

## Priority II Community Support Initiative

- **Continuation of Wait List Eradication**
- **Grant Funds**
- **Intensive Support and Intervention Services**

### **BACKGROUND/URGENCY:**

- CONTINUATION OF WAIT LIST REDUCTION – In conjunction with the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA), the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD), and Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) initiated approval to remove 200 persons annually from the Wait List for Community Services. SDS is targeting the near future for complete elimination of the “waitlist”. In FY08, we began to see significant reduction in the Waitlist numbers. The Administration has kept their commitment and with the promise of 200+ people receiving waiver supports for each fiscal year, it is projected that the Waitlist for Community Services will be eliminated within the foreseeable future, resulting in a day and a time when no Alaskan will have to wait for critical services.

#### Benefits:

- Reduced cost to the State when services are provided early – when services are not provided before a crisis arises, needs escalate and costs increase significantly.
  - Return on investment in special education.
  - Keeps individuals in their home communities
  - Provision of local jobs
  - Enhances the local and state economy.
  - Results in increased productivity, community participation and independence for people who experience developmental disabilities
- GRANT FUNDS

As of June 30, 2009, with the removal of 321 people, the Wait List had 972 people waiting for services. Of these 972, there were 700 people who were 22 years of age or younger. In addition, more than 897 had been on the wait list for 90 days or more. The average length of time on the Wait List is 50 months. The following is the geographic distribution:

Anchorage.....	450	Southcentral.....	197
Interior.....	154	Southeast .....	76
Northwest.....	45	Southwest .....	50

The Key Coalition of Alaska supports an increase in Community DD grant funds in the amount of \$200,000. Base grant have not received any increase in a significant number of years.

- INTENSIVE SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION SERVICES (ISIS)

There has been a lack of intensive supports and intervention in the current service delivery system. This puts individuals and families at risk by forcing them to move to more restrictive and costly environments.

It is recommended that operating funds in the amount of \$650,000 be approved to establish a system that provides for intensive support and intervention services. These funds would be utilized to:

- Establish a system to meet the needs of individuals
  - Whose behaviors are non-responsive to current interventions
  - When the capabilities and expertise of local caregivers and providers are insufficient to ensure the safety and well-being of the individual or others
  - Who are at risk of being sent to in-state or out-of-state institutions.
- Provides ongoing technical expertise, consultation, individualized assessment, training and technical assistance, and clinical case management and monitoring when and where needs arise.
  - Expert in behavior and co-occurring disorders trained at the doctoral level.
  - Master level coordinator.
- Ensures availability of flexible funds to meet individual needs, including but not limited to:
  - Short-term contracts with in-state and out-of-state consultants.
  - Contracts to providers for respite (e.g., additional staff to keep individuals or others safe, short-term specialized housing for safety reasons).

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

**The Key Coalition of Alaska asks the Alaska State Legislature to:**

***Support the Community Support Initiative consisting of***

- ***Continue to actively reduce and expeditiously eliminate the statewide Waitlist for Community Services***
- ***Increase Community DD by \$200,000***
- ***Support the implementation of the Intensive Support and Intervention Services (ISIS) at a cost of \$650,000.***