

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH & DEV. DISABILITIES

Tony Knowles, Governor

2900 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH API 2000 PROJECT

Phone: (907) 269-7108

Fax: (907) 269-7225

September 25, 2000

Dear Consumers, Family Members, and Advocates:

On behalf of the CMH/API 2000 Project Policy Committee, Management Team, and Loren Jones, Project Director, you are invited to join us and other mental health consumers, family members, and advocates on Friday, October 13, 2000 at 2 PM at the offices of NAMI Alaska, 144 W. 15th, for a discussion about adding a new program to Anchorage's community-based mental health services.

At the consumer's conference last spring, sponsored by NAMI Alaska and Mental Health Consumers of Alaska, a session focused on the Program for Assertive Community Treatment, PACT. NAMI is conducting a campaign to introduce the PACT into every state in the nation. The conference attendees were interested in creating a PACT in Alaska and we were encouraged to investigate the possibilities. Along with NAMI Alaska staff, and with assistance from NAMI advisors piloting the national campaign, we have been exploring PACT as partial means to decreasing the number of API acute care beds.

Enclosed for your consideration is a report explaining why the CMH/API 2000 Project team is considering increasing the capacity of the Anchorage community-based mental health system with the addition of a PACT. Also enclosed is a draft of portions of a request for grant proposals, RFGP, for providing PACT services in Anchorage. It incorporates standards developed and supported by NAMI for PACT teams with the addition of person-centered services planning and other new provisions supported by consumer groups. We would appreciate your reviewing these materials and attending the upcoming meeting.

At the meeting we would like to discuss the PACT proposal with you. We would also appreciate your sharing with us any ideas and suggestions you have for reducing the future use of API inpatient adult acute care services. We are looking forward to an open and informal exchange.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to RSVP, or if you would like more information (269-7108, kathryn_carssow@health.state.ak.us). Please encourage members of your organization and staff to attend, also, and we will be happy to provide you with additional copies of these materials. We look forward to seeing you on October 13th for a lively discussion.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Carssow
Project Manager