

ALASKA Rural Health Notes



August 2000

A publication of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

Vol. 2, No. 2

Web Site: <http://www.ichs.uaa.alaska.edu>



Alaska Center for Rural Health

College of Health, Education and Social Welfare
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Dr., Suite 530
Diplomacy Building
Anchorage, AK 99508



Center for Alcohol & Addiction Studies

ICHS DIRECTOR TAKES ON NEW ROLE

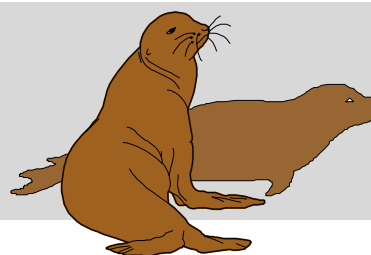
Brian Saylor, Director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, at UAA, has been appointed Associate Vice-Provost for Health Affairs and Research, replacing Michael Dimino. Over the next two years, Saylor sees his primary tasks as 1) coordinating research activities on the UAA campus; 2) improving UAA's ability to secure additional research funds; 3) improving research facilities at the UAA campus; 4) clarifying UAA's "arctic" health mission; and 5) coordinating UAA's health mission with other UA campuses. ☞

ICHS AND U.S. GOVERNMENT TO HELP AMCHITKA ISLAND WORKERS

The Federal government has approved a budget for work history screening and providing a health examination to workers who spent time on Amchitka Island. These workers may be suffering radiation or other hazardous materials exposure effects from their work at or near the atomic detonation sites. All workers who went to the Island after 1963 are encouraged to participate in this program regardless of their current health status. Family members of deceased workers are urged to contact the program so that information may be gathered on those workers as well. The Alaska State District Council of Laborers is handling the project. If anyone is aware of someone who worked at Amchitka, call Don Weber at 907-258-6771 in Anchorage, or from other areas call 1-888-827-6772 to get information about how to be part of the project. Work History interviews began in late July, and at this time the program has identified over 900 workers for the program. The Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies will evaluate the work history exposures and health status data. ☞

ARCTIC COUNCIL MEETING: FORUM FOR STATE DEPARTMENT "GLOSS-OVER"?

The biennial Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council will be in Barrow this year on October 12 & 13. The U. S. State Department will use the opportunity to showcase its achievements during its two-year tenure as the Arctic Council host nation. There is wide-spread dissatisfaction with the U.S.'s poor handling of volatile arctic issues in the past, and the people living in Arctic communities have repeatedly stated their awareness of significant changes in their ecosystems. However, the U.S. has not supported adequate assessment of impacts to the biodiversity in arctic and sub-arctic regions. Scientists agree that there is a significant data gap about the Arctic environment. The Arctic Council's 1997 report "Arctic Pollution Issues" identifies Alaska and Russia as areas needing to contribute data. There is a need to know and understand the consequences of climate change and the combined effects of various contaminants. There is also a need to document the impacts of other stresses on biological systems such as the involvement of bottom-trolling and wasted by-catch on the endangered western Steller Sea Lions populations and disastrous salmon runs in western Alaska over the past few years. While the US has improved its efforts during its two-year tenure as host to the Arctic Council, there continues to be concern about the overall level of the effort in the US Arctic and if it will be sustained. ☞



CONFERENCES

National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)

August 4-6: "Bridging Space & Time: Rural Mental Health in the New Age," Portland, OR; (320) 202-1820; web site: <http://www.narmh.org/conferen.htm>

National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)

August 6-8: Bloomington, MN (207) 874-6524; web site: <http://www.nashp.org>

Eleventh World Conference on Tobacco OR Health

August 6-11: "Promoting a Future without Tobacco" by the: American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Cancer Institute; Chicago, IL; (312) 464-9059; email: 11thwctoh@ama-assn.org; web site: <http://www.wctoh.org>

Public Health Informatics and Distance Learning Conference 2000

August 7-10: "Blending People and Technology to Improve Practice"; (ASPH); (CDC); (HRSA); (ASTDR), New Orleans, LA; (202) 296-1099; ceg@asph.org; web site: http://asph.bixler.com/conf_section.cfm/92

63rd Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society

August 13-17: "Policy and Rural Communities: Challenges for the 21st Century" Washington, DC; (409) 845-9781; email: albrecht@rsocsun.tamu.edu; Web site: <http://www.ruralsociology.org/annual-meeting/2000/index.html>

Fourth World Rural Health Conference:

August 16-19: "Progress through Partnerships"; Calgary, Alberta, Canada ; call +1 403 219 6100; Web site: <http://www.ruralnet.ab.ca/wrhc>

"Bridging Rural Women's Health into the New Millennium"

August 18-19: The Pennsylvania State University; Washington, DC ; call: (717) 531-6483; email: dgesford@psu.edu; web site: <http://www.hmc.psu.edu/ce/081900rural.html>

"Strategic Planning for Rural Health Networks"; Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy (formerly Alpha Center)"

August 24-25: Cambridge, MA; (202) 292-6730; email: morid@ahsrhp.org

2000 Annual Convention & Community Health Institute

August 27-30: National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC); Chicago, IL; (202) 659-8008

ATSP Fourth Annual Conference

September 5-8: "Telemedicine and E-Health: Common Paths to the Patient"; Association of Telemedicine/Telehealth Service Providers (ATSP); Minneapolis, MN; (800) 852-3591 or (503) 222-2406; web site: <http://www.atsp.org/conference/2000.asp>

Eleventh Annual Conference National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH)

September 13-16: Park City, UT; call Linda McKenzie (816) 756-3140; web site: <http://NRHArural.org>

Twelfth Annual Rural Nursing Conference

September 14-16: Centennial Area Health Education Center, Estes Park, CO; (970)330-3698; web site: <http://www.cahec.org/rural00.htm>

North American Congress-2000

September 17-20: "Building Partnerships: Finding Creative Solutions to Alcohol Abuse, Drug Abuse, and Dependency"; (715) 232-2460 or (715) 232-2693; email: NAC2K@major.uwstout.edu; web site: <http://oce.uwstout.edu/nac2000/welcome.htm>

2000 Annual Association Conference

September 20-22: Association of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) of Kansas, Inc.; Wichita, KS; (785) 234-4773; Fax: (785) 234-3189

5th Annual Conference and Exhibition on Advancing School-Based Mental Health Services

September 21-23: Center for School Mental Health Assistance, University of Maryland; Atlanta, GA; (888) 706-0980; web site: <http://csmha.umaryland.edu>

“Enhancing Outcomes in Women's Health: Translating Psychosocial and Behavioral Research into Primary Care, Community Interventions, and Health Policy -- An Interdisciplinary Conference”

October 4-6: American Psychological Association
Washington, DC; (202) 336-6120; email:
wbaker@apa.org; web site:
<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/whc3/whc3.html>

128th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA)

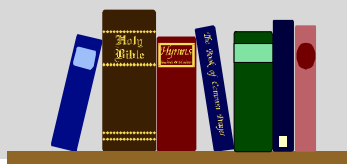
November 12-16: “Eliminating Health Disparities”;
Boston, MA; (202) 777-2478; email:
edward.shipley@apha.org; web site:
<http://www.apha.org/meetings/index.htm>

15th National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

November 29-December 1: “Living Healthier, Living Longer: The Will and the Way” (CDC), (ASTCDPD), (PRC); (770) 488-6042; email: eah6@cdc.gov; web:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/conference/index.htm>
Or (217) 782-3300; email: esternbe@idph.state.il.us;
Web site: <http://www.astcdpd.org/conferences.html>

Eighth Annual Alaska Health Summit

December 4-5: nchorage Sheraton, Anchorage, AK.
Call Delisa Culpepper: 907-343-4622, or Wendi Bates: 907-248-9472; email: wjbates@gci.net



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EDUCATIONAL COURSES

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has developed a program to establish centers of learning for occupational safety and health throughout the United States. These Educational Resource Centers, known as ERC's, are located within 27 universities serving all ten DHHS regions. For a schedule of courses offered at these ERC's, contact: NIOSH, Division of Training and Manpower Development at: 1-800-35-NIOSH. ☞

ACRH SEEKS FUNDING TO EVALUATE THREE TELE-PSYCHIATRY PROJECTS

The Alaska Center for Rural Health has received a small grant from the Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council to develop a proposal to the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and other funding sources, for funds to evaluate the effectiveness of three tele-psychiatry projects. The three projects will assess band-width requirements for various kinds of psychiatric consultations in Ketchikan's Gateway Mental Health Center, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, and for Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue. ☞

HRSA PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT TO UW WILL BENEFIT UAA

The UAA Public Health Program for Native Americans has been specifically named as an “academic partner” in the University of Washington's newly funded “Northwest Public Health Training Center.” UW was one of 8 funded sites in the nation. HRSA awarded the five-year, \$15.4 million program for the purpose of training 100,000 public health students and practicing professionals, and to learn the latest techniques and practices to protect the public health. The UAA has had a partnership with the University of Hawaii to provide an MPH program to train Alaska Natives, which ended with the recent demise of UH's MPH program. ☞

BETH LANDON NAMED ACRH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Beth Landon, who has participated in many projects for the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies and the Alaska Center for Rural Health, has been hired to be the Assistant Director for the Alaska Center for Rural Health. Beth has participated in community health services assessments in the villages of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and is currently involved in evaluating three tele-psychiatry projects. Beth has two Master's degrees from the University of Washington, Seattle – one in Business Administration (1995) and one in Health Services Administration (1995). She has worked for Sun Microsystems, Inc. and served in the Peace Corp in Thailand. ☞

ACRH DEVELOPS EVALUATION MODEL FOR CAH

The Alaska Center for Rural Health is developing an evaluation model for the State's Hospital Flexibility Act program. The State of Alaska administers the program for assisting small rural hospitals to make the choice about converting to "Critical Access Hospital" status, newly enacted by Congress. ACRH's Beth Landon, with a small grant from the Alaska Division of Public Health, is developing the plan by which the entire CAH program in Alaska will be graded. ☞

CURRENT FEDERAL AND FOUNDATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (As of July 8, 2000)

For current information on federal and foundation funding opportunities, go to:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richs/grants.htm>

ICHS AND CENTERS TO MENTOR YKHC RESEARCHER

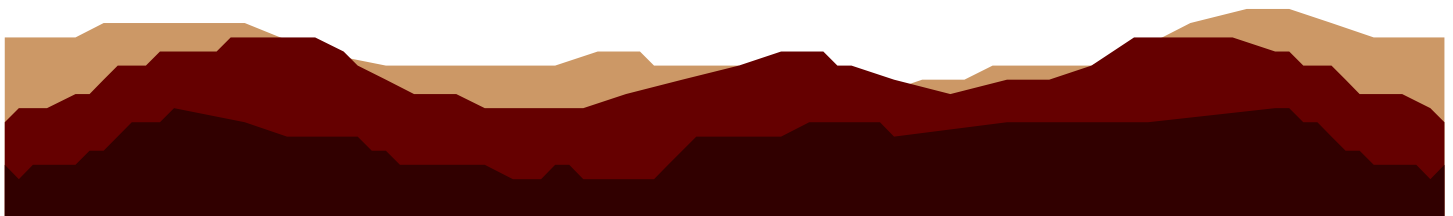
Mark Anaruk, an employee of the Yukon-Kuskokwim health corporation, comes to ICCHS August 7 as a researcher/evaluator in training. YKHC, which receives funding from a number of federal programs, determined that preparing one of their own employees to maintain compliance in those programs was the best way to go. Mark will be supervised at ICCHS by David Marshall, a researcher who has worked extensively with the native organizations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta. Mr. Marshall has completed studies in accidental deaths and suicide, subsistence and coastal zone management issues, and law enforcement incidents in villages – to name but a few of his past activities. At the end of the mentoring period (one year), Mr. Anaruk will return to Bethel to assume management responsibilities for the programs in question. ☞

DENALI COMMISSION NEEDS BETTER COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CLINIC NEEDS SURVEY: FAILURE TO COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRE MAY RESULT IN NO \$ FOR FY 01 FOR CLINIC IMPROVEMENT

The Denali Commission Staff is increasingly concerned that many Alaska communities have not yet responded to the Alaska Rural Primary Care Facility Needs Assessment. So far, 120 have not completed the forms and sent them in – which may be a serious problem for them, because Fiscal Year 01 funds to construct and upgrade clinics in rural communities will depend upon whether communities have completed the Needs Assessment instrument and turned it in by September 1. The Steering Committee for the Commission wants to have the Needs Assessment document done by Oct. 1, the beginning of the Federal Fiscal Year 01. The Steering Committee will most likely recommend to the Denali Commission that communities who do not respond by September 1 won't be eligible for clinic funding in FFY 01. This is because projects getting ready for construction next summer will have to plan for

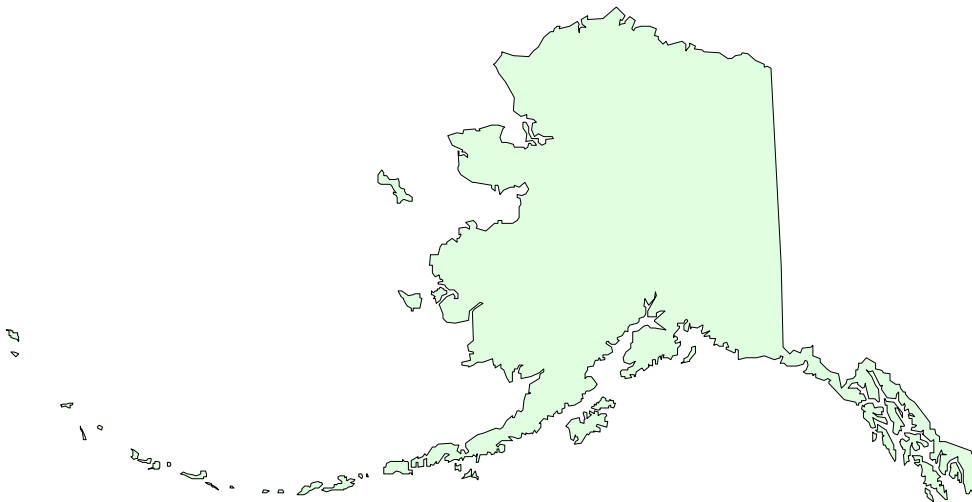
shipment of materials and equipment by barge in time for ground-breaking. Communities that could be excluded from first year clinic improvement funds for failure to complete the Needs Assessment forms are listed on the following page. Communities wishing to complete the Needs Assessment forms should call **Rebecca Woodard at 729-3606**.

In further news about the Denali Commission, the Second Draft of the Project Prioritization Methodology (by which the deployment of clinic improvement funds will be guided) will soon be ready for review and comment. Information about the Prioritization Methodology can be found at the following site: <http://ruralhealthcare.geonorth.com>. Information about the Denali Commission itself, and its charge, is located at this web site: <http://www.denali.gov>. ☞



The following communities HAVE NOT responded to the Alaska Rural Primary Care Facility Needs Assessment:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Adak | Ferry | Larsen Bay | Port Heiden |
| Akiachak | Fort Yukon | Lignite | Port Protection |
| Alcan | Fox | Lutak | Primrose |
| Alexander Creek | Fox River | Manley Hot Springs | Prudhoe Bay |
| Allakaket | Fritz Creek | McKinley Park | Ridgeway |
| Anaktuvuk Pass | Gakona | Mendeltna | Ruby |
| Anchor Point | Game Creek | Mentasta Lake | Salamatof |
| Anderson | Glennallen | Meyers Chuck | Salcha |
| Andreafsky | Gulkana | Minto | Saxman Ketchikan |
| Atqasuk | Gustavus | Moose Creek | Skagway |
| Beaver | Halibut Cove | Moose Pass | Slana |
| Bettles Field | Happy Valley | Mosquito Lake | Sterling |
| Big Delta | Harding Lake | Naknek | Stevens Village |
| Birch Creek | Healy | Nanwalek | Sutton |
| Chenega Bay | Healy Lake | Nenana | Tanacross |
| Chickaloon | Hobarat Bay | New Stuyahok | Tatitlek |
| Circle Hot Springs | Hollis | Nikiski | Tazlina |
| Clam Gulch | Hoonah | Nikolaevsk | Tenakee Springs |
| Clark's Point | Hope | Ninilchik | Thorne Bay |
| Cohoe | Hyder | Nondalton | Tok |
| College | Iliamna | North Pole | Tonsina |
| Cooper Landing | Ilvanof Bay | Northway | Trapper Creek |
| Copper Center | Jakolof Bay | Northway Junction | Two Rivers |
| Copperville | Kachemak | Nuiqsut | Tyonek |
| Covenant Life | Kaktovik | Nulato | Wainwright |
| Crown Point | Kalfonsky | Old Harbor | Wasilla |
| Cube Cove | Kasaan | Paxson | Whale Pass Ketchikan |
| Delta Junction | Kasilof | Pilot Point | Whitstone Logging Camp |
| Dry Creek | Kenai | Pleasant Valley | Whittier |
| Effin Cove | Kenny Lake | Point Baker | Wiseman |
| Egegik | Klukwan | Point Lay | Yakutat |
| Ekwok | Koliganek | Port Alexander | Fort Yukon |
| Ester | Koyukuk | Port Clarence | |
| Evansville | Kupreanof | | |





Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies
3211 Providence Dr.
Diplomacy Building, Suite #530
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 786-6576

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 107
Anchorage, AK
