

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Nursing
Component

Component: Nursing

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Component Mission

To provide statewide professional public health nursing services to Alaskans - particularly very young children, medically under-served pregnant women and the elderly - in a manner that maintains dignity, promotes self-reliance and community integrity in order to enable individuals, families and communities to be healthy and productive.

Component Services Provided

The public health nursing program provides a major portion of the Division of Public Health's service delivery for disease prevention and protection, health assessments, and health promotion. Public Health Nurses are the public health "safety net" throughout Alaska. Direct services are provided through itinerant PHN services to over 250 communities, 4 regional offices, and 19 Public Health Centers, down from 21 last years with two facility consolidations in Bethel and Mat-Su. Four areas (Norton Sound, Maniilaq/Kotzebue, North Slope Borough, and Municipality of Anchorage) are supported through BRU or grantee/contract funding and technical assistance to assure that PHN services are available statewide.

Services provided include: Communicable disease control through immunizations, clinical screening and testing, contact investigation, specimen collection, counseling and education, surveillance, follow-up, and medication therapy for tuberculosis (TB) directly observed therapy (DOT), for sexually transmitted infections, for Hepatitis A/B/C, for HIV, for food borne and water borne diseases that affect humans, and assist with other epidemiological investigations of diseases or exposures to hazards; child health outreach and screening, well child and HeadStart exams, health tracking for children in foster care, health consultation to child care providers, screening, and referral, medical specialty clinics support, WIC and Infant Learning Program referrals, field support for the Infant Mortality Review Program and Children with Special Needs Programs, school screening, hearing and vision testing, parenting education, family planning and prenatal screening and monitoring, newborn home visits, senior citizen clinics, and chronic disease prevention and education.

Public Health Nursing supports communities in identifying health concerns and in organizing a local response to local concerns by bringing together people and agencies interested in the problem and by connecting the community group with resources and people who can assist them. Examples of this community work include immunization coalitions, domestic violence support services, youth asset groups, interagency work groups, health education efforts, and community health planning.

Component Goals and Strategies

The Nursing component has a Long Range Plan for Public Health Nursing. The Section of Nursing provides a wide variety of disease prevention, health promotion, and health assessment services in the broad goal categories of Infectious Diseases, Family and Individual Health, Violence and Injury, Non-Infectious Diseases, Community Health, Health Data Assessment, Quality Improvement and Assurance, Health Policy development, Health Resources, and Nursing Administration.

PHNs working at the regional and local community level help reduce health care costs through early detection and prevention of health problems. The blend of nursing skills with broad-based public health knowledge and experience provides communities and villages with direct clinical services, health consultation, information and referral assistance, and assistance in local planning and crafting solutions to health problems.

Public Health Nursing's goals for FY 02 include implementing a system of clinical telehealth applications and training that will improve access to health care through the collaborative development of sustainable telehealth systems, with the Alaska Federal Partnership of Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, US Coast Guard, Indian Health Services-Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and State Public Health Nursing. Additionally, Public Health Nursing

will improve communications and information resources at the local level across the state to create the Health Alert Network in collaboration with other components, departments, and emergency preparedness agencies to assure Alaska's response and readiness for biological or chemical events that could threaten the health of Alaskans, through active participation in the Bioterrorism Preparedness effort.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

- Disease Control efforts
- New vaccines for children and youth
- Increased service demands of a growing population
- Child Health services and outreach
- Adequate public health facilities to serve the public

The most pressing and important issue facing PHNs this year is the increasing demands for disease control services to Alaska's growing population. If we are to have the level of public health services across our state necessary to protect Alaskans against preventable diseases, there is a need to assure an adequate frontline Public Health Nursing workforce. PHNs are the foot soldiers of Alaska's public health system. There is a need for more direct service workers to assure a public health response to public health threats. The most basic and mandated responsibility of the division is to protect the public's health. Disease control is central to delivering on that responsibility.

Alaska had unusually high numbers of active TB cases in FY00-01 with many additional people infected by those active cases. Along with soaring numbers of positive chlamydia tests being reported now, increased requirements for childhood immunizations, emerging diseases such as Hepatitis C, and increasing concerns for human health impacts from environmental hazards and exposures, the demands for public health nursing services in disease control have exceeded our resources in staff and supplies. With each resurgence of old problems like TB, or new problems like Hepatitis C and important contact follow-up for HIV and chlamydia, some other public health service for Alaskans must be deferred or delayed. This is a formula for losing ground on improving the health of Alaskans and losing the gains we have made in childhood immunizations and child health.

Meeting the demands of the high number of active TB cases in the PHN caseloads has eroded the PHN time in other critical service areas like childhood immunizations and sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment. The difficult work of tracking contacts—those who have been exposed—so they may be informed, screened and treated is the most basic of public health protection against disease spreading to more people. The contact tracing takes time and skilled staff to locate, educate, and bring those exposed into treatment. Failure to do that contact tracing and treatment allows diseases to continue silently among our citizens, sometime causing lifetime consequences and serious threats to health.

Meeting the demands of new childhood vaccines to be added (Prevnar for pneumococcal disease in children) and new regulations for schools and day cares (Hep A and Hep B, HIB and Varicella) will require nurses to provide an immunization campaign effort to have school children immunized before the school exclusion date of September 2001. The HepA/HepB series requires a 6-month time frame to complete so efforts must begin in FY 01 if we are to make significant progress in vaccinating all school age children.

With Alaska's continued population growth, there are areas of rapid population growth that are below minimum public health staffing levels necessary to accomplish disease control. Without local nursing staff to do the disease screening, treatment, contact tracing and follow-up and immunizations, these areas suffer from low immunization levels, inadequate protection and response to communicable diseases, and are not able to assist local physicians and clinics with the public health field work and consultation for proper disease control. Adequate public health nursing staff to respond in a timely way to requests for services are central and basic to disease control and health protection expected from public health.

There is a critical need to obtain an adequate facility for Y-K area public health nursing services in Bethel. Currently 22 staff and the Bethel public health clinic operate out of 3600 sf., augmented by two on-site freezer vans for storage. There are no sinks in the clinic exam rooms that also serve as offices for nursing staff. The building is not up to code

for handicapped access or for use as a clinic. This crisis situation was precipitated by the eviction of PHNs from previous health clinic space in May 2000, and the lack of construction funding to build a suitable public health clinic.

The Juneau Public Health Center will solve the fire alarm system problems in FY 01, and will have to complete the design and specifications for the replacement of the HVAC system this year with only partial funding in FY01. FY 02 funding will be needed to make the necessary HVAC improvements to provide adequate heating and ventilation for this clinic facility before a crisis repair is required when the heat pumps fail.

Implementation of the Needlestick Bill (CS-SB 261; AS 18.60.880-890) will be required as of January 1, 2001. The costs of expendable supplies for immunizations and blood drawing will increase at least five-fold. when annualized for the year in FY02. Requirements for product evaluation procedures will create initial costs in FY01 to obtain supplies for product evaluations and to implement this statute that flows from an OSHA directive of November 1999.

Safeguarding public health nurses who provide year-round services traveling across Alaska is a focus for FY02. There is a need for replacing old (1983-1991) vehicles and to provide four wheel drive vehicles for those staff that must drive Alaska highways in all seasons to provide health services to communities. Providing cellular or radio phones for nurses who travel to remote areas to provide health services is a safeguard we should provide.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

PHNs provided over 118,000 health care visits to over 57,000 patients.

PHNs administered 98,353 doses of vaccine.

PHNs gave 23,094 tests for TB.

PHNs served 40,093 children and youth (birth-19 years).

Improved PHN staffing in Mat-Su by moving the federal Title X Grant funding from Bethel to Mat-Su based on projections of larger service demands and caseloads.

Improved training and planning for public health nurse consultation to child care providers.

Sustained high levels of childhood immunizations in the birth to three years group.

Continued progress with federal agency partnerships to bring telehealth clinical services to all public health centers by the end of FY 01, resulting in improved technology and communications for all public health centers.

Completion of design and progress on the joint Kenai Public Health and Hospital building, set for occupancy by the end of FY01-a joint effort between the City of Kenai, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Central Kenai Hospital and the Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Public Health/Nursing Component.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 8.68	Nursing
AS 9.25.120	Public Records
AS 9.65.090, 095, 100	Actions, Immunities, Defenses and Duties
AS 14.30.065 - 125, 191, 231	Physical Examinations & Screening Examinations
AS 18.05.010 - 040	Administration of Public Health and Related Laws
AS 18.08.035, 086	Emergency Medical Services
AS 18.15	Disease Control
AS 18.23.010, 310	Health Care Services Information & Review Organizations
AS 18.50.160, 230, 240	Vital Statistics Act
AS 18.60.880-890	Health Care Protections (Needle stick and sharps injuryprotections)
AS 25.20.025	Examination and Treatment of Minors

AS 44.29.020, 022	Department of Health & Social Services
AS 47.7.010 - 030	Medical Assistance for Needy Persons
AS 47.17	Child Protection
AS 47.24.900	Protection for Vulnerable Adults
4 AAC 06.055, 090	Immunizations
7 AAC 26.280, 390, 710	Emergency Medical Services
7 AAC 27	Control of Communicable Diseases in Man
7 AAC 43	Medical Assistance
7 AAC 50.450, 455	Health in Facilities
7 AAC 80	Fees for Department Services
12 AAC 2.280	Board of Nursing
12 AAC 44	Advanced Nurse Practitioner
18 AAC 31.300	Disease Transmission

Nursing
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	10,540.8	11,068.7	11,897.3
72000 Travel	606.3	572.3	672.3
73000 Contractual	1,322.1	1,428.0	1,882.0
74000 Supplies	253.9	386.9	488.1
75000 Equipment	107.3	329.2	329.2
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	1,179.0	1,260.5	1,260.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	14,009.4	15,045.6	16,529.4
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	600.7	1,032.4	1,032.1
1004 General Fund Receipts	8,100.6	8,193.5	9,791.4
1005 General Fund/Program Receipts	104.6	105.6	108.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	5,203.5	5,337.7	5,347.4
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	45.8	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	330.6	250.0
Funding Totals	14,009.4	15,045.6	16,529.4

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	600.7	1,032.4	1,032.5	1,032.1	1,032.4
Interagency Receipts	51015	5,203.5	5,337.7	5,348.9	5,347.4	5,337.7
General Fund Program Receipts	51060	104.6	105.6	105.6	108.5	105.6
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	0.0	330.6	330.6	250.0	250.0
Restricted Total		5,908.8	6,806.3	6,817.6	6,738.0	6,725.7
Total Estimated Revenues		5,908.8	6,806.3	6,817.6	6,738.0	6,725.7

Nursing

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

With proposed budget for FY 02, the Nursing component intends to provide active and increased disease control efforts that will protect Alaska citizens across the state from communicable diseases. PHNs will provide increased direct services at the local community level to implement the disease control efforts of the Division of Public Health. The Nursing component, working closely with the Epidemiology and Laboratories components, will assure that persons with communicable diseases are tested or screened, treated, and educated to prevent spread. In addition, PHNs will identify those who are exposed and in need of testing and treatment to stop the spread of disease in our state. Directly Observed Therapy for TB will be assured to improve the control of TB in our state. PHNs will provide timely disease control and contact outreach for Tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, Hepatitis A/B/C, vaccine preventable diseases, food and water borne diseases, and other outbreaks or clusters of unusual disease events.

PHNs will continue to improve the childhood immunization rates for young children in all areas, to reach 90% levels. PHNs will implement the new school and day care regulations by organizing and providing immunization opportunities for school students to be able to comply with vaccinations for school entry in fall, 2001.

PHNs will provide increased support to local physicians and clinics in the contact follow-up for reportable communicable diseases, and will promote active disease reporting by all providers. PHNs will assure communities, the public, and health care providers have access to consultation and direction in disease control efforts.

PHNs will sustain service levels in all other areas while increasing services in disease control. PHNs will continue to provide child health services, services to high risk families and children, supporting special needs children and their families, chronic disease prevention, injury and violence prevention, family planning and prenatal care, promoting early childhood development and parenting supports, and assisting communities in identifying and solving public health problems. PHNs will increase efforts in promoting healthy youth who succeed and avoid risky behaviors through asset development with communities and groups. PHNs will expand efforts to assure the health of children in foster care through spreading the Health Passport for Foster Kids to PHNs in areas beyond Anchorage.

PHNs will assist communities in using telemedicine clinical applications and will increase health trainings in communities through the Health Alert Network and Public Health readiness efforts.

PHNs are committed to providing the direct clinic services that are needed, the consultation and leadership at the local level for public health planning, and problem solving to assure that Alaskans are healthy and safe.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	8,344.9	1,032.4	5,668.3	15,045.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Convert Special FY 2001 Labor Cost Fund Sources to GF	80.6	0.0	-80.6	0.0
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	19.4	-0.3	-1.5	17.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-Annualization of Maintenance Costs for the Kenai Health Center	20.8	0.0	11.2	32.0
-Bethel Public Health Center Lease	162.0	0.0	0.0	162.0

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
Costs				
-Back to Basics - Infection Detection and Protection - Nursing	1,272.2	0.0	0.0	1,272.2
FY2002 Governor	9,899.9	1,032.1	5,597.4	16,529.4

Nursing

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	179	194	Annual Salaries	9,286,164
Part-time	13	13	COLA	120,741
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	3,173
			Annual Benefits	3,189,283
			<i>Less 5.57% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(702,061)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	192	207	Total Personal Services	11,897,300

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	1	4
Administrative Clerk II	2	6	5	12	25
Administrative Clerk III	4	4	2	22	32
Administrative Manager I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Supervisor	0	1	1	2	4
Analyst/Programmer IV	3	0	0	0	3
Asst Chf Pub Health Nurs	1	0	0	0	1
Chf Pub Health Nurs	0	0	1	0	1
Enviro Services Journey I	0	0	0	1	1
Health Program Mgr III	1	0	0	0	1
Micro/Network Tech I	1	1	0	0	2
Micro/Network Tech II	0	0	1	0	1
Nurse II	0	0	1	2	3
Public Health Nurse Aide	0	3	3	6	12
Public Health Nurse I	1	1	0	5	7
Public Health Nurse II	0	12	5	21	38
Public Health Nurse III	7	9	4	36	56
Public Health Nurse IV	0	2	1	4	7
Public Health Nurse V	2	1	1	0	4
Public Health Spec II	3	0	1	0	4
Totals	26	41	28	112	207