



Complex Behavior Collaborative: Consultation and Training

TALKING POINTS

What is our ask? The Joint Advocacy partners support funding in the Division of Behavioral Health for Consultation and Training to better serve people with disabilities who also experience complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. Last session, the legislature allocated a one-time increment (\$325,000) to begin providing Consultation and Training to community providers for the first six months of operation. In FY 13, we are seeking \$650,000 GF/MH annualized funding for Consultation and Training.

What is the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative? The Collaborative consists of three components: Consultation and Training, Brief Stabilization Services, and Intensive Intermediate Intervention Services:

- 1) Consultation and Training (*current ask*) – a point of entry to which individuals with disabilities (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia, addiction disorders, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.) who exhibit challenging behaviors (such as aggression, inappropriate sexual behaviors, wandering, self-harm, etc.) and who require interventions outside the skill-set of the current program staff are referred. This component is staffed within the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), which functions as a “gatekeeper” for access to services based on specific criteria and manages the referrals, including timely access to resources.
- 2) Brief Stabilization Services (*future*) – three small units of approximately five beds each that may be used for brief crisis stabilization of less than a week, and no more than 30 days, following consultation. These services are utilized when individuals experience an escalation in behavior that is too difficult to manage within their current level of care, or when behaviors create a danger to the individual or to others.
- 3) Intensive Intermediate Intervention Services (*future*) – a residential option for individuals who require longer-term services prior to returning to their previous or lower-acuity placements. These are community-based services and provide a high level of structure and active behavioral intervention.

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Who is served? The services provided by the Collaborative will be available to individuals with disabilities who are already being served in the state's social services delivery system – it will not add new clients to the system.

Why Consultation and Training services? An important step in implementing the services of the Collaborative is providing Consultation and Training to community providers so they are better able to serve individuals who experience complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. Consultation and Training will help develop in-state capacity and avoid costly placements in institutions, such as such as Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska's correctional facilities, and/or residential care.

The Collaborative will have the capacity to offer comprehensive assessment and diagnostic services from a pool of identified experts who can provide case-specific and ongoing consultation to community caregivers and providers, thereby increasing local capacity to work with individuals who experience challenging behaviors. Experts will be both inside and outside of Alaska (when a particular expertise is not available locally). Short-term contracts with expert consultants can be utilized to fill this workforce need.

Why does Alaska need the Complex Behavior Collaborative? Alaska's current system of care does not include appropriate intensive support and intervention services for individuals with disabilities who also experience complex, challenging behaviors. Because of this, many individuals end up being placed in costly institutional care, and many are sent out-of-state where they remain indefinitely because their behaviors are outside the range of expertise of local caregivers and providers. This situation results in significant financial cost to the state and personal cost to the individuals and their families.

The Complex Behavior Collaboration seeks to improve in-state services for these Alaskans. The goal is to help clients live as independently as possible. Benefits include:

- Better quality of life for Alaskans with complex needs;
- Cost savings for the State;
- Development of a more robust, competent workforce;
- Development of infrastructure for collaborative interventions and continuity of care;
- Prevention of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations.

The Complex Behaviors Collaborative was developed by the Department of Health and Social Services (including the Alaska Pioneer Home and Divisions of Behavioral Health and Senior and Disability Services) in partnership with Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Commission on Aging, Alaska Mental Health Board, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and Alaska Brain Injury Network.

Who are the supporters of the Collaborative? Supporters for the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative include AARP-Alaska (American Association of Retired Persons), The Arc of Anchorage, and The Alaska Brain Injury Network.

For more information on the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative, go to:
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/tr/complexbehavior.htm>