



Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Annual Report

July 1, 2013 — June 30, 2014



William J. Streur,
Commissioner

Vision

Alaska Individuals, Families And Communities Are Safe And Healthy

Mission

To Promote And Protect The Health And Well-Being Of Alaskans

Service Philosophy

Deliver The Right Care To The Right Person At The Right Time For The Right Price.

Health & Social Services Divisions & Missions:

Alaska Pioneer Home

Provide the highest quality of life in a safe home environment for older Alaskans and Veterans.

Behavioral Health

Manage an integrated and comprehensive behavioral health system based on sound policy, effective practices and partnerships.

Office of Children's Services

Prevent and respond to child maltreatment in order to ensure safe children and strong families.

Health Care Services

Manage health care coverage for Alaskans in need.

Juvenile Justice

Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Public Assistance

Provide self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

Public Health

Protect and promote the health of Alaskans.

Senior & Disabilities Services

Promote the independence of Alaskan seniors and persons with physical and developmental disabilities.

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

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Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan

1.1 Core Service 1.1: **Protect and promote the health of Alaskans**

OBJECTIVES

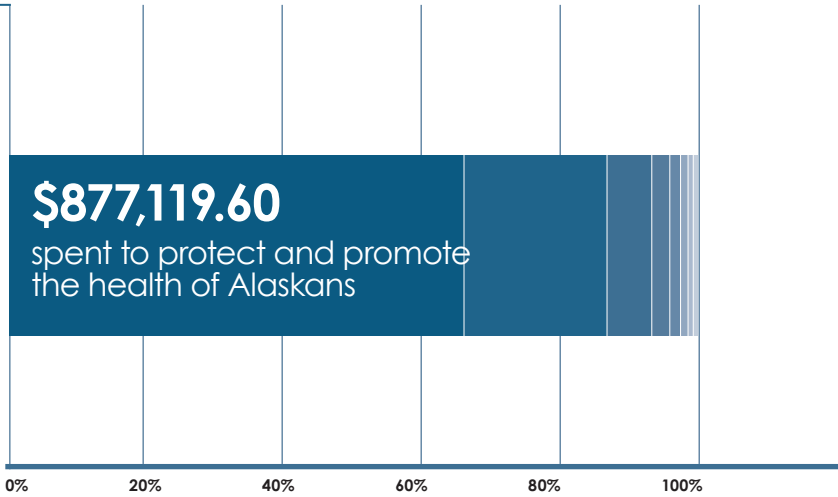
- **Improve the health status of Alaskans**
- **Decrease unintentional injuries**
- **Decrease substance abuse and injury**

The Department of Health and Social Services protects and promotes the health of Alaskans through programs of many divisions, representing a vast majority of the department: Public Health, Behavioral Health, Public Assistance, Juvenile Justice, Health Care Services, Medicaid, and Senior and Disability Services. Examples of successes from these divisions' efforts can be seen in the creation of a vaccine assessment program for universal vaccine availability, a quadrupled number of elementary school children participating in Healthy Futures activity challenges, and cross-divisional work on adverse childhood experiences and Early Prevention, Screening, Detection and Treatment well-child exams. Children in foster care and within Juvenile Justice facilities also receive optimal care through physical and behavioral health screenings and services. Juvenile Justice even recently exceeded national averages in health screenings and

physical fitness of youth in their facilities. Much work remains, however, especially with efforts to increase immunization rates; decrease rates of sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis; decrease rates of overweight and obesity; and in improvements to services like streamlining and easing access for WIC certifications and ensuring mental health and substance abuse services statewide. One solution the department is working toward is strengthening transitional services for youth exiting department care programs (foster care and juvenile justice programs), as this population is at high risk for many adverse issues including substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, unemployment, suicide and interpersonal violence.

Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan

Core Service 1.1 FY2014 Spending



- Health Care Medicaid
- Behavioral Health Medicaid
- Division of Public Health
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Division of Public Assistance
- Adult Preventative Dental Medicaid
- Health Care Services
- Finance & Management Services
- Children's Medicaid

\$	577,149.6	66%
\$	183,008.3	21%
\$	56,760.3	6%
\$	23,205.0	3%
\$	14,055.1	2%
\$	9,690.8	1%
\$	5,704.8	1%
\$	5,381.6	1%
\$	2,164.2	0%

■ Medicaid Spending

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Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan

1.2 Core Service 1.2: Provide quality of life in a safe living environment

OBJECTIVES

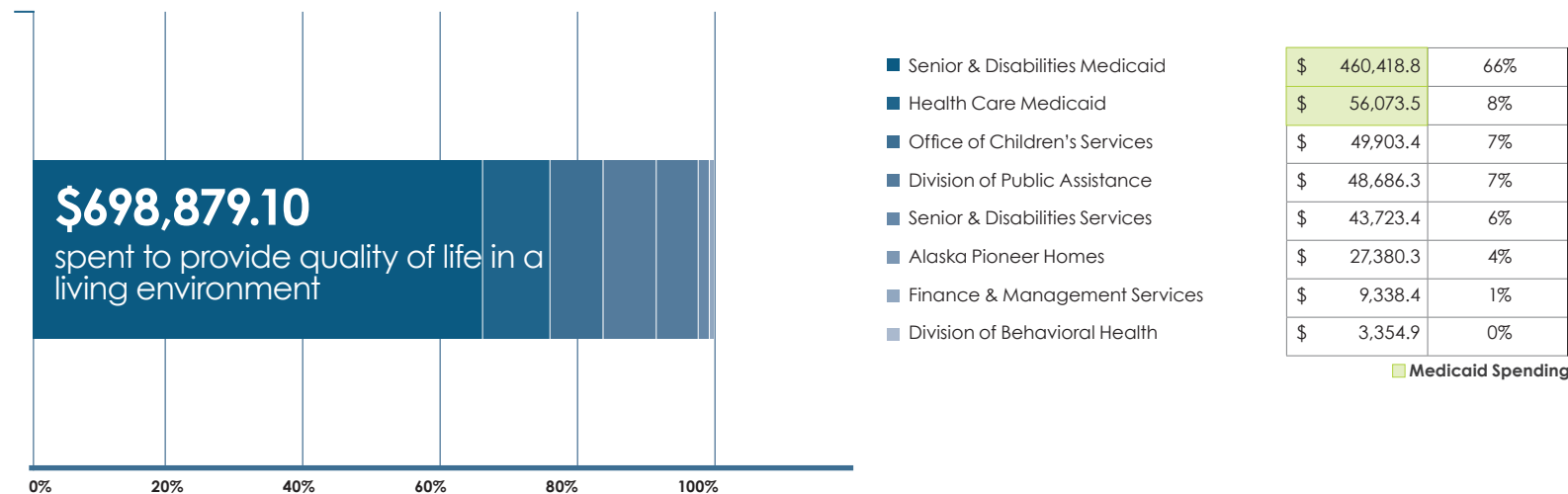
- **Improve the safety of children receiving department services**
- **Increase the number of older Alaskans who live safely in their communities**
- **Increase the number of Alaskans with disabilities who are living safely in the least restrictive environment**
- **Increase the number of Alaskans with behavioral health issues who report improvement in key life domains**

Seven divisions work together under Core Service 1.2: Provide Quality of Life in a Safe Living Environment. They are Senior and Disabilities Services, Alaska Pioneer Homes, Behavioral Health, Health Care Services, Office of Children's Services, Public Assistance and Public Health. The Alaska Commission on Aging also contributes to this effort. The divisions continue to strive to improve the safety of children receiving services; to increase the time older Alaskans and people with disabilities can stay safely within their homes and communities; and to increase the number of Alaskans with behavioral health issues reporting improvements in key life domains. The divisions

also continue to use their protective service specialists to investigate cases where abuse, neglect, or exploitation was reported. There are great opportunities moving forward for the divisions to coordinate and collaborate more with each other to see successes across their programs. For example, the divisions see an opportunity to better leverage the work done by protective service specialists for cases where abuse, neglect, and exploitation were reported. There is also an opportunity to build a stronger partnership between Senior and Disabilities Services and the Office of Children Services to serve children with disabilities who receive services.

Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan

Core Service 1.2 FY2014 Spending



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Health Care Access, Delivery & Value

2.1 Core Service 2.1: **Manage health care coverage for Alaskans in need**

OBJECTIVES

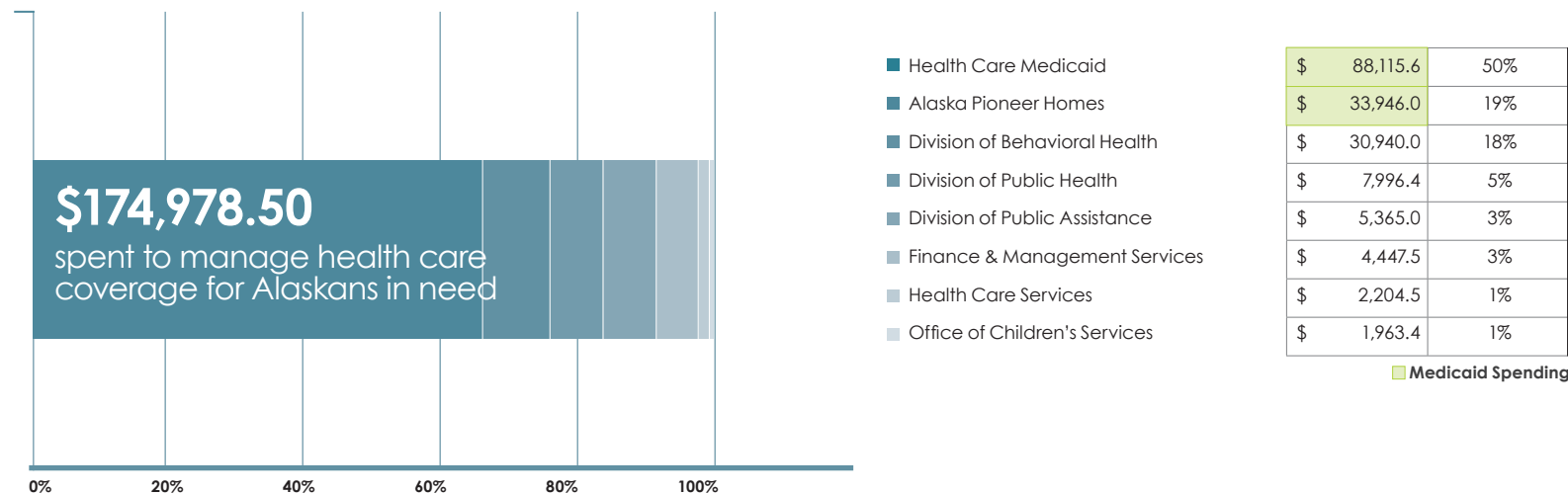
- **Increase the number of Alaskans with a primary care provider**
- **Increase access for Alaskans with chronic or complex medical conditions to integrated care**

Divisions that participate in Core Service 2.1: Manage Health Care Coverage for Alaskans in Need include Alaska Pioneer Homes, Behavioral Health, Public Assistance, Public Health, Health Care Services and Office of Children's Services. Alaska Pioneer Homes contributes with memory care, personal care and assistance, and providing a home; Behavioral Health by implementing statewide strategy in partnerships with providers and communities, and by providing and coordinating interagency behavioral health care. Public Assistance participates by determining eligibility and issuing benefits. Public Health informs, educates and empowers people about health issues; identifies and solves health problems; develops policies and plans to support individual and community health efforts; links people to personal health services; and monitors and researches health status and service effectiveness. Health Care Services'

contribution is to ensure health care capacity exists to meet client needs, provide fiduciary oversight for Alaska Medicaid, and to ensure access of clients to health care. The Office of Children's Services ensures that children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs. Through the divisions working together, we have determined that a goal of this core service is to develop public-private partnerships. This is also known as shared service delivery. We feel that this will increase accountability and consumer involvement. Currently we have public-private partnerships with our grantees, with the parents of children involved with the Juvenile Justice and the Office of Children's Services, and with many of our contractors. There are many more opportunities for us to explore to capitalize on this goal and provide an increased level of customer service to all that we serve.

Health Care Access, Delivery & Value

Core Service 2.1 FY2014 Spending



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Health Care Access, Delivery & Value

2.2

Core Service 2.2: Facilitate access to affordable health care for Alaskans

OBJECTIVES

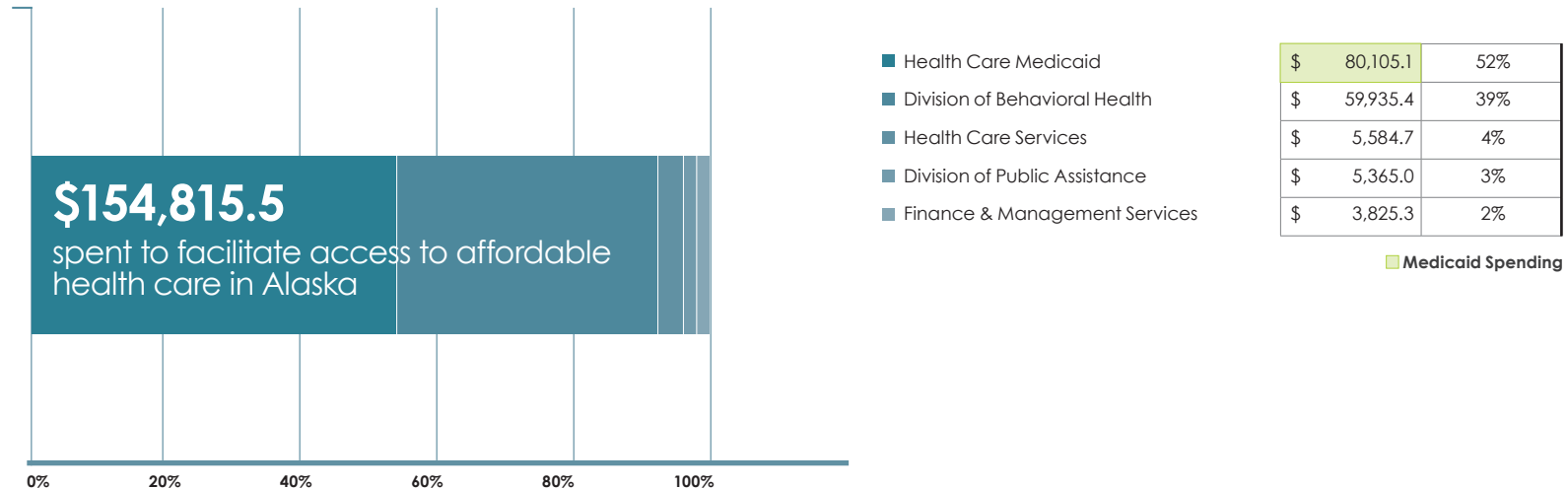
- **Improve access to health care**
- **Improve rural access to health care**

The Division of Behavioral Health is the Core Services Champion for Core Service 2.2: Facilitate Access to Affordable Health Care for Alaskans. Specific objectives include improving access to health care and improving rural access to health care. The divisions with services dedicated to these objectives are Public Health, Public Assistance, Behavioral Health, Health Care Services, and Senior and Disabilities Services. Some significant work has been accomplished. Public Health reports great success in the Anchorage Access Project, its technical assistance program; the expansion of the Tobacco Quit Line; and the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program. As the discussion on this issue moved forward, it became apparent that one effort most of the divisions were involved in, and the effort that could have the greatest impact, was the coordination of telehealth medicine. Every division reported work force shortages, and telehealth assists in allowing the limited work force we do have to access more

remote areas. Telehealth is cost-effective, and there is already a number of established telehealth networks. These networks include the behavioral health network (over 200 sites), the public health availability of telehealth, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium networks, and the Rural Veterans Health Access Program networks. Behavioral Health has the most developed system of telehealth care and is situated to coordinate efforts and expansion. A billing mechanism and technical support are already in place to pursue developing this network further. In light of this, the focus of Core Service 2.2: is to increase collaboration with the Division of Behavioral Health on telehealth efforts.

Health Care Access, Delivery & Value

Core Service 2.2 FY2014 Spending



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Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

3.1

Core Service 3.1: Strengthen Alaska families

OBJECTIVES

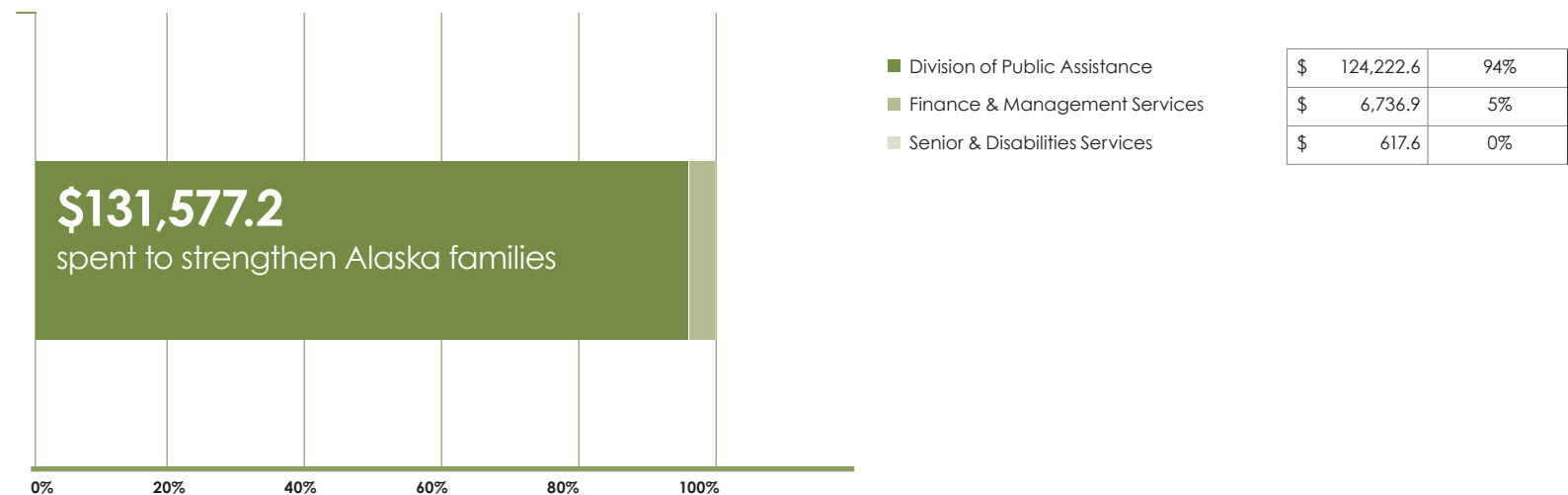
- **Increase the number of Alaska families who are employed**
- **Increase the number of Alaska families with safe, affordable child care**
- **Increase the number of Alaska families with warm homes**
- **Increase the number of Alaska families with food security**

The Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes is the Core Service Champion for Core Service 3.1: Strengthen Alaska Families. Core Service 3.1 objectives include ensuring child welfare, reducing the number of families that suffer from food scarcity, and assistance with family employment. The divisions involved with this core service are Alaska Pioneer Homes, Juvenile Justice, Public Assistance, Public Health, Health Care Services, Office of Children's Services, and Senior and Disabilities Services. Core Service contributors have reaped multiple successes. For example, the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Visitation program has reported 100-percent smoking cessation of participants at 36 weeks of pregnancy. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program consistently ranks among the Top 5 in the nation for determining applicant eligibility. And supportive employment programs are helping Alaskans find work. While successes are notable,

this core service does face inherent challenges. Divisions must balance programmatic direction with sensitivity toward cultural values while working to promote strong families. Some of the fundamental challenges of achieving Core Service 3.1 include the limited number of licensed child care providers, family violence and poverty. To address these challenges, the Core Service 3.1 workgroup is developing a strategy for leveraging cross-divisional synergies to more effectively address prevention efforts within the Department of Health and Social Services. Core Service 3.1 contributors are optimistic that this effort will aid in creating an environment where Alaska families can thrive.

Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

Core Service 3.1 FY2014 Spending



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Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

3.2

Core Service 3.2: Protect vulnerable Alaskans

OBJECTIVES

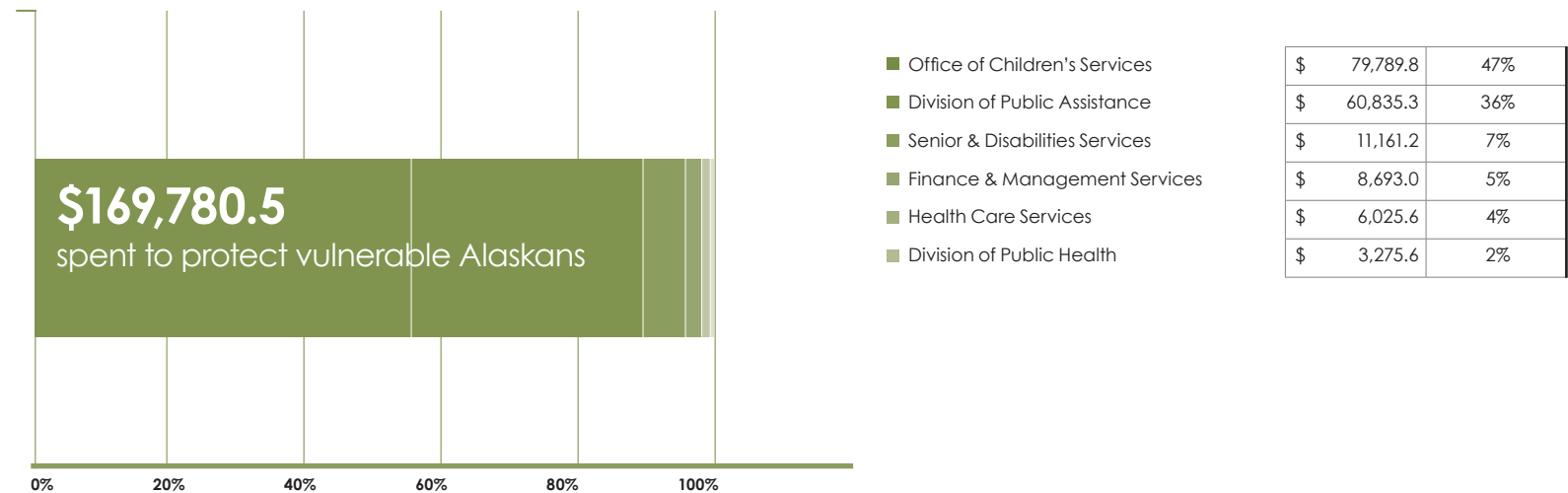
- **Decrease the rate of maltreatment in children**
- **Decrease the rate of maltreatment in vulnerable populations**
- **Improve client safety within department and provider operated facilities**

The Office of Children's Services is the Core Service Champion for Core Service 3.2: Protect Vulnerable Alaskans. Core Service 3.2 objectives include decreasing the rate of maltreatment in children and the vulnerable adult populations, as well as improving client safety within department and provider-operated facilities. In addition to Children's Services, the divisions contributing to this core service include Senior and Disability Services, Public Health, Behavior Health, Public Assistance, Health Care Services and Juvenile Justice. These divisions have tallied many successes in this core area that include improved timeliness of assessing for initial safety for OCS-referred families, as well as the increased rate of timely checks completed by the background check unit. That unit enables time-sensitive business and employment actions to be taken effectively. Also noteworthy is the reduction of nicotine use by Alaskans due to pointed and well-articulated education by Public Health. Other successes include Juvenile

Justice's new database that tracks incidents involving threats of violence or other incidents by youth to employees or others employed by the division. These data will be used to inform policy and practice changes to hopefully reduce the number significantly in the next several years. Challenges still plaguing the department are complex and not easily fixed with short-term thinking. For example, work force turnover in child welfare nationwide, including Alaska, is a huge barrier. Additionally, other vulnerable populations, such as the severely mentally ill, who often lack housing or consistent case management, often are led to become "super users" of API services, which taxes the system overall. An increase in community-based, wraparound services that includes housing assistance is critical. To meet these and other challenges, the 3.2 team has developed strategies to leverage and maximize resources across the entire department.

Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

Core Service 3.2 FY2014 Spending



Fiscal Year 2014: July 1, 2013 — June 30, 2014

Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

3.3 Core Service 3.3: Promote personal responsibility and accountable decisions by Alaskans

OBJECTIVES

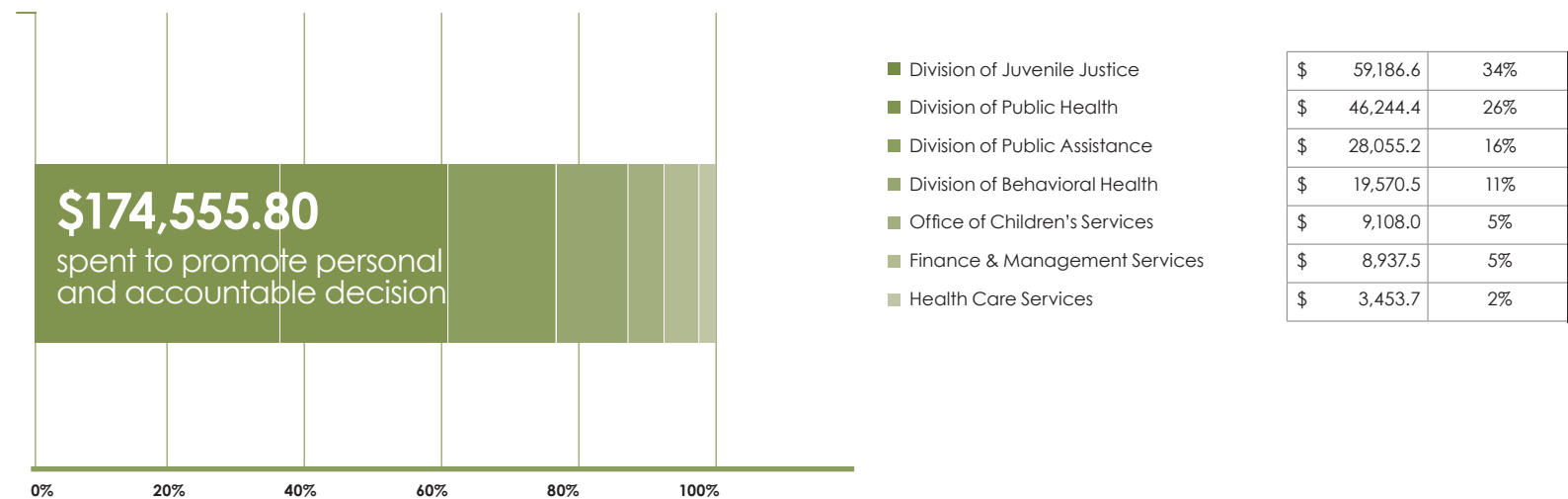
- **Improve tobacco enforcement**
- **Increase the number of juveniles who remain crime-free**
- **Increase the number of Alaskans with health conditions who practice self-management**
- **Decrease interpersonal violence**
- **Increase disaster preparedness**
- **Reduce fraud, waste and abuse**

The divisions contributing to this core service are: Juvenile Justice, Public Assistance, Office of Children's Services, Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Senior and Disability Services. Contributing divisions recognized several areas in which they have achieved successes, such as the rapid responses to juvenile crime by Juvenile Justice staff, and the decrease in teen birth rate and high school student smoking. Challenges in meeting this objective include continued high rates of sexually transmitted diseases and interpersonal violence, and the need for data demonstrating whether case plans established by children's services workers truly address client needs. This core service group is focused on leveraging trauma-informed care efforts as a leading solution to enhance Alaskans' sense of personal responsibility and accountable decision-making.

A trauma-informed Department of Health and Social Services will better recognize the widespread impact of trauma in the lives of clients, understand the potential paths for healing, and respond by fully integrating knowledge of trauma into policies, procedures, practices and settings. The group is reviewing trauma-informed efforts occurring in individual divisions and partner agencies, and developing strategies for improved collaboration and communication so these efforts will be as productive and cost-effective as possible.

Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

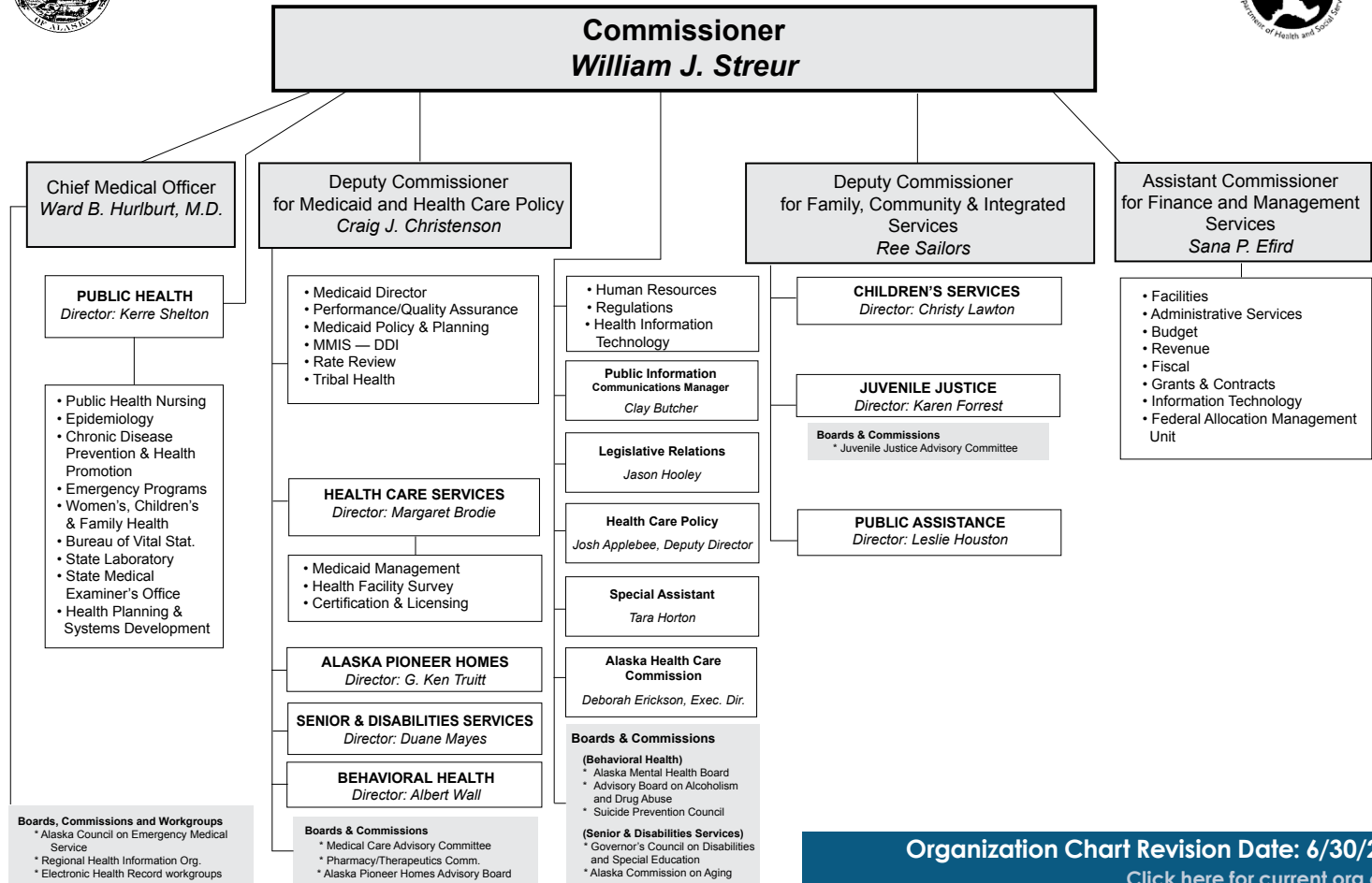
Core Service 3.3 FY2014 Spending



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Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Organization Chart

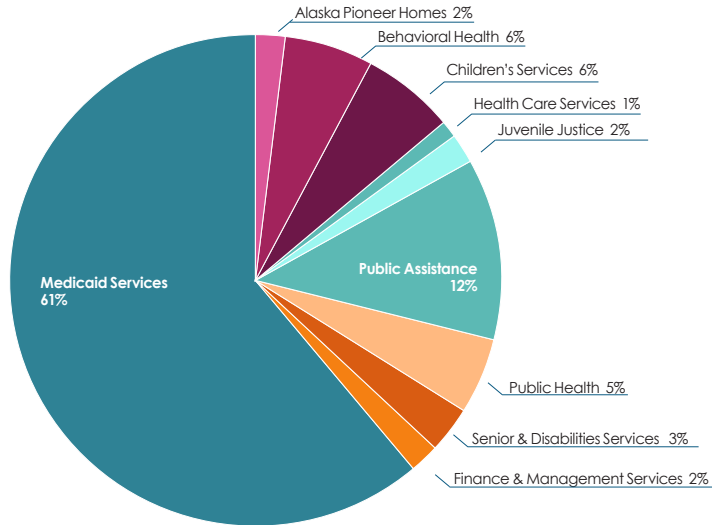


Organization Chart Revision Date: 6/30/2014

[Click here for current org chart](#)

DHSS FY2014 Financials

FY2014 Actuals by Division (Total Funds)



Division	FY13	FY14
Alaska Pioneer Homes	61,069.2	61,326.3
Behavioral Health***	133,538.0	137,005.8
Children's Services	129,327.9	140,764.6
Health Care Services*	22,823.7	22,973.3
Juvenile Justice	57,979.6	59,186.6
Public Assistance	306,383.4	292,576.3
Public Health	111,763.3	114,276.7
Senior & Disabilities Svs***	58,864.5	61,532.0
Finance & Management**	42,253.9	48,008.9
Medicaid Services	1,448,792.7	1,456,725.8

* Includes Adult Dental

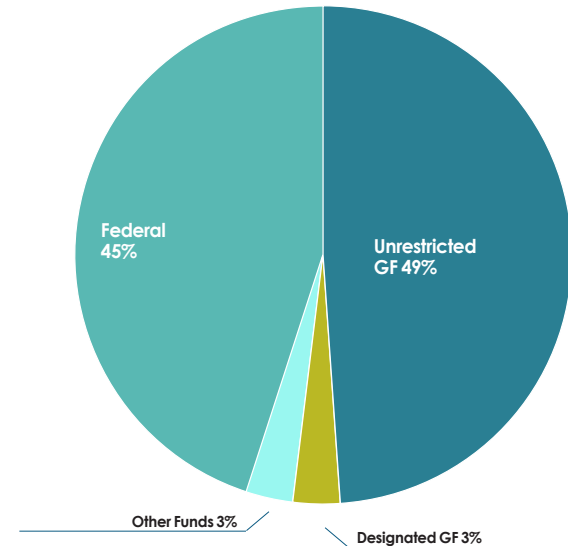
** Includes Human Services Community Matching Grant & Community Initiative Matching Grants

*** Boards & Commissions added to DBH & SDS

TOTAL	\$2,268,244.9	\$2,394,376.3
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Based on DHSS FY2013 Actuals Scenario - Component Summary Report

Department Total - FY2014 Actuals (UGF/DGF/Other/Fed)



Department Total - FY2014 Actuals (UGF/DGF/Other/Fed)	
Unrestricted General Funds	1,175,857.7
Designated General Funds	68,483.1
Other Funds	80,435.1
Federal	1,069,600.4
TOTAL	\$2,394,376.3



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