

**Department of Family and Community Services
FY24 Midyear Status Report**

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska Pioneer Homes / Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance	Sec 37(a), HB39 - Operating to Capital Reappropriation from Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance to Capital Project Supplemental	(\$4,936.9) Gen Fund (UGF)	The FY23 budget for Payment Assistance was \$8 million lower than FY22 through a combination of reductions and reappropriations. The Department testified during SLA23 that many homes were at or near capacity, and FY23 actuals were \$571.4 above the allocation's budget once those changes occurred. Is FY24 funding projected to be sufficient?
Agency Response The usage of the program varies based on the elders residing in the homes. Due to the variability of usage, the Department is monitoring the Payment Assistance Program closely. Current funding levels appear to be sufficient to meet the needs of the residents in FY2024.				
2	Alaska Pioneer Homes / Pioneer Homes	Add General Fund Program Receipt Authority to Support Increase in Pioneer Home Residents and Rate Change	\$2,630.0 GF/Prgm (DGF)	Does the Department anticipate that the FY24 Increments to support the increase in residents (\$1,250.0) and the scheduled rate change (\$1,380.0) will be realizable given the challenges of maintaining services at high capacity in the Pioneer Homes?
Agency Response While the Fairbanks Pioneer Home and the Anchorage Pioneer Home are averaging 82% and 83% respectively, the remaining four homes are averaging a collective occupancy of 96%. However we are seeing a decrease this fiscal year in General Fund Program Receipt Collections and an increase in Interagency Receipt Collections which is from the Payment Assistance Program and Medicaid Reimbursement.				
3	Inpatient Mental Health / Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Establish Competency Restoration and Jail-Based Restoration Pilot Programs	\$800.0 GF/MH (UGF) 4 PFT Positions 1 PPT Position	What is the status of the one new Forensic Psychologist, two new Mental Health Clinicians, one new Psychiatric Nursing Assistant, and one new part-time Forensic Psychiatrist positions to support the two new restoration programs? If a position has been filled, please provide a hire date.

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<p>Agency Response DFCS utilized existing staff to begin the initial stages of both programs. The Jail based program has begun doing intakes as well as documenting a patient list, the Outpatient program has also identified patients, secured a location, and is working with the court on bail conditions. Both programs are in the process of opening fully to support Alaskans receive appropriate competency restoration services. Now that the foundation has been established, the Division is in the process of preparing the job postings for the Forensic Psychologist PCN 266002 and two new Mental Health Clinicians PCNs 266000 & 266003. Once hired work that began with existing staff will be transitioned to the new team. The Psychiatric Nursing Assistant PCN 266001 was hired on December 1, 2023, and one new part-time Forensic Psychiatrist position is still going through the administrative setup steps.</p>				
4	Children's Services / Children's Services Management	MH Trust: Add Coordinator and Grant Funding to Support Aged Foster Youth Transitioning to Adult Services (FY24-FY27)	Total: \$385.0 \$150.0 GF/MH (UGF) \$235.0 MHTAAR (Other)	<p>Are the foster youth who are eligible for this funding part of the same cohort as those who receive transition support funds from the Foster Care Special Need allocation? Please provide additional information the recipients of this grant funding.</p> <p>What is the status of the Coordinator position? If it has been filled, please provide a hire date.</p>
<p>Agency Response The Long-Term Non-Perm Social Services Program Coordinator PCN 26N24005 was filled on December 18, 2023. The position and the funding are an expansion of the Independent Living Program (ILP) to support Foster Youth transitioning out of the foster system into adulthood and covers items like: housing, healthcare, and vocational support.</p>				
5	Departmental Support Services / Commissioner's Office	Establish Complex Placement and Coordination Unit	Total: \$324.0 \$88.2 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$205.8 GF/Match (UGF) \$30.0 I/A Rcpts (Other) 3 PFT Positions	<p>What is the implementation status of the new unit? Is the unit on hold now that the Department seeks to expand it as the new Coordinated Health and Complex Care allocation?</p> <p>What is the status of the 1 new Deputy Director, 1 new Project Coordinator, and 1 new Social Services Associate positions to support the new unit? If a position has been filled, please provide a hire date.</p>

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		<p>Agency Response</p> <p>DFCS is currently awaiting the Personnel Board's review and approval of the Exempt Deputy Director Position. However, due to the critical need for this program, we took proactive measures by creating Management Coordinator PCN 26T003. This position was successfully filled on September 25, 2023, to oversee the Complex Care Unit (CCU). Additionally, Social Services Associate PCN 267001 is in the final stages of recruitment, and we anticipate extending a job offer soon. Simultaneously, the recruitment process for the Project Coordinator PCN 26T004 is in its initial stages.</p> <p>The CCU plays a pivotal role in tracking data related to current cases, payments, levels of care, and recommendations from providers. This information is instrumental in making data-informed decisions, streamlining state system processes, and ultimately improving case outcomes. Since April 2023, the CCU team has been conducting weekly Case Response Team (CRT) meetings. These meetings ensure regular communication and coordination among DFCS and Department of Health (DOH) staff, especially in aligning care and payments for individual complex cases during emergent situations.</p> <p>Furthermore, the CCU collaborates with the DOH in a monthly Complex Care Committee (CCC) meeting. The CCC focuses on identifying policy solutions to address systemic gaps in access to care for patients with complex needs. The committee provides forward-looking recommendations to DFCS and DOH leadership, implementing solutions as identified. The CCC has been convening on a monthly basis since May 2023.</p> <p>Division leaders from across DFCS and DOH actively participate in CCC meetings, working collaboratively to identify policy-level solutions. These solutions often arise in response to issues encountered in CRT cases. Subgroups are formed as needed to implement each identified solution. As a result of CCC meetings, two workgroups have been established. One is dedicated to developing a transitional youth level of care, while the other explores the possibility of an intermediate care facility. These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to addressing complex care needs and continuously improving our services.</p>		