

the Council

Dena' Nena' Henash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 42, No. 7

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

JULY 2017

Indian Health Services Staff Visit Interior



In June, the Acting Indian Health Services (IHS) Director Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan (Seminole) visited two of our Interior Communities with Tanana Chiefs Conference's Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph and staff. Both Allakaket and Rampart were two of the stops on his trip.

The purpose of the visit was to show, first hand, the struggles that our communities without running water and sewer face on a day-to-day basis. Water and sewer are essential to our communities' well-being and Admiral Buchanan was able to hear the

concerns from our Chiefs and Tribal Members as well as the hardships they face each day without these basic necessities.

Many of our Community members and Chiefs were able to speak directly to Admiral Buchanan, his staff, and accompanying staff from ANTHC that are all working together in order to provide our communities without these essentials creative ways to get them in the future.

As part of a pilot program, ANTHC, IHS, and TCC are working with Chalkyitsik, Alatna, and Allakaket on

a pilot project called the Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS)

The PASS provides basic sanitation needs: handwashing, clean drinking water, safe human waste disposal and quality of life improvements in the home.

Thank you to our communities who welcomed us with open arms.



Congratulations 2017 Graduates!

Tanana Chiefs Conference would like to celebrate all of our 2017 graduates across the State and across our region!

Continuing education is so important for our youth and their future. From all of us at TCC, Congratulations!

Inside you will find a spread of featured graduates who sent in their photos for the 2017 year.

See page 8 and 9 for our Special Edition Spread.

In This Issue:

UAF BLAST Program
Page 3

Denakkanaaga Meeting
Page 4

Reclaiming Our People
Page 6

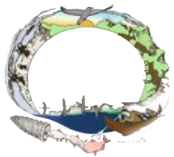
Graduation Photos
Page 8

MISSION STATEMENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

VISION

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby
1st Traditional Chief

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
2nd Traditional Chief

Victor Joseph/ Tanana
Chief/Chairman

Julie Roberts-Hyslop/Tanana
Vice President

Pollock 'PJ' Simon, Jr. /Allakaket
Secretary/Treasurer

William "Chaaiy" Albert/Northway
Upper Tanana

Nick Alexia Sr./Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/Fort Yukon
Yukon Flats

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon

Frank Thompson/ Evansville
Yukon Tanana

Norman 'Carl' Burgett/ Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Isaac Ticknor/Anvik
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Summer is here and it's been busy. I know we are all waiting to get out on the rivers for fishing season. TCC has heard reports of people catching King Salmon downriver and we anticipate a better fishing season than last year with more openings.



Everyone has been concerned with the State and Federal Budgets, and rightfully so. We have been closely monitoring both to determine how it will affect you, our tribes, and TCC. President Trump has submitted his Budget Request for FY18 to Congress. The request includes a 14% reduction in BIA programs and a 5% reduction to IHS programs. Although we still have months before Congress makes their final decision on the budget, we will be preparing for the cuts by decreasing each department's spending by 5%, implementing a hiring freeze, and planning for no COLA increase in pay in 2018.

These measures are being put in place in order to prepare for the eventuality of the budget cuts and to ensure TCC can continue to provide key services to our people and our tribes. If the budget cuts are less than expected, we will adjust our plans accordingly.

Denakkanaaga was great this year! The theme "Listening and Speaking to Move Forward" was well received with powerful and touching speeches from the youth, especially Keynote Speaker Dakota Titus. A special Thank You to Denakkanaaga staff and board for organizing the event and to Holy Cross for hosting, great job! Also, congratulations to Peter Demoski on his re-election as Elder Advisor to TCC's Executive Board. During Denakkanaaga, TCC officially launched our "Reclaiming Our People" initiative formally the "War on Alcohol." This initiative is a directive from our tribes to combat drugs and alcohol in our communities. For more see page 6.

In June, TCC traveled with Acting IHS Director, Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan (Seminole) and IHS staff to Allakaket and Rampart. The purpose of the visit was to show, first hand, the struggles that our communities without running water and sewer face on a day-to-day basis. Water and sewer are essential to our communities' well-being and Admiral Buchanan was able to hear the concerns from our Chiefs and Tribal Members. We are looking forward to continuing to work with ANTHC and IHS.

This summer is shaping up to be very busy. However, we are still planning on visiting some of our communities to make sure TCC continues to remain in alignment with you all as we strive to maintain Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Ana Bassee',
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman



Tanana Chiefs Conference Partners with University BLAST Program

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Education Division initiated a new partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Biomedical Learning And Student Training (UAF's BLAST) program to meet the goals of our "Grow Our Own" program, supplying trained professionals for our medical programs. The medical leadership and medical staff of TCC's Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) and the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) allowed UAF BLAST students to job shadow, and to take part in some hands on activities like ultrasounds, suturing hot dogs for stitching practice, and a wide variety of other activities in our facilities. 20% of the University students thought the program was "life changing," while another 60% thought the program

"was very useful," additionally 60% said it changed their perception of TCC to a "much more positive perception." These bio-medically interested University students were able to work with radiologists, CHAPS, physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, dentists, and more, as they explored the medical field over an intensive two week period.

TCC's Education Division hopes to initiate more programs like this in partnership with CAIHC, UAF's BLAST program, and other medical providers with a focus on providing opportunities for members of our Tribes to take part. By increasing the opportunities for our beneficiaries, and the tribal members of the interior, we hope to increase the number of those working in health fields, and fulfilling the goal of the

"Grow Our Own" initiative.

The TCC Education Division will be hosting a similar workshop session, though shorter, for high school students in the week lead up to the TCC Education Summit on August 11th. This program "Hands-on Health Careers for High School Students" will take place from August 6th-11th to align with the Education Summit and other summer activities like the Annual Tanana Valley State Fair.

We hope to provide high school students with an inside look at health careers to hopefully inspire them to pursue a career in the health field!

For more information about the Education Division go to our website: www.tananachiefs.org



'Listening & Speaking to Move Forward'

2017 Denakkanaaga Elders & Youth Conference

The 2017 Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference kicked off this year in Holy Cross with the theme 'Listening and Speaking to Move Forward', which included keynote speakers Luke Titus of Minto and his grandson Dakota Titus. Elders and Youth from throughout the region traveled to Holy Cross for the annual meeting to discuss topics relevant to the region.

TCC Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph provided an update on what TCC

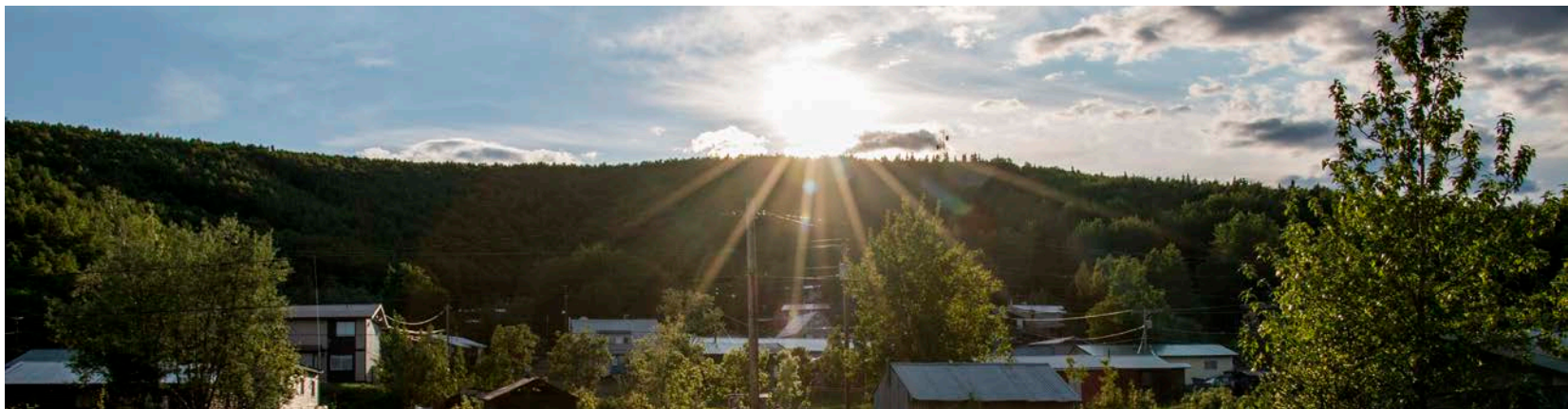
has been doing for our tribes and tribal members. Other TCC staff made presentations including General Counsel Natasha Singh, who provided an update on the current political climate, Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC) Stephanie Quinn-Davison, who provided an update on fisheries, and Sonta Hamilton-Roach who presented the official launch of the Reclaiming Our People Initiative.

Elections were also held on the

last day of the conference, where Denakkanaaga re-elected Peter Demoski of Nulato to serve as TCC's Elder Advisor to the Executive Board. Congratulations Peter!

We would like to thank the community of Holy Cross for their generosity and hospitality throughout the week of the conference.

For more photos from the conference, be sure to visit the Denakkanaaga website at www.denakkanaaga.org







“Reclaiming Our People” Initiative



During this year’s Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference in Holy Cross, Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted a special event to launch the Reclaiming Our People initiative. Over the last year, a Tribal Advisory Council was formed, made up of the TCC Executive Board, Health Board members, as well as community members to create a comprehensive strategic plan that would guide TCC’s effort to Reclaim Our People.

The initiative includes four main goals:

1. To perpetuate cultural identity within the interior (as a means to prevention)
2. To coordinate/create opportunities for personal healing and community wellness
3. To combat public health barriers to wellness in the interior
4. To support interior tribes to protect their communities



For more details on the Reclaiming Our People initiative visit:
www.tananachiefs.org/reclaiming-our-people

TCC Welcomes Wellness & Prevention Manager

TCC recently hired Kailey Erickson of Tanana as the new Wellness and Prevention Manager. Kailey is the daughter of Dale and Cynthia Erickson, Harold and Florence Esmailka and the Late Howard and Frona Erickson. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Education and a Master’s in Exercise Science and Pedagogy. She previously worked in a residential treatment, where she helped establish programs for at-risk teens through physical and healthy activity in Utah. She also worked as the Students Activities Program Manager for the Galena City School District, where she developed programs based on wellness and prevention and educated youth and communities through cultural groups

and dance.

“Eleven years ago I set out to get my education, receive work experience and to learn a life beyond my Alaska. I’ve always been fascinated by other culture and people, I love to learn and understand people and their way of thinking and beliefs. I always had the goal to return home and serve in my community. The Alaskan community has been a blessing to me. my Athabascan heritage and family taught me the importance of being active in my community and to have compassion for all. It’s been a surreal feeling to be finally be home and to be here at TCC working to promote wellness in our communities in Alaska. Ana’ Basse TCC.”

-Kailey Erickson



Swap or Share Seeds this Spring

Article by: Heidi Rader, TCC Tribes Extension

There are lots of reasons to organize a seed swap or seed-sharing event. Seeds can get expensive at \$2 to \$4 per packet. Gardeners could bring their leftover seeds that may otherwise go unused, or a host or group could purchase seed in bulk, which is cheaper than buying packets, and then divvy them up at the seed swap. The cost can be shared among attendees or, if the host is a nonprofit, borne by the host.

Seed swaps and shares are also an opportunity for gardeners and farmers to bring truly unique seeds that they may have developed and saved from their own garden or farm that are well adapted for the local growing conditions. While you're swapping seeds, trade your latest gardening hack, too. A seed swap or sharing event doesn't have to be big. It can be a small, informal affair with friends.

If you decide to host a seed event, make sure you let people know if they are expected to bring seeds to share or contribute to the cost of buying bulk

seeds, or if the seeds are provided for free by the organizer.

Here are some suggestions for hosting a seed swap or sharing event: Line up bowls or containers for all of your seeds and label each one with the seed variety it contains. You can hand out a sheet of labels to each participant and arrange the bowls in the same order as the labels. You should also supply small bags or envelopes for each participant. Bead bags or coin envelopes will work. The envelopes are better for long-term storage because they are breathable and opaque. You'll need enough bags or envelopes for the number of gardeners attending multiplied by the number of seed varieties. Again, circulating a sign-up sheet prior to the event will ensure you have enough supplies.

Ask each person to bring some measuring spoons. Before everyone starts helping themselves to seeds, calculate or estimate the amount of seeds they should take in terms of a

measuring spoon size and write that on the container.

Now, let the seed swapping and sharing begin!

The benefits of gardening are many. Those who garden get some regular exercise, save money, eat more fruits and vegetables, share with their family and neighbors and benefit mentally. A seed swap or sharing event might be just the thing that plants a seed to help someone start a new garden for the first time.

This year, the Tribes Extension Program with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service and the Tanana Chiefs Conference sent out bulk seeds to 25 villages for more than 500 gardeners! Tribes helped by hosting seed sharing events.

For more information about the Tribes Extension Program go to: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/tcc>

Walk for Tsucde: Honoring the late Katie John

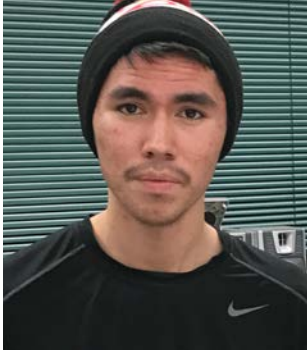


On June 12th, Fred John and his brother Harry John completed the final leg of the Walk for Tsucde, a 375-mile trek in honor of his late mother, Katie John, a well-known native advocate for subsistence. The walk ended at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center with traditional drumming, singing and speeches.

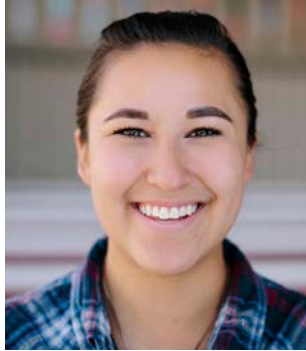
Harry John describes the walk as a healing experience for him because, much like his late mother, he has a strong connection to nature.

"I go out there and I walk; that's my church," said Harry John, "The mountains, the trees, the rain, the snow, the natural elements of this earth; that's my church."

Special Edition Congratulations to all



Chance Shank
Dot Lake



Darcy Peter
Fairbanks



Desiree Joseph
Fairbanks



Keel Simon
Fairbanks/Allakaket



Gisele Shewfelt



Isaiah Winfrey, Macayla
Alexander & Zion Winfrey -
West Valley High



Jayden White
Fairbanks



Jayne Ann Carroll
Chalkyitsik



Kiara Young
Tetlin



Krysten Walker
Stanford| Beaver



Krystin Bogan
UAA|North Pole



Mike Pitka Jr.
Port Gamble



Star of the North
Graduates



Star of the North
Graduates



Star of the North
Graduates



Sydney Carlo
Tanana/Galena



Tatiana Esmailka
NPHS|Huslia



Innoko River
Pre-Schoolers



Tiana Albert
Tetlin



Triston C. Titus
Minto

2017 Graduates!



Arctic Village
Graduates



Cecilia Turner
Holy Cross



Dr. Charlene Fisher &
Roxanne Knudson



Gunner Frank
Barnette Magnet



Victoria Baalam & LeAnn
Bifelt



Isaiah & Zion
Minto



Janis Carney
Anderson



Jewels Gilbert & Kiana
Chilcote



Jewelyn Henry
Allakaket



Kayla Roberts
Venetie



Lance Shewfelt
Northern Lights



Shianna Joe & Julie
Wright



Shianna Joe
Tetlin



Tehya Titus
Minto



Traeton & Warrick
Minto



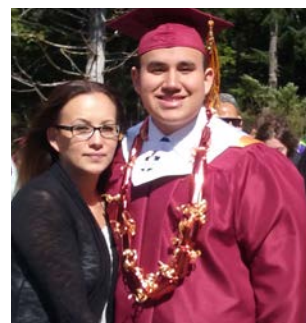
Jazlyn Johnson
Joy Elementary



Elizabeth Yatlin
UAF|Beaver



Walter Lord III
Galena



William Lekanof
MEHS



Zooley Almquist-Charles
Dot Lake



Community Health Aides Celebrate Graduation

Several of the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Community Health Aide (CHA) Trainees graduated this year after successfully completing their training at our new facility.

TCC has seen a faster cycle of education and training since TCC renovated the Al Ketzler Sr. building in Fairbanks in order to accommodate the CHAs. TCC recognizes that our communities were and are still in need of CHAs and several of them didn't have a certified or trained CHA as the wait-time for the training could reach over a year prior to renovation.

The students who graduated were

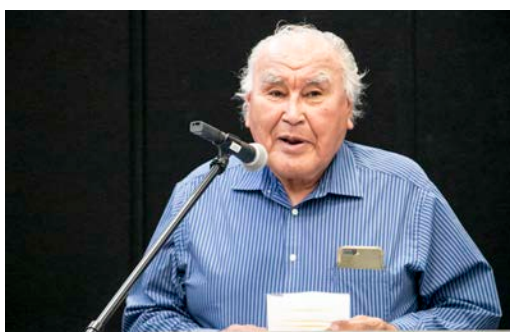
celebrated by our Health Board, fellow instructors, and directors. TCC would like to congratulate:

- Gladys Marie Bergman, CHP
- Sharon Anne Demoski, CHP
- Erica J. Esmailka, CHP
- Nathaniel D. Grimes, CHP
- Nikkitta Rose Angelika Holguin, CHP
- Martha Selina Isaac, CHP
- Mary Lena Malemute, CHP
- Amanda Violet Oldman-Tritt, CHP
- Lisa Marie Patsy, CHP
- Eva Schrader, CHP
- Jana Emily Sam, CHP
- Kimberlynn Wicks, CHP

Thank you to the TCC Health Aide Program Staff who have done an exceptional job making

sure that our CHAs are provided with quality training both in the classroom and in the field.

For more information on our CHA Program you can visit our website: www.tananachiefs.org.



How We Can Help Tanana Chiefs Conference: Education Division

Everyone needs a little help getting moving with the pursuit of their educational dreams. TCC's Education Division is here to help! From scholarships, job shadow opportunities and internships, TCC can help you find ways to reach your educational and career goals. While we may not always have all of the answers, our staff is always willing to help you find them.

TCC also offers a wide variety of education services to our Tribes, including information on;

- Managing Division of Interior Education Funding
- Understanding and Managing JOM Funding
- Understanding the Every Student Succeeds Act
- Information on Educational Legislation and Regulation

Additionally, TCC analyzes and interprets data on school districts throughout the TCC region if tribal members are seeking more information on this.

Annually the TCC Education Division hosts an Education Summit which features key speakers from

around the State who give updates and participate in panel discussions. This year, Tim Parker, the President on the National Education Association for Alaska, with over 13,000 members, will speak. Other attendees include State of Alaska's Education Commissioner Michael Johnson, and a host of other experts who will give us the latest insights into what is happening in educational practice and policy.

The TCC Education Division strives to serve the students of the interior by developing partnerships with school districts, Universities, non-profits, and, of course, Tribes, to make sure that the best educational opportunities are available for our beneficiaries and our Tribes' members. We've recently joined forces with the Literacy Council of Alaska on a number of initiatives to increase the number of people obtaining their GED's and having access to literature for rural youth. We partnered with UAF's BLAST program to entice University students into health careers by having

a two week training session at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. We're working with school districts around the interior, as well as the University of

Alaska on Native Language revitalization initiatives.

We are looking for Native Language mentors who would be willing to work with students, and looking for interested students and partners to increase the opportunities in our region.



If you, or your tribe, are interested in learning more about how we can help you, contact us at:

- (907) 452-8251 ext. 3032
- 1-800-478-6822 in State

You can also visit our website: www.tananachiefs.org

BOATING SAFETY TIPS



Wear a Life Jacket

Always wear a properly fitted life jacket when on deck or in an open boat.



Balance Your Boat

Be sure to balance the gear in your boat and don't overload it.



Communicate

Tell people where you are going, and when you plan to return.



Be Weather Wise

Always check local weather conditions before departure. If there is bad weather.



Prepare for Anything

Carry a first aid kit, a survival kit, and be prepared for an overnight stay if things don't go as planned.

Visit Our Website for More Details on Boating Safety: www.tananachiefs.org/boating-safety

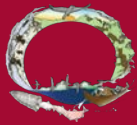
The Council Newsletter

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3450
Fax: (907) 459-3884
thecouncil@tananachiefs.org

www.tananachiefs.org

Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference. Material submitted anonymously will not be printed.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

Follow us:     

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC CLOSED
July 3rd & 4th, 2017
In recognition of Independence Day

Condolences & Prayers

Tanana Chiefs Conference sends our condolences to Fort Yukon and the family of Traditional Chief Simon Francis. Our prayers are with all of the Yukon Flats.



JOIN THE TCC FAMILY APPLY ONLINE

www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Aide (Rampart, Chalkyitsik, Tanacross)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Kaltag, Alatna, Stevens Village, Healy Lake, Chalkyitsik, Dot Lake, Ruby, Manley Hot Springs)
- Community Health Representative (Allakaket)
- Cook(EHS) (Huslia)
- Edgar Nollner Health Center Director (Galena)
- Elder Nutrition Cook (Chalkyitsik, McGrath, Shageluk)
- Family Visitor (Northway, Hughes)
- Infant/Toddler Teacher (Nenana)
- Lead Teacher (Huslia)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher (Grayling, Fort Yukon)
- Preschool Lead Teacher (Tetlin)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook (Nulato, Anvik, Hughes, Huslia, Shageluk)
- Tribal Administrator (Tanacross)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Healy Lake, Huslia, Nenana, Alatna, McGrath)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Holy Cross, Grayling, Healy Lake)
- Village Public Safety Officer (Allakaket, Holy Cross, Tanacross, Huslia, Tok, Eagle, Ruby)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

Fairbanks Vacancies

- Acupuncturist
- Behavioral Health Receptionist
- CAIHC Coding Audit & Compliance Officer
- Central Scheduler
- Certified Medical Assistant II
- Client Development Division Director
- Clinical Supervisor Addictions Services
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Cultural Connections Performer
- Dental Assistant Intern
- Diabetes Patient Educator and Care Coordinator
- Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
- Facilities Manager
- Facilities Technician
- Hospitality Support Staff
- Infection Control & Employee Health Program Coordinator
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- Physician - Primary Care
- Physician - Primary Care
- Receptionist
- Registration Manager
- RN
- Sobering Center Technician
- Social Worker
- Youth Chaperone

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF June 13th, 2017