

Community Updates

Ketchikan

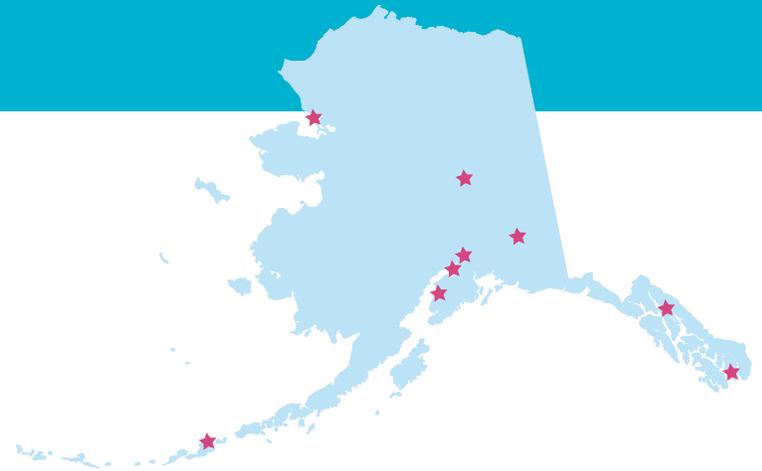
The Ketchikan Fire Department's Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program celebrated one year in June. The MIH program continues to provide services to vulnerable and underserved residents. Building trust with community members and community partners has proven to be successful with over 1,000 contacts and 54% reduction in patient use of emergency services since the program started in June 2024.

The MIH program was awarded the 2025 State of Alaska of Rural Health Community Star and the 2025 Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association Annual Champion Award for innovation in patient safety and quality.

Crisis counselors at Careline have answered over 100 contacts from the Ketchikan area since January. All of these contacts resolved on the phone without the need for emergency services. Ketchikan is taking advantage of the additional service of follow-up calls from Alaska Careline. The Ketchikan Cares Crisis Line 907-225-2273 (CARE) continues to be a strong support for Ketchikan residents as many are familiar and comfortable with the service.

True North Recovery celebrated one year after opening a facility in Ketchikan and offering residential services. With a focused and strong effort, True North Recovery is working toward creating additional crisis-related supports and 3.7 level care for detox.

The Ketchikan community looks forward to renewed access to essential mental health services. Recovery in Southeast Alaska Health Services, LLC (RISE) plans to provide mental health counseling, peer outreach support and daytime drop-in services in the near future.



Fairbanks

Alaska Behavioral Health (AKBH) continues to develop their Crisis Stabilization Center for Interior Alaska and hope to begin operations within a year.

The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) saw a large increase in calls throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough, with 544 responses during January-June 2025. The MCT is fully integrated with the Troopers and are considered as a resource for every mental health-related call, marking a significant step forward in ensuring behavioral health crises are met with the most appropriate response. Alaska Behavioral Health created a *Meeting the Mobile Crisis Team* video to share how the team works. You can find the [video here](#).

The Fairbanks Fire Department launched a Mobile Integrated Health program. The MIH program with a single community paramedic is exceeding expectations, serving over 70 clients and logging more than 1,000 new and repeat visits.

The Emergency Service Patrol relaunched in May 2025 with a focus on follow-up at discharge and peer support navigation services for individuals struggling with substance use in the community.

Anchorage

January—June 2025 Data Highlights:

Someone to Contact

Services like the 988 Lifeline and other behavioral health hotlines providing immediate, accessible support.

- 911 dispatch diversions to a behavioral health resource: **3,055 contacts**
- Careline/988: **6,267 contacts**

Total: 9,322 contacts



Someone to Respond

Rapid, on-site or telephonic interventions to de-escalate crisis and connect individuals to care and other community-based supports that provide crisis prevention and postvention care.

- Anchorage Safety Patrol: **8,406**
- AFD MCT: **1,392**
- APD MIT: **1,628**
- VOA Rapid Response: **52**

Total: 9,550 responses

AFD launched MCT 2 in July. The team focuses on assertive outreach and helps with responding to calls and follow up.

The ASP has increased patrol coverage in high-need areas across the Municipality of Anchorage. The Safety Center now allows longer stays, providing additional time for individuals to rest and meet with resource coordinators.



A Safe Place for Help

Emergency and crisis stabilization services that support on-demand crisis care and crisis-related supports in a variety of community settings.

Southcentral Foundation and Providence continue development of their respective crisis stabilization programs. SCF anticipates opening in June 2026 and Providence anticipates opening in 4th quarter of 2026.

The Anchorage Recovery Center is currently operating a partial hospitalization program with 60 recovery housing beds and building a recovery campus. Once completed, the campus will include a Crisis Care Team, 23-hour stabilization services, and additional detox, residential,



Support for extended wellbeing

Connectors such as peer support workers, community health workers, case managers help these individuals get primary care, behavioral health care, housing, transportation, food and other essential supports.

SALA Medical has started a new Mobile Health Services (MHS), with the goal of supporting local shelters, reducing unnecessary 911 resource use, and reduce readmission rates to local hospitals.

VOA Alaska's TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) Services department is now providing Day Treatment/Partial Hospitalization Program (2.5), Intensive Out-Patient (2.1) and outpatient (1.0) services in addition to IPS (Education and Employment services), Psychiatric Assessment/Medication Management and Peer Support Services for ages 18-24 generally in the Anchorage area and outpatient recovery options.

VOA Alaska was awarded \$325,000 from the Trust towards ASAM 3.7 residential treatment services for youth.



Unalaska

Iliuliuk Family & Health Services (IFHS), the City of Unalaska, and the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (APIA) have begun collaborative work to create a shared vision for crisis response in Unalaska. Efforts will include exploring community crisis volume, current and projected need for crisis stabilization space and to intentionally design crisis services to maximize community and staff resources in the community.

Kotzebue

Maniilaq Association was awarded \$900,000 from the Trust in August 2025 to develop an EmPATH unit in Kotzebue. The multi-year effort will move through design and prefabricated construction phases between 2025 and early 2026, followed by transportation and installation in summer 2026. Staff recruitment, training, and systems modifications will continue through 2027. The operational launch is targeted for late summer 2027.

Mat-Su

January—June 2025 Data Highlights:

Someone to Contact



Services like the 988 Lifeline and other behavioral health hotlines providing immediate, accessible support.

- Careline/988: **1,083 Mat-Su calls**
- Veterans' crisis line: **266 Mat-Su calls**
- MATCOM - 911: **449 Mat-Su calls to the MCT**
- Palmer Dispatch: **32 dispatches to MCT**
- AFS DV/SA hotline: **313 calls**
- Mat-Su Health Services hotline: **145 calls**
- My House: **31 crisis calls**

Total: 2,287 calls

Someone to Respond



Rapid, on-site interventions to de-escalate crisis and connect individuals to care and other community-based supports that provide crisis prevention and postvention care.

- True North Recovery Mobile Crisis Team: **292 visits; 235 unique clients**
- Awarded **\$850,000 by the Trust in November 2024**
- AFS Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Shelter: **89 shelter residents (3,689 shelter bed nights)**
- Mat-Su Health Services walk-in crisis visits: **24**

Total: 905 visits

A Safe Place for Help



Emergency and crisis stabilization services that support on-demand crisis care and crisis-related supports in a variety of community settings.

- TNR Launchpad unique clients: **331**
- My House: **63 new clients**
- Set Free Alaska admissions: **95**
- MSRMC Behavioral Health Unit admissions: **177**
- AFS DV/SA Shelter: **3,689 nights**
- *The Trust funded \$200,000 for victim transition supports*

Total: 666 visits

Support for extended wellbeing



Connectors such as peer support workers, community health workers, case managers help these individuals get primary care, behavioral health care, housing, transportation, food and other essential supports.

- Palmer Navigation Center: **453 visits and 53 new clients**
- HUMS/LINKS: **37 clients**

Total: 90 clients

Juneau

Capital City Fire and Rescue continues to provide mobile integrated health (MIH) services and mobile crisis team (MCT) services in the community. MCT services are supported in partnership with Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH), who provide a master's level clinician to team with an EMT. Partners from Capital City Fire and Rescue (CCFR), BRH, NAMI Juneau, St. Vincent de Paul, Juneau Police Department, Polaris House, Juneau Housing First Collaborative and the Alaska Mental Health Board/

Congratulations to the Polaris House on receiving the Innovative Program Award at ABHA's 2025 Fall Members' and Affiliates' Conference!

Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse had an in-person meeting with the Trust to identify behavioral health crisis priorities for focus in the coming year.

January—June 2025 Data Highlights:

- MIH: **1,635 responses**
- MCT: **197 responses**
- 988/Careline: **1,252 contacts from Juneau**
- JAMHI Psychiatric Emergency Services: **206 encounters**

To learn more about community implementation efforts or to get involved, contact:

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Crisis Now planning in other communities:

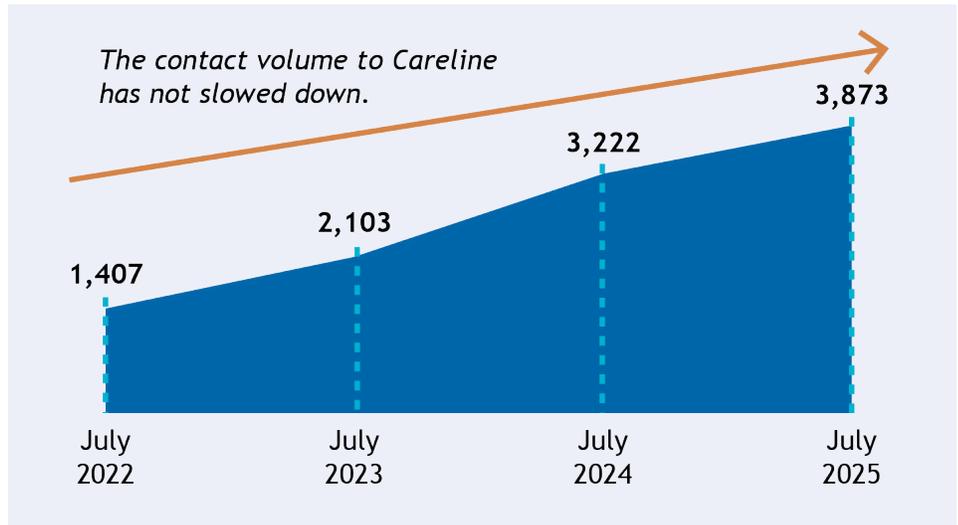
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Someone to Contact

988 turns three!

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has answered over 11.1 million calls, 2.9 million texts, and 2.4 million chats since launching in July 2022.

Careline Crisis Services, Alaska's sole 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline member center, has seen similar growth, answering over 104,000 contacts since the launch of 988. Careline staff answer an average of over 3,700 contacts per month, and continue to resolve over 98% of these contacts over the phone during skilled and caring responses from staff.



Training and Education Resources



[Find digital toolkits and other resources from SAMHSA](#) for October's Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month and Mental Illness Awareness Week.

A virtual, self-paced [Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk](#) (AMSR) training is available free of charge from the Alaska Division of Behavioral Health. AMSR training helps health and behavioral health professionals feel confident providing compassionate care to people

at risk for suicide, and its research-informed model teaches a prevention-oriented risk formulation focused on planning not predicting. Contact Lanisha Wuitschick (lanisha.wuitschick@alaska.gov) for an enrollment coupon code. CEUs available.

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center developed a [resource guide for integrating suicide prevention in substance use disorder](#) (SUD) treatment settings. Designed for substance use disorder treatment professionals, this document may also be useful for other behavioral and mental health clinicians.

CACHE is offering on-demand *Advanced Crisis Curriculum- Mobile Crisis Team Training* for crisis teams, mental health clinicians responding to individuals in crisis, healthcare providers, and community professionals in rural areas engaged in crisis response work. Register for the training on the [CACHE](#) website. Contact uaa_cache@alaska.edu with any questions or concerns. *This training was developed with support from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.*