

From: pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 8:23 AM
To: info@communitycouncils.org
Subject: FW: FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS: Suicide Prevention Plan

Mark,

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks
PETER HAMLETT
CPCC Chair

From: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS: Suicide Prevention Plan
Date: Wed, 2 Nov 2011 23:24:21 +0000

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**SENATOR
JOHNNY ELLIS**
Working hard
Solving problems
Getting things

November 2nd, 2011

SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN; ANCHORAGE UNITED FOR YOUTH; ALASKA TRANSIT

Friends and Neighbors,

Suicide is at epidemic levels in Alaska, with an overall suicide rate reportedly twice the national average. Fortunately, there are many individuals and groups committed to curbing this crisis in Alaska. At a meeting of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council in Barrow last month, we updated a draft 5-year Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan, [*Casting the Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide in Alaska*](#). The plan was developed in close consultation with stakeholders statewide to ensure that it's relevant

done

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<http://ellis.aksenate.org>

• UNSUBSCRIBE •

**Contact Other
Elected Officials:**

Senator Mark Begich,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-5915

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[Sen. Mark Begich](mailto:Sen.Mark.Begich@legis.state.ak.us)

Congressman Don Young,
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[Rep. Don Young](mailto:Rep.Don.Young@house.gov)

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[Office of the Governor](mailto:Office.of.the.Governor@legis.state.ak.us)

and accessible to a broad range of Alaskans.



As a member, I joined the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council to work on the draft plan at a SSPC meeting in Barrow last month.

The plan sets six goals for Alaskans:

Accept responsibility for preventing suicide

Effectively and appropriately respond to people at risk of suicide

Communicate, cooperate, and coordinate suicide prevention efforts

Have available immediate access to the prevention, treatment, and recovery services they need

Support survivors in healing

Quality data and research are available and used for planning, implementation, and evaluation of suicide prevention efforts

The Council wants your input, and is requesting public comment on the draft plan before 5:00 pm November 30, 2011.

The draft plan is available on the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council's website: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention/>

Please send all comments in writing to:

Eric Morrison, Council Assistant
Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
431 North Franklin, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801
email: eric.morrison@alaska.gov
fax: (907) 465-4410

Also, please take a moment to visit www.StopSuicideAlaska.org

ANCHORAGE UNITED FOR YOUTH

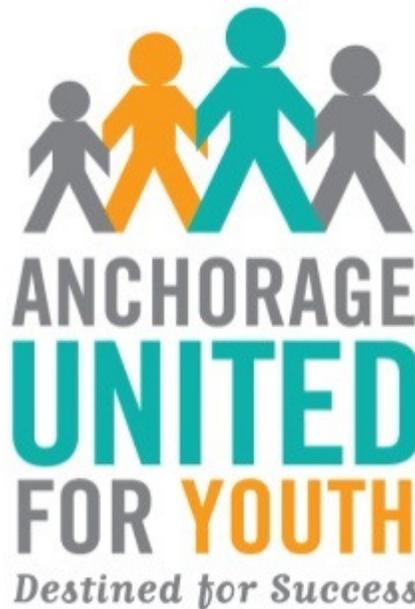
Did you know?

In their lifetime, a high school graduate will earn \$400,000 more on average than a dropout

Dropouts are twice as likely to commit crimes and account for more than 61% of the prison population

Dropouts are twice as likely to live in poverty

The current one-time high school graduation rate in Anchorage is 72 percent. That means roughly one in four students isn't graduating on time, facing greater odds of unemployment, poverty and criminal behavior.



Convened by the United Way of Anchorage, [Anchorage United for Youth \(AUY\)](#) is a growing collaboration of nonprofit, [public and private partners](#) and hundreds of community-minded Alaskans just like you, united in their efforts to help our youth succeed.

AUY partners are using community data and research based strategies to align their efforts and resources toward the shared goal of increasing Anchorage's one-time high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020.

Research tells us that supportive adults and a caring community are crucial to the success of our young people.

Here is a list of simple things YOU can do to take simple, intentional action to support Alaskan youth.

ALASKA TRANSIT CONFERENCE

Last Thursday, I was honored with a Legislative Award from the [Alaska Mobility Coalition](#). During a luncheon at the [Alaska Community Transit](#) conference, David Levy, the Executive Director of the AMC, recognized me for my work this past session successfully funding a State matching-grant program for public transit operation. I accepted the award in honor of David Finkelstein, who is not only a former Alaska Legislator but also a close friend of mine.



Senator Ellis receiving a Legislative Award from David Levy, Executive Director of the Alaska Mobility Coalition, at the Alaska Community Transportation Conference in Anchorage.

I told the conference participants that David was the only Legislator I could remember who depended on the bus system for nearly all of his transportation, even while he served in the Alaska Legislature. On many occasions, David passed out flyers to bus riders advocating for public transit. David now lives in Arizona, and he still advocates for many progressive causes. I remain thankful for David's friendship and his service to Alaska, and I was very proud to accept this award in his honor.

Until Next Week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. Please join Covenant House Alaska for the [21st Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth](#), next Thursday, November 10th at 6pm on the corner of 6th and F.