



Tribal Behavioral Health Directors



The Tribal Behavioral Health Directors (TBHD), a subcommittee of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB), represent a unified voice for regional and local Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations across Alaska. We advocate for the behavioral health needs of both Tribal and non-Tribal communities to ensure comprehensive coverage throughout the state.

The Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS) provides health care services to over 180,000 Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people across Alaska. The ATHS is made up of independently owned and operated Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations and is a cornerstone of the state's public health infrastructure. The ATHS contributes to 7% of Alaska's total GDP, generates more than 24,600 jobs for Alaskans, and adds over \$3.7 billion annually to Alaska's economy. **Since SFY17, through the Tribal reclaiming process, ATHS has saved the state \$674.6 million in general funds for the Medicaid program.**

Priorities

Implementation of HB 172 and Support for Crisis Services Facilities

- Approve sub-acute facilities licensing regulations that work for providers.
- Improve process for Tribes to receive DES/DET designation to deliver and receive payment for services provided to individuals on involuntary commitment.
- Advocate for exemptions in staffing patterns for crisis services facilities.
- Include funding for travel for Title 47-hold involuntary patients to avoid unfunded mandates to providers.

Parity in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits

- Build on the legislative intent of SCR 9 to ensure parity in the provision of mental health and substance use disorder medical assistance benefits statewide.

Investment in Community-Based Services

- Invest in infrastructure and start-up funds for community-based 1115 waiver services, while holding other behavioral health funding harmless.

Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care

- Expand access to integrated behavioral health services within the primary care environment.

Traditional Healing Services

- Support statewide implementation and coverage for Traditional healing services.

