



**KIM KOVOL**  
**Commissioner**

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**May 16, 2025**

# PRESS RELEASE

## Ken Cole Appointed Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Psychiatric Institute

**Anchorage, AK** – The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) is proud to announce the appointment of Ken Cole as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). He will assume his new role on May 28, 2025.

Mr. Cole brings more than two decades of experience in mental health leadership and state psychiatric hospital administration across multiple states, including prior work with API.

“We are excited to welcome Ken Cole back to Alaska in this critical leadership role,” said Kim Kovol, Commissioner of the Department of Family and Community Services. “Ken has a deep understanding of the complex operational, regulatory, and clinical dynamics of state psychiatric hospitals. His leadership, grounded in collaboration, compassion, and experience, will help guide API through continued improvement and innovation in patient care.”

Mr. Cole has served in senior executive roles in psychiatric hospital systems in Colorado and South Dakota and has worked as a consultant on behavioral health operations and policy in Alaska and other Western states. His expertise includes hospital operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and



Joint Commission compliance, forensic and civil psychiatric services, and quality improvement. He previously led the South Dakota Human Services Center and served as Director for the Colorado Mental Health Institutes. His work has resulted in measurable improvements in patient outcomes, workforce safety, and system efficiencies.

In addition to his executive leadership roles, Mr. Cole has led national and regional behavioral health consulting projects through his firm, Cole and Partners, LLC, and through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Behavioral Health Program.

“I am honored to join DFCS and API,” said Cole. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to lead API to deliver the best patient-centered care possible and strengthen the safety and professional development of API staff. I’m also excited to develop and expand relationships with the hospital’s community partners and consumers.”

Located in Anchorage, API is the state’s only public psychiatric hospital, serving individuals experiencing serious mental illness and operating in partnership with Alaska’s public safety, judicial, and health-care systems.

To learn more about the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, visit:

<https://dfcs.alaska.gov/api/Pages/default.aspx>

## About Alaska Department of Family and Community Services

Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) includes the Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Pioneer Homes, and the Office of Children’s Services. The mission of DFCS is to provide support, safety, and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans.

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