

# 2020 Alaska Community Health Centers

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY PRIORITIES

### *1 - Health Care Reform - The Process Matters*

CHCs request increased transparency, reliable communication, opportunities to share ideas and feedback, and timely patient and provider noticing of proposed changes before decisions are made and SPAs/Waivers are sent to CMS for approval. Alaska's health care system should be value driven, and CHCs are experienced in delivering patient centered, high value, low cost care.

- **Top Priority - Seek legislative and regulatory opportunities to move toward value-based pay that focuses on the strengths of care coordination provided in primary care.**
- Encourage legislation to support a transparent health reform process when evaluating state plan amendments and waiver opportunities, and allow for ample public comment, patient awareness and stakeholder engagement.
- Oppose harmful legislation, waivers and state plan amendments that limit access to care and eligibility for coverage, including block granting/capping Medicaid, cutting Medicaid optional services, dismantling Medicaid Expansion, work requirements and other costly, detrimental reform proposals.

### *2 - Workforce Development, Integration, and Infrastructure*

Workforce recruitment and retention remains one of the top issues facing Alaska's health care system. In order to successfully address patients' high burden health conditions and oral health, behavioral health, and substance use disorders - Alaska must tackle workforce shortages and infrastructure needs in rural and urban settings across the state.

- **Top Priority - Support SB134, providing Medicaid reimbursement for the services of Licensed Professional Counselors** provided the legislation allows billable encounters for Federally Qualified Health Centers/Community Health Centers.
- Recognize Legislative leadership support in reinstating Adult Dental Benefits. Alaska Health Centers encourage the Administration and Legislature to pursue further opportunities to fully integrate oral health into Alaska's health care system.
- Support HB29 - Telehealth and to strengthen telemedicine regulations to increase patient access to care, increase state savings and address workforce concerns.

### *3 - Fiscal Solutions That Include Support For Alaska's Vulnerable*

In order to address social determinants of health in Alaska, the revenue crisis must be addressed, and Alaska's safety-net infrastructure must be sufficiently resourced. Recent cuts to programs supporting housing, food security, temporary assistance, and other critical services will result in greater Medicaid claims in inappropriate care settings - treating expensive emergencies rather than facilitating cost saving, life changing preventions.

- **Top Priority - Support FY2020 supplemental and FY21 budget measures supporting Medicaid.**
- Support developing new revenue opportunities in Alaska.
- Oppose efforts to further erode Alaska's safety net programs including housing initiatives, food assistance, temporary assistance, etc.