

HICR

16

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

File

(11)

Date Referred: April 7, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/30/90

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HCR 16

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

[MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM: U OF A]

Supporting the establishment of a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Alaska.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with CS HCR 16 (HESS) the same title
- have attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: _____ (Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact _____
- zero fiscal note _____
- zero with analysis U of A

- fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not Pass No Rec Amend

Hoffman

Swackhammer

Browin

Ulmer

Rieger

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
_____ Lanson		X	
_____ Phillips		X	
_____ Barnes		X	

Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Supporting the Establishment of a Agency Affected: University of Alaska
Program Leading to a Master of Social Work BRU: UAA
 Sponsor: Degree. HESS Committee
 Requestor: Rep. Niilo Koponen Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES		66.2	212.4	212.4	212.4	212.4
TRAVEL		7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
CONTRACTUAL		5.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
SUPPLIES		2.5	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
EQUIPMENT		2.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	82.7	250.4	250.4	250.4	250.4

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	82.7	250.4	250.4	250.4	250.4
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	82.7	250.4	250.4	250.4	250.4

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	1	4	4	4	4
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY		12	42	42	42	42

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

(See Attached)

Prepared by: Marsha Hubbard Phone: 474-7593
 Division: Budget Development Date: 3/19/90

Approved by Commissioner: Brian Roers Date: 3/19/90
 Agency: University of Alaska

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

CSHCR 16 (HESS)
 Master of Social Work Budget
 Proposed Year 1 Increment - Preparation
 FY92

Salary/Benefits:

1 Full Professor	\$ 50.0	
Benefits at 32.3%	16.2	

Total Salary Increments		\$ 66.2
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Travel:

In-state Travel		
(Site visitation and coordination; possible sites include: Fairbanks, Juneau, Dillingham, Bethel, Kenai, Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Valdez)	4.0	

Out-of-state Travel		
(C.S.W.Z. Conference)	3.0	

7.0

Contractual Services:

(In-state communication costs)	2.0	
Consultant		
(2 week visit by one consultant)	3.0	

5.0

Library Acquisitions:

(Journal subscriptions; specialized books and research materials)		2.5
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Video Equipment:		2.0
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Total MSW Year 1 Increment		\$ 82.7
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CSHCR 16 (HESS)
 Master of Social Work Budge:
 Proposed Year 2 Increment - Planning and Implementing
 FY93 - FY96

<u>Salary/Benefits:</u>		
Director (Full Professor)	\$ 50.0	
2 Associate Professors	84.0	
Benefits at 32.3%	43.3	
Secretarial Support	24.0	
Benefits at 25.3%	6.1	
Adjunct Instructors	<u>5.0</u>	
Total Salary Increments		\$ 212.4
<u>Travel:</u>		
In-state Travel		
(Sitka visitation/coordination possibly at Fairbanks, Juneau, Diillingham, Bethel, Kenai, Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Valdez)		
	4.0	
Out-of-state Travel		
(C.S.W.Z. Conference)		
	<u>4.0</u>	
Total		8.0
<u>Contractual Services:</u>		
(In-state communication costs)	2.0	
Consultant	3.0	
Office Space	5.0	
Candidacy Dues, C.S.W.I.	<u>1.0</u>	
Total		11.0
<u>Library Acquisitions:</u>		
(Journal subscriptions; specialized books and research materials)		
	12.0	
<u>Commodities:</u>		
	<u>2.0</u>	
Total		14.0
<u>Computer Equipment:</u>		
	<u>5.0</u>	
Total MSW Year 2 Increments		<u>\$250.4</u>

Offered: 4/7/89
Referred: Finance

6-0734E

Original sponsor: Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

Zero/A - 03A

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Supporting the establishment of a pro-
6 gram leading to a Master of Social Work
7 degree at the University of Alaska.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS there is a substantial need for a program leading to a Master
10 of Social Work degree (MSW) in the state, as evidenced by the most recent
11 assessment conducted by Dr. Diane Bernard, who was formerly with the Coun-
12 cil of Social Work Education and is eminently qualified to conduct this
13 type of assessment; and

14 WHEREAS, of the 18 agencies in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau that
15 were contacted as part of the assessment, 16 indicated that there was an
16 immediate need for state-trained master social workers to provide basic
17 social work services, including rural, cross-cultural, mental health, and
18 substance abuse services; and

19 WHEREAS social workers are specifically trained to address rural,
20 cross-cultural, mental health, and substance abuse issues and are trained
21 to bring resources in line with human needs; and

22 WHEREAS state agencies, particularly the division of mental health and
23 developmental disabilities and the division of family and youth services in
24 the Department of Health and Social Services, have expressed a desperate
25 need for additional qualified social workers; and

26 WHEREAS, in a follow-up study of Bachelor of Social Work graduates
27 from the University of Alaska, 60 percent wanted to pursue a MSW and would
28 prefer to obtain that degree in the state; and

29 WHEREAS an advisory committee composed of representatives of the
HCR016B

1 University of Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services, Native
2 organizations, students, private practitioners, and state legislators was
3 created to address the feasibility of a program leading to the MSW degree
4 in the state, and that committee recommended the implementation of the
5 program;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the addition
7 of a program leading to the Master in Social Work degree to the University
8 of Alaska and encourages the University of Alaska to initiate the develop-
9 ment and implementation of that program as expeditiously as possible.
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UNIV. OF ALASKA
 Master of Social Work Budget
 Year 1 Increment - Preparation
 FY 1991

<u>Salary/Benefits:</u>	
1 Full Professor:	\$50,000
Benefits @ 32.3%	16,150
 Total Salary Increment:	 \$66,150
 <u>Consultants:</u>	 3,000
(2-wk visit by one consultant)	
 <u>Library Acquisitions:</u>	 2,300
(Journal subscriptions; specialized books and research materials)	
 <u>Video Equipment:</u>	 2,000
 <u>Contractual Services:</u>	 2,000
(in-state communication costs)	
 <u>In-state Travel:</u>	 4,000
(Site visitation and coordination; possible sites include: Fairbanks, Juneau, Dillingham, Bethel, Kenai, Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Valdez)	
 <u>Out-of-state Travel:</u>	 3,000
(C.S.W.E. conference)	
 Total MSW Year 1 Increment:	 \$82,650

NOTE: This increment affects M.S.W. Program only. Does not include costs for continuing the B.S.W. Program (see Proposed BSW continuation budget).

Master of Social Work Budget
 Year 2 Increment - Planning and Implementing
 FY 91

<u>Salary/Benefits:</u>	
Director: (Full Professor)	\$50,000
2 Associate Professors:	84,000
Benefits @ 32.3%	43,292
Secretarial Support:	24,000
Benefits @ 25.3%	6,072
Adjunct Instructors:	5,000
Total Salary Increments:	\$212,354
<u>Consultant:</u>	3,000
<u>Library Acquisitions:</u>	12,000
(Journal subscriptions; specialized books and research materials)	
<u>Computer Equipment:</u>	5,000
<u>Office Space:</u>	5,000
Costs and Equipment	
<u>Contractual Services:</u>	2,000
(in-state communication costs)	
<u>Commodities:</u>	2,000
<u>Candidacy Dues, C.S.W.E.:</u>	1,000
<u>In-state Travel:</u>	4,000
(Site visitation/coordination possibly at Fairbanks, Juneau, Dillingham, Bethel, Kenai, Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Valdez)	
<u>Out-of-state Travel:</u>	4,000
(C.S.W.E. conference)	
Total MSW Year 2 Increment:	\$250,354

NOTE: This increment affects M.S.W. Program only. Does not include costs for continuing the B.S.W. Program (see Proposed BSW continuation budget).

Bachelor of Social Work Budget
Continuation Level
FY 90

Salary/Benefits:

1 Associate Professor:	\$42,120	
3 Assistant Professors:	99,964	
Benefits at 32.3%:	45,893	
Secretary (60% time):	19,763	
Benefits at 25.3%:	5,000	
Adjunct Instructors: 4/year	5,000	
Total Salary and Benefits:		\$217,740

Consultants: -0-

Library Acquisitions: -0-

Equipment: -0-
(provided by CAS Dean as needed)

Supplies: 1,986

Contractual Services and Dues: 4,171

Travel: -0-
(provided by CAS Dean as needed)

Total FY 90 BSW Budget: \$223,897

POSITION PAPER

House Concurrent Resolution No. 16

Supporting the establishment of a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Alaska.

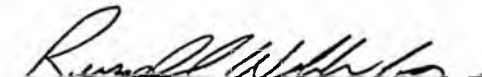
The Department of Health and Social Services is in support of this resolution to develop a Masters of Social Work program at the University of Alaska.

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) is the primary division in the department employing social workers. Of approximately 160 social worker positions within the division, less than half are filled with persons holding a masters in social work degree (MSW). Staff without an MSW must leave the state in order to pursue that degree. The necessity to leave Alaska has deterred many staff from seeking that advanced degree. Of those who leave the state to further their education, a percentage do not return. In addition, we believe an in-state MSW program will assist significantly with increasing the number of Native social workers.

With budget reductions, many child welfare/child protection agencies have been forced to discontinue programs that provided staff the opportunity to return to school to pursue an advanced degree. DFYS' program was discontinued in 1979. If an MSW program were developed in Alaska, DFYS will enable and encourage interested staff to "job share", work part-time, or attend evening classes to obtain their degrees. In addition, DFYS would designate two to five positions in the DFYS office in Anchorage as "rotation" positions, to be filled by staff from other locations who wish to temporarily transfer into Anchorage in order to continue working and attend school part-time. Both of these measures will encourage staff to remain in the state, receive additional training and a degree and, most importantly, improve the services provided to children in state custody. The additional time to further increase knowledge in a chosen profession creates better qualified professionals and avoids burn out and departure from the chosen field of work.

The Director of DFYS is presently a member of the MSW advisory committee at UAA, and the Department will continue to support the University's efforts in this area.

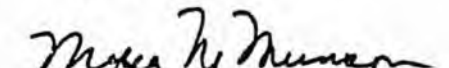
RECOMMENDED:


Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

3/10/89

APPROVED:


Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

3/10/89



Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 140651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508




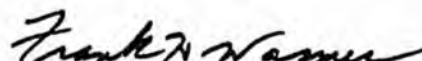
POSITION PAPER HCR 16 ESTABLISHMENT OF MSW PROGRAM

The Alaska Foster Parent Association strongly supports the passage of HCR 16 as a positive step in increasing the level of knowledge and expertise among social workers in Alaska.

If we are to have community based programs in mental health, substance abuse and child protection, it is necessary to provide educational and employment opportunities to our young people. We are in particular need of greater involvement of Native Alaskans and any impediment to education and advanced degrees that we can remove, can only enhance the opportunities available. By keeping Alaskans in Alaska for education, we will promote their return to their home communities to build knowledgeable community-based services and combine the best of both worlds--local, ethnic priorities with educated, knowledgeable service personnel.

Another possible benefit could be the research resulting from advanced studies. We are quite sure that there will be a great deal of academic curiosity directed toward issues of local interest as well as how social issues in Alaska may be similar or different from related issues in other states


Miriam Sumner
President


Frank H. Wasmer
Vice President

*Please distribute to
House HESS Ctm. Members*

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION
c/o David C. Wagner, Ed.D.
215 Fidalgo Street, Suite 102
Kenai, AK 99611

March 10, 1989

House Health, Education and
Social Service Committee
House of Representative
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801


Gentlemen/Ladies:

The Alaska Mental Health Program Directors Association supports the development of a Master of Social Work Degree Program at the University of Alaska for the following reasons:

1. Alaska's unique cultural diversity requires specially trained professionals to meet the emotional, psychological and psychosocial needs of many indigenous ethnic groups within the state. Social workers trained to understand the traditional values, customs and subsistence-based lifestyles of Native groups is essential.
2. Geographic characteristics and climate are important factors that deserve special attention. Mental Health professionals in Alaska must understand the impact climate and isolation make on emotional/psychological wellbeing.
3. Alaska has a shortage of mental health professionals. The problem is especially acute in rural areas. This is due, in part, to lower 48 perceptions of Alaska as a state with a dwindling economy, an undesirable climate, and limited opportunities for professional growth. Over the last several years, mental health centers in Alaska have spent considerable time and money to "sell" Alaska and recruit social workers to the state. This has been done with little success. An in-state MSW Program would provide training which is cost effective and culturally unique.

On behalf of the Alaska Mental Health Program Directors Association, I urge you to support the establishment of an MSW Program at the University of Alaska. Such a program is essential in providing quality care to Alaskans in need of social work services.

For the Alaska Mental Health Program Directors Association, I am


David C. Wagner, Ed.D.
Vice Chairman



ALASKA CHAPTER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL WORKERS

8923 Tanis Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 789-7099

Executive Director
William Diebels, ACSW

March 9, 1990

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cheryl Mann, ACSW
Anchorage

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Juneau

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Douglas

WESTERN REGION
Daniel Bill, MSW
Bethel

AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE
Melinda Glass, ACSW
Bethel

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Karen Rothgery
Fairbanks

Representative Ron Larson
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
PO Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Larson:

The National Association of Social Workers, Alaska Chapter is concerned that HCR 16 be passed. This resolution acknowledges the need for an MSW program in the state of Alaska and urges the University of Alaska to develop such a program in a timely manner. The need for Alaska trained social workers is great. I have taken the liberty of enclosing copies of letters of support received by the social work department so that you will understand this as support beyond NASW.

While a fiscal note might hasten the time line for an MSW to be offered in the state, the most important reason for passing the resolution is to show the University that the legislature is also concerned about social issues and problems and encourages the University to offer the MSW.

Sincerely,

William Diebels, LCSW

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
Resolution 90-1

Resolution in Support of the Development
of a Masters of Social Work Program
at the University of Alaska.

Whereas, there is no Master of Social Work (MSW) degree available in the State of Alaska; and

Whereas, agencies and programs across the State consistently indicate a preference for locally trained MSWs, rather than those who obtain their degree "outside", acknowledge that persons trained outside the State are not as likely to be knowledgeable and sensitive to issues especially relevant to Alaska's diverse, multi-cultural populations; and

Whereas, Alaska is well above the national average for many health and social problems; and there is a high demand for professionally trained social workers in mental health, child welfare, and domestic violence;

Now therefore be it resolved that,

The Alaska Mental Health Board endorses the development of a MSW program at the University of Alaska..

Approved February 24, 1990

Voting Yes (Graf, Iden, Lobaugh, Mead, Page, Rothrock, Watson, Tucker, Ozenna)

Voting No (none)

Thelma P. Langdon
Thelma Langdon, Chair

Sharron Lobaugh
Sharron Lobaugh, Sec./Treas.

Norma Sue Layton 2/24/90
my commission expires
11/21/1993



March 2, 1990

From: Leonard Abel, Ph.D.
Division of Mental Health
and Developmental Disabilities
Program Administrator

Comments Re: UAA MSW Program

The Alaska public mental health system has approximately 175 mental health professionals at the masters or doctoral level.

Of these, one is an Alaska Native with an MSW. Fewer than 10 were born in Alaska. 75-80% have been on the job less than 5 years.

The professionals come to Alaska with no real understanding of the realities of Alaska geography, life styles, or the Native cultures or languages. A large percentage are hired by phone, without even seeing the state. They arrive with no preparation for the geographic and social isolation, extremes of weather, light cycles, and lack of customary amenities. The average stay in rural Alaska is less than two years. The high turnover causes the communities to not trust the mental health system.

The UAA MSW Program would help to solve these problems:

1. It would attract Alaskans for training, people who understand the realities of the State.
2. It would help decrease the turnover rate and improve the community acceptance of the mental health system.
3. It would attract Alaska Natives to become mental health professionals.

POSITION PAPER

House Concurrent Resolution No. 16

Supporting the establishment of a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Alaska.

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With budget reductions, many child welfare/child protection agencies have been forced to discontinue programs that provided staff the opportunity to return to school to pursue an advanced degree. DFYS' program was discontinued in 1979. If an MSW program were developed in Alaska, DFYS will enable and encourage interested staff to "job share", work part-time, or attend evening classes to obtain their degrees. In addition, DFYS would designate two to five positions in the DFYS office in Anchorage as "rotation" positions, to be filled by staff from other locations who wish to temporarily transfer into Anchorage in order to continue working and attend school part-time. Both of these measures will encourage staff to remain in the state, receive additional training and a degree and, most importantly, improve the services provided to children in state custody. The additional time to further increase knowledge in a chosen profession creates better qualified professionals and avoids burn out and departure from the chosen field of work.

The Director of DFYS is presently a member of the MSW advisory committee at UAA, and the Department will continue to support the University's efforts in this area.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

2/20/89

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

3/10/89

Valdez
Tatitlek
Eyak

Chenege
Seward

English Bay
Port Graham

the north pacific rim

March 16, 1989

Eileen M. Lally, Ed.D., A.C.S.W.
Assistant Professor and Chair
Social Work Department
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3221 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Eileen:

I represent The North Pacific Rim. I have been asked to write this letter of support for the MSW program at the University of Alaska.

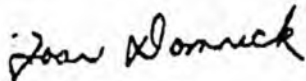
We utilize MSWs in our Family Services program. We run advertisements, locally and statewide, to obtain MSWs for our agency; however, we have had minimal response, and have had to use people in other fields for staffing.

This is very costly for our agency and results in depriving our clients of needed services, both financially and in staff support.

We urge you to support the resolution for an MSW program for our state. A program in Alaska could be helpful and financially beneficial for our agency.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours, .



Joan Donnick, Deputy Director
Health & Social Services

The Family and Children's Clinic

381 SO DENALI ST., SUITE A
PALMER, ALASKA 99648

10071 748-3327

KENNETH P. FALLON JR. M.S.W., ACSW.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
CHERYL P. MITCHELL M.S.W.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
MARY DALL M.S.W.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

CHRISTOPHER L. DATTAN MD
PSYCHIATRIST
PATRICIA SANDBERG M.A.
THERAPIST
CHRISTINE CHILDERS, PH.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

March 13, 1989

Eileen M. Lally, Ed.D., A.C.S.W.
Assistant Professor and Chair
Social Work Department
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3221 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Dr. Lally:

I am writing to support the University of Alaska's efforts to establish a Master's Degree program in Social Work. In my opinion, there is a need to provide in-state M.S.W. education and a need for qualified social service workers in mental health and child welfare.

As a Clinical Social Worker who had to leave the state for two school years to pursue and complete my M.S.W., I can attest to the fact that it was a very expensive and complicated process; my 11 year old daughter went with me to the University of Southern California, my husband stayed in Alaska, and my 18 year old son went to his freshman year at the University of Arkansas. Very few of my classmates who graduated from the University of Alaska-Anchorage's Bachelor of Social Work program have been fortunate enough to have been able to go 'outside' to complete the M.S.W. degree.

After my junior year in college, I worked as a Child Protective Service Worker and agency director of two counties, in another state. My experience there taught me that working in child protective service appears to be an area where the Social Worker needs to have the most skill and training, because mistakes can result in the injury or death of a child. I feel that requiring an M.S.W. with special training in child protective service should be a requirement for this position. It would be very difficult to require an M.S.W. for this position without in-state

Eileen M. Lally, Ed.D., A.C.S.W.

Page 2

March 30, 1989

education being available. None of the State of Alaska child protective workers in Palmer have an M.S.W. degree.

In Palmer, there are staff vacancies for M.S.W. degree Social Workers at many of the social service agencies, including the Pioneer Home, and Mental Health Clinics.

In my opinion, an in-state M.S.W. degree program would be helpful in addressing the staff vacancy problem in social work, would provide continuing education for myself and others, and would increase the quality of service to clients.

I would be willing to offer my help in supporting the proposed M.S.W. program at the University of Alaska by being a member of an Advisory Committee, helping to gather data, or providing field instruction or supervision.

Thank you for your kind attention in hearing my comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cheryl F. Mitchell, M.S.W.

Cheryl F. Mitchell, M.S.W.
Clinical Social Worker



CENTRAL PENINSULA COUNSELING SERVICES
215 Fidalgo Street - Suite 102 - Kenai, Alaska 99611 - (907) 283-7501

January 26, 1989

Eileen Lally, Ed.D.
Department of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3611 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Master Social Work Proposal

Dear Dr. Lally:

This letter is to provide my endorsement for an M.S.W. Program at the UAA Department of Social Work. As a member of the Social Work profession who has lived in Alaska for two years, it has surprised me to find that there are so few M.S.W.'s in the area. As a mental health professional who has on occasion a responsibility to recruit therapists to work at our Center, I have found myself frustrated that there are so few professionals with the appropriate educational background who can be recruited for our work.

An M.S.W. Program in the State of Alaska would assist the social work profession in developing a professional organization that could ultimately have a more far-reaching impact upon the public policy that is established in Alaska. This would be of benefit not only to social workers, but also to the entire arena of social programs in this state. Beyond that, a master's level clinical social work program would help to reduce the state monies which are spent upon recruitment, interviewing, and relocation of trained professionals from the Lower 48.

I believe that it would be in the interest of the people of this state for an M.S.W. Program to be located at UAA. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in establishing such a program.

Sincerely,

William Galic, A.C.S.W.
Clinician II

WG:va



CENTRAL PENINSULA COUNSELING SERVICES

215 Fidalgo Street - Suite 102 - Kenai, Alaska 99611 - (907) 283-7501

January 24, 1989

Eileen Lally, Ed.D.
Department of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3611 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Proposed Social Work
Masters Degree Program

Dear Dr. Lally:

On behalf of Central Peninsula Counseling Services, I wish to express support for UAA endeavors to establish a Masters Degree Program in Social Work. Based on my work as Executive Director of a community mental health center, I believe such a program would prove to be indispensable in providing trained, qualified Social Work professionals to meet the overwhelming mental health needs of Alaskans.

I wish you the best and urge that you indicate to University officials that establishment of an MSW program is essential in providing quality care to Alaskans in need of social work services.

Sincerely,

David C. Wagner, Ed.D.
Executive Director

DCW:va

Alaska Native Health Board

1345 RUDAKOF CIRCLE, SUITE 206 ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99508

PHONE (907) 337-0028

April 25, 1989

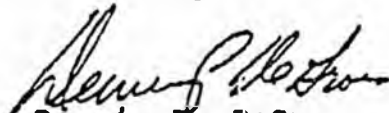
Ms. Eileen Lally
Department of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3311 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

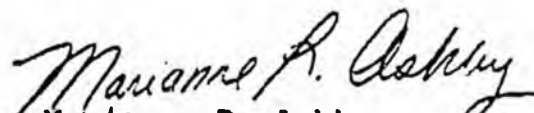
Dear Eileen:

We would like to offer this letter as a way of demonstrating our support for the efforts of the University of Alaska to establish a Masters Degree in social work. Due to the critical need that exists for additional training of Alaska Native people in all health care and helping professionals we view the establishment of an MSW program as a positive step. In fact, because of the magnitude of social and health care problems, particularly, in rural areas we believe there is an urgent need to make available in state formal education capabilities.

The additional stress incurred by individuals and families related to temporary relocation outside the state for educational purposes inhibits many from seeking higher degrees. If the University were able to train local people especially Alaska Natives some of the unmet needs that presently exist could be addressed in a more effective way. Naturally, the Alaska Native Health Board will continue to provide on-going support by accepting Alaska Native students in our agency in order to meet the requirements of their field placement. Please let us know if we can be of any further help.

Sincerely,


Dennis F. McGross
Executive Director


Marianne R. Ashby
Health Planner

MRA/dlr



4201 Tudor Centre Drive
Suite #115
Anchorage, Alaska

June 7, 1989

The University of Alaska
School of Social Work
3221 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Re: Support for MSW Program

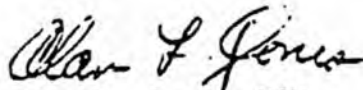
It is my understanding that efforts are currently under way to develop a MSW Program in addition to the BSW Program and I certainly want to give my full support to your efforts in this area.

I am currently the Team Leader of the Anchorage Veterans Resource Center and am very supportive of your BSW Program. I would be equally supportive of your MSW Program. I would certainly be willing to have students in field placement at our Center.

Employment opportunities for qualified MSW Program graduates will only continue to improve in this area. We are currently looking for a MSW to work in our PTSD Program.

Please use this letter, my name and agency, or any other assistance that we might be able to provide toward the goal of developing a MSW Program in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Alan L. Jones, MSW

TOK AREA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

P.O. BOX 398 TOK, ALASKA 99780
(907) 883-5106



February 1, 1990

Dr. Eileen Lally
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3221 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Eileen,

I am writing to support your effort to develop a Master in Social Work program in Alaska.

It is evident to me that such a program will need to begin soon if Alaska is going to attempt to keep pace with the National level of Social Service delivery.

I do hope that second year students will have an opportunity to serve in a rural location to complete their practicum.

We currently have a BSW Intern serving in our agency through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and we are very pleased with this arrangement.

I look forward to hearing about your program progress. If I can be of further assistance please call on me.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Winchell, ACSW
Executive Director

Southcentral Foundation



March 30, 1989

Ms. Eileen M. Lally, ED.D., A.C.S.W.
Assistant Professor and Chair
Social Work Department
University of Alaska
3221 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. Lally:

I am writing this letter to strongly endorse the University of Alaska's efforts to establish a Master of Social Work Program.

As the Executive Director of an Alaska Native non-profit health corporation, I am excited about the prospect of an MSW program in Alaska. The Southcentral Foundation hires counselors in several of our programs and we are often frustrated at the lack of MSW's familiar with Alaska and its culture.

It is my hope the University of Alaska will be successful in obtaining the funds to initiate this program.

If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rinna E. Mercurieff
Executive Director

Jean A. Wilson, MSW
Yukon-Tanana Mental Health Program
P.O. Box 77049
Tanana, Alaska 99777

March 15, 1989

Fileen Lally, Ed.D., ACSW
Assistant Professor and Chair
Social Work Department
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3221 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

To Whom It May Concern,

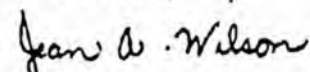
I am writing this letter to support the University of Alaska's efforts to establish a Master's Degree Program in Social Work. Due to the increasing costs of a higher education, the need for a program in social work is great, as well as an educational opportunity for people in Alaska's Special Districts.

Our community (Yukon-Tanana Sub-region) has particular need of services providing for alcohol and drug counseling and rehabilitation, suicide care, self-harm, mental health problems, and crisis intervention especially relating to family violence, sexual abuse (adult and children) and depression/suicide with the Alaskan natives. As a Clinical Social Worker, I feel there are many unmet needs for many clients because of the lack of qualified staff knowledgeable and educated about Native customs and culture.

The Yukon-Tanana Mental Health Program can provide field work placement sites as well as provide a MSW field instructor.

Thank you for this opportunity to support and respond to a well worth project. I remain,

Sincerely,


Jean A. Wilson



**ALASKA CHAPTER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL WORKERS**

8923 Tanis Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 789-7099

Executive Director
William Diebels, ACSW

March 2, 1990

Rep. Ron Larson, Co-Chairman
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative Larson:

The Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) enthusiastically supports HCR 16 supporting the establishment of a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Alaska.

NASW is the professional organization of social workers in Alaska and has nearly 350 members in 41 communities throughout the state.

A recent study by L. Diane Bernard, Ph.D. confirms the feasibility and need of graduate level social work training in Alaska. I would like to add or emphasize a couple of items:

1. Most master's level social workers (MSWs) are recruited from outside the state without the knowledge and sensitivity about Alaskan problems and issues, particularly the rural situation. I am a good example of this. I came to Alaska in 1964 with an MSW and several years of experience and I want to tell you that the skill I brought in working with Milwaukee urbanites did not transfer very quickly to Angoon and Yakutat.

We would be leaps ahead if we trained local people locally. Not only would the students be sensitive to Alaskan problems, but the curriculum would focus appropriately.

Nearly half of graduate training involves intensely supervised field work. There's a double payoff here. The students are exposed to our issues and a service is being given that wouldn't be available if the students were at the University of Washington for example.

2. The recent licensure of social workers in the state requires an MSW. A license is only required by law for private practice but social agencies, including Native groups are beginning to require an Alaskan license as their own standard.

The unfortunate thing for the Native organizations as well as all state agencies is that there are few MSW Native Alaskans to recruit. Social work is in the same boat as teachers -- maybe worse. Only 1% of our members are Native Alaskans. A state MSW program with relevancy to Native issues would surely begin to correct this imbalance.

Sincerely,

William Diebels, LCSW



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on CSHCR 16, dated March 2, 1990.
 bill/subject

Alaska Mental Health Board Resolution 90-1, attached, endorses the development of a MSW program at the University of Alaska. That endorsement is consistent with CSHCR 16. The Board's resolution follows logically from the AMHB Position Paper on Mental Health Human Resource Development (attached) adopted in December, 1988 and provided to legislators as an appendix to the board's Calendar year 1988 annual report.

Signed: Dennis M. Scholl, Ph.D. Dennis M. Scholl, Ph.D.
 Testifier Executive Director

Alaska Mental Health Board

Representing (Optional)

419 5th Street, Suite 124, Juneau, AK 99801

Address

465-3071

Phone No.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
Resolution 90-1

Resolution in Support of the Development
of a Masters of Social Work Program
at the University of Alaska.

Whereas, there is no Master of Social Work (MSW) degree available in the State of Alaska; and

Whereas, agencies and programs across the State consistently indicate a preference for locally trained MSWs, rather than those who obtain their degree "outside", acknowledge that persons trained outside the State are not as likely to be knowledgeable and sensitive to issues especially relevant to Alaska's diverse, multi-cultural populations; and

Whereas, Alaska is well above the national average for many health and social problems; and there is a high demand for professionally trained social workers in mental health, child welfare, and domestic violence;

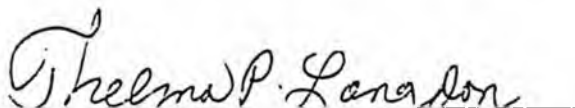
Now therefore be it resolved that,


The Alaska Mental Health Board endorses the development of a MSW program at the University of Alaska.

Approved February 24, 1990

Voting Yes (Graf, Iden, Lobaugh, Mead, Page, Rothrock, Watson, Tucker, Ozenna)

Voting No (none)


Thelma Langdon, Chair


Sharron Lobaugh, Sec./Treas.

APPENDIX C

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

POSITION PAPER
Human Resource Development Issues

Alaska's size, geography, and cultural diversity have created unique problems in all areas of human service delivery. There are parallel, reoccurring, thorny problems associated with delivery of health care, education, social services, law enforcement, and most kinds of technical assistance in Alaska. Although these problems are most apparent in rural areas, they are not confined to the bush. They affect services in all areas of the state.

Alaska has historically relied on out of state institutions to supply the state with mental health professionals. While the population was small and the needs were few, this was acceptable. Alaska's population has grown to the point that there is now a need and a demand for locally developed human services programs. In addition, over the last several years, there has been a growing awareness of Alaska's unique problems and a recognition of the need for programs that address these problems.

Alaska has many of the same mental health human resource needs seen in other areas of the nation. Alaska needs people trained to work with the chronically mentally ill, including the special needs of children, youth, and those in forensic institutions, the dually diagnosed (i.e. mentally ill and alcoholic), the elderly, the developmentally disabled, etc..

Overlaid over this are significant cultural differences between Alaska's Native and non-Native populations and life style differences between Alaska's rural and urban areas. These differences create unusual circumstances for most service providers who move to Alaska from out of state.

Mental health professionals who move here to live and work in Alaska's urban areas must make some adjustments and learn varying amounts about Alaska's cultural diversity depending on their situation. Mental health professionals who relocate from the "lower 48" to rural Alaska virtually step off the plane into another country. Not only must they make significant adjustments to their physical surroundings, they must also attempt

AMHB Annual Report 1988

to provide mental health services to people whose cultures and languages are foreign. They receive varying degrees of orientation, but no significant or on-going training.

The fact that Alaska's Native Communities are highly stressed further complicates the situation. Since contact with western culture, there has been a virtual tidal wave of change in rural Alaska which has accelerated in recent decades. As a result, Alaska's rural communities have some of the highest rates in the world for accidental death, suicide, and alcohol and drug abuse. The few mental health professionals working in rural Alaska attempt to sort out a set of seemingly inter-related risk factors that all but defy overall comprehension.

Because they work in isolated circumstances facing a variety of mental health problems, they frequently find themselves practicing beyond the limits of their training and expertise. The resulting problems exacerbate the stress level of a community and undermine the credibility of the profession.

All of these factors contribute to a high turnover rate for mental health workers in rural Alaska. Mental health professionals tend to stay in rural communities anywhere from a few months to a few years. Many leave at about the time they are beginning to be known, trusted, and functioning in their communities.

The professionals who do stay in Alaska find it difficult to keep up with current developments in their field without leaving the state. Because there are few educational programs and no on-going research in mental health, there is little growth in professional understanding of Alaska's problems. The net result of all of these factors is a mental health system that is under-staffed, under-trained, and unable to significantly affect the problems of rural Alaska.

Alaska needs both professional and paraprofessional human service training programs. Ideally these programs should be integrated so that paraprofessionals who choose to pursue their education can eventually achieve professional standing. Programs directed toward the needs of rural Alaska must be culturally sensitive and delivered in a manner that is acceptable to rural communities. This may mean a combination of short courses, workshops, distance delivered programs, and traditional on-campus programs.

AMHB Annual Report 1988

Professionals working in rural Alaska need support and oversight. Alaska needs to protect and enhance the human service providers working in difficult and challenging circumstances.

The immediate, short term goals should be the development of paraprofessional programs that meet immediate, pressing needs and support systems for existing human service providers. The long term goal should be an integrated, comprehensive curriculum using a career ladder approach that will provide for Alaska's human service training needs.

Alaska has long recognized the efficacy of training Alaskans to meet the work force needs in education, mining, fishing, agriculture, engineering, and law enforcement. It is now time to develop the same capacity in human services, particularly mental health. The Alaska Mental Health Board seeks cooperation with the University of Alaska and the Native community leadership to develop an Alaska based pool of professionals and paraprofessionals to address the people problems of our state.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Supporting the establishment of a program BRU: _____
leading to a Master of Social Work degree/UA
 Sponsor: House HESS Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary) FY90 fiscal impact is "0."

Prepared by: Russ Webb, Director
 Division: Family and Youth Services
 Approved by: Myra M. Munson Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3170
 Date: 2/28/90
 Date: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)