

From: [Sawyer, Jane Preston \(CED\)](#)
To: [CED ABCB AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: FW: Help.
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:18:20 PM

For ABCB's mailbox, please.

From: Jocylynn Leigh Smith <akhockey_14@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:57 PM
To: CED ABC Alcohol Licensing (CED sponsored) <alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov>
Subject: Help.

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Hi there -

I am contacting you regarding AS 04.21.025 - the required training and subject matter mandatory for bar staff. It appears that AMCO and the ABC Board have the authority to determine these specifics and make amendments, if deemed necessary.

Long story short, on September 13, 2025, my best friend killed herself. Alcohol had slowly taken a front row seat in her life, and sadly, she spent the last three years at a local establishment here in Fairbanks. She was there every damn day - crying at her bar stool, stumbling in and out, sitting alone often, drinking and driving, etc. While I know she had good times, too - her presence there was nothing short of a cry for help.

So, here I am. Devastated. Sad. Angry.

I am asking today if AMCO and the board would be open to considering formal changes to the mandatory training and/or subject matter required by the state.

I believe the gaps in education fall in these areas:

- Signs of emotional distress
- Suicidal ideation
- Patterns and behaviors of addiction
- Long-term impacts of alcohol use

In the research I have done, this could be adding module(s) to one of the current trainings offered, strengthening the course as a whole. If needed, I will be happy to create an overview/outline of how each of the above topics benefits the alcohol server education course and what this could look like.

I contacted TAP and Rserveing - they informed me that their trainings did not cover suicide, there is not much on mental health, and that there is only content on the emotional state of a person in that moment, not what they might be going through big picture. I plan to reach back out to gain insight into their openness to making these proposed changes.

I genuinely hope I hear back so I know where to focus my efforts next. There is nothing I can do to change the outcome of my friend's story, but I can do my best to influence the next person's story. I am aware that bar staff are not in clinical roles by any means, but they often have deeply connected relationships with some of the saddest and loneliest people. And sometimes, even a simple, "Are you okay?" can make all the difference.

I apologize if I sent this email to the wrong area of AMCO - Please forward it to the correct person if so!

Looking forward to many productive conversations!

Leigh