

# State of Alaska Public Safety Action Plan May 16, 2018 Update



To inform Alaskans of the State's latest actions to improve public safety, this is a second update since introducing the Public Safety Action Plan on October 30, 2017. The Plan and all updates are available on the [Department of Law website](#) and the [Governor's Safer Alaska website](#).

Highlights of public safety bills and funding passed by the 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature include:

- Allowing judges to consider out-of-state criminal history in pre-trial risk assessments,
- Authorizing the Attorney General to ban dangerous drugs by regulation,
- Authorizing the Alaska Police Standards Council to conduct background checks on law enforcement applicants,
- Funding to hire 5 more prosecutors,
- Funding for 2 more domestic violence and sexual assault investigators,
- Funding to hire 6 more DPS staff for records and classification,
- Beginning the process to modernize Alaska's outdated 9-1-1 system,
- Allocating \$12 million for substance abuse grants, and
- Funding to hire 1 pilot to expedite response time to rural Alaska.

To strengthen the Village Public Safety Officer program, the Department of Public Safety:

- Clarified VPSO ability to enforce tribal ordinances in certain circumstances and
- Modified policies to allow greater flexibility in how grantees use funds for recruitment.

Some actions already underway as part of the Public Safety Action Plan will improve student safety in schools, including:

- Creating a policy to establish a better system for people to surrender firearms (#57),
- Establishing capability for residents to text tips to public safety agencies (#61),
- Improving access to services for children who need institutional care (#53),
- Increasing fire inspections in rural Alaska (#36), and
- Applying for federal grant funds (#29).

The Public Safety Action Plan takes a multi-faceted approach to address the rise in crime—through Investment, Intervention and Integrated Response. We invite Alaskans to weigh in on what is working, what is not working, and what additional efforts should be included in the Plan. Email us at [safer.alaska@alaska.gov](mailto:safer.alaska@alaska.gov) or through the [Safer Alaska website](#).

## Part I: Improving Outcomes in the Criminal Justice System

Short-Term Action Items: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
1. Pass <b>Senate Bill 54</b> (2017) which, among other provisions, gives judges the discretion to impose jail time for larceny, vehicle theft, and other offenses when appropriate. (DPS, LAW)	<b>COMPLETED.</b> Bill passed by the legislature in special session; Governor Walker signed SB 54 into law on November 27, 2017.
2. Propose legislation <b>adding Commissioner of Department of Health &amp; Social Service to Alaska Criminal Justice Commission</b> as a voting member.	<b>UPDATE:</b> The Governor introduced <a href="#">SB 145</a> and <a href="#">HB 290</a> in January 2018 to make DHSS commissioner a voting member of ACJC. The Legislature did not pass the bills.
3. Propose legislation to allow judges to take <b>out-of-state criminal history</b> into account when assessing bail.	<b>COMPLETED:</b> Governor Walker introduced legislation to account for out-of-state criminal history in January 2018. The Legislature passed <a href="#">HB 312</a> on May 11, 2018, which included this public safety priority.
4. Re-evaluate <b>conditions of confinement</b> and methods to reduce recidivism through operational changes. (DOC)	<b>UPDATE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On January 31, Governor Walker introduced <a href="#">SB 172</a> and <a href="#">HB 325</a> to give DOC more flexibility with rehabilitation and re-entry programs, including an exemption from procurement code to enable contracting with more local service providers, and to allow inmate internet access for re-entry purposes. The Legislature did not pass the bills.</li> <li>Governor Walker introduced a prison industries bill (<a href="#">SB 214</a> and <a href="#">HB 402</a>) on March 5. The Legislature did not pass the bills.</li> </ul> <b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DOC is also updating department policies to help expand access to re-entry resources and rehabilitation for those in custody.
5. Continue <b>pre-trial delay work group</b> efforts to increase case processing efficiency.	<b>ONGOING:</b> The work group developed two revised pre-trial orders for the Anchorage Superior Court. The workgroup is close to finalizing the first order, which addresses pre-indictment delay. The second order addressing pre-trial deadlines is now under consideration.
6. Review <b>clemency</b> applications. (GOA)	<b>COMPLETED:</b> Acting upon the recommendation of Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, the Governor issued an <a href="#">updated clemency policy on January 24</a> .



Long-Term Action Items to Evaluate: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
<p>7. Evaluate possibility of legislation to remove barriers for former inmates to re-enter the job force, including the possibility of <b>expungement</b> of criminal records after period of good behavior. (LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> ACJC voted in April 2018 to recommend a redaction bill in lieu of expungement; anticipate potential legislative proposal for 2019 legislative session.</p>
<p>8. Continue efforts to establish a <b>safety net for children coming out of foster care</b> to reduce the risk that they might end up in the criminal justice system. (DHSS, ACJC)</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> OCS provides case management, housing, and educational support to youth aging out of the foster system on an ongoing basis. The “Making a Home” program provides rental assistance to youth aging out of the foster system through a partnership with DHSS and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. For more information visit the <a href="#">OCS Independent Living Program website</a>. OCS will also continue to work with media outlets to update the public about efforts to provide safety net options for youth aging out of the system.</p>



## Part II: Identify Public Safety Resource Needs

### Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCE NEEDS

ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
Partnerships and Coordination:	
<p>9. Develop and improve tools and processes for <b>sharing data</b> and information among law enforcement agencies, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop interfaces to connect various agency databases;</li> <li>Consider policy requiring DPS reports to be completed within 48 hours; and</li> <li>Improve availability of the Alaska Records Management System (<i>i.e.</i>, law enforcement specific case management database).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Expecting 1<sup>st</sup> test of pushing case from DPS to LAW in coming month(s); troubleshooting and expanding use to follow.</li> <li><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DPS reviewing policies.</li> <li><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Agreement with local law enforcement agencies finalized; training completed in Kenai and Homer. Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire came online with ARMS in April. Next steps include following up with other communities that have expressed interest.</li> </ol>
<p>10. Facilitate <b>veterans' access to existing services</b> through Department of Military and Veterans Affairs while under DOC supervision and after reintegration to community. (DOC, DMVA)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMVA is developing an Incarcerated Veteran Module for its Veterans Information System, which will allow DMVA to reach out to veterans 6 months before release to initiate process for federal VA benefits (medical, disability, educations, and housing); DMVA also produced a new pamphlet, with contact information for services, which DOC will provide to incarcerated veterans.</li> <li>The Offender Management Plan and release planning identifies services for veterans, and coordinated for those who are eligible.</li> </ul>
<p>11. Reach out to community partners to explore options to <b>expand citizen crime watch</b> programs and other locally driven solutions to deter crime and improve public safety.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> DPS and LAW discussed with stakeholder groups and community representatives at town hall meetings. DPS is providing information on best practices to established Community Watch groups and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). The Legislature also included \$75,000 in the budget for community watch programs.</p>
<p>12. Develop plan for targeted <b>diversity recruitment</b> in public safety agencies.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> In discussion among commissioners as part of the recruitment and retention discussion, #33 below.</p>



13. Propose legislation to allow Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) to request <b>criminal background</b> checks from the FBI for persons training to be or employed as police officers.	<b>COMPLETED:</b> Governor Walker introduced <a href="#">SB 148</a> and <a href="#">HB 293</a> in January 2018. The Legislature passed SB 148, which will allow APSC to conduct background checks, and transmitted the bill to the Governor on April 15.
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Add Statewide Resources:

14. Seek funding for 2 more <b>prosecutors</b> in Anchorage given increased demand from record number of homicides. (LAW)	<b>COMPLETED:</b> Legislature passed budget with Governor’s request for 2 prosecutors for Anchorage included.
15. Add 60 <b>pre-trial officers</b> in January. (DOC)	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> 40 hired and on the ground; other hires pending testing.
16. Add dedicated <b>criminal investigators</b> in Bethel and Anchorage to assist in DVSA prosecutions. (DPS, LAW)	<b>COMPLETED:</b> 2 long-term, non-permanent investigator positions included in <a href="#">Governor’s FY19 budget request</a> . The Legislature funded these positions, which will be embedded in the Department of Law.
17. Create statewide <b>Domestic Violence Sexual Assault hotline</b> .	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> LAW, DPS, and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) are working with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to identify existing resources and evaluate options.
18. Develop and implement a <b>records and classification unit</b> to address federal requirements for crime classification, data integrity, and consistent crime reports (requires 6 PCNs). (DPS)	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Positions included in <a href="#">Governor’s FY19 budget request</a> . The Legislature funded these 6 positions.
19. Propose legislation to increase surcharges imposed for violations of state and municipal law that go to the <b>Police Training Fund</b> .	<b>COMPLETED:</b> The Governor introduced legislation in January 2018 to support the Police Training Fund. The Legislature passed <a href="#">HB 312</a> on May 11, 2018, which included this public safety priority.

Rural Justice Initiatives:

20. Identify law enforcement presence in each community and develop a <b>communications plan</b> to improve coordination among state and local authorities. (LAW, DPS)	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DPS compiled list of state certified and supervised VPSOs and VSOs and completed survey of trooper detachment commanders for information regarding TPOs and VPOs; ongoing outreach by DPS and LAW to municipalities and tribes to gather information and update DCCED’s existing public database, the <a href="#">Alaska Community Database Online</a> which will house information.
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<p>21. <b>Increase trooper presence and improve response times</b> in rural areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Revising travel restrictions to allow more law enforcement trips to rural Alaska for proactive policing and relationship-building with rural community residents;</li> <li>b. Improving transportation and logistics coordination in rural areas (i.e., sharing pilots, aircraft, and boats among state agencies);</li> <li>c. Filling trooper vacancies; and</li> <li>d. Exploring possibility of a consolidated communications center with regional dispatch centers to provide more reliable emergency communication services. (DPS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>COMPLETED:</b> Revised travel restrictions to allow more law enforcement trips to rural Alaska for proactive policing and relationship-building with rural community residents. DPS also moving forward with a Rural Community Commitment Team to work rotating shifts in rural communities to address specific need for troopers and policing in those areas. \$2 million added to the <a href="#">Governor’s FY19 budget request</a> for rural travel; the Legislature funded about \$1.1 million of this request to be shared between the troopers and VPSOs.</li> <li>b. <b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DMVA and DPS identified hurdles to assigning DMVA pilots for DPS travel/missions including training costs.</li> <li>c. <b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Working to address major hurdles and find other <a href="#">recruitment and retention</a> tools.</li> <li>d. <b>COMPLETED:</b> The Governor <a href="#">requested</a> \$9.5 million in the FY19 budget due to the lack of 911 services in more than 90 percent of the state. The Legislature funded \$3.5 million of this request.</li> </ul>
<p>22. Evaluate opportunities to <b>strengthen the VPSO program</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Funding options such as the possibility of VPSO-specific recruitment funding or allowing greater flexibility in the use of lapsed funds;</li> <li>b. Allowing VPSOs to cross-deputize to enforce tribal ordinances if the VPSO grantee and tribe agree. (DPS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>COMPLETED:</b> DPS and VPSO Grantees have agreed to flexibility in use of lapsed funds for recruitment and other purposes.</li> <li>b. <b>COMPLETED:</b> If a tribe desires and regional contractor agrees, a VPSO can be cross-deputized to enforce tribal ordinances that do not conflict with state law.</li> </ul>
<p>23. Add <b>telecommunication resources</b> in more jails for remote court hearings. (DOC)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Interagency discussions have identified priority facilities and DOC is moving forward with procurement and installation of telecommunication equipment, as well as adding dedicated lines where needed. DOC is also working with Public Defenders and Office of Public Advocacy to streamline the process for defense counsel to consult with clients to reduce unnecessary pre-trial prisoner transport.</p>
<p>24. For the many rural communities that do not yet have <b>victim shelters</b>, work with tribes and regional nonprofits to set up safe-houses.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Agencies have initiated conversation with CDVSA about expanding victim shelters in smaller communities.</p>



<p>25. Educate local public safety partners about <b>processes and standards for evidence</b> to enable state prosecution of crimes investigated by local agencies. (LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Local district attorneys are engaging in outreach to tribes and municipalities in their jurisdictions about better coordination and collecting of evidence to aid in the prosecution of cases. LAW presented training at <a href="#">TCC's Tribal Court Conference</a> in May 2018.</p>
<p>26. Add <b>prosecutors</b> in rural Alaska (1 for Kotzebue, 1 for Bethel). (LAW)</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED:</b> Included in <a href="#">Governor's FY19 budget request</a>. The Legislature funded this request.</p>
<p>27. Continue implementing <b>diversion agreements</b> that provide for civil remedies administered by tribal courts to address low-level offenses and crimes with the consent of the offender in rural areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The civil diversion agreement with the Department of Law and</li> <li>b. The Division of Juvenile Justice's similar agreement to refer appropriate juvenile cases to tribal courts. (DHSS, LAW)</li> </ul>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Training with LAW, DPS, and Nulato completed on February 15; outreach presentation to Utqiagvik on April 11; and additional training conducted at <a href="#">TCC Tribal Court Conference in May 2018</a>.</p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Seven Tribal Court diversion agreements for youth have been signed and six more communities have expressed interest.</p>
<p>28. Coordinate with tribes in providing <b>child protection services</b>. (DHSS)</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Compact signed; as of March 30, 16 support services funding agreements with tribes have been signed.</p>
<p>29. Seek additional <b>federal resources</b> to support State and local public safety programs.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Exploring options for additional federal funding, including HIDTA discussed at #64, below. DPS and DEED evaluating additional grant funding opportunities.</p>

Action Items for Long-Term Evaluation: PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCE NEEDS

ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
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Partnerships and Coordination:

<p>30. Explore ability of industry partners to develop plan for <b>technology to reduce car thefts</b> and aid in recovery efforts.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DPS to research application of existing technology and work on communication with public.</p>
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Rural Justice Initiatives:

<p>31. Evaluate further opportunities to improve the <b>VPSO program</b>. (DPS, DOC, LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Generally, under discussion with Governor's Tribal Advisory Council public safety subcommittee at monthly meetings. Also, negotiations are ongoing with DPS and contractors to improve the program, provide flexibility, and address regional concerns.</p>
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<p>32. Develop <b>smartphone technology</b> to collect and preserve evidence when other tools are not available as well as more efficiently deliver evidence to state prosecutors.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> LAW, DPS, and OIT evaluating potential options for off-the-shelf application; DPS arranging pilot program.</p>
<p>33. Improve <b>retention and recruitment</b> for public safety agencies, including: troopers, VPSOs, pilots, Airport Police and Fire Officers, and corrections officers.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Inter-departmental meetings to improve retention and recruitment in all public safety departments. DOA is identifying best practices and a menu of options for agencies.</p>
<p>34. Improve aircraft availability to better respond to rural Alaska calls to DPS. Assign an <b>aircraft</b> to the Nome trooper post and update other aircraft. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> The Legislature approved 1 pilot position of the 2 requested in the Governor’s FY19 budget; DPS has identified hangar space and created pilot position; need to hire pilot and then move aircraft to Nome.</p>
<p>35. Leverage the <b>FirstNet program</b> to increase the connectivity in rural Alaska. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> AT&amp;T awarded federal grant to expand cellular networks and improve connectivity in rural AK; DPS reviewed AT&amp;T’s plan and identified priority areas; based on the plan, expect additional assets on the ground potentially in 2020.</p>
<p>36. Increase school <b>fire inspections</b> and training for rural fire departments. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Planning for biennial inspections and trainings is underway. The Legislature also provided \$200,000 to increase inspections.</p>
<p>37. Evaluate Washington State’s model for <b>arrest diversion</b> of low-level misdemeanors. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DOC researching.</p>
<p>38. Evaluate various legislative proposals that would further enable <b>tribal courts</b> to provide civil remedies for certain offenses. (LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Under discussion with stakeholders, including the Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council.</p>
<p>39. Evaluate the ability to <b>release prisoners back to home community</b> instead of place of arrest to improve access to support network.</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED:</b> DOC confirmed flexibility to send prisoners to home communities under current policies. Also, the Returning Home program provides rental assistance to those leaving prison.</p>
<p>40. Explore alternatives for <b>supervising parolees</b> in rural communities, including annual training for VPSOs. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Interagency discussions of pilot programs for tribes to supervise offenders.</p>
<p>41. Explore other opportunities to deploy <b>telecommunications resources</b> to improve access to services, potentially including remote probation supervision, out-patient treatment, and parenting assistance in Child in Need of Aid cases.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHSS evaluated recommendations from the <a href="#">Medicaid Redesign Telehealth Stakeholder Workgroup</a> and published <a href="#">responses</a>.</p>
<p>42. <b>Continue evaluating</b> how to best allocate existing resources throughout the criminal justice system and where there may be a need for additional resources, including for the court system and associated stakeholders.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Regular commissioner-level meetings on allocation of state resources.</p>





## Part III: Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
Access to Treatment:	
43. Continue <b>interagency coordination</b> to allocate reinvestment funding.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Collaboration among DPS, DHSS, DOC, and LAW on reinvestment funding and recidivism reduction efforts is occurring in the Integration Workgroup.
44. Continue and expand <b>crisis intervention training</b> for law enforcement.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Next training is scheduled for Oct. 2018 in Mat-Su Valley.
45. Propose ongoing <b>stakeholder meetings</b> to discuss the civil commitment process and options for improving the state psychiatric emergency system. (DHSS, LAW)	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHSS is coordinating ongoing meetings with on-the-ground staff from DHSS, LAW, court system, PDs, OPA, and eventually to include representative from hospitals.
46. Approach hospitals about opening more <b>designated evaluation and treatment beds</b> to increase capacity and improve availability of acute care mental health treatment and evaluation beds at Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). (DHSS)	<b>ONGOING:</b> In Nov. 2017, DHSS approved the Certificates of Need for two projects to move forward: Mat-Su Regional will build a new, 36-bed behavioral health unit; Alaska Regional is planning to convert 24 existing medical beds into an adult inpatient psychiatric unit. Both hospitals would accept individuals subject to court ordered hospitalization for evaluation and treatment.
Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments:	
47. Legislation to authorize court orders requiring DOC to <b>hold people who are intoxicated</b> when they are arrested until they are sober.	<b>COMPLETED:</b> Addressed in SB 54, bail schedule changed.
48. Evaluate current use of <b>Title 47 safety net</b> for individuals incapacitated due to substance abuse until a better long-term solution is found.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> LAW evaluated the current use of Title 47 holds; DOC considering policy revisions.



Action Items for Long-Term Evaluation: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
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Access to Treatment:	
<p>49. Evaluate ways to increase availability of treatment <b>resources for outpatient services</b>.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHSS submitted an 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver application on Jan. 31, 2018. If the waiver is approved, DHSS expects that a new array of local adult outpatient and acute care behavioral health services for children and adults to become available in 2019;</li> <li>• \$18 million for expanding substance use disorder services over 3 years was included in the <a href="#">Governor’s budget request</a>, the Legislature funded \$12 million of this request;</li> <li>• DOC continues to assist offenders who are in their last 30 days before release to complete Medicaid applications for submission upon release.</li> </ul>
<p>50. Evaluate how to <b>incentivize treatment</b> on demand so it is available when needed.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Also, see #46 and #52 regarding increasing available treatment capacity at facilities. Agencies also engaging with stakeholders in ACJC to develop solutions.</p>
<p>51. Evaluate the ability to establish a restorative justice facility, such as a <b>mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment facility</b>.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHSS determined that the Palmer Correctional Facility is not suitable for their needs at this time; DOC is working with the Governor’s office to study potential uses of that facility and opportunities for inmate training programs. At the request of DHSS, the Legislature approved funding for a feasibility study to explore the value of establishing a forensic hospital in Alaska.</p>
<p>52. Pursue an exemption from the federal institute for mental disease (IMD) rule limiting how many <b>beds</b> a provider can operate for residential substance abuse disorder treatment. (DHSS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHSS included a request for a waiver from the IMD exclusion as part of the State’s 1115 Waiver application (submitted in Jan. 2018).</p>
<p>53. Increase and improve <b>services for children</b> who need institutional care, including increasing the number of beds at treatment facilities like API. (DHSS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Pursued through the 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver. If approved, implementation of new targeted children’s treatment services to begin in 2019.</p>



<p>54. Develop a standardized system for evaluating and treating <b>non-restorable patients</b> and explore possibility of releasing some patients subject to around-the-clock monitoring to reduce costs and open rooms for other patients at API. (DHSS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHSS is studying options, with a focus on the forensic feasibility study to explore the value of a forensic hospital for Alaska, including providing treatment for persons found non-restorable. The Legislature provided funding for this study.</p>
<p>Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments:</p>	
<p>55. Develop long-term strategy for <b>Title 47 holds</b>.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> ACJC is discussing long-term options.</p>
<p>56. Evaluate possible legislative or administrative options to ensure <b>timely competency hearings</b>. (LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Work group coordinated by the court system is evaluating Title 12 issues, including cases involving potential “not guilty but mentally ill” verdicts.</p>
<p>57. Establish a clear system for persons who have been civilly committed for involuntary inpatient psychiatric treatment to give up their <b>guns</b> before returning home. (DHSS, DPS)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> LAW and DPS formulating a policy.</p>



## Part IV: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic and Drug Trafficking

Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND DRUG TRAFFICKING	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
58. Earlier this year, Governor Walker issued a <b>Disaster Declaration</b> and established incident command structure to coordinate state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.	<b>COMPLETED.</b>
59. The State continues to execute the recommendations of the <b>Opioid Policy Task Force</b> and evaluate further measures to combat opioid abuse, including: expanding treatment capacities at existing facilities and recovery networks; improving access to group recovery in prisons; providing tools and resources to “second chance employers”; expanding drug take-back programs; increasing security measures to prevent importation of opioids on bush airlines, airports, ferries, etc.; funding public and provider education campaigns; fund distribution of overdose education materials and naloxone kits to first responders.	<b>ONGOING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situation reports detailing ongoing efforts provided to the work group every 3 weeks.</li> <li>• In addition, an action planning process is underway. The Alaska Opioid Response Action Plan will comprehensively address Alaska’s opioid crisis led by SOA Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention</li> <li>• DHSS initiated an online <a href="#">Opioid Data Dashboard</a> on March 31<sup>st</sup> to provide current, publicly accessible data on the health effects of the opioid epidemic and the State’s response.</li> </ul>
60. Explore ways to increase use of <b>social media</b> to promote positive, useful messages for parents to help in drug and crime prevention. (DPS, DHSS)	<b>ONGOING:</b> DHSS has produced several <a href="#">videos</a> that highlight Alaskans dealing with opioid addiction, and how to safely dispose of unused prescription pills. The department will continue to produce more opioid-related web videos and other material for DHSS social media channels.
61. Evaluate tools for citizens to <b>text tips</b> to law enforcement (e.g. Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app). (DPS)	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Potential off-the-shelf tools were identified for evaluation; DPS is evaluating workflow & logistics involved.
62. Increase state resources directed at catching and prosecuting drug traffickers, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Create a statewide <b>drug prosecutor</b> position (LAW) and</li> <li>b. Add <b>drug dogs</b> to assist in disrupting the drug trade and catch traffickers (DPS, DOT).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>COMPLETED:</b> The Legislature approved the Governor’s FY19 budget request for a statewide drug prosecutor position, Law has tasked Katholyn Runnels to take on this role;</li> <li>b. <b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DPS added one scent detection dog to patrol teams in Kenai and a second dog, funded by Tanana Chiefs Conference, to the State Drug Enforcement Unit in Fairbanks. TSAIA has added an officer and drug dog to their drug detection team.</li> </ol>



<p>63. Develop a statewide <b>coordination plan and standards for drug dogs</b> working with private and public stakeholders, potentially to include: a coordinator in APSC, training protocol led by the statewide drug prosecutor, and APSC certification of K9 officers. (DPS, LAW)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> Working to identify and allocate needed resources to develop policy in coordination with the new statewide drug prosecutor.</p>
<p>64. Seek a <b>High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)</b> designation to increase availability of federal funds for drug investigations. (DPS)</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED:</b> HIDTA petition approved, <a href="#">Alaska designated a HIDTA</a>.</p>
<p>65. Better coordinate drug enforcement efforts with <b>federal partners</b>, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased collaboration with Ted Stevens International Airport Police for recently established WAANT Unit;</li> <li>Cross-deputize a state prosecutor as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute drug offenses in federal court; and</li> <li>Work with federal law enforcement agencies in implementing the Anti-Violent Crime Strategy.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Generally, collaboration with federal partners continues as an ongoing effort.</p>
<p>66. Propose <b>legislation</b> to more effectively combat drug trafficking.</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED:</b> Governor’s legislative proposals for 2018 session included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowing dangerous drugs to be <b>scheduled by regulation</b> instead of legislation so the State can respond more quickly to new drugs (<a href="#">SB 146</a> and <a href="#">HB 291</a>); and</li> <li>Establishing a <b>Class A felony</b> for large amounts of controlled substances (<a href="#">SB 147</a> and <a href="#">HB 292</a>).</li> </ul> <p>The Legislature included authority for the Attorney General to schedule drugs by regulation in <a href="#">HB 312</a> and passed that bill on May 11, 2018. The Legislature did not pass legislation to address trafficking large amounts of controlled substances.</p>
<p>67. <b>[NEW]</b> Better coordination and communication between law enforcement and <b>transportation companies</b> to combat drug trafficking through mail and ports of entry.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING:</b> Necessary information-sharing among stakeholders ongoing. DPS and LAW presented to the Alaska Air Carriers meeting on May 3. AMHS is cooperating with law enforcement to stop drug trafficking on the marine highway.</p>

