



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
Pioneer Homes Advisory Board

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 2021

TO: The Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska
Adam Crum, Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner
Heidi Hamilton, Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes Director

FROM: Robert Pawlowski
Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Chair

SUBJECT: Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Recommendations

In keeping with the Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board's (APHAB) statutory obligations, this memo is to brief you on the current state of the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes and to provide recommendations we feel are crucial to the fulfillment of the division's mission, "Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath".

As a brief background, the APHAB was established in Alaska Statute 44.29.500 to be the link between the Pioneer Home residents, the public, and state policy makers. After months of in-depth meetings with division staff and facility personnel, and meetings with Pioneer Home residents, the APHAB has formulated the following recommendations for your review.

- Increase the funding available to address deferred maintenance across the Pioneer Home system. The deferred maintenance is \$26, 076, 500 as tabled below:

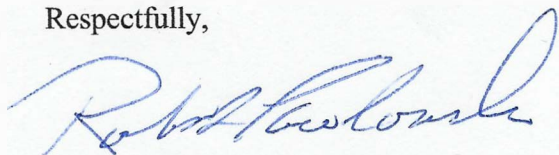
APH	AVPH	FPH	JPH	KPH	SPH	Total
\$3,465.5	\$2,874.6	\$6,373.7	\$6,200.0	\$3,558.4	\$3,604.3	\$26,076.5

- The Anchorage Pioneer Home (APH) is 44 years old and requires bathroom remodels to meet American Disability Act (ADA) compliance, as well as a generator and boiler replacement.
- The Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home (AVPH) in Palmer is 50 years old and requires a new roof and a perimeter fence around the property
- The Fairbanks Pioneer Home (FPH) is 54 years old and requires new flooring and a new roof.
- The Juneau Pioneer Home (JPH) is 33 years old and is need of an ADA compliant walkway in the backyard.

- The Ketchikan Pioneer Home (KPH) building is 40 years old and in need of water supply line replacement, completion of its seismic stability project and a heater, ventilation and air condition (HVAC) intake damper assembly replacement.
- The Sitka Pioneer Home (SPH) building is 87 years old and in need of tub room remodels to make them ADA compliant and repairs to the property's stone and mortar rock walls.
- Continue working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to fund and finish the roof replacement on the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home.
- Plan funding to expand wireless internet capabilities in all Pioneer Homes to enable video conferencing for elders and their families, as well as available devices for use in the homes.
- Conduct a feasibility study on existing state land for repair versus rebuild of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home and explore partnerships for outside funding to pay for the study.
- Explore collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer more benefits to the veterans living within a Pioneer Home.
- Due to the challenge of finding qualified individuals to fill direct care positions, support certified nurse aide and assisted living aide training and licensed practical nurse schooling through Alaska Pacific University (APU).
- Work with community partners to provide education around long-term care planning. This would include helping citizens understand the financial implications of long-term care.
- Allow State of Alaska employees to purchase long-term care insurance as part of their optional benefits, rather than waiting until retirement to purchase these plans.
- The Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board also strongly recommends that all state and local elected officials spend time visiting the homes. This will help officials to understand the importance of the Pioneer Homes in serving Alaska's elders.

The Alaska Pioneer Homes have a proud, 108-year history in this great state for serving Alaska's most vulnerable elders. The division helps to fill the large gap in the continuum of care that exists across the state and is committed to providing exceptional service in a fiscally responsible manner. The Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board is dedicated to its partnership with the division and its continued advocacy of these vital homes and their residents.

Respectfully,



Robert Pawlowski, Chair