

Alaska Mental Health Board & Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Winter 2018 Update



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Thank You



- Thank you to Pat Sidmore for serving as Acting Executive Director
- Alison Kulas, Executive Director
 - Public Health background
 - National Academy of Medicine Tobacco Regulatory Science Fellow serving at the US Food & Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products
 - Program Manager, State of Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
 - Co-Chair of the DPH Marijuana Control Working Group
 - Title 4 Licensing Subcommittee Working Group
 - AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, RurAL CAP

Mission



- The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) are the state agencies charged with planning and coordinating behavioral health services funded by the State of Alaska. The joint mission of AMHB and ABADA is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans.

Vision: Alaskans Living Healthy, Productive Lives

- Meaningful opportunities to share ideas and experiences related to behavioral health to support solutions to constituent problems
- Planning and coordination of the behavioral health system informed by direct collaboration with communities to:
 - Support communities in identifying problems and solutions
 - Evaluate programs and services with focus on clinical practice and client outcomes
 - Identify and promote programs that achieve positive client outcomes
- Advocacy with people experiencing substance use and mental health disorders, their families and communities
- Inform and make recommendations to the Trust, Legislature, & Executive Branch



Major Component Accomplishments FY18

- Medicaid Redesign and Reform: 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration Waiver
- Alaska Opioid Policy Task Force
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Alaska Fetal Alcohol Spectrums Disorders Partnership
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Advocacy efforts
- Public input
- Coordination and collaboration with DHSS and other Boards



Medicaid Section 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration Application

- In 2016 the Alaska Legislature passed SB74, a multi-dimensional Medicaid reform package- including direction to apply for a Section 1115 waiver for a more comprehensive and integrated behavioral health system
- The Boards solicited stakeholder engagement to submit draft 1115 waiver concept paper and conversations with CMS in 2017
- Staff compiled information to draft the application- sent out for public comment in November 2017
- 350 comments received and sent forward to DHSS



Opioid Misuse and Addiction



- Convened the Alaska Opioid Policy Task Force
- AOPTF issued a broad set of recommendations to prevent, treat and support recovery from opioid misuse and addiction
- Work was grounded in science of addiction and how opioids affect the brain and body
- Staff served as the Interagency Liaison for the Opioid Command Structure

Alaska Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Partnership



- Statewide coalition of individuals diagnosed with FASD and their families, service providers, and other interested community members
- Over 100 individual and agency members
- Engaged in educational and advocacy events
- Special focus on Alaskans experiencing FASD in the corrections and justice systems
- Convened a statewide workgroup to address FASD training for foster families and OCS workers

Adverse Childhood Experiences



- Continue to work with State and community partners to collect, analyze, and report Alaska specific data
- Significant work on early childhood and mental health
- Trauma-informed schools pilot project underway in Juneau
 - Schools use findings to better understand students' behaviors and support student achievement
- Doctors are screening for ACEs and incorporating into treatment
- Library of resources has been expanded
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/abada/ace-ak/>

Criminal Justice



- Worked with reentry coalitions to identify needs of justice-involved individuals with behavioral health disorders, their families, and providers of services
- Provided advocacy training and educational materials to reentry coalitions in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Kenai, and Juneau
- Rallied people with lived experience of incarceration and addiction to testify in support of criminal justice reforms before legislators.



Advocacy Efforts

- Training for grassroots advocates throughout the state
- Coordinate weekly advocacy calls during session
- Bill tracking and monitoring
 - 6 bills passed in 2017
 - 23 bills still on the table
 - 9 bills pre-filed for 2018
- Budget tracking and monitoring
- End of Session Legislative Advocacy Report



Public Input

- Boards solicited public comment from consumers, families and community members at Board meetings in Bethel and Ketchikan
- Boards continue to use all public input into their many efforts to sustain and improve the behavioral health system in Alaska

AMHB and ABADA work together with constituents to make Alaska a place where everyone has the opportunity for a meaningful life through access to a holistic and person-centered array of services delivered with competence, respect, and compassion.

Coordination and Collaboration



- The Boards keep open communication with the Department of Health and Social Services and its advisory bodies, other Departments and partner advisory boards
- We look forward to growing partnerships in the coming years to enhance collaboration of behavioral health services in Alaska

Thank You



Questions? Comments?

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