

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2002

Source
CSSCR 21(HES)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
51



Supporting the development of adequate in-state treatment capacity for severely disturbed children.

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

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2001, Alaska's Medicaid program funded over 300 severely emotionally disturbed Alaska children placed in out-of-state residential treatment facilities by the Department of Health and Social Services or private parties; and

WHEREAS the total number of all types of licensed child residential beds in Alaska is approximately 561, and only 108 of these beds provide the same level of treatment received by severely emotionally disturbed children in out-of-state placements; and

WHEREAS the lack of in-state residential treatment beds clearly contributes to the number of out-of-state placements; and

WHEREAS residential treatment beds are a critical component in the continuum of treatment and care for severely emotionally disturbed children; and

WHEREAS providing residential treatment in Alaska allows for increased involvement of a child's family, members of the child's support system, and involved

community providers in the child's treatment, thereby improving the quality of care and leading to better outcomes, long-term success, and improved client satisfaction; and

WHEREAS subsequent placement in foster care, referral for other treatment, and reintegration of the child back into Alaska communities can be more easily and quickly achieved when a child is discharged from an in-state residential treatment facility, while focusing on transition and a variety of local community-based services, in the child's home of origin; and

WHEREAS development of residential treatment facilities in Alaska will create local construction and institutional jobs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to work in conjunction with the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other interested parties to strengthen the full continuum of residential and community-based care and to work in a coordinated, cooperative, collaborative, and partnering manner towards integration of services in Alaska for the treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the governor to encourage the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other interested parties to establish as a priority the development of sufficient in-state residential care to serve severely emotionally disturbed children who would otherwise be placed in out-of-state facilities.