



2019 Policy Priorities



Alaska's hospitals and nursing homes save lives, help heal the sick or injured and keep families together by delivering care close to home. Across the state, ASHNHA members care for their communities, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year**. Our hospitals serve as the safety net for all residents, treating and caring for all regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

1. Health care system stability



- Ensure Medicaid rate stability to allow planning for the future by hospitals and nursing homes.
- Protect rural hospitals and skilled nursing facilities from reimbursement changes that threaten their viability.
- Improve efficiency of Medicaid eligibility and enrollment processes.

2. Health care access and coverage



- Maintain Alaska's Medicaid expansion program.
- Support federal and state policies to stabilize and strengthen the individual health insurance market.
- Support the Certificate of Need program and advocate for smart regulatory reform.

3. Behavioral health



- Ensure that Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) has financial, staff and IT resources to operate at capacity.
- Support a structured behavioral health planning process that includes meaningful input from providers before reaching conclusions on future direction of behavioral health system.

4. Health care delivery system reform



- Carefully monitor the Medicaid managed care demonstration project to ensure the adequacy of provider networks and reasonableness of standards & processes.
- Support implementation of the Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDie) and PreManage for real-time information sharing among Emergency Departments and across the continuum of care.
- Focus on structural changes to the health care delivery system rather than rate cuts.



ASHNHA Policy Priorities for 2019

- Provide timely, Medicaid claims-based patient utilization data to support changes in health care delivery.

5. **Regulatory relief**



- Update state long-term care regulatory standards to align with federal standards.
- Provide affordable public health reporting alternative to healthConnect.
- Fully implement case management for long-term care services and supports.

6. **Impacts of substance use, including opioids**



- Support collaboration among provider groups to focus on improved pain management and prescribing practices and medication assisted treatment.

7. **Workforce**



- Maintain support for University of Alaska health science programs, the WWAMI program and the Alaska residency programs.
- Address nurse and physician licensure delays through expedited temporary license or interstate license compact.
- Support SHARP 3 legislation to allow public-private partnerships for recruitment and retention.