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May 23, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Kern McGinley Appointed Director of the Alaska Pioneer Homes

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kern McGinley as Director of the Alaska Pioneer Homes. He will begin his new role on June 23, 2025.

Dr. McGinley brings over 20 years of leadership experience within Alaska's public education system, with extensive expertise in program development, special education services, and community partnership. His career demonstrates a steadfast dedication to fairness, belonging, and service to elders, youth, and individuals with complex needs.

His academic background includes a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration, master's degrees in educational leadership and communication, and dual bachelor's degrees in communication and psychology. This foundation complements his professional experience and has shaped his ability to lead with both compassion and operational expertise.

"Dr. McGinley is a thoughtful and mission-driven leader with a clear dedication to public service," said DFCS Commissioner Kim Kovol. "His record of building collaborative teams, leading with empathy, and driving innovation makes him exceptionally well-suited to lead the Alaska Pioneer Homes and uphold our commitment to providing high-quality care to Alaska's seniors."



Dr. McGinley's success in leading complex organizations, managing large teams, and coordinating multidisciplinary services will be instrumental in overseeing the operations of the Pioneer Homes. He has a proven track record of fostering strong community partnerships and navigating regulatory and funding challenges which are critical to maintaining and advancing the high standards of care for elders in the state.

His experience managing complex organizations, fostering culturally responsive programs, and coordinating multidisciplinary teams will support the continued success of the Pioneer Homes. He brings additional expertise in budget oversight, program evaluation, and grief-informed, strength-based care practices that will enhance the quality of life for residents.

"It is a great honor to join the DFCS team and to be afforded the opportunity to lead the Alaska Pioneer Homes," said Dr. McGinley. "I am excited to engage in elder care advocacy and leverage resources to provide the highest quality of care for our cherished Alaskan elders. Our Alaskan Elder population deserves to be honored with a quality of life that provides them with a supportive community focused on compassion, care, and respect."

The Department of Family and Community Services welcomes Dr. McGinley to his new role and looks forward to the continued excellence of the Alaska Pioneer Homes under his leadership.

To learn more about the Alaska Pioneer Homes, visit <https://dfcs.alaska.gov/daph/Pages/default.aspx>

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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.