

State of Alaska

Public Safety Action Plan

October 1, 2018 Update



Throughout the past year, Alaska's public safety agencies have regularly come together to look at where we've been, where we're going, and most importantly, where we need to be in making safety a top priority in Alaska. By constantly looking for ways to connect our state agencies to each other and to external law enforcement partners in the collective fight against rising crime, we are beginning to see results. These ongoing efforts include:

Opioid and drug emergency:

- [In 2017](#), Alaska public safety agencies kept over 240,000 doses of methamphetamine, 28,000 doses of cocaine, and 70,000 doses of heroin from reaching Alaskan communities. In July 2018 alone, drug dogs helped in the seizure of 150,168 doses of methamphetamine, 5,219 doses of cocaine, and 824 doses of heroin, amounting to a total of 156,168 doses of illicit substances that were kept off the streets. (#75, #76)
- More aggressive efforts to combat drug trafficking are possible because of Alaska's [designation as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area](#) (HIDTA), which has already resulted in \$2.75 million in federal funds being directed to the State with an additional \$5.5 million in the next two years and continued annual funding expected. (#77)
- Added seven prosecutor positions, including a [statewide drug prosecutor](#), to combat crime. (#21 and #37)

Improving services to victims:

- Four more emergency shelter programs have been funded, providing victims of sexual assault and domestic violence more services and safe places to run to in times of crisis. (#35)
- \$2.5 million in funding allows the continued testing and investigation of backlogged sexual assault kits. An investigator and a special prosecutor have been hired and are looking at test results for case investigation and potential prosecutions. (#25)
- Because of [HB 216](#), the [Office of Victims' Rights can pay crime victims up to \\$10,000 of restitution in advance](#), instead of waiting on the criminal defendant to pay. (#20)
- A new pilot program is going into effect in Anchorage to tackle pre-trial delay in criminal cases, allowing victims more certainty about when trial will be held. (#5)
- Governor Walker to seek legislation to expand confidentiality protections for victim advocates. (#20)
- Governor Walker to introduce legislation to strengthen sex offense laws. (#9)

School safety:

- The Children and Youth Cabinet to work collaboratively across agencies to improve child welfare and focus on addressing childhood trauma in Alaska. [#7]
- Governor Walker to seek legislation and funding to establish a safety crisis chat and tip line to meet the needs of students in distress and prevent intended acts of violence with anonymous reporting. [#13]
- Department of Education and Early Development is implementing [Bree's Law](#) by establishing sexual abuse and domestic violence prevention education in Alaska schools. [#8]

The Public Safety Action Plan (PSAP) was introduced in October 2017 as a collaborative approach amongst Alaska's public safety agencies at a time when crime rates had been rising dramatically. Years of funding cuts had converged with an opioid crisis that had long since begun its march through communities, rippling out from addicts to those victimized by their crimes. At the same time, rates of domestic violence and adverse childhood experiences remain the highest in the nation, and the State continues to struggle with the geographic challenges of providing effective public safety for rural Alaska.

Recognizing the unprecedented nature of the crime wave confronting our state, the PSAP created specific, short- and long-term actions to address the crisis. Over the course of the past year, many of the PSAP's Action Items have been put into effect and still other actions will happen soon. A crisis this long in the making has no fast resolution, but through these intentional, focused priorities we are beginning to turn the corner.

The PSAP reflects the best efforts of those tasked with keeping Alaskans safe, but it must also include the ideas of those most prominent in this fight: Alaskans. We invite you to share your ideas, your frustrations, your input. Email us at safer.alaska@alaska.gov or through the [Governor's Safer Alaska website](#). The Plan and all updates are available on the [Department of Law website](#) and the Governor's Safer Alaska website.

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Part I: Improving Outcomes in the Criminal Justice System

Part 1 of the Public Safety Action Plan focuses on improving outcomes in Alaska’s criminal justice system. Several prevention action items are aimed specifically at keeping Alaskan kids safe. A new Children’s and Youth Cabinet has been established to improve child welfare and address childhood trauma, and the Governor will ask the legislature to create a school tip line to provide mental health assistance and an avenue for anonymous reporting. By tackling the causes of behaviors and the decisions that lead to criminal activity, we can limit the number of those who end up in the criminal justice system.

For those already in the system, an unacceptable 67% have historically returned to incarceration within three years due to probation violations or new criminal activity. Some PSAP action items aimed at reversing this trend and making former inmates productive members of society include providing a period of work transition (Action Item #4) and allowing the opportunity to have certain criminal offenses redacted after good behavior (Action Item #12).

| Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
| 1. Pass Senate Bill 54 (2017) which, among other provisions, gives judges the discretion to impose jail time for larceny, vehicle theft, and other offenses when appropriate. (DPS, LAW) | COMPLETED: Bill passed by the Legislature in special session; Governor Walker signed SB 54 into law on November 27, 2017. |
| 2. Propose legislation adding Commissioner of Department of Health & Social Service to Alaska Criminal Justice Commission as a voting member. | UPDATE: The Governor introduced SB 145 and HB 290 in January 2018 to make DHSS commissioner a voting member of ACJC. The Legislature failed to pass the bill. |
| 3. Propose legislation to allow judges to take out-of-state criminal history into account when assessing bail. | COMPLETED: Governor Walker signed HB 312 on June 14, 2018, which allowed for the use of an offender’s out-of-state criminal history when setting bail . Judges now use the pretrial assessment tool to guide their decisions but retain discretion to set bail amounts and conditions as they see fit. |

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| <p>4. Re-evaluate conditions of confinement and methods to reduce recidivism through operational changes. (DOC)</p> | <p>UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 31, Governor Walker introduced SB 172 and HB 325 to give DOC more flexibility with rehabilitation and reentry programs, including an exemption from the procurement code to enable contracting with more local service providers, and to allow inmate internet access for reentry purposes. The Legislature failed to pass the bills. Governor Walker introduced a prison industries bill (SB 214 and HB 402) on March 5. The Legislature failed to pass the bill. <p>IN PROGRESS: DOC is updating department policies to help expand access to reentry resources and rehabilitation for those in custody, including developing transitional work opportunities with seafood processors. DOC is also working with several communities to advance local sentencing options for misdemeanors and working with DMVA to increase options for rural probationers to do check-ins with local Alaska State Defense Force mentors.</p> |
| <p>5. Continue pre-trial delay work group efforts to increase case processing efficiency.</p> | <p>ONGOING: The work group developed two revised pre-trial orders for the Anchorage Superior Court. The first, addressing pre-indictment delay, was signed in December 2017. A second creates a one-year pilot program beginning October 2018 that sets effective and realistic trial dates and pretrial deadlines. Victims will have more certainty about when a case will go to trial.</p> |
| <p>6. Review clemency applications. (GOA)</p> | <p>COMPLETED: Acting upon the recommendation of Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, the Governor issued an updated clemency policy on January 24. Applications are being processed.</p> |
| <p>7. [NEW] Establish an interagency structure to focus on improving child welfare in Alaska.</p> | <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS: In July of 2018, Governor Walker created the Alaska Children and Youth Cabinet. The Cabinet brings together commissioners from nine state agencies to work collaboratively to improve child welfare in Alaska and focus on addressing childhood trauma.</p> |

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| <p>8. [NEW] Develop age-specific, trauma informed sexual abuse and interpersonal violence prevention and healthy relationship education.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: The Governor signed Bree's Law on July 11, 2018, which creates standardized training for every school in Alaska to teach students how to recognize, prevent, and leave abusive or violent relationships.</p> <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS: The Department of Education and Early Development, with the Council for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), DHSS, and other partners, is in the process of developing age specific, trauma informed curriculum for use in Alaska schools focusing on sexual abuse, interpersonal violence prevention, and healthy relationships.</p> |
| <p>9. [NEW] Seek legislation to strengthen sex offense laws to better combat sexual assault and domestic violence.</p> | <p>[NEW] Governor will introduce legislation next session to fix loopholes in current sex offense statutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. make causing unwanted contact with semen a sex offense; b. make Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the Third Degree a sex offense that requires higher penalties and registration as a sex offender if age difference is six years or greater; c. make indecent viewing involving the production of images a sex offense requiring registration; d. make solicitation of a minor a felony in all circumstances; e. make sending unsolicited sexual images a criminal offense; f. clarify that sex offenders from other jurisdictions must register in Alaska in all cases. |
| <p>10. [NEW] Seek legislation to strengthen tools to supervise those on probation.</p> | <p>[NEW] Governor will introduce legislation to strengthen tools to address those probationers who abscond from Alaska or otherwise violate probation.</p> |

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| <p>11. [NEW] Seek legislation to combat elder fraud and abuse.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: Added 7 new Public Guardians to the Office of Public Advocacy to assist incapacitated adults.</p> <p>[NEW] Governor will introduce legislation to allow Adult Protective Services to substantiate findings of elder abuse or fraud in administrative proceedings to ensure those abusing elders are not able to hold positions of trust that allow them to abuse or defraud other vulnerable adults or children.</p> |
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| Long-Term Action Items to Evaluate: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
| <p>12. Evaluate possibility of legislation to remove barriers for former inmates, who have been rehabilitated, re-entering the job force, including the possibility of expungement of criminal records after period of good behavior. (LAW)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Removing barriers to re-entering the job force: ACJC has issued a recommendation allowing redaction of criminal records for certain offenses.</p> |
| <p>13. [NEW] Seek legislation to better address school safety.</p> | <p>[NEW]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Governor will introduce legislation and seek funding to establish a crisis chat and tip line to provide students a safe, anonymous method to inform school staff, mental health providers, and potentially law enforcement of behaviors that may result in preventable tragedies. The tip line will provide a rapid response to meet the needs of students in distress and prevent intended acts of violence. b. Governor will introduce legislation to create the new crime of terroristic threatening. c. Governor will introduce legislation to ensure court orders prohibiting those with mental diseases from possessing firearms are entered into law enforcement databases. |

14. Continue efforts to establish a **safety net for children** to reduce the risk that they might end up in the criminal justice system. (DHSS, ACJC)

ONGOING:

- a. **Safety net for foster children.** OCS provides case management, housing, and educational support to youth aging out of the foster system on an ongoing basis. This year, 66 foster care youth earned a diploma or GED, 36 more accessed the Education and Training voucher program, and six graduated from college. For more information visit the [OCS Independent Living Program website](#).
- b. **[NEW] Vocational training program for at-risk youth:** DMVA is launching a pilot 5-month in-resident vocational program for Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates for at-risk youth.

Part II: Identify Public Safety Resource Needs

Breaking down silos and working more closely with federal, municipal, and tribal partners is critical to success. But additional funding is still needed. The administration hopes to fill trooper vacancies by the end of FY19 and add additional positions in FY20. In addition, bringing prosecutorial resources back to levels of previous years is critical as is increasing investigation resources for the most serious cases. The PSAP also calls for increased funding to help community crime watch programs (#17) and facilitates the payment of restitution to those who have been harmed by crime (#20).

Part II of the Public Safety Action Plan also focuses on how Alaska can most effectively use the resources we have. An example of effective resource use is action Item #22, the Pretrial Enforcement Division (PED). PED, established in 2018 within the Department of Corrections (DOC), monitors those who are released pending trial. PED brings cost savings by safely monitoring those awaiting trial outside of DOC custody and ensures they can be quickly returned to custody if they violate conditions of release.

| Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCE NEEDS | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
| Partnerships and Coordination: | |
| 15. Develop and improve tools and processes for sharing data and information among law enforcement agencies, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop interfaces to connect various agency databases; Consider policy requiring DPS reports to be completed within 48 hours; and Improve availability of the Alaska Records Management System (ARMS) (<i>i.e.</i>, law enforcement specific case management database) to enhance data sharing. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> IN PROGRESS: Expecting first test of pushing case from DPS to LAW in coming months; troubleshooting and expanding use to follow. IN PROGRESS: DPS reviewing policies. IN PROGRESS: Finalizing data sharing agreement with state law enforcement agencies; training completed in Kenai and Homer. Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire came online with ARMS in April and training will be held this fall. Next steps include following up with other communities that have expressed interest. |

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| <p>16. Facilitate veterans’ access to existing services through Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) while under DOC supervision and after reintegration to community. (DOC, DMVA)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMVA has developed an “Incarcerated Veteran Module” to allow DMVA to identify and reach incarcerated veterans 6 months before release to initiate the process for federal VA benefits (medical, disability, education, and housing); DMVA is working with DOC to receive DOC veterans’ data to assist with their services and support upon release. DOC is enabling DMVA Contractor Veterans Service Officers to work with veterans while they are still incarcerated to ensure healthcare and other benefits are available immediately upon their release. |
| <p>17. Reach out to community partners to explore options to expand citizen crime watch programs and other locally driven solutions to deter crime and improve public safety.</p> | <p>ONGOING: DPS has been holding monthly meetings with community watch groups in Kenai and Mat-Su areas with additional meetings held in other rural locations. The Legislature appropriated \$115,000 to community policing groups in Anchorage and Fairbanks and an additional \$75,000 for distribution for community policing organizations to be distributed as grants through DCCED.</p> |
| <p>18. Develop plan for targeted diversity recruitment in public safety agencies.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: In discussion among commissioners as part of the recruitment and retention discussion.</p> |
| <p>19. Propose legislation to allow Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) to request criminal background checks from the FBI for persons training to be or employed as police officers.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: On June 22, Governor Walker signed into law SB 148 which allows APSC to conduct background checks for village police officers to ensure officers are qualified and of good moral character.</p> |
| <p>20. [NEW] Provide tools to facilitate crime victim access to, and involvement in, criminal justice system.</p> | <p>a. [NEW] COMPLETED: HB 216, signed June 2018, allows the Office of Victims’ Rights to pay up to \$10,000 from a restorative justice account for court ordered restitution to crime victims while the State continues collection efforts against the perpetrator.</p> <p>b. [NEW] Seek legislation to expand confidentiality protections for victims. LAW is exploring additional ways to strengthen victim representation through the criminal justice process.</p> |

| Add Statewide Resources: | |
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| 21. Seek funding for more prosecutors in urban centers given increased demand from record number of homicides and other violent crime. (LAW) | <p>a. COMPLETED: For FY19, the Governor asked for and received two additional prosecutors and associated support staff for the Anchorage District Attorney’s Office.</p> <p>b. IN PROGRESS: For FY20, the Governor is requesting an additional five prosecutors and associated support staff for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.</p> |
| 22. Add 60 pre-trial officers in January. (DOC) | IN PROGRESS: DOC has hired 53 Pretrial Enforcement Division (PED) officers as of September; hiring and testing is ongoing for the remaining officers and support staff. PED is currently monitoring 1,891 individuals on PED supervision with 746 of them on electronic monitoring. Since January 1, 2018, PED has made 1,198 re-arrests. |
| 23. Add dedicated criminal investigators in western Alaska to assist in domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutions. (DPS, LAW) | COMPLETED: The Governor asked for and received 2 long-term, non-permanent investigator positions for FY19. One position will be embedded in the Bethel District Attorney’s Office and one embedded in Nome. |
| 24. Create statewide Domestic Violence Sexual Assault hotline . | IN PROGRESS: LAW, DPS, and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) are working to identify existing resources and evaluate options, possibly addressing issue through tiered priority process. |
| 25. [NEW] Address the backlog of untested sexual assault kits (SAKs) throughout state. | [NEW] IN PROGRESS: Governor signed HB 31 into law, requiring ongoing reporting and testing on all AST untested SAKs ; an additional \$2.75 million in capital funds will allow testing of SAKs of other law enforcement agencies. An investigator and a special prosecutor have been hired and are looking at test results for case investigation and potential prosecutions. |
| 26. Develop and implement a records and classification unit to address federal requirements for crime classification, data integrity, and consistent crime reports (requires 6 PCNs). (DPS) | COMPLETED: The Governor requested and received 6 positions for FY19 for DPS records and classifications unit . |

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| <p>27. Propose legislation to increase surcharges imposed for violations of state and municipal law that go to the Police Training Fund.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: The Governor introduced legislation to support the Police Training Fund, which was ultimately included in HB 312. The Governor signed it into law in June 2018.</p> |
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| Rural Justice Initiatives: | |
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| <p>28. Identify law enforcement presence in each community and develop a communications plan to improve coordination among state and local authorities. (LAW, DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: DPS compiled a list of state certified and supervised VPSOs and VSOs and completed a survey of trooper detachment commanders for information regarding TPOs and VPOs; ongoing outreach by DPS and LAW to municipalities and Alaska Tribes to gather information and update DCCED’s existing public database, the Alaska Community Database Online which will house information.</p> |
| <p>29. Increase trooper presence and improve response times in rural areas by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revising travel restrictions to allow more law enforcement trips to rural Alaska for proactive policing and relationship-building with rural community residents; Improving transportation and logistics coordination in rural areas (i.e., sharing pilots, aircraft, and boats among state agencies) Filling trooper vacancies. [NEW] Add troopers and other law enforcement. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> COMPLETED: 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 Governor’s FY19 budget request for rural travel; the Legislature funded about \$1.1 million of this request to be shared between the troopers and VPSOs. IN PROGRESS: DMVA and DPS identified hurdles to assigning DMVA pilots for DPS travel/missions; it is not cost effective. IN PROGRESS: The Governor has announced a 7.5% pay increase for Alaska State Troopers with an additional 7.5% increase recommended to the Legislature. [NEW] Governor will seek funding to add 24 additional trooper positions once vacancies are filled. |

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| <p>30. [NEW] Build capacity in rural villages by strengthening the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF), a volunteer organization whose primary role is to augment and support the Alaska National Guard. (DMVA)</p> | <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMVA and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) have executed an MOU creating a Task Force to create a rural volunteer force to build capacity in rural villages for emergency preparedness, leveraging indigenous knowledge of subsistence food sources to further community resilience. • From a \$210,000 legislative appropriation, ASDF is hiring part-time staff in Bethel and Kotzebue to increase scout detachments in northwest and southwest Alaska. Detachment staff will receive training in emergency preparedness and suicide and violence prevention. • AFN provided a \$100K grant to focus on accelerating growth of the rural ASDF detachments and increasing rural community emergency preparedness; an executive director has been hired and is working with communities for more aggressive roll out plans. • AFN is producing a 3-5 minute video to highlight the positive and important role ASDF is playing in rural communities. |
| <p>31. Build a statewide consolidated communications center with regional dispatch centers to provide more reliable emergency communication services. (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: The Governor requested \$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. An additional appropriation will be sought in 2020 to complete this statewide dispatch and communication center.</p> |
| <p>32. [NEW] Create rural rapid response team, including appropriate aircraft to reach more airstrips in rural Alaska. (DPS)</p> | <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS: DPS creating RAPID team (Rural Alaska Protection Investigation and Deployment team), which will include seeking an appropriation for appropriate aircraft to allow greatly expanded reach to rural runways.</p> |

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| <p>33. Evaluate opportunities to strengthen the VPSO program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Funding options such as the possibility of VPSO-specific recruitment funding or allowing greater flexibility in the use of lapsed funds; b. Allowing VPSOs to be cross-deputized to enforce tribal civil ordinances if the VPSO grantee and tribe agree. (DPS) c. Increase salaries of VPSOs to aid in recruitment and retention of VPSOs for rural Alaska. | <p>COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DPS and VPSO grantees have agreed to flexibility in use of lapsed funds for recruitment and other purposes. b. If a tribe desires and the regional contractor agrees, a VPSO can be cross-deputized to enforce tribal civil ordinances that do not conflict with state law. <p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Governor to seek funding for VPSO program to increase VPSO salaries by 7.5% this year and an additional 7.5% next year. |
| <p>34. Expand use of telecommunication resources in more jails for remote court hearings. (DOC)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Videoconferencing equipment is now operational in all DOC facilities which will allow tremendous savings in prisoner transport costs. Most facilities now have a dedicated phone line for attorney-client phone calls during proceedings; all agencies continue to work on overcoming attorney contact issues.</p> |
| <p>35. For the many rural communities that do not yet have victim shelters, work with Tribes and regional nonprofits to set up safe-houses.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Four new victim service programs offering shelter, alternatives to shelter, and other victim support services funded in 2018 in Craig, Petersburg, Emmonak, and through the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in Kenai. The State is also reviewing the concept of establishing 'safe-homes' to shelter victims in small communities without shelters.</p> |
| <p>36. Educate local public safety partners about processes and standards for evidence to enable state prosecution of crimes investigated by local agencies. (LAW)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: 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 TCC's Tribal Court Conference in May 2018 and other communities in summer, with more planned for fall 2018.</p> |

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| <p>37. Add prosecutorial resources in rural Alaska. (LAW)</p> | <p>a. COMPLETED: For FY19, Governor requested and received 2 prosecutor positions and associated staff for Kotzebue and Bethel.</p> <p>b. IN PROGRESS: The Governor will ask for additional prosecution resources for rural Alaska, including additional support staff for Bethel and Nome.</p> |
| <p>38. Continue implementing diversion agreements 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> <p>a. The civil diversion agreement with the Department of Law; and,</p> <p>b. The Division of Juvenile Justice’s similar agreement to refer appropriate juvenile cases to tribal courts. (DHSS, LAW)</p> | <p>ONGOING: Training with LAW, DPS, and Nulato completed on February 15; outreach presentation to Utqiagvik on April 11 and additional training conducted at TCC Tribal Court Conference in May 2018. Applied for federal grant to issue sub-grants to Tribes to implement diversion agreements; awards will be announced in October. Meetings are continuing with all interested Tribes throughout fall 2018, and there will be training provided at the BIA Providers Conference in November 2018.</p> <p>IN PROGRESS: Seven Tribal Court diversion agreements for youth have been signed and six more communities have expressed interest. Two civil diversion agreements have been signed and many Tribes have expressed interest.</p> |
| <p>39. Coordinate with Alaska Tribes in providing child protection services. (DHSS)</p> | <p>ONGOING:</p> <p>a. Compact signed; one Support, Services, and Funding Agreement (SSFA) is in place, the second SSFA is currently being negotiated, and a third will be negotiated in FY19. Click here for video.</p> <p>b. Seeking legislation to further advance compacting of child welfare services to Tribes.</p> |
| <p>40. Seek additional federal resources to support state and local public safety programs.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: The State has applied for and is receiving grant funding for many different public safety areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting drug trafficking; • Strengthening domestic violence and sexual assault initiatives; • Addressing the opioid epidemic; • Strengthening relationships with Tribes in the area of public safety; and • Improving communication across public safety agencies. |

Long-Term Action Items to Evaluate: PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCE NEEDS

| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
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| Partnerships and Coordination: | |
| 41. Develop plan to use technology to reduce car thefts and aid in recovery efforts. | IN PROGRESS: State working to procure technology for rapid identification of stolen vehicles to facilitate faster response times and increase vehicle recovery. |
| Rural Justice Initiatives: | |
| 42. Evaluate further opportunities to improve the VPSO program . (DPS, DOC, LAW) | IN PROGRESS: Generally, under discussion with Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council public safety subcommittee. Particular initiatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMVA has certified the VPSO Academy on Field Training Officer time as eligible for VA education benefits, providing an additional stipend for future VPSOs receiving training. The first veteran hired using these benefits is now in the VPSO academy. • VPSO coordinators have also completed their new strategic plan and met in August to re-examine the grant application and consider whether modifications are needed. • The AK Army National Guard is divesting armories in rural Alaska village and has contacted contractors to explore possible uses in VPSO programs. |
| 43. Develop smartphone technology to collect and preserve evidence when other tools are not available as well as more efficiently deliver evidence to state prosecutors. | IN PROGRESS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. LAW, DPS, and OIT are evaluating potential options for off-the-shelf application; DPS arranging pilot program. b. [NEW] The State crime lab is developing a portable attachment that would allow a smart phone to screen for and document body fluids. |
| 44. Improve retention and recruitment for public safety agencies, including troopers, VPSOs, pilots, Airport Police and Fire Officers, and corrections officers. | ONGOING: Interdepartmental meetings to improve retention and recruitment in all public safety departments; DOA is identifying best practices and a menu of options for agencies. |

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| <p>45. Improve aircraft availability to better respond to rural Alaska calls to DPS. Assign an aircraft to the Nome trooper post and update other aircraft. (DPS)</p> | <p>COMPLETED: The Legislature approved 1 pilot position of the 2 requested in the Governor’s FY19 budget.</p> <p>IN PROGRESS: DPS has refurbished and upgraded an all-weather Caravan aircraft that will be dedicated to the region and will substantially decrease current dependence on expensive commercial air transport. A DMVA/DPS partnership provides hangar space for the aircraft; DPS continues to work toward hiring a pilot and moving the aircraft to Nome.</p> |
| <p>46. Leverage the FirstNet program to increase the connectivity in rural Alaska. (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: AT&T awarded federal grant to expand cellular networks and improve connectivity in rural AK; DPS reviewed AT&T’s plan and identified priority areas; based on the plan, expect additional assets on the ground potentially in 2020.</p> |
| <p>47. Increase school fire inspections and training for rural fire departments. (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Planning for biennial inspections and trainings is underway. The Legislature also provided \$200,000 to increase inspections.</p> |
| <p>48. Evaluate Washington State’s model for arrest diversion of low-level misdemeanors. (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Interagency team did site visits of other states’ ‘law assisted diversion’ programs; departments are currently evaluating the best model for Alaska communities.</p> |
| <p>49. Evaluate various legislative proposals that would further enable tribal courts to provide civil remedies for certain offenses. (LAW)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Under discussion with stakeholders, including the Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council.</p> |
| <p>50. Evaluate the ability to release prisoners back to home community instead of place of arrest to improve access to support network.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: DOC confirmed flexibility to return prisoners to their home communities; the Returning Home program provides rental assistance to those leaving prison.</p> |

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| <p>51. Explore alternatives for supervising parolees in rural communities, including annual training for VPSOs. (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interagency discussions of pilot programs for Alaska Tribes to supervise offenders. DOC has also expanded “telemed” programming to allow for expanded supervision and treatment in rural communities. b. Partnership between DOC and DMVA to develop mentorship program utilizing existing Alaska State Defense Force members in rural locations and assist with probation supervision for rural communities. |
| <p>52. Explore other opportunities to deploy telecommunications resources 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>IN PROGRESS: DHSS completed a review of the recommendations from the Medicaid Redesign Telehealth Stakeholder Workgroup and published responses to each recommendation. Recommendations that fell under the purview of other departments were referred to those departments for review and consideration. An update on Telehealth will be included in the Annual Medicaid Reform Report to the Legislature on November 15, 2018.</p> |
| <p>53. Continue evaluating 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>ONGOING: Regular commissioner-level meetings on allocation of state resources.</p> |

Part III: Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Misuse Treatment

Access to mental health and substance misuse treatment is limited throughout the regions of Alaska at a time when the need for expanded treatment services is greatly elevated. Access to the right service at the right time to those in the need is critical. The below action items represent the continuum of statewide behavioral health services the State is working to improve through the Public Safety Action Plan.

| Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
| Access to Treatment: | |
| 54. Continue interagency coordination to allocate mental health and substance misuse treatment funding. | IN PROGRESS: Collaboration among DPS, DHSS, DOC, and LAW on mental health and substance misuse treatment funding and recidivism reduction efforts continues to occur. |
| 55. Continue and expand crisis intervention team (CIT) training for law enforcement. | IN PROGRESS: Next training is scheduled for Oct. 2018 in Mat-Su Valley. DOC is also working to implement CIT training for probation officers and other DOC staff. |
| 56. Propose ongoing stakeholder meetings to discuss the civil commitment process and options for improving the state psychiatric emergency system. (DHSS, LAW) | IN PROGRESS: DHSS is coordinating ongoing meetings with on-the-ground staff from DHSS, LAW, the court system, PDs, OPA, and will eventually include representatives from hospitals. |
| 57. Explore expansion of designated evaluation and treatment beds to increase capacity and improve availability of acute care mental health treatment and evaluation beds at Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) and other hospitals. (DHSS) | ONGOING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Nov. 2017, DHSS approved the Certificates of Need for projects at Mat-Su and Alaska Regional Hospitals allowing those hospitals to explore expansion of treatment beds. • DHSS received \$14 million in Disproportional Share Funding (DSH) to be distributed to hospitals over the next two years to assist with the overflow of psychiatric inpatients for API. • The Governor requested and the Legislature funded \$3.1 million for API to address nursing salaries in order to operate at its 80-bed capacity. • [NEW] DHSS will seek funding to increase salaries of Psychiatric Nursing Assistants at API, and add positions. |

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| <p>58. [NEW] Expand training opportunities to increase law enforcement understanding of mental health commitment process.</p> | <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS: The first “Mental Health Commitment Training” for law enforcement was held in August 2018, covering the Title 47 civil commitment process. The training will be replicated in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau and possibly as webinar for rural locations.</p> |
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| Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments: | |
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| <p>59. Legislation to authorize court orders requiring DOC to hold people who are intoxicated when they are arrested until they are sober.</p> | <p>COMPLETED: Addressed in SB 54, bail schedule changed.</p> |
| <p>60. Evaluate current use of Title 47 safety net for individuals incapacitated due to substance abuse until a better long-term solution is found.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: LAW evaluated the current use of Title 47 holds; DOC considering clarifying policy.</p> |

| Long-Term Action Items to Evaluate: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |

| Access to Treatment: | |
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| <p>61. Evaluate ways to increase availability of treatment resources for outpatient services.</p> | <p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • \$18 million for expanding substance use disorder services over 3 years was included in the Governor’s FY19 budget request. The Legislature funded \$12 million of this request. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were issued in August 2018 which should bring additional treatment services online in 2019 including for crisis stabilization. • [NEW] DHSS will seek an additional \$9.1 million in FY20 to further expand treatment options. • DOC continues to assist offenders who are in their last 30 days before release to complete Medicaid applications for submission upon release. |

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| <p>62. Evaluate how to incentivize treatment on demand so it is available when needed.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Agencies are also engaging with stakeholders in ACJC to develop solutions.</p> |
| <p>63. [NEW] Evaluate “Angel Program” model for possible use by law enforcement agencies in Alaska.</p> | <p>[NEW] IN PROGRESS: Evaluating the “Angel Program” model which would allow people with addictions to request help at local law enforcement agencies and be immediately connected with treatment options, thereby facilitating and encouraging pre-arrest addiction treatment.</p> |
| <p>64. [NEW] Pursue federal grant funding to expand prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in Alaska.</p> | <p>[NEW] COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. \$8 million awarded in September by U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service to enhance and expand new and existing treatment and recovery support services over the next two years. b. \$2.4 million awarded in September by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention over the next year to implement Alaska based programs and trainings for professionals and community providers on the front lines of the opioid and drug crisis. |
| <p>65. Evaluate the ability to establish a restorative justice facility, such as a mental health and substance misuse evaluation and treatment facility.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: At the request of DHSS, the Legislature approved funding for a feasibility study to explore the value of establishing a forensic hospital in Alaska. Contractor selected by DHSS.</p> |
| <p>66. Pursue an exemption from the federal institute for mental disease (IMD) rule that limits how many beds a provider can operate for residential substance misuse disorder treatment. (DHSS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: DHSS included a request for a waiver from the IMD exclusion as part of the state’s 1115 Waiver application (submitted in Jan. 2018) which, if granted, could allow for substance misuse treatment to be paid for with Medicaid funding in facilities with more than a 16 bed capacity. Many providers anticipated to immediately add additional treatment beds upon approval.</p> |
| <p>67. Increase and improve services for children who need institutional care, including increasing beds at treatment facilities. (DHSS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Services for children pursued through the 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver application. If approved, implementation of new targeted children’s treatment services to begin in 2020.</p> |

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| <p>68. Develop a standardized system for evaluating and treating non-restorable patients 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>IN PROGRESS: 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. Contractor selected by DHSS to conduct the feasibility study.</p> |
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| <p>Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments:</p> | |
| <p>69. Develop long-term strategy for Title 47 holds.</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: ACJC is discussing long-term options.</p> |
| <p>70. Evaluate possible legislative or administrative options to ensure timely competency hearings. (LAW)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Representatives from the court system, LAW, OPA, PDA, and DHSS have determined that Title 12 competency and restoration issues need to be dealt with separately from similarly complicated civil commitment process issues; the committee is currently addressing the involuntary commitment procedure of AS 47.30.</p> |

Part IV: Addressing the Drug Epidemic and Drug and Alcohol Trafficking

Alaska is confronting an unprecedented crisis of opioid and other drug use while still managing the alcohol issues that have long plagued our state. Part IV of the Public Safety Action Plan takes a multifaceted approach that brings together not only different state agencies but also federal, municipal, tribal, and private sector partners to combat the trafficking that makes illegal substances all too available in Alaskan communities.

| Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND DRUG TRAFFICKING | |
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| ACTION ITEM | UPDATE |
| 71. Governor Walker issued a Disaster Declaration and established incident command structure to coordinate state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. | COMPLETED. |
| 72. The state continues to execute the recommendations of the Opioid Policy Task Force 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. COMPLETED: DHSS created the Opioid Data Dashboard to provide current, publicly accessible data on the health effects of the opioid epidemic and the state’s response. b. IN PROGRESS: Situation reports detailing ongoing efforts provided to the work group every 3 weeks. c. IN PROGRESS: After engaging with communities throughout Alaska, the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) is leading efforts to develop the Alaska Opioid Response Action Plan. The Action Plan will comprehensively address the opioid crisis through state and community actions with measurable and achievable outcomes. |

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| <p>73. Explore ways to increase use of social media to promote positive, useful messages for parents to help in drug and crime prevention. (DPS, DHSS)</p> | <p>ONGOING:</p> <p>a. DHSS has produced several videos that highlight Alaskans dealing with opioid addiction and how to safely dispose of unused prescription pills. DHSS will continue to produce more opioid-related web videos and other material for DHSS social media channels.</p> <p>b. DHSS and DPS in August produced a number of social media posts relating to the U.S. Surgeon General’s visit to Alaska and focusing on the importance of distributing Naloxone to the public.</p> |
| <p>74. Evaluate tools for citizens to text tips to law enforcement (e.g. Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app). (DPS)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Potential off-the-shelf tools were identified for evaluation; DPS is evaluating workflow & logistics involved.</p> |
| <p>75. Increase state resources directed at catching and prosecuting drug traffickers, including:</p> <p>a. Create a statewide drug prosecutor position (LAW) and</p> <p>b. Add drug dogs to assist in disrupting the drug trade and catch traffickers. (DPS, DOT)</p> | <p>a. COMPLETED: The Legislature approved the Governor’s FY19 budget request for a statewide drug prosecutor position; LAW has filled the position.</p> <p>b. IN PROGRESS: Using public and private funding, several new drug dogs are assisting with drug interdiction. DPS and LAW are instituting new K-9 search and seizure training and developing new policy to aid the efforts.</p> |
| <p>76. Develop a statewide coordination plan and standards for drug dogs working with private and public stakeholders, potentially to include a coordinator in the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC), training protocol led by the statewide drug prosecutor, and APSC certification of K9 officers. (DPS, LAW)</p> | <p>IN PROGRESS: Working to identify and allocate needed resources to develop policy in coordination with the new statewide drug prosecutor. DPS and statewide drug prosecutor have drafted K9 protocols and guidelines which are in final review.</p> |
| <p>77. Seek a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation to increase availability of federal funds for drug investigations. (DPS)</p> | <p>COMPLETED: Petition approved. Alaska designated a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area by federal government.</p> <p>ONGOING: Alaska will receive \$5 million in federal dollars by the end of 2018 to combat drug trafficking in Alaska communities and additional funds in future years; new enforcement initiatives to be developed this fall.</p> |

78. Better coordinate drug enforcement efforts with **federal partners**, including:
- a. Increased collaboration with Ted Stevens International Airport Police for recently established WAANT Unit;
 - b. Cross-deputize a state prosecutor as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute drug offenses in federal court; and
 - c. Work with federal law enforcement agencies in implementing the Anti-Violent Crime Strategy.

- ONGOING:** Generally, collaboration with federal partners continues as an ongoing effort.
- a. DPS statewide Drug Enforcement Unit is discussing increased collaboration with Ted Stevens International Airport and other airport partners.
 - b. The statewide drug prosecutor is in the process of being cross-deputized by federal authorities.
 - c. Efforts in coordination with federal law enforcement agencies are ongoing.

79. Propose **legislation** to more effectively combat drug trafficking.

COMPLETED: Governor’s legislative proposals for 2018 session included allowing dangerous drugs to be **scheduled by regulation** to allow a faster state response to new drugs. The proposal was included in [HB 312 which passed May 11, 2018](#).

- ONGOING:**
- a. **[NEW]** Governor will introduce legislation next session to increase penalties for trafficking drugs and create a new Class A felony for trafficking large amounts of controlled substances or any amount of fentanyl.
 - b. **[NEW]** Governor will introduce legislation to create tiered approach for penalties for possession of drugs to better incentivize treatment and bring down property crime rates.

80. **[NEW]** Seek federal legislation to better combat opioids.

[NEW] ONGOING: The Attorney General has consulted with Alaska’s congressional delegation and joined a letter of other state attorneys general seeking federal legislation to have fentanyl derivatives illegal upon manufacture, allowing a faster, proactive response to new drugs that hit the streets. New federal legislation expected this fall.

81. Better coordination and communication between law enforcement and **transportation companies** to combat drug trafficking through mail and ports of entry.

ONGOING: Necessary information sharing among stakeholders ongoing. State met with **air carriers**, some of which agreed to allow greater law enforcement access to facilities to combat drug and alcohol trafficking to rural Alaska.

82. **[NEW]** Create **Overdose Fatality Review Panel** to have interagency team review overdose deaths for causes and develop additional prevention measures.

[NEW] Governor will seek legislation to **create a panel to review overdose fatalities**. State has applied for federal grant funding to stand up the panel.