

Adam Crum
Commissioner

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**Department of Health
and Social Services**

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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API accreditation renewed by The Joint Commission

April 12, 2019, ANCHORAGE — On April 3, 2019 the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) received notification that its accreditation has been renewed for psychiatric care from The Joint Commission. The three-year accreditation is effective Dec. 15, 2018.

Commissioner Adam Crum said, "I am very pleased that API has once again received its Behavioral Health Care Accreditation from The Joint Commission as we were in imminent danger of losing that accreditation. This provides further evidence that the actions we've taken over the last few months are making positive improvements for our patients and staff."

As part of the process for accreditation, a rigorous on-site survey was conducted in December 2018 to evaluate compliance with The Joint Commission's standards for psychiatric hospitals. At that time, two requirements for improvement were identified in the areas of medical staff and physical environment. These deficiencies were successfully addressed by API and Wellpath with confirmation by The Joint Commission through further on-site visits and review of documentation provided as evidence of compliance with the standards.

The Joint Commission – an independent, nonprofit organization – evaluates health care organizations on standards related to care, treatment and services; environment of care; leadership; and screening procedures for early detection of imminent harm. Accreditation plays a critical part in providing standards for care. Meeting these standards has a positive impact on licensure and certification for federal funding.

The commission noted that it is recommending API for continued Medicare certification to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS).

Commissioner Crum said, "While this accreditation is a step in the right direction we continue to work daily to improve patient and staff safety as well as striving towards receiving continued federal certification and full licensure from the State of Alaska."

The full Quality Report issued by [The Joint Commission](http://www.jointcommission.org) for the Alaska Psychiatric Institute is available online at <https://cl-pdfv10.ae-admin.com/qualitycheck/files/74b1624acc.pdf>.

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