

State of Alaska’s Public Safety Action Plan
January 17, 2018 Update



Based on feedback from stakeholders since the original October 30, 2017 publication, periodic updates to the State of Alaska’s Public Safety Action Plan (Plan) will report progress made by state agencies and relevant stakeholders as well as new action items. In addition to actions to improve public safety planned by state agencies, the Plan and periodic updates also aim to offer a consolidated report of actions agreed to or in process in other forums, such as the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission or the Alaska Legislature, and supported by Governor Walker in order to better coordinate agency efforts and inform the public.

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

Short-Term Action Items: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
1. Pass Senate Bill 54 (2017) which, among other provisions, would give judges 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. [NEW] Propose legislation adding Commissioner of DHSS to ACJC as a voting member.	IN PROGRESS: Recommended by ACJC; Governor will introduce legislation in 2018.
3. [NEW] Propose legislation to allow judges to take out-of-state criminal history into account because risk assessment tool does not.	IN PROGRESS: Governor will introduce legislation in 2018.
4. Reevaluate conditions of confinement and how to help reduce recidivism through operational changes. (DOC)	
5. Continue pre-trial delay workgroup efforts to increase case processing efficiency.	IN PROGRESS: Workgroup developed revised pre-trial order for ANC Superior Court that is now under consideration.
6. Review clemency applications. (GOA)	IN PROGRESS: In its December 2017 meeting, ACJC considered and passed recommendation that Governor move forward with process; with Governor’s office for review.



Long-Term Action Items to Evaluate: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
7. Evaluate possibility of legislation to remove barriers for former inmates to reenter the job force, including the possibility of expungement of criminal records after period of good behavior. (LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Expungement is under consideration by ACJC now; anticipate potential legislative proposal for 2019 legislative session.
8. Evaluate possibility of establishing a safety net for children coming out of foster care to reduce the risk that they might end up in the criminal justice system. (DHSS, ACJC)	IN PROGRESS: In addition to the array of case management, housing, and educational support OCS provides to youth aging out of the foster system on an ongoing basis, DHSS has identified numerous additional strategies and next steps in the Anchorage Community Plan to End Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults (Dec. 20, 2017), available at http://dhss.alaska.gov/Documents/Publications/Anchorage-Community-Plan-to-End-Youth-Young-Adult-Homelessness.pdf ; additional efforts ongoing.

Part II: Identify Public Safety Resource Needs

Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCE NEEDS	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
Partnerships and Coordination:	
9. Develop and improve tools and processes for sharing data and information among law enforcement agencies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop interfaces to connect various agency databases; b. Consider policy requiring DPS reports to be completed within 48 hours; and c. Improve availability of the Alaska Records Management System (<i>i.e.</i>, law enforcement specific case management database). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. IN PROGRESS: Expecting 1st test of pushing case from DPS to LAW in coming month(s); trouble shooting and expanding use to follow. b. IN PROGRESS: DPS reviewing policies. c. IN PROGRESS: Agreement with local law enforcement agencies finalized; training completed in Kenai and Homer; next steps include following up with other communities that have expressed interest.



10. Facilitate veterans' access to existing services through DMVA while under DOC supervision and after reintegration to community. (DOC, DMVA)	
11. 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.	IN PROGRESS: DPS and LAW to discuss with stakeholder groups and community representatives.
12. [NEW] Develop plan for targeted diversity recruitment in public safety agencies.	IN PROGRESS: In discussion among commissioners.
13. [NEW] 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.	IN PROGRESS: Governor will introduce legislation in 2018.

Add Statewide Resources:	
14. Seek funding for 2 more prosecutors in Anchorage given increased demand from record number of homicides. (LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Included in the Governor's FY19 budget request.
15. Add 60 pre-trial officers in January. (DOC)	IN PROGRESS: 27 hired and on the ground; other hires pending testing.
16. Add dedicated criminal investigators in Bethel and Anchorage to assist in DVSA prosecutions. (DPS, LAW)	IN PROGRESS: 2 long-term, non-permanent investigator positions included in Governor's FY19 budget request.
17. Create statewide DVSA hotline .	IN PROGRESS: 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. [NEW] 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)	IN PROGRESS: included in Governor's FY19 budget request.
19. [NEW] Propose legislation to increase surcharges imposed for violations of state and municipal law that go to the Police Training Fund .	IN PROGRESS: Included in Governor's legislative proposals for 2018 session.



Rural Justice Initiatives:	
<p>20. 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 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 Alaska Community Database Online, available at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/dcraexternal/, which will house information.</p>
<p>21. Increase trooper presence and improve response times in rural areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revising travel restrictions to allow more law enforcement trips to rural Alaska for non-emergency policing and building relationships with rural community residents; b. Improving transportation and logistics coordination in rural areas (i.e., sharing pilots, aircraft, and boats among state agencies); c. Filling trooper vacancies; and d. Exploring possibility of a consolidated communications center with regional dispatch centers to provide more reliable emergency communication services. (DPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. IN PROGRESS: In Dec. 8 memo, Commissioner Monegan provided blanket waiver for proactive community policing trips by troopers; \$2 million added to the Governor's FY19 budget request for rural travel. b. IN PROGRESS: Initial conversations with DMVA and DPS identified hurdles to assigning DMVA pilots for DPS travel/missions incl. training costs; working to find pathway forward. c. IN PROGRESS: Working to address major hurdles and find other recruitment and retention tools. d. IN PROGRESS: To be studied in 2018 for possible inclusion in FY20 budget.
<p>22. 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 cross-deputize to enforce tribal ordinances if the VPSO grantee and tribe agree. (DPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. COMPLETED: DPS delivered memos to VPSO coordinators on Dec. 19 stating that lapsed funds may be used for recruitment and other purposes; discussion of other ideas to support recruitment continuing. b. IN PROGRESS: Under review by LAW.
<p>23. Add telecommunication resources in more jails for remote court hearings. (DOC)</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS: Interagency discussions initiated with plan to identify priority facilities in the next month.</p>



24. For the many rural communities that do not yet have victim shelters , work with tribes and regional nonprofits to set up safe-houses.	
25. Educate local public safety partners about processes and standards for evidence to enable state prosecution of crimes investigated by local agencies. (LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Training planned for TCC's Tribal Court Conference in May 2018.
26. Add prosecutors in rural Alaska (1 for Kotzebue, 1 for Bethel). (LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Included in Governor's FY19 budget request.
27. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The civil diversion agreement with the Department of Law and b. The Division of Juvenile Justice's similar agreement to refer appropriate juvenile cases to tribal courts. (DHSS, LAW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. IN PROGRESS: Trainings with LAW, DPS, and two villages that have signed CDA should be completed shortly; additional training planned for TCC Tribal Court Conference in May 2018. b. IN PROGRESS: 5 agreements have been signed; DHSS DJJ director renewing energy and commitment to diversion agreement for juvenile offenders.
28. Coordinate with tribes in providing child protection services . (DHSS)	ONGOING: Compact signed; working on individual funding agreements with tribes.
29. Seek additional federal resources to support State and local public safety programs.	IN PROGRESS: Exploring options for additional federal funding, including HIDTA discussed at #67, below.

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

Partnerships and Coordination:	
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30. Explore ability of industry partners to develop plan for technology to reduce car thefts and aid in recovery efforts.	
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32. Rural Justice Initiatives:	
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33. Evaluate further opportunities to improve the VPSO program . (DPS, DOC, LAW)	IN PROGRESS: For discussion at Governor's Tribal Advisory Council public safety subcommittee meetings.
34. 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: LAW, DPS, and OIT evaluating potential options for off-the-shelf application.



35. Improve retention and recruitment for public safety agencies, including: troopers, VPSOs, pilots, and corrections officers.	IN PROGRESS: Inter-departmental meetings to improve retention and recruitment in all public safety departments.
36. Assign an aircraft to the Nome trooper post and update other aircraft. (DPS)	IN PROGRESS: 2 pilot positions included in Governor’s FY 19 budget request; DPS has identified hangar space and created pilot position; need to hire pilot and then move aircraft to Nome.
37. Leverage the FirstNet program to increase the connectivity in rural Alaska. (DPS)	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 plan, expect additional assets on the ground potentially in 2020.
38. Increase school fire inspections and training for rural fire departments. (DPS)	IN PROGRESS: Planning for biennial inspections and trainings underway.
39. Evaluate Washington State’s model for arrest diversion of low-level misdemeanors. (DPS)	IN PROGRESS: DPS researching.
40. Evaluate various legislative proposals that would further enable tribal courts to provide civil remedies for certain offenses. (LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Being discussed at the Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council.
41. Evaluate ability to release prisoners back to home community instead of place of arrest to improve access to support network.	IN PROGRESS: LAW, DPS, and DOC evaluating options.
42. Explore alternatives for supervising parolees in rural communities, including the potential of training VPSOs to take on this responsibility. (DPS)	IN PROGRESS: Interagency discussions of pilot programs for tribes to supervise offenders.
43. 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.	IN PROGRESS: DHSS is evaluating the recommendations made by the Medicaid Redesign Telehealth Stakeholder Workgroup available at http://dhss.alaska.gov/HealthyAlaska/Documents/redesign/MCDRE_Telehealth_Workgroup_Report.pdf .
44. 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.	ONGOING: Regular commissioner-level meetings on allocation of state resources.



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:	
45. Continue interagency coordination to allocate reinvestment funding.	IN PROGRESS: DHSS, DOC, LAW focused discussion scheduled for January.
46. Continue and expand crisis intervention training for law enforcement.	
47. Propose ongoing stakeholder meetings to discuss the civil commitment process and options for improving the state psychiatric emergency system. (DHSS, LAW)	IN PROGRESS: Initial discussion with DHSS, LAW, and court system in December; agreed DHSS to coordinate ongoing meetings with on-the-ground staff from DHSS, LAW, court system, PDs, OPA, and eventually to include representative from hospitals.
48. Approach hospitals about opening more 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). (DHSS)	IN PROGRESS: In Nov. 2017, DHSS approved the Certificates of Need for two projects to move forward: Mat-Su Regional will build a new \$19.2 million, 36-bed psychiatric and substance abuse unit (by end of 2020); Alaska Regional will convert 24 existing medical beds into an adult inpatient psychiatric unit. Estimated cost is \$6.8 million, to be completed by early 2019.
Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments:	
49. Legislation to authorize courts orders requiring DOC to hold people who are intoxicated when they are arrested until they are sober.	COMPLETED: Addressed in SB 54, bail schedule changed.
50. Evaluate current use of Title 47 safety net for individuals incapacitated due to substance abuse until a better long-term solution is found.	IN PROGRESS: LAW evaluating current use of Title 47 holds.



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

Access to Treatment:	
51. Evaluate ways to increase availability of treatment resources for outpatient services .	IN PROGRESS: DHSS will submit an 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver application by Jan. 31, 2018. If the Waiver is approved, a new array of adult outpatient services will begin in 2019; \$18 million for expanding substance use disorder services over 4 years included in Governor’s budget request.
52. Evaluate how to incentivize treatment on demand so it is available when needed.	
53. Evaluate turning Palmer jail into a restorative justice facility, such as a mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment facility .	
54. Pursue an exemption from the federal institute for mental disease rule limiting how many beds a provider can operate for residential substance abuse disorder treatment. (DHSS)	IN PROGRESS: DHSS including request in 1115 Waiver application (to be submitted in Jan. 2018).
55. Increase and improve services for children who need institutional care, including increasing the number of beds at treatment facilities like API. (DHSS)	IN PROGRESS: Pursued through the 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver. If approved, implementation of new targeted children’s treatment services to begin in 2019.
56. 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)	IN PROGRESS: DHSS studying options.

Criminal Competency and Civil Commitments:	
57. Develop long-term strategy for Title 47 holds . (ACJC discussing)	IN PROGRESS: ACJC discussing long-term options.
58. Evaluate possible legislative or administrative options to ensure timely competency hearings . (LAW)	
59. Establish a clear system for persons who have been civilly committed for involuntary inpatient psychiatric treatment to give up their guns before returning home. (DHSS)	



Part IV: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic and Drug Trafficking

Ongoing & Short-Term Action Items: OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND DRUG TRAFFICKING	
ACTION ITEM	UPDATE
60. Earlier this year, Governor Walker issued a Disaster Declaration and established incident command structure to coordinate state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.	COMPLETED.
61. 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.	ONGOING: Situation reports detailing ongoing efforts provided to work group every 3 weeks. In addition, an action planning process is underway.
62. Explore ways to increase use of social media to promote positive, useful messages for parents to help in drug and crime prevention. (DPS, DHSS)	IN PROGRESS: DHSS is developing a series of web videos containing “opioid stories” to promote on social media.
63. [NEW] Evaluate tools for citizens to text tips to law enforcement (e.g. Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app). (DPS)	IN PROGRESS: Potential off-the-shelf tools identified for evaluation.

<p>64. Increase state resources directed at catching and prosecuting drug traffickers, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a statewide drug prosecutor position (LAW) and Add drug dogs to assist in disrupting the drug trade and catch traffickers (DPS, DOT). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> IN PROGRESS: Statewide drug prosecutor position included in Governor’s FY19 budget request, Law has identified person to lead effort; IN PROGRESS: DPS is engaged in ongoing discussions with drug dog handlers and has a trip planned in February to purchase 2 dogs.
<p>65. [NEW] Develop statewide coordination plan and standards for drug dogs 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>IN PROGRESS: Working to identify and allocate needed resources to develop policy.</p>
<p>66. Seek a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation to increase availability of federal funds for drug investigations. (DPS)</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS: DPS and LAW met with the national program director in November; petition to be submitted in January 2018.</p>
<p>67. Better coordinate drug enforcement efforts with federal partners, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased collaboration with Ted Stevens International Airport Police for recently established WAANT Unit; Cross-deputize a state prosecutor as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute drug offenses in federal court; and Work with federal law enforcement agencies in implementing the Anti-Violent Crime Strategy. 	<p>ONGOING: Generally, collaboration with federal partners continues as an ongoing effort.</p>
<p>68. Propose legislation to more effectively combat drug trafficking.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS: Governor’s legislative proposals for 2018 session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing dangerous drugs to be scheduled by regulation instead of requiring legislation so the State can respond more quickly to new drugs; and Establishing a Class A felony for large amounts of controlled substances.

