

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1991-1992 8672

7431 SENATE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

April 2, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 195 "an act creating the Alaska school counseling program grant fund" to be heard by the Hess committee this Friday.

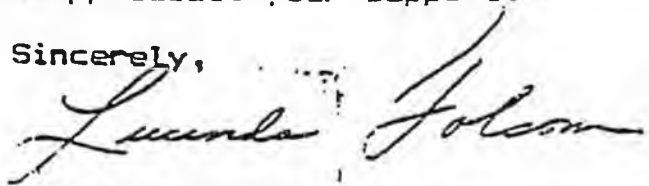
As President of the Alaska School Counselor Association, I have had the opportunity to meet with educational professionals from all over the state. Again and again I have heard people express concern over the lack of adequate counseling services in many parts of Alaska. Often, in rural areas, one counselor may have to serve six or seven schools on a rotating basis. It is hard to implement and continue a viable counseling curriculum without sufficient personnel and/or resources.

In 1989 the Alaska School Counseling Pilot Program was initiated through Carl Perkins grants. I was fortunate to be working at one of the original pilot sites, North Pole High School. This program has a set scope and sequence as part of a developed counseling curriculum. As a result of participating in this school counseling program, students will acquire and apply knowledge of self and others, develop competencies in careers/life planning, and achieve educational success. In addition to reaching more students, the Program provides for parent input, administrator evaluation and accountability. In order to bring more schools on line with this Program, there must be funding available to make the transition.

As counselors, we are key componets in schools to help students become contributing members of society and to be employable! Our students need the best counseling programs we can give them - they are our future. More funding is needed to provide these services to ALL Alaskan students. I feel Senate Bill 195 will help us tremendously in achieving these goals.

I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



LUCINDA FOLSOM
ASCA - PRESIDENT



ALASKA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

April 2, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

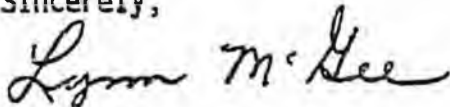
I wish to urge the support of Senate Bill 195, "an act creating the Alaska School Counseling Program Grant fund." I am currently serving as the project director for a pilot project utilizing this new Alaska School Counseling Program, and I have already seen the benefits to students involved in this developmental type of counseling. To be brief, the Program gives a structured approach to school counseling, making better use of counselors' time, reaching more students in group and classroom situations, and in general, creating a preventive mode of counseling instead of merely a reactive approach.

This type of school counseling program, curriculum based, is nationally acclaimed, with many states utilizing it statewide, and seeing the same positive results that our pilot project schools in Alaska have seen. In addition to reaching more students with counseling curriculum, the Program provides for parent input, administrator evaluation, and accountability. However, in order to bring more schools on line with this Program, there must be some funding available to make the transition. Each school will have different needs, but first and foremost, the counselors and administrators need to attend training sessions, which will necessitate travel funds, and there will be a need for grant money for purchase of curriculum items, and other expenses as the individual schools evaluate their needs.

As a former President of the Alaska School Counselors Association, I have seen the wide diversity of school counseling programs in this state, and the difficulty involved in making counseling available to all students across the state. I admire those counselors who persevere in providing services in the midst of very challenging situations. I feel our students need the very best school counseling programs we can give them, and I feel this Senate bill will bring more schools on line to utilize the new Program.

I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Lynn McGee, Counselor
North Pole High School



**ALASKA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION**

April 1, 1991

Dear Senator Sturqulowski:

I am an elementary counselor at Denali Elementary School in Anchorage and I am also a member of the Executive Board of the Alaska School Counselor Association. I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 195 - the act creating the Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund. The elementary counselors in Anchorage have been an active part of the Alaska Program Pilot Guide which Ursula Major has been doing for the past two years, and I feel that a K-12 counseling program is vital for every child in our state.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,
LaRue Davenport

P.S. You have an open invitation to visit our school at any time.

MEMO

March 29, 1991

TO: Senator Arlis Sturgelewski

FROM: LeeAnn Crumbley, Ed. D. *LAC*
Principal, Nunaka Valley School
Anchorage, Ak.

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 195

I urge your support for SB 195, Alaska School Counseling Program. As you no doubt are aware, Anchorage School District began an elementary school counseling program two years ago by placing counselors in nine high-need elementary schools. The plan was to add to the number each year until all district elementary schools had counselors. Funding problems and budget cuts, as well as changes in the school board, have prevented the expansion of the program beyond the initial nine schools. The need is district-wide!

You deal daily with the problems people in our changed society are facing -- and those people send their children to us in the school systems. We see increasing numbers of children trying to cope with increasingly complex pressures. The new buzz word to describe these students is children "at-risk." That is exactly what they are. You know all of the reasons. They include single parent or blended families, poverty or near-poverty, substance abuse in the home, no roots or extended families, stresses felt by racial or cultural minorities, transiency, various types of abuse of children. The list goes on. Add to that the growing number of ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) students, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect students, and crack babies and the composite picture of an elementary school changes dramatically from even 10 years ago.

My staff and I deal with these children daily. We don't sit on our hands waiting for the day when we will be a school with a counselor. We've put programs in place to attempt to meet the demanding needs of these students, without neglecting other students or allowing the at-risk youngsters to completely disrupt the educational process. Frustration at failing to adequately meet the needs of the at-risk students and frustration at the time we spend on the seemingly futile task are feelings we deal with daily.

Many parents are just as frustrated and lack the means to get private help. Some simply don't recognize or admit the problems. School counselors, who are also certified teachers, are proving to be worth "their weight in gold" at the schools fortunate to have been in the first wave. Again, I urge your support for SB 195 and then for SB 196 to provide a funding source for counselors for schools.

I am sending the same letter to five of you because I don't have the time to write five different letters. I'm involved in an inservice designed to help teachers provide the kind of classroom environment and management that enhances positive self-concept in students.

Thank you.

Gloria H. Thorson, M. Ed.
4611 Shelikof
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-1745

Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski,
Senator
State of Alaska
Box V
JUNEAU, AK 99811

April 2, 1991

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

The purpose of this letter is to urge your support for S.B. 195. This is significant and important legislation. Elementary Counseling is quite vital to the educational process. Especially, with the many youth in our Elementary schools today who have low self esteem.

Counseling is providing the bridge between the school and the community. It has been my experience these past 12 years that the Counselor is an integral part of the educational staff. The Counselor is the one who the youth can confide in and seek assistance. The Counselor is the one who is also the individual who has direct contact with the parents. This contact helps bring the parents into the school in a non-threatening manner and environment.

This ability of the Counselors, helps to increase parent awareness. This in turn fosters parental support. We all know how vital parental support is, not only for the child, also for the educational community. In short -- Counseling WORKS !!!!

Sincerely,

Gloria H. Thorson

Box 2053
Sitka, AK. 9983

April 1, 1991

Senator Sturgulewski -

I'm writing to ask your support of Senate Bill 195. As a counselor in Alaska for 9 years I can say that without counselors "in the trenches" in the schools we will never obtain strong prevention programs that see results.

I read continually about the governor's task force or other political organizations recommending long-term programs for school age children. The reality is that few districts have been able to afford K-12 Counseling. As a middle school counselor I realize that children have already formed patterns and attitudes by the time they are in 6th grade. My job becomes reactionary because of the lack of programs that are not in the primary grades. Counselors are professionals who can see to it that comprehensive drug abuse prevention is in place.

Your support of this Bill would be an investment into the future for all Alaskans. Sincerely, Nancy March-Crovinster

Hunter School
1630 Gilliam Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
April 3, 1991

Senate Mess Committee Members
Alaska Senate
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stungulewski,

I am writing in support of Senate bill 195, "an act creating the Alaska School Counseling program grant fund".

It is essential for each Alaskan youth to be able to make responsible decisions and to have the skills that will enable them to do so. It is important for each Alaskan youth to have the opportunity to learn how to handle the situations and problems that he/she confront in their formative years. It is necessary for each Alaskan youth to feel there is someone that will listen and not judge, comfort but not coddle, and guide but not demand. Our children today face many obstacles on the way to becoming responsible and educated citizens. A comprehensive developmental counseling program can help them gain information, skills and a sense of worth to help them overcome the odds working against them in today's world.

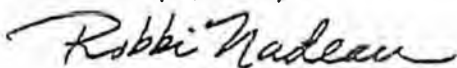
A recent study done for the Fairbanks School District cited that the Fairbanks schools needed to invest in preventive programs that stressed healthy life skills and gave the students the confidence to resist the pressures of drugs, violence and gangs. They stated that the crime rate of youth has risen and that Fairbanks is in the pre-gang stage.

The Governor's Commission on Children and Youth recommended expanding School Counselor Programs K-12, and stated that: "We must invest our limited human and financial resources to prevent problems as well as treat them once they arrive—prevention is cost effective and the only real alternative to band-aid approaches that are not working."

At this time school counseling programs are not available for all Alaskan youth and even when they are the counselor student ratio is often overwaining. With school budgets becoming tighter each year, school counseling programs are sometimes viewed as nonessential and are subject to the first cuts. With Senate bill 195 it will give school districts the money and opportunity to give a developmental comprehensive counseling program the chance to show its effectiveness. Hopefully, each Alaskan youth would then have the opportunity to become a responsible Alaskan citizen.

Please consider the importance of this bill and support it knowing that it is a step in the right direction to help today's children and youth.

Sincerely yours,



Robbi Nadeau
Hunter School Counselor
Past President ASCA



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



600 E. FAIRVIEW
HOMER, ALASKA 99803-7881
PHONE: (907) 235-8188
FAX: (907) 235-8833

"MARINERS"

DENNIS DEMPSEY, PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL BUNDY, ASST. PRINCIPAL
BOB MACAULAY, ATH. DIRECTOR

April 4, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

This is a letter of support for Senate Bill 195, the Alaska School Counselor Program Grant Fund.

We are part of the pilot program and found it to be an extremely beneficial improvement to our current guidance counseling curriculum. Through this program we learned how to organize our counseling duties, which enables us to provide more services to more students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hill, Guidance Counselor
Homer Junior High School



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



600 E. FAIRVIEW
HOMER, ALASKA 99803-7801
PHONE: (907) 236-8188
FAX: (907) 236-8833

"MARINERS"

DENNIS DEMPSEY, PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL BUNDY, ASST. PRINCIPAL
BOB MACAULAY, ATH. DIRECTOR

April 4, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
P.O. Box 7
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

This is a letter of support for Senate Bill 195, the Alaska School Counselor Program Grant Fund.

We are part of the pilot program and found it to be an extremely beneficial improvement to our current guidance counseling curriculum. Through this program we learned how to organize our counseling duties, which enables us to provide more services to more students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Ballentine".

James Ballentine
Counseling Department Head



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



600 E. FAIRVIEW
HOMER, ALASKA 99303-7801
PHONE: (907) 236-8186
FAX: (907) 236-8933

"MARINERS"

DENNIS DEMPSEY, PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL BUNDY, ASST. PRINCIPAL
BOB MACAULAY, ATH. DIRECTOR

April 4, 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

This is a letter of support for Senate Bill 195, the Alaska School Counselor Program Grant Fund.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shawnie Holdermann

Shawnie Holdermann
Guidance Counselor



WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

701 Bogard Wasilla, Alaska 99687



Main office-(907)376-5341
Attendance Office-373-1572

Jane A. Feisthamel Ed.D - Principal
Dwight Probaseo - Assistant Principal
Leonard Lusk - Assistant Principal

April 12, 1991

Senator Virginia Collins
Alaska Legislature

Reference: Senate Bills 195 and 196

On behalf of counselors and other staff currently working as a Pilot Site for development of the Alaska School Counseling Program, I would like to encourage your support for these two bills. Continuation of the funding for the ASCP Pilot Project grant funds would enable us to continue improving our services to all students. The ASCP follows closely State Board of Education student outcome goals. We intend to enable all of our schools to participate in implementing this model for next year. Funding for guidance and counseling programs in the state education budget and SB 195 and 196 would help enable us to meet these important outcomes for all students. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Holen
Guidance Counselor

To: Senator Virginia Collins *April 12, 1991 2:00 p.m.*

We are pleased to send support of Bill 195 and 196 regarding funding for the Alaska School Counseling Program Pilot Project. We at Palmer High have been participating in this project and have made good contributions for students. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Jerri Amundson, Counselor, Palmer High School

Jerri Amundson

April 15, 1991

SB195
SB196

To: State Senator Virginia Collins
From: Joseph Digrande/ Itinerant Counselor/ Southwest Regional School District
Subject: Counseling Services in Bush Alaska

My name is Joseph Digrande and I currently serve five rural villages in Bristol Bay at the K-12 guidance counselor. I have served in this capacity for the last four years. Prior to this job assignment, I served as a teacher and counselor in Fort Yukon, Kake and Eek, Alaska. I first came to this state in 1979.

I support the Senate and House bills that propose more counseling services in Bush Alaska. I have lived in Bush Alaska for the last ten years and have noted the steady demise of each of those villages. I currently live in New Stuyahok and we can provide very little in the way of services. . . . The three smaller villages that I serve have no services in the areas of counseling and mental health.

The Native Corporation in this area and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation lack personnel and funds to service these villages. Their counselors do not live in the villages but come out from Dillingham on day visits for a few days a year. Four of my villages see these counselors less than five days a year and only for half-days at best.

Because of the paucity of services in the Bush, K-12 guidance counselors are relied on by the villages for mental health counseling and alcohol and drug problems. I have intervened with villagers on a wide range of problems ranging from domestic violence and marital problems to suicide and substance abuse. Many times this type of counseling can hinder school-based counseling efforts when a client's children are involved. We have high levels of sexual abuse and neglect in our villages and we deal with this on a day to day basis. Many of our elders in our village cannot communicate with the students in that they speak Yupik while the students speak only English. The generation gap is widening as a result. Most health care counselors cannot speak Yupik, so our elders are completely cut off from services.

These problems have been greatly aggravated by the huge increase in drug abuse in the villages (including crack cocaine). We are witnessing more nervous breakdowns, suicides, suicide attempts, and random violence (breakins). We have many young people taken into Alaska Psychiatric Institute with drug-related psychotic problems. FAE and FAS is on the rise in these villages. I expect to see more crack babies in the future as the cocaine trade increases. In the village of New Stuyahok there are 420 people of which 90 are under the age of 4. I would estimate that 60% of these children come from dysfunctional families. The lack of jobs plus the benefits of welfare have made marriage an undesirable outcome for many of these families. Single mothers living in overcrowded houses with young children is the norm. Many of these mother and fathers are substance abusers.

In many bush district we have one counselor servicing up to 3 villages (K-12). On Kodiak Island we have no itinerant counseling services. We do not have counseling services in the Aleutians. If a district has counselors, they are frequently based in administrative centers and have scant knowledge of the people they are serving.

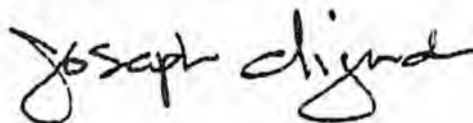
Furthermore the districts themselves are pressuring the counselors due to a combination of budget cuts and an attitude that counseling is a "frill." (an attitude that disappears when there is a suicide in the village for some strange reason!). In our district we have three "full time counselors" but the superintendent and site principals have deemed it necessary to employ all of them more or less as classroom teachers. 70% of our time this year has been devoted to teaching and other non-counseling duties. Teaching is especially damaging to the counseling program in that counselors are being asked to discipline students. Counselors are also asked to substitute as principals and are further enmeshed in the discipline process.

There is a need for Native counselors but the University of Alaska, the Native Corporations and the School Districts have not aggressively pursued counseling preparatory programs for Natives. An Ex-CED style program is needed to prepare counselors. Counseling programs at the University must address village problems and not just deal in psychoanalytic theory. For example, I never had substance abuse training in my graduate program.

Over the last few years the Native Corporation has sought to hire local Natives as mental health and substance abuse workers. They rush them out for a few workshops and then employ them in the village with little or no supervision. Many of the people employed are substance abusers but because the pay is so low, there are only a few (or only one) applicant for these jobs. Many of them do not work at all and still collect paychecks. Some people see this job as a way to make a little fast money and then leave (with a few free trips to Anchorage). Thus the Native Corporations lose even more credibility in the villages, with the school counselor there to pick up the pieces.

The School Districts need more counselors. We can train them in mentor programs and they will be supervised. I do hope that the legislation that is being considered will be passed and that there is some supervisory language contained therein that protects counselors from administrators who see us as trills to exploit and people who are devoid of accountability and see counseling positions as just another free handout.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Digrande". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph Digrande



"Chief" Ivan Blunka
Elementary/High School
New Stuyahok, AK 99636
Phone (907) 693-3144

TELEPHONE (907) 693-3144

TELECOPIER (907) 693-3153

TELECOPY TRANSMITTAL SHEET
(Transmitting from RICO: FAX20E)

TO: State Senator Virginia Collins
DATE: 4/15/01

No. Pages: (including this page) 3 TIME: 12:00

FROM: Joseph DiGrande / counselor / S.W. Regional Schools

MESSAGE

Here is a letter (testimony) in support of
both the House + Senate bills (for
more counseling in Native bush areas
of the state)

If I can be of further
Assistance, contact me at 693 3144.



Southwest Region Schools

P.O. Box 90
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone (907) 842-5287



April 15, 1991

State Senator Virginia Collins
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Collins,

This letter comes to you to express support for and documentation of need for the passage of Senate Bills 195 and 196.

As a supervisor for Counseling in a rural Alaskan Community, I highly endorse the idea of a School Counseling Grant fund to supplement and/or establish Counseling in the Bush. The need is tremendous! There are so many critical issues that must be addressed if students are to



Southwest Region Schools

P.O. Box 90
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone (907) 842-5287



succeed! The "whole child" must
be taken in consideration. Our
"Student Outcomes" ^{Chpt. 173} are clearly
centered on many areas that
require the intervention of a
trained Counselor (ex) increasing
self-esteem, learning to form
satisfying relationships etc.

Aside from that the very
real issues of substance abuse,
teen pregnancy, lack of goals,
domestic violence, are needs
that require professional
counselor's interventions and
prevention!!

Please consider the need
in rural Alaska! Thank you for
your efforts!

Sincerely
Rebecca Reichen

BOX 906
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752

April 12, 1991

Senator Virginia Collins
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Collins,

This is to thank you for your outstanding support of the children and youth of our state. Specifically, thank you for your assistance with SB 195 and 196. These bills represent a giant step forward for school counseling programs in the Great Land! The Alaska School Counseling Program and the Pilot Projects around the state are joining to focus the efforts of school counselors on a comprehensive, developmental model. We believe, as you do, that prevention is essential if we are to remove the term "at risk" from our active vocabularies!

As a member of the task force that wrote the Alaska Program Guide, and as a rural counselor, I am painfully aware of the need to bring school programs into alignment with the basic concepts in the model. Counselors must be allowed to provide counseling services, not act as clerks, vice-principals or hall monitors. This program, with the support of SB 195 and SB 196 will allow that to happen!

Again, thank you, on behalf of the 250 wonderful young people I call "my kids."

Sincerely,

Dick Tardiff, Counselor
Kotzebue Middle/High School

3-2-92
Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

The Alaska School
Counselor Association is
very pleased that Senator Collins
has reintroduced legislation to
establish a school counseling program
incentive grant fund, SB 394.

Thanks so much for supporting
the bill a year ago.

The counseling model
plan is now in use by half
of the school counselors in Alaska.
This is helping us make a difference
to the students of our state. The
same legislation passed the Senate
a year ago by a 17-1 vote, and
had it not been for the governor's
veto, would already be law. We
hope we can count on your support
again this session. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rod Poole,

Sitka High Counselor, ASCA Gov't Relations Chair

Rod & Cathy Poole
Post Office Box 2266
Sitka, AK 99836



Alaska School Counseling Program Grant Fund SB 394

The Alaska School Counseling Program is a new approach to providing counseling services in Alaska's schools. It is a curriculum based student oriented program — an integral part of the total education program. The program is designed to reach all students and to provide them with the skills they need for success in school, work and society.

Twelve Alaskan school counselors and administrators, with the help of the Department of Education and a national leader in counseling, developed a model counseling program for Alaska in 1988. In 1989 the program was piloted, implementing and testing the model. In 1990, the second year of piloting, 34 sites located in 12 school districts participated.

The program has been expanded for the 1991-92 school year bringing four additional school districts aboard. At this time 16 of the 54 Alaska School Districts are participating, representing large, small, urban and rural districts in cities, boroughs, and REAAs. The model works!

The Department of Education has been able to use their Carl Perkins Vocational Education Grant funding to assist with this activity over the past three years. The approximately \$100,000 per year has been able to get the program designed and field tested but is not adequate to provide the start-up costs that are needed across the state. These federal funds are limited and directed primarily at secondary programs, leaving out a great portion of Alaskan students grades K-12 who would benefit from a comprehensive, high quality, student support service

SB 394 addresses a grant program to be set up in the Department of Education. Funds from this account would be used to assist interested districts in:

- 1) beginning a model counseling program,
- 2) restructuring an existing counseling program to the model, and/or
- 3) furthering the model program throughout their district.

Training of personnel is the major expense. It has taken three (3) years to reach all or part of 16 districts. SB 394 grants would assist districts, who voluntarily choose to participate, up to a three year period. The purpose is not to pay personnel for 3 years and then drop the district, but to help a district make the transition. Once schools have the curriculum-based counseling program in place it will be a basic component of the education program and supported as such.

The Alaska School Counseling Program grew out of a need identified by the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth.

*Prepared on behalf of Alaska School Counselor Association
By Wanda J. Cooksey
586-9073*

THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM
FOR
ALASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*A GUIDE FOR
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
K-12TH GRADE*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
OFFICE OF ADULT AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
P.O. BOX F
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

This guide was developed by a statewide task force of school counselors and administrators of education. Alaska State Board of Education endorsed this document as the State Guide for Alaska School Counseling Programs at their regular meeting, May 2, 1989.

This publication is not copyrighted; any or all sections may be duplicated. After an initial free distribution to authorized institutions, additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 from the Alaska Department of Education, Office of Adult and Vocational Education, and Office of Basic Education. For additional information, please call the Counseling Coordinator at (907) 465-2841.

ALASKA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DEFINITION

School counseling is an integral part of the total educational program. It is developmental by design and includes sequential activities organized and implemented by certified school counselors with the support of teachers, administrators, students, and parents. A school counseling program shall deliver services in four areas:

1. Personal and Career Development Curriculum
2. Individual Student Planning
3. Responsive Services
4. System Support

The program addresses the needs of all students by helping them to:

- Acquire and apply knowledge of self and others.
- Develop competencies in career/life planning.
- Achieve educational success.

The philosophy statement from the *Alaska School Counseling Program Guide* best states the change in direction of the program.

Counseling in the school setting has evolved through recognition that individuals living in a dynamic, complex society benefit most from the broad range of learning experiences. Such experiences prepare them to lead productive lives characterized by feelings of self worth. Individual acquisition of knowledge and skills has been and will continue to be a major goal of public education. In addition, parallel efforts to assist students to grow socially and emotionally as well as intellectually and physically are essential. Guidance processes are designed to assist individuals with total development on a K-12 basis. The school counseling program is preventive rather than remedial in nature. It complements the core instructional offerings and involves a cooperative effort among counselors, administrators and classroom teachers.

STRUCTURAL AND PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The state plan for school counseling programs has two major parts with ten components:

Structural Components:

- Program Definition and Philosophy
- Advisory Council
- Budget
- Counseling Program Facilities
- Counseling Resources
- Staffing Patterns

Program Components:

- Personal and Career Development Curriculum
- Individual Student Planning
- Responsive Services
- System Support

S B

3 9 5

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. SB 395

1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 2/25/92 Department Affected: DH&SS

Title: An Act Relating to Medicaid BRU: Medical Assistance

Coverage Component: Medicaid

Sponsor: Collins

Requestor: _____ **COMPONENT SERIAL NO.**

0	2	2	9
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	326.1	413.8	523.9	664.2	838.4	1,061.4
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	326.1	413.8	523.9	664.2	838.4	1,061.4

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	163.0	206.9	261.9	332.1	419.2	530.7
FEDERAL FUNDS	163.0	206.9	261.0	332.1	419.2	530.7
OTHER FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	326.1	413.8	523.9	664.2	838.4	1,061.4

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY:	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attached

Prepared by: Kimberly B. Busch, Director *Kimberly B. Busch* Phone: 907-465-3355

Division: Medical Assistance Date: 2-25-92

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Hala, M.D., M.P.H.

Agency: Health and Social Services *Theodore A. Hala* Date: 2/26/92

Distribution (by Preparer; Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies))

Fiscal Note Attachment

The Division of Family and Youth Services currently pays a direct monthly reimbursement to adoptive parents to pay for the medical needs of an adoptive child with special medical or rehabilitative needs. This bill would authorize Alaska to add the Medicaid option to provide coverage for these state-subsidized adoptive children. Medicaid would then provide for payment of these children's medical needs, eliminating the need for direct reimbursement from the Division of Family and Youth Services and accessing federal Medicaid funding available to the State at a 50 percent match rate.

The Division of Family and Youth Services will spend \$258,192, all from the state general fund, on direct reimbursement to adoptive parents in FY 92. These funds currently provide payment for medical services averaging \$326 per month to 66 special needs adoptive children. With addition of the Medicaid option to cover this group of children, the FY 93 cost shifts to the Division of Medical Assistance Medicaid program. Then adoptive parents will no longer be reimbursed directly for the child's medical expenses, but will be provided with Medicaid coupons for payment of the child's medical services.

The Medicaid cost in FY 93 will be \$326,112, anticipating a 20 percent growth in the current caseload of 66 children and 5.5 percent medical expense inflation rate. This calculation is detailed below:

FY 92: 66 children X \$326 per month = \$21,516 X 12 months =
\$258,192

FY 93 \$326 X 5.5% inflation rate = \$344
66 children X 20% caseload growth = 79
79 children X \$344 X 12 months = \$326,112 total funds
 \$163,056 GF
 \$163,056 FED

FY 94 - 98: For future years, we assume the same caseload and inflation growth rates.

Because this is a Medicaid option, the federal government will contribute 50% of the total costs.

Total savings to the State are the amount of Federal funds (\$163,056 in FY 93).

Cross reference: Fiscal note by the Division of Family and Youth Services

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO.

SB 395

1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____

Department Affected: _____

Title: An Act Relating to Medicaid

BRU: Family & Youth Purchased Services

Coverage: _____

Component: Foster Care

Sponsor: Senator Collins

Requestor: _____

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

1	2	5	2
---	---	---	---

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	(326.1)	(413.3)	(523.9)	(664.2)	(338.4)	(1,061)
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	(326.1)	(413.3)	(523.9)	(664.2)	(838.4)	(1,061)

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	(326.1)	(413.8)	(523.9)	(664.2)	(838.4)	(1,061.4)
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY:						

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attached analysis.

DFYS saves cost of medical portion of program as shown.

50% Federal participation in funding achieved by this method.

Prepared By: Brian Saylor, Acting Director

Brian Saylor

Phone: 465-3633

Division: Family and Youth Services

Date: 2/25/92

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH

Theodore A. Mala

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 2/25/92

FISCAL NOTE ATTACHMENT

SB 395: AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAID COVERAGE

Adoption Assistance Fiscal note

1. DFYS surveyed 1/3 of their 9/91 state subsidized adoption caseload to determine the portion of the caseload receiving extra funds for medical needs (26 of the 37, or 73%) and the average payment for medical needs per child (\$326 per month).

Current FY 92 caseload is 90 children; 73% with medical needs = 66.

2. 66 children with special medical needs x average monthly payment of \$326 = \$21,516 x 12 months = \$258,192 in FY 92.

To estimate future growth, we considered the fact the DFYS has had a major permanency planning move over the last two years, to address the problem of children remaining in long term foster care without permanent homes. This effort to "catch up" requires a continued growth rate over the next few years, although it is expected to level off within the next three to five years, as the effects of the permanency planning effort reduce the backlog and the family preservation efforts reduce the number of the new cases. The 20% figure is a best estimate based on current growth patterns. The Anchorage CPI of 5.5% is used to estimate growth in costs.

FY 93: 20% caseload growth = 79 (66 x 20%) Avg. month pymt \$326
x 5.5% cost increase = \$344 x 79 x 12 = \$326,112

FY 94: 79 x 20% = 95 \$344 x 5.5% = \$363 \$363 x 95 x 12
= \$413,820

FY 95: 95 x 20% = 114 \$363 x 5.5% = 383 383 x 114 x 12
= 523,944

FY 96: 114 x 20% = 137 \$383 x 5.5% = \$404 \$404 x 137 x 12
= \$664,176

FY 97: 137 x 20% = 164 \$404 x 5.5% = 426 \$426 x 164 x 12
= \$838,368

FY 98: 164 x 20% = 197 \$426 x 5.5% = \$449 \$449 x 197 x 12
= \$1,061,436

Alaska State Legislature

During Session
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Senator Virginia Collins

SB 395

Medicaid Coverage for Certain Adoptees

SB 395 would allow the state to collect federal Medicaid dollars for those in state custody who need medical care in order to be placed for adoption.

Persons with special medical needs under the age of 21, of whom the state has custody, are difficult to place for adoption. Under AS 25.23.190 - .210 (relating to adoption assistance), the state pays for the cost of care provided these children and young adults.

With the passage of SB 395, federal Medicaid could be used to provide health care coverage for this group.

The bill would also make this group the last to be eliminated from Medicaid coverage if sufficient funding were not available.

SB 395 would not affect the payments made to parents who adopt these children nor would it place additional requirements on them.

The bill does not increase the number of children being served nor does it increase the total amount being paid for their medical care.

In an era of projected declines in state revenues, SB 395 is a revenue generator, saves the state money, and does not require any expenditure of state monies.



To: Melissa
From: Chris
Re: SB 395
Date: February 25, 1992

Egads! I was wrong!

SB 395 does add a new group to AS 47.07.035, the section prioritizing medical assistance for persons eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Because this group constitutes hard-to-place, needy individuals as opposed to specific services, it makes sense to place this group at the bottom of the list.

I'll take your advice to heart and ask Virginia to address this matter in committee.

Just for your information, SB 395 would help approximately 12 to 13 children and would allow the state to collect roughly \$150,000 in federal monies.

Position Paper
SB NO. 395

"An Act relating to Medicaid coverage for certain persons under the age of 21 for whom an adoption assistance agreement is in effect; and providing for an effective date"

SB No. 395 will add a new group to the list in AS 47.07.020 of persons eligible for coverage under Medicaid in Alaska. This new group consists of children under the age of 21 who have special medical needs, who are therefore difficult to place for adoption, and for whom there is in effect a state adoption assistance agreement. The bill would make this new group the last to be eliminated from Medicaid coverage under AS 47.07.035 if there are insufficient appropriations to cover all optional services and groups.

ANALYSIS

At present, adoptive parents of these children are subsidized by the state under AS 25.23.190 -- AS 25.23.210. State money often pays for the cost of medical care provided for these children. Under the federal Medicaid program, a state may select these children as an optional group to be covered by Medicaid. The statutory changes made by the bill would not change the subsidy payments made to the adoptive parents, and there would be no additional requirements imposed on them. The changes would not increase the number of children served, nor the total amount being paid. SB No. 395 would simply allow one-half of the cost of the medical care being paid for by the state to be paid instead with federal money.

Savings to the State in the first full year alone will exceed \$163,000.

POSITION

The Department supports the passage of SB No. 395. Given Alaska's short and long-term revenue picture, it is important that we take advantage of every legitimate opportunity we have to reduce state expenditures by claiming on federal matching funds for the necessary medical services we furnish to needy Alaskans.

Recommended by: Kimberly B. Busch
Kimberly B. Busch
Director
Div. of Medical Assistance

Date: _____

Approved by: Theodore A. Mada
Theodore A. Mada, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Date: 26 Feb 92

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396

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB356

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected Health and Social Services
 Title: Medical costs...children in custody BRU: DFYS - Purchased Services
 Component: Foster Care
 Sponsor: Senator Collins
 Requestor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0252

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
OPERATING						
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						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill is critical to the Division of Family and Youth Services. There will be no increased costs incurred if this bill passes, but there is a serious potential for a sizeable increase in foster care costs if it does not pass.

Prepared by: Brian Saylor, Deputy Commissioner *Brian Saylor* Phone: 465-3030
 Division: Family and Youth Services Date: February 25, 1992
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: 3/3/92
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance OMB
 Legislative Sponsor Impacted Agency(ies)
 Requestor


Alaska State Legislature

During Session
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During Interim
311 C Street, Suite 510
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Senator Virginia Collins

To: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate Health, Education, and Social
Services Committee

From: Senator Virginia Collins 

Re: Request for hearing of SB 396 (clarifying parental
responsibilities for a child in state custody)

Date: February 25, 1992

Please schedule SB 396 for a hearing before your committee.

SB 396 clarifies the responsibilities of the Department of Health and Social Services and parents for children who are committed to the custody of the department and are placed by the department with the parents.

In the August 1991 decision in the case of In re E.A.O., the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the department must pay for the medical costs of children in state custody even though the children live with their parents.

The ramifications of this decision are enormous. The state will be responsible for substantial expenses in medical care, and, it may be held liable for other costs of child rearing such as food, shelter, and education.

SB 396 requires parents to protect, train, and discipline children in state custody who are placed at home. It also requires parents to provide them with food, shelter, education, and medical care.

SB 396 will free the state from the fiscal complications emerging from the August 1991 court decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Alaska State Legislature

During Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2828

During Interim
3111 C Street, Suite 540
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2040

Senator Virginia Collins

SB 396

Clarifying parental responsibilities for a child in state custody

SB 396 clarifies the responsibilities of the Department of Health and Social Services and parents for children who are committed to the custody of the department and are placed by the department with the parents.

The bill responds to a recent Alaska Supreme Court decision that will incur new and substantial costs to the state.

In the August 1991 decision in the case of In re E.A.O., the court reversed a lower court decision and ruled that the state must pay for the medical costs of a child in state custody even though the child lives with his or her parents.

Prior to this decision, the state interpreted the law to pay for medical care costs of children in physical custody of the state. Holding the state responsible for medical costs of children in its custody who are placed at home would result in less protection for these children and other children in need of aid.

The ramifications of this decision may also lead to the state's being held liable for other costs of child rearing such as food, shelter, and education.

In an era of projected declining revenues, SB 396 responds to these costly implications.



Alaska State Legislature

During Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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During Interim
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Senator Virginia Collins

SB 396

Clarifying parental responsibilities
for a child in state custody

Section by section analysis

Section 1 -- Clarifies rights and duties of a parent when a child is committed to state custody and placed by the state with the child's parent.

Section 2 -- Makes Act retroactive to August 30, 1991.

Section 3 -- Makes Act effective immediately.

SENATE BILL NO. 396

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR COLLINS

Introduced: 2/12/92

Referred: HES, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act clarifying the responsibilities of the Department of Health and Social Services and
2 parents for children who are committed to the custody of the department and are placed
3 by the department with the parents; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * Section 1. AS 47.10.084(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) When a child is committed under AS 47.10.080(b)(1) or (c)(1) to the department or
7 released under AS 47.10.080(b)(2) or (3) or (c)(2) to the child's parents, guardian, or other
8 suitable person, a relationship of legal custody exists. This relationship imposes on the
9 department and its authorized agents or the parents, guardian, or other suitable person the
10 responsibility of physical care and control of the child, the determination of where and with
11 whom the child shall live, the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child, and the
12 duty of providing the child with food, shelter, education, and medical care. These obligations are
13 subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities and rights and responsibilities of a
14 guardian if one has been appointed. When a child is committed to the department and the

Other suggestion

1 department places the child with the child's parent. ~~the parent has the right and duty to~~
2 ~~protect, train, and discipline the child and the duty to provide and pay for food, shelter,~~
3 education, and medical care for the child. When parental rights have been terminated, or there
4 are no living parents and no guardian has been appointed, the responsibilities of legal custody
5 include those in (b) and (c) of this section. The department or person having legal custody of
6 the child may delegate any of the responsibilities under this section, except authority to consent
7 to marriage, adoption, and military enlistment may not be delegated. For purposes of this chapter
8 a person in charge of a placement setting is an agent of the department.

9 * Sec. 2. Section 1 of this Act is retroactive to August 30, 1991.

10 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

is responsible

1 department places the child with the child's parent. the parent
2 to provide and pay for food, shelter,
3 education, and medical care for the child. When parental rights have been terminated, or there
4 are no living parents and no guardian has been appointed, the responsibilities of legal custody
5 include those in (b) and (c) of this section. The department or person having legal custody of
6 the child may delegate any of the responsibilities under this section, except authority to consent
7 to marriage, adoption, and military enlistment may not be delegated. For purposes of this chapter
8 a person in charge of a placement setting is an agent of the department.

9 * Sec. 2. Section 1 of this Act is retroactive to August 30, 1991.

10 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

SENATE BILL 396

"An Act clarifying the responsibilities of the Department of Health and Social Services and parents for children who are committed to the custody of the department and are placed by the department with the parents; and providing for an effective date."

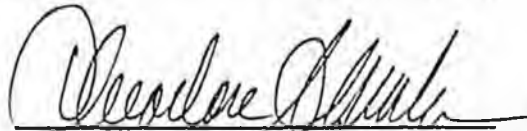
The Department of Health and Social Services strongly supports SB396, which clarifies the responsibilities of the Department for children committed to its legal custody who continue to reside with the parent or parents. The Bill amends AS 47.10.084(a) to expressly require a parent or parents to provide for the day to day care of their children if the children are residing with them when the state has legal custody as a result of child protective services purposes.

This bill was made necessary as a result of the Alaska Supreme Court ruling in the case of In re E.A.O., 816 P.2d 1352 (Alaska 1991), in which the court ruled that the current AS 47.10.084 requires the department to pay for medical costs associated with the care of children, even though they live with their parents. The department has never interpreted the statute in this manner in the past. Therefore, absent an amendment, the department will incur substantial additional financial expenses for these medical costs and may also be exposed to legal suits to resolve the responsibility for other costs of child rearing, including food, shelter, and education, while a child is placed at home by the department. The department has not budgeted for these type of costs, and these costs would significantly impact our budget, as well as the Medicaid budget. Although the court did acknowledge a possible right of reimbursement from the parents, the collection would not be practical nor cost-effective.

The bill provides for a retroactive effective date to August 30, 1991, the date that the court issued its ruling. A retroactive effective date is necessary to avoid the additional unbudgeted expenses and to resolve a legal question as to the department's responsibilities for other expenses, such as shelter, which the court did not direct address in its decision.

The Department of Health and Social Services urges the passage of this bill.


Deputy Commissioner
Health and Social Services


Commissioner
Health and Social Services

Date: 3/3/92

Date: 3 March 1992

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB412

Revision Date Work Draft 03/16/92 Dept. Affected Health and Social Services
 Title: "An act directing DHSS to develop non-profit agency approved "safe homes" for runaway minors." BRU: Family and Youth Services
 Component: Central Office
 Sponsor: Senators Fischer and Pearce
 Requestor: Senator Fischer COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0259

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
REVENUE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
GENERAL FUND	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: NONE

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill, if passed, would require the Department of Health and Social Services to develop regulations for agencies to approve "safe homes" for runaway minors.

Prepared by: Brian Saylor, Deputy Commissioner
 Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Phone: 465-3030
 Date: March 16, 1992

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 3/18/92

Distribution (by preparer):

Legislative Finance OMB
 Legislative Sponsor Impacted Agency(ies)
 Requestor

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Paul Fischer
Senate District D
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Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-9420 W
262-9269



While in Juneau
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(907) 465-3791

State Senate

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chairman
Senate Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Paul Fischer *PF.*

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 412
(`safe homes' for runaway minors)

DATE: February 19, 1992

I would appreciate your scheduling the above referenced bill for a hearing before the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience.

This legislation is a direct response to the concerns of a new group on the peninsula, called "Safe Harbor". This ad hoc group of citizens are dedicated and committed to meeting the needs of homeless teenagers in their community by providing shelter, training, employment and support.

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated.

PAF/sgn

ps - Arliss - Swackhammer will be in town thru next week. He would like to Testify. He is part of the ad hoc group.

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

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240 Main Street, Suite 500
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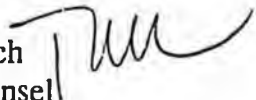
MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1992

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary (SB 412)

TO: Senator Paul Fischer

FROM: Terri Lauterbach
Legislative Counsel



You have asked for a sectional analysis of SB 412. In the absence of any specific legal questions, the following is a short summary of the bill. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Section 1 sets out findings and intent language to guide DHSS's implementation of the bill.

Section 2 enacts a new article in AS 47.10 authorizing DHSS to "adopt regulations under which the owner of a private residence may apply for designation of the residence as a safe home for runaway minors." (See Sec. 47.10.392.) Under Sec. 47.10.394, only a residence "designated" by DHSS could hold itself out as a safe home, and the section also places some limitations on the operation of designated safe homes. Under sec. 47.10.398, the owner of a safe home is afforded some immunities.

Section 3 adds safe homes to the statute concerning where a peace officer may take a runaway minor.

TML:gc
92-141.glc

7-LS1648M ✓
Lauterbach
3/18/92

*CS 412
1/10/92*

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 412 ()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FISCHER, Pearce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act directing the Department of Health and Social Services to adopt regulations under
2 which a nonprofit corporation could become licensed by the department for the purpose
3 of designating 'safe homes' for runaway minors; relating to licensure of facilities; and
4 providing for an effective date."

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * **Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; INTENT.** (a) The legislature finds that licensed programs
7 for runaway minors need not be the only sources of government-encouraged assistance for runaway
8 minors. There exist many concerned citizens in the state who, with appropriate oversight and certain
9 limitations of their liability, would volunteer to assist runaway minors in their private residences. It
10 would be in the public interest to encourage properly qualified private citizens to seek designation of
11 their homes as "safe homes" where runaway minors could seek temporary, short-term shelter and other
12 care.

13 (b) It is the intent of legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services, in
14 implementing this Act, adopt regulations under which interested nonprofit corporations could be

1 approved by the department for the purpose of designating "safe homes." Oversight of the safe homes
2 by the nonprofit corporations and the state should involve less regulation than is required for licensed
3 programs for runaways under AS 47.10.310 while still requiring the homes to meet health and safety
4 standards designed to protect the runaway minor in the safe home.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 34.50.020(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) A state agency or its agents, including a person working in or responsible for the
7 operation of a foster, receiving, or detention home, or children's institution, is not liable for the
8 acts of unemancipated minors in its charge or custody. A state agency or an agent of a state
9 agency, including a nonprofit corporation that designates safe homes under AS 47.10.392 -
10 47.10.399 and employees of or volunteers with that corporation, is not liable for the acts of
11 a minor sheltered in a safe home, as defined in AS 47.10.399.

12 * Sec. 3. AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

13 ARTICLE 4A. SAFE HOMES FOR RUNAWAY MINORS.

14 Sec. 47.10.392. CERTIFICATE REQUIRED. A private residence may not be held out
15 publicly as a safe home for runaway minors unless the residence

16 (1) is designated a safe home by a nonprofit corporation that is licensed to make
17 the designation under AS 47.35.085; and

18 (2) has a valid permit from the department signifying that designation.

19 Sec. 47.10.394. OPERATION OF SAFE HOME. (a) A safe home may not shelter a
20 runaway minor for more than seven days unless the department determines that

21 (1) the minor is the subject of exceptional circumstances; or

22 (2) another appropriate setting is not available for the minor.

23 (b) The provider of a safe home shall promptly inform the department of a runaway
24 minor in the home who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined in
25 AS 47.17.290, or whom the provider has reasonable cause to suspect has been a victim of child
26 abuse or neglect.

27 (c) The provider of a safe home shall make good faith efforts to ensure that notice of the
28 minor's presence in a safe home is given to the minor's legal custodian as soon as possible after
29 the minor is admitted to the home. The notice need not specify the location of the safe home.
30 The provider may give the notice, or the provider may request the appropriate law enforcement
31 agency to give notice. If requested by the provider, the law enforcement agency shall make

1 good faith efforts to give the notice required under this subsection.

2 Sec. 47.10.396. CONFIDENTIALITY. If the department requires record keeping by a
3 safe home or by a nonprofit corporation that is licensed to designate safe homes, records of the
4 home and the nonprofit corporation that identify a runaway minor who has been sheltered in a
5 safe home or has sought assistance from a safe home are confidential and are not subject to
6 inspection or copying under AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.120 unless

7 (1) after being informed of the minor's right to privacy, the minor consents in
8 writing to the disclosure of the records;

9 (2) the records are relevant to an investigation or proceeding involving child abuse
10 or neglect or a child in need of aid petition; or

11 (3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the life or health of the minor.

12 Sec. 47.10.398. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. (a) A person in a safe home, or in
13 a home for which an application to be designated a safe home is being considered by a nonprofit
14 corporation licensed for that purpose by the department, that is operated in a manner that is
15 consistent with AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399 and regulations adopted under those sections is not
16 criminally liable under AS 11.51.130(a)(5) unless the person aids, induces, causes, or encourages
17 a child under 16 years of age to be repeatedly absent from school without just cause.

18 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the provider of a safe home, or of a home
19 for which an application to be designated a safe home is being considered by a nonprofit
20 corporation approved for that purpose by the department, and the members of the provider's
21 household, other than a runaway minor, are not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or
22 omission

23 (1) in admitting or refusing to admit a runaway minor to the home; or

24 (2) by a runaway minor who is sheltered in the home.

25 (c) The provisions of (b) of this section do not preclude liability for civil damages as a
26 result of recklessness or intentional misconduct.

27 Sec. 47.10.399. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399,

28 (1) "runaway minor" has the meaning given in AS 47.10.390;

29 (2) "safe home" means a private residence whose legal occupant agrees to shelter,
30 without compensation, a runaway minor accepted into the residence by the legal occupant and
31 that

1 (A) is not simultaneously licensed under AS 47.10.310 as a program for
2 runaway minors;

3 (B) has been designated a safe home by a nonprofit corporation licensed
4 for that purpose under AS 47.35.085; and

5 (C) has a permit issued by the department under AS 47.35.085.

6 * Sec. 4. AS 47.10.141(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor described in (a) of this
8 section if the minor is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor
9 the minor's preference to (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if the legal custodian
10 consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor and the
11 legal custodian; or (3) take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and
12 Social Services, a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310,
13 a safe home that has a permit from the department under AS 47.35.085 that agrees to
14 shelter the minor, or a facility or contract agency of the department. If an office specified by
15 the department, a licensed program for runaway minors, a safe home that will accept the minor,
16 or a facility or contract agency of the department does not exist in the community, the officer
17 shall take the minor to another suitable location and promptly notify the department. A minor
18 under protective custody may not be housed in a jail or other detention facility. Immediately
19 upon taking a minor into protective custody, the officer shall advise the minor orally and in
20 writing of the right to social services under AS 47.10.142(b), and, if known, the officer shall
21 advise the legal custodian that the minor has been taken into protective custody.

22 * Sec. 5. AS 47.35.020 is amended to read:

23 Sec. 47.35.020. LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CARE
24 FACILITIES. A person may not, without a license or permit to do so,

25 (1) maintain or conduct [, FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS,] a boarding home,
26 foster home, group home, institution, or other place for the regular reception or care of children
27 under 16 years of age, or a foster home, group home, or institution for the care of dependent
28 adults; [OR]

29 (2) engage in the business of receiving or caring for children under 14 years of
30 age, with or without compensation, in a nursery in which five or more children not related by
31 blood or marriage, or legal adoption, to the owner, operator, or manager of the business are

1 lodged; or

2 (3) hold out publicly that the person's residence is a safe home for runaway
3 minors.

4 * Sec. 6. AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 Sec. 47.35.085. SAFE HOMES FOR RUNAWAY MINCRS. (a) The department shall
6 adopt regulations under which a nonprofit corporation may apply for a license to designate and
7 supervise safe homes for runaway minors.

8 (b) The department shall also adopt regulations setting health and safety standards for
9 safe homes. The regulations adopted under this subsection must

10 (1) involve less regulation than is required for programs for runaways licensed
11 under AS 47.10.310 and foster homes licensed under this chapter;

12 (2) provide that they will be enforced by persons licensed under (a) of this section
13 except as provided in (d) of this section; and

14 (3) require that a nonprofit corporation licensed under (a) of this section inspect
15 the safe homes, perform criminal background checks of its residents, keep records, and meet
16 other requirements only to the extent that they are necessary to ensure the health and safety of
17 a runaway minor in the home.

18 (c) If a person licensed under (a) of this section certifies to the department that a home
19 meets the standards set under (b) of this section, the department shall issue the home a permit
20 authorizing it to be a safe home for runaway minors. The permit may not be transferred to a
21 different facility or owner.

22 (d) Upon notice from a person licensed under (a) of this section that a safe home is not
23 in compliance with AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399 or the regulations of the department adopted under
24 (b) of this section, the department may revoke a permit issued under this subsection or modify
25 it to provisional status. The department shall give written notice of revocation or modification
26 under this subsection at least 30 days before the effective date of the action. However, if the
27 health or well-being of a child is in jeopardy, the revocation or modification action is effective
28 immediately upon the issuance of written notice by the department.

29 * Sec. 7. AS 47.35.100(a) is amended to read:

30 (a) Without a license issued by the department in accordance with its regulations a person
31 may not operate an agency providing any of the following services:

- 1 (1) the placement of children for foster home care;
- 2 (2) the placement of children for adoption; [OR]
- 3 (3) individual and family counseling; or
- 4 (4) designation and supervision of safe homes for runaway minors under
- 5 AS 47.35.085.
- 6 * Sec. 8. AS 47.35.900 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:
- 7 (7) "runaway minor" has the meaning given in AS 47.10.390;
- 8 (8) "safe home for runaway minors" or "safe home" means a private residence
- 9 whose legal occupant agrees to shelter, without compensation, a runaway minor accepted into the
- 10 residence, subject to the limitations imposed under this chapter and AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399.
- 11 * Sec. 9. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

LAWLOR
Compensation
"Runaway"
"difficult to conform to"

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 412 ()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FISCHER, Pearce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act directing the Department of Health and Social Services to develop a program
2 under which it would license 'safe homes' for runaway minors; relating to licensure of
3 facilities and record keeping by the facilities; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that licensed programs
6 for runaway minors need not be the only sources of government-sanctioned assistance for runaway
7 minors. There exist many concerned citizens in the state who, with appropriate state oversight and
8 certain limitations of their liability, would volunteer to assist runaway minors in their private residences.
9 It would be in the public interest to encourage properly qualified private citizens to seek licensure of
10 their homes as "safe homes" where runaway minors could seek temporary, short-term shelter and other
11 care.

12 (b) It is the intent of legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services, in
13 implementing this Act, develop a system for licensing "safe homes" that involves less regulation than
14 is required for licensed programs for runaways under AS 47.10.310 while still requiring adequate

1 assurances for the health and safety of runaway minors in the homes.

2 * Sec. 2. AS 34.50.020(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) A state agency or its agents, including a person working in or responsible for the
4 operadon of a foster, receiving, or detention home, or children's institution, is not liable for the
5 acts of unemancipated minors in its charge or custody. A state agency or an agent of a state
6 agency is not liable for the acts of a minor sheltered in a safe home licensed under
7 AS 47.35.

8 * Sec. 3. AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 ARTICLE 4A. SAFE HOMES FOR RUNAWAY MINORS.

10 Sec. 47.10.392. LICENSURE OF SAFE HOMES. A person may provide the person's
11 private residence as short-term shelter for a runaway minor by becoming licensed under AS 47.35
12 to provide a safe home for runaway minors.

13 Sec. 47.10.394. OPERATION OF SAFE HOMES. (a) The provider of a safe home may
14 not shelter a runaway minor for more than seven days unless the department determines that

15 (1) the minor is the subject of exceptional circumstances; or

16 (2) another appropriate setting is not available for the minor.

17 (b) The provider of a safe home shall promptly inform the department of a runaway
18 minor in the home who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined in
19 AS 47.17.290, or whom the provider has reasonable cause to suspect has been a victim of child
20 abuse or neglect.

21 (c) The provider of a safe home shall make good faith efforts to ensure that notice of the
22 minor's presence in a safe home is given to the minor's legal custodian as soon as possible after
23 the minor is admitted to the home. The notice need not specify the location of the safe home.
24 The provider may give the notice, or the provider may request the appropriate law enforcement
25 agency to give the notice. If requested by the provider, the law enforcement agency shall make
26 good faith efforts to give the notice required under this subsection.

27 Sec. 47.10.396. CONFIDENTIALITY. If the department requires record keeping by a
28 safe home, records of the home that identify a runaway minor who has been sheltered in the
29 home or has sought assistance from the home are confidential and are not subject to inspection
30 or copying under AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.120 unless

31 (1) after being informed of the minor's right to privacy, the minor consents in

1 writing to the disclosure of the records;

2 (2) the records are relevant to an investigation or proceeding involving child abuse
3 or neglect or a child in need of aid petition; or

4 (3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the life or health of the minor.

5 Sec. 47.10.398. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. (a) A person in a safe home, or in
6 a home for which an application to be licensed as a safe home is being considered by the
7 department, that is operated in a manner that is consistent with AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399,
8 AS 47.35, and regulations adopted under those sections is not criminally liable under
9 AS 11.51.130(a)(5) with respect to a runaway minor sheltered in the home unless the person aids,
10 induces, causes, or encourages a child under 16 years of age to be repeatedly absent from school
11 without just cause.

12 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the provider of a safe home, or of a home
13 for which an application to be licensed as a safe home is being considered by the department,
14 and the members of the provider's household other than a runaway minor are not liable for civil
15 damages as a result of an act or omission

16 (1) in admitting or refusing to admit a runaway minor to the home; or

17 (2) by a runaway minor who is sheltered in the home.

18 (c) The provisions of (b) of this section do not preclude liability for civil damages as a
19 result of recklessness or intentional misconduct by the provider of the safe home or a member
20 of the provider's household.

21 Sec. 47.10.399. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399,

22 (1) "provider" means a person who provides the person's private residence as a
23 safe home;

24 (2) "runaway minor" has the meaning given in AS 47.10.390;

25 (3) "safe home" has the meaning given in AS 47.35.900.

26 * Sec. 4. AS 47.10.141(b) is amended to read:

27 (b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor described in (a) of this
28 section if the minor is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor
29 the minor's preference to (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if the legal custodian
30 consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor and the
31 legal custodian; or (3) take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and

1 Social Services, a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310,
2 a safe home licensed by the department under AS 47.35 that agrees to shelter the minor,
3 or a facility or contract agency of the department. If an office specified by the department, a
4 licensed program for runaway minors, a safe home that will accept the minor, or a facility or
5 contract agency of the department does not exist in the community, the officer shall take the
6 minor to another suitable location and promptly notify the department. A minor under protective
7 custody may not be housed in a jail or other detention facility. Immediately upon taking a minor
8 into protective custody, the officer shall advise the minor orally and in writing of the right to
9 social services under AS 47.10.142(b), and, if known, the officer shall advise the legal custodian
10 that the minor has been taken into protective custody.

11 * Sec. 5. AS 47.35.010(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) The department may

13 (1) license and supervise boarding homes, foster homes, safe homes for runaway
14 minors, group homes, nurseries, institutions caring for children, and foster homes, group homes,
15 and institutions caring for dependent adults;

16 (2) investigate and supervise licensees;

17 (3) enforce the standards established by it;

18 (4) contract with private or municipal agencies to investigate and make
19 recommendations to the department for the licensing and supervision of boarding homes, foster
20 homes, safe homes for runaway minors, group homes, nurseries, institutions caring for children,
21 and foster homes, group homes, and institutions caring for dependent adults under procedures and
22 standards of operation established by the department; contracts with private agencies under this
23 paragraph are governed by AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code).

24 * Sec. 6. AS 47.35.020 is amended to read:

25 Sec. 47.35.020. LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CARE
26 FACILITIES. A person may not, without a license or permit to do so,

27 (1) maintain or conduct [, FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS,] a boarding home,
28 foster home, safe home for runaway minors, group home, institution, or other place for the
29 regular reception or care of children under 16 years of age, or a foster home, group home, or
30 institution for the care of dependent adults; or

31 (2) engage in the business of receiving or caring for children under 14 years of

1 age, with or without compensation, in a nursery in which five or more children not related by
2 blood or marriage, or legal adoption, to the owner, operator, or manager of the business are
3 lodged.

4 * Sec. 7. AS 47.35.060 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 47.35.060. RECORDS REQUIRED. Each licensee or permit holder shall keep
6 records regarding each child or adult in its control and care, or placed by it, that the department
7 prescribes, and shall report to the department the facts that the department requires with reference
8 to the children or adults. All records regarding individuals placed or received for care in an
9 institution or home under this chapter are confidential and shall be safeguarded from improper
10 disclosure by the home, agency, or department.

11 * Sec. 8. AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 Sec. 47.35.085. LICENSING AND SUPERVISION OF SAFE HOMES. (a) The
13 department shall license and supervise safe homes for runaway minors in a manner that involves
14 less regulation than is required for programs for runaways licensed under AS 47.10.310 and
15 foster homes licensed under this chapter.

16 (b) The department may require inspections of a safe home, criminal background checks
17 of its residents, record keeping, and other requirements only to the extent that they are necessary
18 to ensure the health and safety of a runaway minor in the home.

19 (c) The department may limit the number and ages of runaway minors that may be
20 sheltered in a safe home at one time.

21 (d) A safe home may not be simultaneously licensed under AS 47.10.310 as a program
22 for runaway minors.

23 * Sec. 9. AS 47.35.900(3) is amended to read:

24 (3) "facility" means the administration, program, and physical plant of a nursery
25 caring for children, a safe home caring for runaway minors, or a foster home, group home, or
26 institution caring for children or dependent adults;

27 * Sec. 10. AS 47.35.900 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

28 (7) "safe home for runaway minors" or "safe home" means a private residence
29 whose legal occupant agrees to shelter, without compensation, a runaway minor accepted into the
30 residence, subject to the limitations imposed under this chapter and AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399.

31 * Sec. 11. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

P.O. BOX 110630
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-0630
PHONE: (907) 465-3170

February 21, 1992

Dear Senator:

Each year the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services is required to report to you on the status of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska.

This year's report, entitled Children in Crisis, receives additional input from dozens of parents, social services professionals and public safety officials.

These people gathered in a series of three community-based conferences around the state, arranged by DFYS in response to public outcry. Parents wanted to know what they can do when their children run away. Communities wanted to know what they can do to better serve the children of their streets.

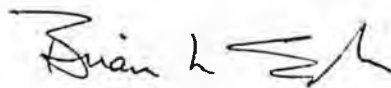
Children in Crisis outlines the findings of the conference participants and deserves your attention. The report identifies the problem of runaway and homeless youth, its severity in Alaska, inadequacies in the system designed to serve these youth and recommendations for strengthening the services system.

We hope that this report will serve to open dialogue into the critical situation of homeless and runaway youth in Alaska. Together we can resolve this problem.

Sincerely,



Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner



Brian L. Saylor, PhD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner

Children in Crisis

A REPORT ON RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH IN ALASKA

JANUARY 1992



State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family and Youth Services

Walter J. Hickel
Governor

Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110630
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 0630
PHONE (907) 465-3170

January 24, 1992

Dear Alaskans:

Each year the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) is mandated under AS 47.10.300 to report to the Legislature on the status of Homeless and Runaway Youth in Alaska. This year's report is bolstered by tremendous public participation at the grass roots level.

In reaction to public outcry from parents of runaways, social services professionals and public safety officials, DFYS in conjunction with Representative Randy Phillips (R) Eagle River convened a series of three community-centered conferences to explore the problem of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska.

What the participants found is astounding. Over 3,500 Alaska youth runaway from home each year. On any given day, an estimated 37 youths are on the run. And, an estimated 1820 youths are homeless each year.

The conferences also brought to light shortcomings in the social services system that should serve youth. Since DFYS is mandated to serve either neglected/abused children or delinquent youth, runaways and homeless kids are often underserved.

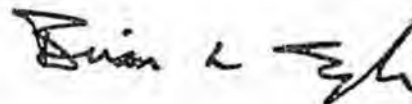
It is clear that the time has come for improved service to these lost, but not forgotten children and their families. Several communities have already taken ownership of the problem, developing 24-hour crisis networks and shelters. But before the problem of homeless and runaway youth in Alaska can be appropriately addressed, all communities, the Legislature and the Administration must climb on the wave of enthusiasm and take joint ownership of this grave dilemma.

We thank Representative Phillips, DFYS staff members, the consultants and, most of all, the people of the communities involved for their participation in this report. We are confident that together we can better serve the homeless and runaway youth of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner



Brian Saylor, PhD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner

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Executive Summary

The Division of Family & Youth Services (DFYS) convened a conference on November 7 & 8, 1991 in Palmer to discuss with citizens and consultants the growing runaway and homeless youth crisis in the state. In addition, DFYS held similar community meetings on the Kenai Peninsula and on Kodiak Island as they were not represented at the Palmer conference. Over 100 professionals and citizens from across the state who attended the conferences concluded that runaway and homeless youth are a serious problem in all parts of the state. They estimated that:

- *** Over 3,500 Alaska youth runaway from home each year;
- *** There are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year; and
- *** Over 1,800 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually.

Most of these youth have no access to safe shelter, family reunification assistance, or programs to help them become productive adults. Consequently, they:

- *** Run to city streets, out-of-state, friends homes or exploitive adults;
- *** May find shelter in abandoned buildings, tents, or vehicles;
- *** Cycle in and out of unstable living situations creating a lifestyle of chaos, insecurity and unrealistic expectations; and
- *** May engage in prostitution, drug trafficking and property crimes to support themselves.

Conference participants concluded that additional services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in Alaska. Currently, DFYS programs are designed to meet the needs of either neglected and abused children, or delinquent youth. While some runaway and homeless youth fall into these two categories, most fall through a large gap in the social services system that fails to address their specific needs. Consequently, youth behaviors often escalate to the level of services they can access. In other words, youth must commit law violations or reach an observable level of abuse and neglect before the service system can respond.

Conference Report

BACKGROUND

Intra-family conflict and disagreements between parents and their children are a regular part of our society. Many families are torn apart by child abuse and neglect, substance abuse and domestic violence. Changing family structures place more stresses on parents and children. Fewer and fewer children seem to be raised in stable, supportive two parent households.

A consequence of these pressures on families and children is the growing national problem of runaway and homeless youth who leave home due to family conflicts, violence and abuse. Based on the latest research, the National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimates that each year 1 to 1.3 million youth runaway from their homes. Another 300,000 young people are homeless annually.

The problem of runaway and homeless youth is a growing crisis in Alaska as well. As this Conference Report will detail, there are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year and over 1,800 youth annually are homeless. Some areas of the state have services to assist these vulnerable young people. Many areas of the state have few or no services. And in no area of the state are services even close to responding adequately to the growing number of runaway and homeless youth.

Alarmed by the number of runaway and homeless youth in their area, citizens and professionals in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley began to organize a community-wide effort to respond to this problem. In 1991 they delivered petitions signed by over 2,500 Alaska residents to the governor and the legislature. These petitions requested that action be taken to assist local communities in addressing the problem of runaway and homeless youth.

In response to these petitions, Representative Randy Phillips introduced legislation (H.B. 262) that in part would make running away from home and curfew violations a crime punishable by a fine up to \$300 or up to 30 days in detention. Current Alaska statutes contain provisions allowing parents to file runaway reports on their children and permitting law enforcement officers to take runaway juveniles into custody for the purpose of assessment and referral to services. However, runaways can not be compelled to accept services or return home. Under current law, runaway juveniles in Alaska may not be placed in secure detention.

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

Executive Summary

The Division of Family & Youth Services (DFYS) convened a conference on November 7 & 8, 1991 in Palmer to discuss with citizens and consultants the growing runaway and homeless youth crisis in the state. In addition, DFYS held similar community meetings on the Kenai Peninsula and on Kodiak Island as they were not represented at the Palmer conference. Over 100 professionals and citizens from across the state who attended the conferences concluded that runaway and homeless youth are a serious problem in all parts of the state. They estimated that:

- *** Over 3,500 Alaska youth runaway from home each year;
- *** There are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year; and
- *** Over 1,800 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually.

Most of these youth have no access to safe shelter, family reunification assistance, or programs to help them become productive adults. Consequently, they:

- *** Run to city streets, out-of-state, friends homes or exploitive adults;
- *** May find shelter in abandoned buildings, tents, or vehicles;
- *** Cycle in and out of unstable living situations creating a lifestyle of chaos, insecurity and unrealistic expectations; and
- *** May engage in prostitution, drug trafficking and property crimes to support themselves.

Conference participants concluded that additional services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in Alaska. Currently, DFYS programs are designed to meet the needs of either neglected and abused children, or delinquent youth. While some runaway and homeless youth fall into these two categories, most fall through a large gap in the social services system that fails to address their specific needs. Consequently, youth behaviors often escalate to the level of services they can access. In other words, youth must commit law violations or reach an observable level of abuse and neglect before the service system can respond.

Only Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks have programs designed specifically to meet the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth. These programs are not adequate to meet the runaway and homeless need in the urban areas they serve. Aside from some local grass-roots efforts to house runaway and homeless youth, services in rural Alaska are seriously lacking.

Each region represented at the conferences identified several options for addressing the runaway and homeless youth problem in their areas.

- *** Participants from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley have already begun work on establishing a 6 to 12 bed Safe Home shelter and a Host Home Network.
- *** Anchorage representatives feel their area needs 40 more beds, perhaps half designated for younger teens (12-15) and half designated as supervised or unsupervised apartments. In addition, Anchorage seeks a 15 bed, short-term "cool down" shelter.
- *** Participants from Southeast Alaska and Kodiak feel the need for a greater continuum of care, involving many agencies. They also expressed a need for a juvenile detoxification center.
- *** All areas expressed some interest in establishing a 24-hour on call crisis intervention service, and development of better runaway prevention and follow up planning. All areas believe that in addition to federal and private funds, a third stream of funding is needed to address the problem.
- *** Consultants recommend development of a strong state multi-agency network with a designated lead agency.

Other cities and boroughs in Alaska need additional representation from their communities to complete planning in their geographic areas. Meetings or other information gathering efforts should be initiated in these geographic areas to complete the identification of strategies to address the problem. In addition, conferees should solicit input from former and current teen runaways and homeless youth to involve their insight into the problem.

Conference Report

BACKGROUND

Intra-family conflict and disagreements between parents and their children are a regular part of our society. Many families are torn apart by child abuse and neglect, substance abuse and domestic violence. Changing family structures place more stresses on parents and children. Fewer and fewer children seem to be raised in stable, supportive two parent households.

A consequence of these pressures on families and children is the growing national problem of runaway and homeless youth who leave home due to family conflicts, violence and abuse. Based on the latest research, the National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimates that each year 1 to 1.3 million youth runaway from their homes. Another 300,000 young people are homeless annually.

The problem of runaway and homeless youth is a growing crisis in Alaska as well. As this Conference Report will detail, there are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year and over 1,800 youth annually are homeless. Some areas of the state have services to assist these vulnerable young people. Many areas of the state have few or no services. And in no area of the state are services even close to responding adequately to the growing number of runaway and homeless youth.

Alarmed by the number of runaway and homeless youth in their area, citizens and professionals in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley began to organize a community-wide effort to respond to this problem. In 1991 they delivered petitions signed by over 2,500 Alaska residents to the governor and the legislature. These petitions requested that action be taken to assist local communities in addressing the problem of runaway and homeless youth.

In response to these petitions, Representative Randy Phillips introduced legislation (H.B. 262) that in part would make running away from home and curfew violations a crime punishable by a fine up to \$300 or up to 30 days in detention. Current Alaska statutes contain provisions allowing parents to file runaway reports on their children and permitting law enforcement officers to take runaway juveniles into custody for the purpose of assessment and referral to services. However, runaways can not be compelled to accept services or return home. Under current law, runaway juveniles in Alaska may not be placed in secure detention.

Alaska law has provisions for the licensing and operation of programs for runaway minors. Such programs do exist in the more urban areas of the state (Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks). These programs are funded primarily by federal grants. Other areas of the state must rely on Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) funded programs that are designed to serve abused and neglected children or criminal law violators.

DEFINITIONS

Alaska statute 47.10.390 defines a runaway minor as "a person under 18 years of age who:

- (A) is habitually absent from home;
- (B) refuses to accept available care;
- (C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative able or willing to provide care; or
- (D) has been physically abandoned by
 - (i) both parents;
 - (ii) the surviving parent; or
 - (iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated or voluntarily relinquished."

For the purposes of these conferences, the following nationally recognized definitions for runaway and homeless youth were used:

Runaway: Youth who leave home and return at a later date. If the objective of services is to return the youth to a home environment or group care, then the youth is a runaway.

Homeless: Youth who leave home and do not return or who periodically return to destructive home environments. If the objective of service is preparation for independent living then the youth is homeless. Homeless youth do not have any apparent legal means of financial support.

The combined definitions for runaway and homeless youth used by the conferences are functionally equivalent to the legal definition for runaway youth contained in Alaska statutes.

Conference participants described Runaway and Homeless youth as having one or in most cases more of the following characteristics:

- *** Physically and sexually abused;
- *** Abuse alcohol and drugs;
- *** Abandoned or rejected by parents;
- *** Truant, failing in school and having difficulty staying in school;
- *** Unable to focus on future planning and independence;
- *** Diagnosable emotional and mental health problems; and
- *** Experience chronic health problems including sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and poor nutrition.

THE CONFERENCES

On November 7 and 8, 1991 the Division of Family and Youth Services convened a conference in Palmer to begin development of a statewide plan for runaway and homeless youth. With the assistance of Division staff and the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services, over 100 professionals and citizens from around the state developed the framework for such a plan. Division of Family and Youth Services staff convened similar conferences on the Kenai Peninsula with 26 participants on December 10, 1991 and on Kodiak Island with 16 participants on December 12, 1991.

The conferences began with a discussion of the behaviors, characteristics and special problems of runaway and homeless youth. Participants then defined desirable outcomes for these youth. Finally, strategies to reach the desired outcomes were developed. When completed, these strategies will comprise a blueprint for how Alaska can address the problem of runaway and homeless youth.

Many aspects of the statewide plan were completed at the conferences. The strategy details for some areas of the state are yet to be finalized. The recommendations section at the end of this Conference Report suggest some ways to complete the plan.

POPULATION DESCRIPTION AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Although participants split into working groups by geographic regions for the purpose of gathering information for this report, the population descriptions and desired outcomes developed by each group was virtually the same.

RUNAWAY YOUTH

Each group was ask to provide a descriptive list that would address each of the topics below:

Primary reasons that youth runaway from home:

- * Physical and sexual abuse
- * Family conflict:
 - lack of communication
 - poor or inconsistent parental discipline
 - emotional abuse
 - consistent undermining of youths self-esteem
- * Poor supervision/absent parents
- * Parental drug/alcohol abuse
- * Youth drug/alcohol abuse
- * Low self-esteem/fear of failure or consequences
- * Peer influence
- * Adolescent rebellion; want to be on their own

Conference participants consistently reported that youth running away from home were choosing this course of action out of a sense of desperation and confusion. Whether real or perceived, most runaway youth leave home because they are running from something and not to something or for excitement and adventure.

While most of the reasons for runaway incidents identified by the conference participants centered around the dynamics of various family problems, there was a great deal of concern and empathy for the parents of runaway youth. These professionals perceived that the parents of many of these youth do have the desire to keep their families intact and their children at home.

Where youth run:

- * City streets, shelters, out-of-state
- * Friends homes or apartments
- * Extended family members
- * Exploitative relationships
- * Strangers
- * Well meaning adults
- * Abandoned buildings, tents, vehicles, boats, shipping vans
- * Hotels/motels (often with other youth)

Conference participants were especially concerned about youth who are "harbored" or find shelter with older adults or peers. In many instances these individuals provide food, shelter, illegal drugs and alcohol in exchange for sex, assistance selling drugs or involvement in other criminal activity.

In most communities safe shelter is available to youth only through programs funded by Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS). The only way a youth can access shelter through DFYS is to meet specific criteria that would constitute a "filing" by DFYS for protective services or to commit a criminal offense. Many runaway youth do not meet the criteria for these placements, and therefore are not eligible for DFYS funded shelter. Even without DFYS restrictions, there are not enough shelter beds to accommodate the number of runaway youth identified within these communities.

Behaviors and problems of runaway youth:

- * Illegal activity to meet survival needs
 - prostitution
 - selling drugs
 - property crimes (including theft from parents homes)
- * Depression/Suicidal ideation
- * 20% have diagnosable mental health conditions
- * Almost all use drugs and alcohol, large portion have drug and alcohol problems
- * High likelihood of school failure/truancy (although those enrolled in strong alternative school programs may continue to attend school)
- * Financial Problems/Panhandling
- * Most will have emotional or psychological problems
- * Poor anger control/assaultive behavior
- * Low self esteem
- * Promiscuity/Teen Pregnancy
- * High risk for sexually transmitted diseases
- * High risk victims of violence
- * At least 40% are abuse victims
- * Some may have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE), and/or various diagnosable learning disabilities.

Estimated numbers of runaway youth:

Conference participants were asked to estimate the number of youth in their area on the run each day, the number that runaway each year and also the number of incidents of runaway per year.

ESTIMATE

<u>AREA</u>	<u>YOUTH/DAY</u>	<u>INCIDENTS/YEAR</u>	<u>YOUTH/YEAR</u>
Matanuska-Susitna	3.2	1,200	600
Southeast Alaska	4.1	1,500	300
Greater Fairbanks	6.8	2,500	450
Bethel	1.0	450	150
Nome	.7	285	100
Barrow	.8	300	100
Anchorage	12.0	4,500	1,500
Kenai Peninsula	5.0	1,825	250
Kodiak	<u>3.0</u>	<u>1,095</u>	<u>60</u>
TOTALS	36.6	13,655	3,510

Other demographics:

AGE: Most areas reported the ages of runaway youth to be between 12-17 years of age. The average age was estimated to be 14.5 years, although the remote community of Bethel reported 13 years of age as did the community of Seward.

GENDER: Approximately the same number of males and females engage in runaway behavior in the Mat-Su, Kodiak and Anchorage areas. The areas of Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel and Nome reported 55% were female and 45% were male. The Kenai Peninsula reported 66% female to 33% male while Barrow reported 70% female and 30% male.

RACE:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>CAUCASIAN</u>	<u>NATIVE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Matanuska-Susitna	80%	20%	0%
Anchorage	70%	20%	10%
Juneau	64%	33%	2%
Fairbanks	65%	20%	15%
Bethel	3%	95%	2%
Nome	10%	85%	5%
Barrow	4%	96%	1%
Kenai Peninsula	Not identified		
Kodiak	60%	30%	10%

Desired Outcomes:

To arrive at the following list of outcomes participants discussed how they would know that their responses to the problems of runaway youth had been successful; what would be different in their lives, their families and within their communities. Participants agreed communities should be more responsible for their youth and families by recognizing the problems of runaway youth and supporting programs that provide family orientated activities and treatment/counseling services.

- * Safety and security (including safe housing)
- * Return home/stay home
- * Return to school; stay in school
- * Better family communication skills/Family in recovery
- * No substance abuse (youth and other family members)
- * Improved self-esteem
- * Cessation of abuse
- * Responsible sexual behavior (includes fewer teen pregnancies)
- * No criminal activity
- * Adequate food, clothing, medical & mental health care
- * Greater community responsibility for its youth
- * Kids discover someone cares

- * Supportive, loving, nurturing home environments
- * Positive peer culture influence rather than negative
- * Adequate life skills

HOMELESS YOUTH

Primary reasons youth leave home:

- * Sexual and physical abuse
- * Abandoned by parents
- * Family can no longer economically support their children
- * Thrown out/asked to leave
- * Alcohol and drug abuse (youth and/or parent)
- * Adolescent rebellion; want to be on their own
- * Emotional abandonment/belief no one cares about them
- * Family stress and emotional abuse
- * Domestic violence.
- * Youth refuses to follow the family rules & values
- * Teen pregnancy

Homeless youth believe, for various reasons, that they cannot return home even if they have intact families. Some are not allowed to return home because they have unresolved conflicts with their parents. Many homeless youth are "grown up" runaways with a history of multiple runaway incidents, and formal and informal out-of-home placements. Most have in effect "been on their own" for months or even years. They are alienated, not only from their families, but from their communities as well.

Where homeless youth live:

Homeless youth find shelter the same way that runaway kids find shelter. The difference is that they frequently move from one living situation to another because no immediate or extended family resource is available or appropriate.

The progression from runaway to homeless often begins by the runaway moving from friend to friend until they wear out their "welcome." The runaway may then graduate to abandoned housing, city streets and finally to exploitive adults as more and more shelters options disappear. Eventually, it becomes apparent to them that they are not able to return home. They may be placed in out-of-home care by state agencies, but simply return to unstable, unsuitable living situations when released from placement.

The phenomena of cycling in and out of living situations becomes an act of survival and one which consumes most of their energy leaving little time for the pursuit of employment, education or training.

Behaviors and problems of homeless youth:

Many of these youth have the same problems and behaviors as runaway youth. Homeless youth have in addition:

- * Emancipation issues
- * Inadequate living skills, vocational skills or have not completed their high school education.
- * Health care is only addressed on an emergency basis
 - they have chronic health problems
 - sexually transmitted diseases
 - lack of resources for dental care
- * Distrust of adults
- * Criminal activity:
 - property crimes
 - selling drugs
 - prostitution
- * Teen pregnancy/Teen parenting
- * Illiteracy
- * Severe emotional problems:
 - anger
 - depression
 - suicidal ideation
 - self-mutilation
 - very low self-esteem
- * Likely to have cyclical family histories of:
 - homelessness
 - poverty
- * Escalation of alcohol and drug abuse and a higher rate of addiction.
- * Street-wise
- * System-wise
- * History of out-of-home placements
- * Inability to engage in realistic life planning, short term perspective, unrealistic expectations, and difficulty in making long term commitments.

Physical and sexual abuse, drug and alcohol use and emotional problems can be severe and chronic for homeless youth. Some have become "street-wise" and are adept at living in marginal and disenfranchised urban populations. Many have established a "street family" of other youth and adults who inhabit the street scene. Many have become "system-wise" from their years of cycling in and out of foster care and informal placements and understand how to manipulate the system minimally to meet their needs. They learn to avoid more punitive aspects of the social and criminal justice

systems, although some may commit crimes to receive needed services.

Because they are so consumed with meeting their day to day basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing they often develop very unrealistic expectations of themselves and their communities. To the drug and/or alcohol addicted youth, these basic needs are superseded in order to get the "next fix." They take a very short term perspective of their lives and are unable to engage in planning or making long term commitments in personal relationships and/or employment/educational endeavors.

Estimated numbers of homeless youth per year:

Matanuska-Susitna	300
Anchorage	1,000
Fairbanks	200
Barrow	10
Bethel	50
Nome	10
Kodiak	30
Kenai Peninsula	120
Southeast Alaska	100
TOTAL	1,820

Other demographics:

AGE: Approximately 90% of homeless youth are 16-21 years of age.

GENDER: Several areas reported that there were slightly more homeless males than females. Anchorage reported 70% males and 30% females. Homer and Kodiak, however reported 60% females to 40% males.

RACE: Approximately the same as for runaway youth with Anchorage reporting a slightly higher percentage of native youth (25%) and other ethnic groups (15%) and a lower percentage of caucasian youth (60%).

Desired Outcomes:

- * Viable, safe housing
- * Improved life and employment skills
- * Job opportunities that pay a living wage
- * Completion of high school education
- * Reduction in criminal activity
- * Reduction in alcohol/drug abuse
- * Family reconciliation (probably without family reunification)
- * Increased self-esteem
- * Ability to plan for the future and make commitments
- * Become responsible community members

Again, the conference participants sought to determine how they would know they had been successful in responding to the needs of homeless youth. The most desirable outcomes revolved around the provision of safe housing, attaining job/vocational skills, completion of high school education and getting/keeping a job. The groups generally felt that if these things could be attained, homeless youth would be less likely to engage in criminal activity, alcohol and drug abuse, and self destructive behaviors. The groups also expected that due to the support of services for homeless youth that they would feel better about themselves, and have greater opportunity for reconciling with their families even if they didn't return home. This would also result in more appropriate life planning and ultimately their becoming productive, responsible, contributing members of their communities.

STRATEGIES

Ultimately, participants believed that services needed to focus on strengthening the family. Program approaches that lead to greater reliance on government services to provide ongoing safety, security, guidance and nurturance for children are far too expensive and likely to fail.

For runaway youth this means family reunification and resolution of problems and conflicts that precipitated the runaway incident. Whenever possible, families should be given the opportunity to learn skills that will prevent conflicts from

escalating to runaway incidents.

For homeless youth the solutions are especially important to strengthen future families. Adolescent women who are homeless are very likely to become pregnant. Male homeless youth are not prepared to support a family and may have learned the patterns of domestic violence from their fathers. The only family they have known was most likely to have been unstable, abusive, violent and non-supportive. There is no reason to believe that these teenagers will be any different than their parents. Without intervention, the violence, abuse and dysfunction that they experienced in their families will be repeated in the families they create.

Currently only Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks receive state and federal funds for runaway and homeless youth programs. Private funding also supports Covenant House in Anchorage. Participants believed that additional services would be needed in all parts of the state to adequately meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth.

A summary of program models that have been effective in meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth was presented at the conferences and is attached in the appendix. Strategies developed by conference participants for different regions of the state follow.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY

Because the conference was held in Palmer, the Matanuska-Susitna area was represented by a substantial cross-section of professionals and citizens. Consequently, this region's strategies are the most complete and have the broadest support from the region.

Safe Home Shelter

The primary focus of the plan for the Mat-Su area is development of a 6 to 12 bed safe house shelter for runaways. The purpose of this program is to provide shelter, safety and food for youth who have left home.

The program will include a full-time family counselor who will develop plans to return youth home, to a relative's home or to some other safe long-term housing. Family reunification assistance will begin within 24 hours after a youth is admitted to the shelter. The average length of stay in the home is expected to be 72 hours and the maximum stay will be 14 days.

Awake shelter staff will be available on a 24 hour basis to provide crisis intervention, assessment and screening for youth brought to the house. It was felt that dependent, abused or neglected youth or those with criminal law violations were inappropriate for the safe house as other DFYS funded programs are available for these youth.

24 Hour On-Call

The Mat-Su area has an existing system of 24-hour on-call crisis capability. These systems are operated by law enforcement, DFYS, and Life Quest (a private community-based agency). Participants identified a need for greater communication and coordination among these agencies. The existing Children's Services Task Force will help clarify roles and responsibilities of agencies providing on-call crisis services. These agencies plus other agencies in the area (including schools) will be primary access points for the shelter. Runaway youth may also self-refer to the shelter.

Host Home Network

The second service priority for the Mat-su area is a host home network and family mediation services. Paid and volunteer families will be used to provide shelter for youth who can not be returned home within the 14 day maximum stay at the safe house. Family mediation services will supplement the work of the shelter's family counselor. Mediation will use trained volunteers to help resolve specific family conflicts and behavior problems. Funds will be needed for recruitment, training and support of host homes. Department of Health and Social Services can adopt standards for these homes. A part- or full-time staff person is needed to recruit, train and support family mediation volunteers.

After a system of services for runaways was operating, participants from the Mat-Su area believed that a group facility for homeless youth should be developed. This program should have a strong case management component.

ANCHORAGE

The second largest representation at the Mat-su conference was from Anchorage. Anchorage participants determined that the greatest priority service needs for runaway and homeless youth were strengthening 24-hour access to services, more efficient use (and possible re-organization) of their youth services team, developing a "cool down" short term shelter for runaways and adding approximately 40 more beds for homeless youth.

Anchorage has several points of access that are available 24-hours a day for runaway and homeless youth. However, it is not clear to law enforcement and agencies providing these services who has what type of service and how much of it is available. The group agreed that one agency should be identified to coordinate a 24 hour access system and determine a protocol for agencies to follow for access into the service system for runaway and homeless youth.

To accomplish this the group will propose restructuring of their current youth services team model, the Child Advocacy Network (CAN), so it may take on the coordination of some important resources for runaway and homeless youth. Those are:

- * Update Agency Resource Manual for the area and the state.
- * Establishing a coordinated case management referral system for difficult runaway clients and their families.
- * Developing a written protocol/description of the service system and coordination of access to services for runaway youth.

The group thought that existing shelter at Covenant House and the Challenge program of Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation was not meeting the needs of some runaway youth (ie: some runaways will not use the shelters because of rules they consider too restrictive). Therefore, they will explore options for the development of a "cool down" short-term 15 bed shelter facility that will provide basic needs of shelter, food and clothing for youth that are not able to commit to moving from their transient life style, but are in need of safe secure shelter.

There was also consensus that approximately 40 new transitional living beds were needed to house homeless youth in Anchorage. It was felt that 20 of those beds were needed for younger homeless youth (12-15 years) and 20 for youth 16-19 years

of age. A mix of supervised and unsupervised apartment living and some self-governed group care will be developed to establish a "continuum" of options for homeless youth. This will insure that appropriate options exist for all homeless youth so each individuals specific needs will be met.

Other areas that were identified to be considered for further development were mediation training for school personnel and other social service workers, access to free or low cost dental care, more job/living skill training, more workers/volunteers to provide street outreach for substance abuse education and development of a Host Home model shelter program for younger less sophisticated runaway youth.

Anchorage was not widely represented at this meeting and review comments suggest there is a need to more thoroughly examine the identified needs and strategies at a follow up meeting which includes a broader base of participants.

JUNEAU, FAIRBANKS, NOME, BETHEL, AND BARROW

Representatives from Southeastern Alaska, the greater Fairbanks area, Nome, Bethel and Barrow also attended the Mat-su conference. These participants believed that follow-up planning should be done in their geographic regions to develop specific programs and priorities. Such an approach will utilize the expertise of experienced professionals and knowledgeable citizens in each region and create the broadest base of support for the plan. Regional planning should lead to:

- establishment of an interdisciplinary team that will oversee implementation of the plan and services to runaway and homeless youth (including protocols for service delivery);
- designation of a single point of access for services;
- a comprehensive continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth that includes the following services:
 - * in-home services;
 - * family mediation services;
 - * medical care;
 - * 24 hour crisis line;
 - * 24 hour access to services;
 - * food and safe shelter;
 - * case management;
 - * detox services;