

Written Public Comment

(received February 6, 2025)

SPAM: In Support of Alaska Impact Alliance Funding Family Resource Centers

From Delores Long <DLong@casey.org>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 12:44 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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I was unable to speak at the meeting today due to time constraints. Therefore, I am submitting my testimony in writing.

What do we at Casey Family Programs know about the benefits of Family Resources Centers (FRCs)?

First and foremost we know that [poverty is the most consistent and strongest predictor of having an open child protection case](#) due in part to [families living in poverty being overreported](#) to CPS for neglect. We also know that families living in poverty often live in communities with limited resources. And community-based programs, such as family resource centers (FRCs) can be an effective way of offering individual and community services that mitigate the challenges that can lead to involvement with a child protection agency.

Secondly, Casey Family Programs supports the research that has been conducted on a few FRCs across the country. Research has been conducted on the following jurisdictions with another evaluation scheduled for this year that will include Kentucky and Tennessee:

- Alabama
- Allegheny County, PA
- City and County of San Francisco, California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New York
- Orange County, California
- Vermont
- Texas

And the research shows:

- Significantly lower rates of child maltreatment investigations in communities with FRCs (Allegheny County, Pa)
- Statistically significant gains in family self-sufficiency and health (Colorado)
- Lower rates of referrals to CPS in areas served by FRCs than in comparison areas (Orange County, California)
- Improvement in protective factors such as parental resilience, social connections, and nurturing and attachment among FRC participants (New York)
- increased access to high-quality preschool and childcare, increased parental knowledge and skills related to child development and behavior - all of which can strengthen families' protective factors and help children remain safe in their homes and within their communities (Connecticut)
- a decrease in negative parenting attitudes and an increase in appropriate expectations for their child, and a demonstrated an increase in parenting knowledge (Texas)

Lastly, we know that the research shows a significant return on investment for jurisdictions and families:
Jurisdictions:

- In Alabama, for every \$1 invested in Family Resource Centers (2014), the state received [\\$4.70 in immediate and long-term financial benefits](#).
- In Orange County, California, for every dollar invested in the FRC, the county saved \$3.65, for an [estimated savings of over \\$1.84 million](#) (2017)
- In Vermont, FRCs saved the state [\\$210,000 \(in 2010 dollars\) per family](#) that would have otherwise been spent on addressing the effects of child abuse and neglect
- In Teller County, Colorado, the reduction in child maltreatment attributed to the FRCs, saved the county child welfare system at estimated \$2.5M (in 2018)

Families:

- In South Texas, their FRC helped families participating in the financial empowerment program, reduced their debt by a collective \$2.5M

We recognize that there have been limited studies particularly for FRCs that primarily serve communities of color. However, given the findings from the few existing studies, there is reason to believe that FRCs can be instrumental in increasing protective factors, supporting child safety, and promoting child and family well-being.

Delores Long, MPA

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Pronouns: she / her / hers

casey family programs

safe children | **strong** families | **supportive** communities

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Thank you for supporting human service transportation

From Marianne Mills <marianinemills@msn.com>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 4:47 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

[You don't often get email from marianinemills@msn.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Trustees,

Thank you for your support of human service transportation over the years. Southeast Senior Services depends on the grants through Alaska DOT&PF to pay 80% toward the cost of replacement vehicles which are wheelchair accessible. Elders in the villages of Angoon, Haines, Hoonah, Kane, Klawock, Saxman and Wrangell are able to get to the local senior center, to shopping, the clinic and to other community activities and resources thanks to our door-to-door transportation. The DOT human service grant funds partially comprised of AMHT funds.

I urge you to continue your support of community transportation as it is critical to our continuum of care for village elders.

Sincerely,

Marianne Mills

Title VI Director

Sent from my iPad

(No subject)

From Samantha Partin <frostbitbooty@gmail.com>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 10:25 PM

To public.comment@mhtrust.org <public.comment@mhtrust.org>

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To:Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Hello, my name is Samantha Partin,

I am writing this statement in support of the Alaska Impact Alliance UReCares stipend and respite program. I called in on Wednesday the 5th of February 2025 to give testimony but I didn't get through before your meeting ended.

I am a grandmother raising my 11 year old granddaughter. Ruby has been with me her whole life. She knows her mom, but we rarely see her. Her mom, my daughter, chooses homelessness and drugs over family. Ruby's never met her dad. He is currently in jail in Arizona.

It's sad, but Ruby has me and her aunt, my youngest daughter, to keep her safe and happy.

My 22 year old grandson also lives with me. He helps out around the house as I am disabled and have a hard time doing household chores. He has social anxiety problems, and it's difficult to get him to leave the house.

My youngest daughter lives with us, too. We have her 2 kids on weekends and most holidays. It's crowded sometimes, but we all get along pretty well, so it works for the time being.

I would like to say thank you for the stipend and respite program last year. It allowed me to catch up with an old bill and give the kids a nice Christmas.

I'm trying to raise my credit score so we can buy a home together in the near future.

I know how hard it is to get ahead, and every little bit helps.

The grants I received because of the generosity of The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority through Alaska Impact Alliance UReCares program and VOA Alaska, have given me a glimmer of hope for our future, and I know other families you help feel the same way.

Please continue to fund this program to help other families like my own.

Thank you for your time
Samantha Partin

February 6,2025

This is a written comment to encourage The Mental Health Trust board to continue support for the 907 Navigation app that is part of the Alaska Impact Alliance request.

My name is Twyla Mundy, a resident of this state for 55 years, and a retired teacher of the Anchorage School District. In the last few years, I have been involved in prison ministries here on the Kenai Peninsula. I had wanted to share this story of Wildwood Willa with you during the public comments on February 5, but time was not in my favor!!! Wildwood Willa is a composite of some of the many women that I have had the honor of listening to their stories and in a time BEFORE the 907 app existed...

Willa had a court date on a late afternoon and found herself released from the prison after 5 PM. She was not on probation and had to find her way through the system of resources ALL BY HERSELF. Twyla picked her up, since she did not have any family that could help her in the area or that she wanted to accept help from. She didn't want to return to the same 'friends' because she needed to find a "new place" that was safe.

We called Love, Inc, but they were closed. We thought about calling the Women's shelter but she had not really been abused...it was her addictions that had played the biggest part of her downfall. We had the use of a car so we headed to the Peninsula Hospital. At the registration desk we asked for help but we didn't know what kind of help we needed. The nice lady at the front desk said they USED TO HAVE A LIST OF RESOURCES but....then another person tried to help but it was after 5 PM and the rest of the staff had already left.....so what was Wildwood Willa supposed to do??? What was the next step?

I will leave Wildwood Willa's story now and let you know I pray she somehow found some assistance to start her life again in a positive way! I know as just a person that feels all deserve and have the right to a better life, I felt HELPLESS!!! And HOPELESS, how was Willa feeling????

When I saw the potential for this 907 Navigation app (that is being developed) as a tool to help I was overcome with emotion at the thought of how this little tool in the hands of Willa, anyone trying to maneuver the systems that are already in place, or those that would like to 'come along side' them and help could TOTALLY change the game for so many.

Please fund this request to complete the build out of the 907 Navigation App, the ongoing mainframe and the updating of these critical resources. It will be monies well spent.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely
Twyla Mundy