

Media contacts for Alaska Mental Health Trust and its statutory advisory boards (9-23-08)

1. Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA)

- Denise Daniello, Executive Director, 907-465-4879, denise.daniello@alaska.gov
- Web site: <http://www.alaskaaging.org/>
- Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (e.g. stroke)
- Behavioral health issues impacting Alaska seniors
- Demographic information on older Alaskans
- Long-term care support services for older adults (i.e. home and community based services for seniors and nursing home care)
- Data on social and economic contributions of seniors to the state

2. Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) - note these are separate boards that share staff

- Kate Burkhart, Executive Director, 907-465-4667, kate.burkhart@alaska.gov
- Web sites: <http://hss.state.ak.us/amhb/> and <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/abada/>
- Mental illness and the abuse/dependence on alcohol and drugs
 - Impact of mental illness and abuse/dependence on alcohol and drugs on individuals, families, communities and the state
 - Financial resources for treating mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse/dependence
 - Data on prevalence of mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse in Alaska

3. Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE)

- Millie Ryan, Executive Director, 269-8992 or 269-8990, 440-8635 (cell); millie.ryan@alaska.gov
- Duane Mayes, Planner, 269-8991, duane.mayes@alaska.gov
- Web site: <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/>
- Autism
- Developmental disabilities
- Early intervention related to disabilities and autism
- Employment of people with disabilities
- Special education issues

4. Alaska Brain Injury Network (ABIN)

- Jill Hodges, Executive Director, 274-2824, jill@alaskabraininjury.net
 - Brain injury advocacy, service planning and needs assessment
- Jennifer Simmermeyer, Resource Navigator, 274-2824, jennifer@alaskabraininjury.net
 - Statewide brain injury information and referral
- Web site: <http://www.alaskabraininjury.net/>

5. Alaska Mental Health Trust (The Trust)

- Vivian Hamilton, Communications Manager, 334-2531 or 351-4068 cell; vivian.hamilton@alaska.gov
- Web site: <http://www.mhtrust.org/>
- Any issues related to the Trust's beneficiaries, who include people with:
 - mental illness,
 - developmental disabilities,
 - chronic alcoholism and substance abuse,
 - Alzheimer's disease and related disorders,
 - and traumatic head injury resulting in permanent brain injury
- Justice for persons with disabilities, including mental health court and wellness court
- Affordable housing with support services for our beneficiaries, such as case management and treatment services
- Bring the Kids Home – a state-wide effort to bring back to Alaska those children who are in long-term care in Lower 48 psychiatric institutions; also any programs related to increasing early intervention and treatment for children with severe emotional disturbances
- Workforce development to recruit, train and retain workers in the behavior health field, long-term care, and all other fields serving Trust beneficiaries.

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