



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 19, 2008

Contact: Sharon Chamard, Ph.D., President  
Fairview Community Council  
Phone: 786-1813  
Cell: 250-6048  
Email: chamard@gci.net

Darrel Hess, Vice President  
Fairview Community Council  
Phone: 258-3714  
Cell: 350-4590  
Email: gmpeon@alaska.net

## **CHRONIC PUBLIC INEBRIATES: THE IMPACT IN ANCHORAGE**

The Fairview Community Council will be hosting a community meeting called “Chronic Public Inebriates: The Impact in Anchorage & Policy Recommendations” at Fairview Elementary School on Tuesday, October 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This meeting builds on two previous public workshops held by the Fairview Community Council on chronic public inebriates. Fairview and other areas of Anchorage, such as downtown and Midtown, are disproportionately negatively impacted by chronic public inebriates. According to a Municipality of Anchorage report, the estimated cost of chronic public inebriates to the community exceeds \$4,000,000 per year.

The intent of the meeting is to review the impact of chronic public inebriates in Anchorage on neighborhoods and businesses and to present policy recommendations addressing the negative impacts to decision makers, such as members of the Legislature and Anchorage Assembly. Fairview Community Council President Sharon Chamard, Ph.D., will facilitate the meeting and review how this problem has affected Fairview particularly. Anchorage Police Chief Rob Heun will describe the impact on the Police Department and the demand for social services from law enforcement officers. Kimberly Grossman and Richard Navitsky, both of Providence Hospital, will comment on the cost of chronic public inebriates to local hospitals. Robert Overbeck will talk about his own experience as a “consumer” of alcoholism treatment resources.

Policy recommendations, based on the research of the Fairview Community Council, include the increased use of Protective Custody Holds per Alaska Statute Title 47, and expanded funding for the Community Service Patrol and for treatment of chronic public inebriates. Making recommendations will be Anne Dennis-Choi, former executive director for Salvation Army’s Clitheroe Center and Anchorage Alliance for Health and Social Services representative; Gloria O’Neill, CEO of Cook Inlet Tribal Council; and Anna Sappah, member of the Governor’s Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

State House Representatives Mike Hawker (R – Anchorage) and Les Gara (D – Anchorage), Alaska Commissioner of Health and Social Services Bill Hogan, Deputy Municipal Manager Heather Handyside, and Executive Director for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Jeff Jessee will be given an opportunity to respond to the policy recommendations. Fairview Elementary School is located at 1327 Nelchina Street. For more information and a report of the previous workshops, go to [www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org) and click on the right side on “Fairview”.

###