Emergency Shelter	42.47	49.85
Alaskan Youth Village	22.67	31.47
Bethel Receiving Home	20.21	22.55
Booth Memorial Home	33.62	46.28
Hilltop Home	27.45	33.79
Hope Center	37.67	35.53
Sheffield House	20.03	23.52
Hope Cottage - Program A	22.75	25.38
Hope Cottage - Program B	24.06	27.78
Jesuit Volunteer Group Home	28.28	31.55
Juneau Receiving Home	23.15	32.24
Juneau Teen Home for Boys	21.68	24.19
Juneau Teen Home for Girls	24.87	31.38
Kenai Community Care Center	29.94	37.26
Ketchikan Receiving Home	24.61	36.31
Ketchikan Teen Home	26.54	36.45
Kodiak Baptist Mission	11.07	12.35
North Star - Dot Lake	13.30	19.90
Presbyterian Hospitality House	30.85	61.06
Rec. & Transition Ctr. (Hillcrest)	29.30	35.57
Turning Point Boys Ranch	36.02	42.29
Weighted Average Daily Rate	27.44	33.89

\* Includes 1.56% increase for Cost of Living Allowance