



April 1, 2024
FY24/Q3

DBH Grantee Newsletter

The Latest News, Updates, and Information for Grantee Agencies!



Announcements



Grant News



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Announcements

Stay informed about the latest Division of Behavioral Health developments and

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To subscribe, navigate to the [DOH Communications](#) page, establish a user account with a valid email address or text-enable mobile device number and select the topic preferences to match your work or those you'd like to stay more informed about. Information published by the Division of Behavioral Health pertinent to AKAIMS users, Division grantees and Behavioral Health Medicaid providers alike are distributed using the communication lists under the "DBH" header section of the DOH webpage.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay connected and informed. Subscribe today and become part of our thriving community!

Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) grant from SAMHSA

The Department of Behavioral Health has been awarded a Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) grant from SAMHSA that focuses on bolstering or expanding upon our system of care. This initiative aims to provide increased services to youth in Alaska while also preventing youth from leaving the state for care. A key goal is to expand service provision across the various communities of Alaska to help keep youth as close to their communities as possible.

The following agencies recently were awarded with funds from the CMHI grant:

ACCA Inc.	Community Connection, Inc.
Volunteers of America Alaska	SeaView Community Services
Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc.	Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, Inc.
Bartlett Regional Hospital	Railbelt Mental Health Association

The CMHI funding additionally provides funds for respite for treatment foster parents and biological/kinship caregivers for SED youth. DBH encourages agencies to proactively develop a respite plan for youth in community programs and in treatment homes to enhance stability of the least restrictive placement for the youth.

Respite funds are available to DBH grantee agencies through the Youth Individualized Services Provider Agreement (Y-ISA). DBH utilizing the Program Standards for Respite provided by the [Family Focused Treatment Association](#)

- [2019 Program Standards for Treatment Family Care](#)

Please contact DBH mental health clinician, Kristina Weltzin at Kristina.weltzin@alaska.gov for more information about Y-ISA.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Alaska

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is a comprehensive, integrated, approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with substance use disorders, as well as those who are at risk of developing these disorders.

This person centered and empathic, yet directive, approach supports an individual in the process of healthy behavior change. Primary care clinics, hospital emergency rooms, behavioral health centers, youth support programs, and other community settings provide opportunities for early intervention with at-risk substance users before more severe consequences occur.

- **Screening** quickly assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of intervention.
- **Brief Intervention**, using Motivational Interviewing, focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- **Referral** to treatment provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.

There is a strong evidence base that supports the efficacy of Motivational Interviewing and SBIRT in helping individuals make positive behavioral change. This evidence-based practice is supported by SAMSHA and is used in the Veterans Administration (VA) system.

SBIRT Alaska is a DBH initiative to offer training and technical assistance in the use of SBIRT in Alaskan communities.

The following services are offered through SBIRT Alaska:

- Individualized Motivational Interviewing and SBIRT training for your site from state and national experts.
- In-person and virtual training options
- Self-paced, online modules of introductory SBIRT orientation
- Ongoing skills-based coaching
- Initial and ongoing technical support for integrating SBIRT into your organization's workflow.
- Advanced training opportunities

If you would like more information on SBIRT or the services offered by DBH through the SBIRT Alaska Initiative, please reach out to Genevieve Casey at genevieve.casey@alaska.gov.

We would love to hear from you!

Grant News

Collaborative Conference Canceled for FY 24

The Collaborative Conference that was originally scheduled for October 2023 in FY24 has been canceled and is not required for grantees this fiscal year. Here is the official announcement: [February 21, 2024, Alaska Medicaid Provider Update](#)

Underage Drinking Prevention Social Media Campaign

The CDC continues to discover evidence supporting the classification of alcohol as a carcinogen, affirming that no amount of alcohol consumption is safe. A [recent CDC study](#)

indicates that limiting alcohol intake could significantly decrease cancer-related deaths in the U.S. This study highlights that adhering to the current recommendations of two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women could potentially reduce alcohol-related cancer cases by up to 80%, marking a promising starting point. Achieving this goal necessitates implementing effective alcohol policies and best practices.

One proactive initiative is focusing on educating children and youth. Recover Alaska oversees the State's Alcohol Misuse Prevention Alliance, which runs a social media campaign supported by the efforts of the Alaska Alcohol Misuse Prevention Alliance. This campaign, developed in collaboration with youth by Walsh-Sheppard, receives state funding as a grantee under the Community Behavioral Health Prevention & Early Intervention (CBHPEI) program, managed by Tony Piper in the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) section. This collective effort underscores the importance of proactive measures in addressing alcohol misuse.

Check out some of the materials for this campaign!

[In Case You Missed IT \(ICYMI\)](#) geared towards an audience of parents/guardians

[Choose Connection](#)



Technical Assistance Corner

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Alaska Resource Locator tool is now "live" and available!

Exciting news: the online TBI Alaska Resource Locator tool is now "live" and available! Feel free to use this for yourself and family, clients, providers, support professionals, and whomever else might benefit.

The Alaska Resource Locator allows you to quickly find services and resources across the state. You can search for words and names, and / or apply filters for region, service type, audience etc.

[Alaska TBI Resource Locator](#)



Upcoming Events and Trainings

Be on the lookout for more information on these trainings and other announcements coming from DBH via your **GovDelivery** subscription. Not a subscriber? Click on this link to subscribe: [DOH DBH information subscription](#).

You can also find additional information on the [DBH Treatment and Recovery Grantee Communications](#) webpage.

State Events and Training

Alaska Suicide Prevention Conference

Save the date for this year's Alaska Suicide Prevention conference taking place on Wednesday, May 1st and Thursday, May 2nd in Anchorage hosted by the State of Alaska, Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health, the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and the Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

This is a free conference open to all who wish to participate.

[Alaska Suicide Prevention Conference](#)

iECHO – Upcoming & continuing sessions:

Co-Occurring Behavioral Health, Opioid, and Stimulant Use Disorders ECHO:

12:00-1:00 pm AKT, every other Thursday, January 4 – June 6, 2024

To learn more and register: [Co-Occurring Behavioral Health, Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders ECHO](#)

If you have any questions or issues signing up for an iECHO account, please contact support@iecho.org. If you have any questions or require any accommodations to participate in this event please contact the UAA Project ECHO Team at chdecho@alaska.edu.

Infant, Child, and Youth (ICY) Conference

The [Infant, Child, and Youth \(ICY\) Conference](#) (formerly the IECMH Institute & CAFBH Conference) features three days of renowned national speakers and Alaskan experts, with plenaries and workshops for professionals that work with infants, children, and youth of any age and their families.

April 29, 30, and May 1, 2024, from 8:30am – 4:30pm; at the Anchorage Downtown Marriott (located at: 820 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, USA, 99501)

Profession Grant Development Live Online Workshop

Want to master the techniques of writing superior proposals? Consider attending: **Professional Grant Development live online workshop** sponsored by the Grant Training Center on April 9-10, 2024.

The **Professional Grant Development live online workshop** has moved online. For more information about this workshop, fees, and other training opportunities visit their [Grant Training Center Registration webpage](#).

11th Annual Alaska Advances Trauma Training Institute

Save the Date: May 9-10th, 2024 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage for the "The Science of Traumatic Stress. Guest speakers include Patricia Reskick PH.D and Craigan Usher, MD. Please contact: koberman@akbh.org for registration information, other details will be forthcoming.

Funding for this conference is generously provided by the State of Alaska Division of Behavioral, with registration fees waiver for all participants. (There will not be a virtual attendance option at this time for this conference).