

RE: Any plans to expand the size of the Juneau Pioneer Home?

From: Hamilton, Heidi L (FCS)
To: ksamalon@
Cc: carolende11@; harmonie.murphy@
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 02:56 PM AKDT

Kathleen –

Thank you for reaching out.

I think the legislature has fixed ‘the mess with the Pioneer Home fees’, as the rates and annual increases are now set in statute.

Not sure the rates are acceptable to all, but it is now easily predictable and our Payment Assistance program is fully funded so if someone cannot afford, there is a payment source for them.

As for expanding, we do not have plans to expand the Juneau home. As Carol (Hi Carol!!) likely remembers, there are drawings of an expanded home on the current property, but with limited funding we are finding ourselves spending all the money we are allotted to just keep the six buildings functioning.

The Juneau Pioneers’ Home does have some capital projects/deferred maintenance projects, priority being the outdoor spaces, that need funding, that would be great if you could advocate for funding. It would improve quality of live but would not allow us to serve more individuals.

Considering there are 103 people on Juneau’s active wait list, I would love to expand, but, unfortunately, due to repairs and remodels required in the other homes, expansion is not currently on the list.

Let me know if I can answer any other questions or provide information.

Thank you again for reaching out,
Heidi

From: Kathleen Samalon <ksamalon@>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 6:07 AM
To: Hamilton, Heidi L (FCS) <>
Cc: Carol Ende <c>
Subject: Any plans to expand the size of the Juneau Pioneer Home?

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Heidi, Carol and I are commissioners on the Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) and manage the subcommittee on housing. Within our 2020 Survey (done every ten years), many residents had concerns about the Pioneer Home, primarily related to "the mess with the Pioneer Home fees."

However, another common theme was that it needed to be larger in order to reduce the wait time for admission.

Does the State already have either long term or short term plans to expand the capacity of the Juneau Pioneer Home?

Would it be sensible for the City & Borough of Juneau to put in their long-term Legislative Capital Priorities request to the State of Alaska funding for an expanded Juneau Pioneer Home - or even a new and larger one?

We did not see requests for any Pioneer Home expansions in the Pioneer Homes Advisory Board recent recommendations. <https://dfcs.alaska.gov/daph/Documents/docs/FY2022Board%20eommendations.pdf>

Appreciate any insights.

Kathleen Samalon