

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Administration
Office of Public Advocacy
Component

Component: Office of Public Advocacy

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Component Mission

To provide legal representation to and serve as guardians for vulnerable Alaskans.

Component Services Provided

Legal, guardian ad litem, and public guardian representation, upon court orders of appointment, of

- Abused and neglected children involved in protective proceedings;
- Mentally incapacitated adults, most commonly the chronically mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and those who suffer from age-related dementia;
- Individuals accused of crimes where the Alaska Public Defender Agency has a conflict of interest.

Component Goals and Strategies

CONTINUE TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CHILD PROTECTION LAW.

- Provide additional statewide training of guardians ad litem.
- Collaborate with the court, Department of Law, Public Defender Agency.
- Work to assure a shorter timeframe from permanency planning for abused and neglected children to actual adoption where that is the goal.

FIGHT FOR REDUCTION OF THE TIME LIMIT FOR ADJUDICATION IN CHILD ABUSE CASES FROM 120 DAYS TO 30 DAYS.

ENHANCE STAFF GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPRESENTATION OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

- Continue new team approach that includes a lawyer, two staff guardians ad litem, and associated Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- Expand "frontload" approach that focuses on gathering information about the child early in the process and accelerate initial court proceedings.
- Continue development of a new model for more effective use of experienced volunteer guardians ad litem (CASAs).

CONTINUE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPRESENTATION IN JUNEAU AND FAIRBANKS BY EXPANDING THE USE OF VOLUNTEERS.

- Expand the volunteer guardian programs that will allow OPA to devote significantly greater total professional and volunteer time to each case.

ENHANCE SERVICE TO FAMILY AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL GUARDIANS.

- Effectively use new position (funded by Mental Health Trust Authority) to provide guidance and advice to private guardians as well as traveling the state to provide local forums for private guardians who are attempting to serve their friends and loved ones.
- Work collaboratively with the Court, Division of Family and Youth Services, Department of Law, Public Defender Agency.

HELP DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A FAMILY DRUG COURT THAT FOCUSES ON SUBSTANCE ABUSING PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

- Meeting the needs of Alaska's abused and neglected children will not be possible at the FY2001 funding level. Guardian ad litem caseload increases have reached 17% for each of FY1998 and FY1999. While the level of caseload growths has moderated, OPA has still not received additional guardians ad litem to deal with this increase. The proposed FY2002 increments will only allow the agency to maintain its current level of overwhelming caseloads at 130-150 children per guardian, which allows but one hour per month per child.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

- Continued to play a leadership role in advocating early and effective intervention in child abuse cases.
- Office of Public Advocacy's guardians ad litem effectively met the challenge of dramatically increasing child abuse caseloads with few additional resources
- The agency advocated in numerous forums for developing more effective means to address alcohol abuse - - the primary precipitating cause of child abuse and neglect and crime in Alaska.
- Provided timely, cost effective and quality representation in more than 11,000 cases involving Alaska children and adults.
- Led an effort to establish Family Drug Courts to address substance abuse by parents.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 44.21.400 et seq.

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: The number of children provided permanent placement.

(Added by Legislature in FY2001 version.)

Measure: The number of cases successfully completed within the Alaska Court System time standards.

(Added by Legislature in FY2001 version.)

Measure: The number of pleadings for which extensions are requested as compared to the total number filed.

(Added by Legislature in FY2001 version.)

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• The number of children provided permanent placement.			X		
• The number of cases successfully completed within the Alaska Court System time standards.			X		
• The number of pleadings for which extensions are requested as compared to the total number filed.			X		

Office of Public Advocacy
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	3,336.1	3,290.6	3,888.5
72000 Travel	172.2	87.2	102.2
73000 Contractual	6,351.6	6,305.5	6,595.2
74000 Supplies	56.9	20.8	25.8
75000 Equipment	41.5	16.4	16.4
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	9,958.3	9,720.5	10,628.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	50.0	51.2	51.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	7,476.1	7,656.2	8,531.8
1005 General Fund/Program Receipts	95.1	95.1	95.1
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	924.8	554.6	554.5
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	1,176.5	1,196.5	1,200.5
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	16.9	0.0
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	0.0	150.0	95.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	100.0	0.0	100.0
1119 Tobacco Settlement	135.8	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	9,958.3	9,720.5	10,628.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
Unrestricted Fund	68515	197.3	202.0	202.0	204.0	204.0
Unrestricted Total		197.3	202.0	202.0	204.0	204.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.2	50.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	924.8	554.6	739.9	554.5	575.6
General Fund Program Receipts	51060	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	0.0	16.9	16.9	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		1,169.9	717.8	901.9	800.8	720.7
Total Estimated Revenues		1,367.2	919.8	1,103.9	1,004.8	924.7

Office of Public Advocacy

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

The FY2002 budget provides additional funding to keep pace with increasing child in need of aid (CINA) caseloads, reduce the public guardian caseloads to levels recommended by the National Guardianship Association, and to provide additional training and assistance to family and private guardians.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	8,964.7	51.2	704.6	9,720.5
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Family & Private Guardian Program - MHTAAR	0.0	0.0	-55.0	-55.0
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	12.7	0.0	-0.1	12.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-Keep up with Child in Need of Aid Caseload Increase	250.0	0.0	0.0	250.0
-Funding to Cover Projected Caseloads	600.0	0.0	0.0	600.0
-Trust Fund Accounting	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
FY2002 Governor	9,827.4	51.2	749.5	10,628.1

Office of Public Advocacy

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	51	55	Annual Salaries	2,997,655
Part-time	4	3	COLA	61,731
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	3,617
			Annual Benefits	1,030,124
			<i>Less 5.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(204,627)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	55	58	Total Personal Services	3,888,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Tech I	1	0	0	0	1
Accounting Tech II	2	0	0	0	2
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk I	1	1	0	0	2
Administrative Manager II	1	0	0	0	1
Assoc Attorney II	13	3	0	0	16
Attorney III	3	0	0	0	3
Attorney IV	7	3	1	0	11
Attorney V	2	0	0	0	2
Attorney VI	1	0	0	0	1
Chf Public Guardian	1	0	0	0	1
Investigator III	1	0	0	0	1
Legal Secretary I	3	1	0	0	4
Legal Secretary II	1	0	0	0	1
Public Guardian	6	2	2	0	10
Public Guardian Associate	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	45	10	3	0	58